

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister  
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### Christmas Is Over, What Now?

We've finished celebrating Christmas. The rush of returning things that are either unwanted, unneeded, or won't fit has just begun. The decorations are beginning to come down and the nativity scenes are being removed from front yards. Stores are moving on to their next big post-holiday sales.

The real question that should be in our minds is, "What happens now?" For most people in our world it will be life as usual except for some efforts to close out the year and celebrate the coming new one. Has the fact that a Savior came changed anything? Or, has it been just another year to get together with family and friends and stuff ourselves with turkey and dressing?

I believe in the "What now?" question. What makes a difference in our lives? We experience holidays, national crises, and world events that challenge our sensibilities. What changes us? What makes us better? And, what are the lessons we learn from these experiences?

In a world of changing values how do we maintain our moral and spiritual compass? We forget so easily. The songs of Christmas fade as we go about our business...until the next year when it's time to resurrect our baby Jesus themes and put on our "be nice to everyone" hats.

I'm glad the world stops and at least recognizes that a Savior was born. Our mission is to help this same world understand "why" He was born and why He died. The early Christians had a passion for telling their world that He died for us and was resurrected by a loving God who wants our salvation. We must have the same passion.

As we close this year and move into the next, let's resolve that we will tell others the "rest of the story". That's what makes the difference. Not wars or the threat of terrorism. The gospel is still God's power for salvation. And without salvation our world will continue to search for meaning and purpose. There is no other hope. So, will you accept God's challenge to "go and make disciples" now? Tell someone else that Jesus died so he or she could live. Salvation comes at the cross, not at the manger.

\_\_\_ Al Behel

### Other News:

-James, a 14 yr old friend of Kenny and Charlotte, serious leg injury in a motor bike accident. He was living in Ohio but was scheduled to come to Pigeon Forge a few days ago. Mark Haynes has been in contact and plans to keep in touch. We will keep you posted if there are ways we can help.

-Harold Hopkins, great grandfather of Heather Cox, has been hospitalized with pneumonia. He has made some improvement but has required oxygen.

-Rick Garrett, father-in-law of Chanda Bailey, had shoulder surgery recently. He is now home and doing better.

-Anna Ruth Franklin, undergoing tests for cancer.

**Food Contact For Month:** Sue Hayes, back up is Patty Adair.

**Elder Contact for Month:** Rick Cliett. Phone: 789-9619

**Sermon Topics:** A.M. — "God Has A Plan for Us"

P.M.— "Surprises on the Day of Judgment"

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

### Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— still suffering with multiple health issues. Keep praying. God is listening and answering.

-Sheryle Elkins— is continuing chemotherapy on a periodic basis. Her last lung scan was encouraging. Keep her in your prayers.

-Bill Valentine is recovering from esophageal cancer surgery. We rejoice with him that all indicators are good. It is so good to have him and Gail back in worship with us.

-Bill Green—suffering from pneumonia.

-Jean Compton—is recovering at home.

-Kathy May battling ongoing health issues. She is still in Baxter.

-Pauline Swallow is dealing with cancer. Keep praying for her.

-Skip Stewart— improving after bypass surgery in his leg. It is good to see him back with us.

-Jerry and Jeanette Dyer— they face several challenges.

-Keely Chambers, Shirley Harmon's granddaughter, is dealing with complications affecting her pregnancy.

-Tanya Smith (former member) has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She is now living in Collinwood, TN

### Friends and Family News

-Sue Hayes sister, Joyce, had a fall resulting in a small fracture to her leg and a serious foot drop issue. Home care and rehab planned to assist in healing.

-Brenda Scott's niece, Nita Watern, has liver cancer and is receiving chemotherapy. Her liver is almost completely consumed. She lives in New Madison, Ohio.

-Leah Turner's friend, Nesbit Allen, surgery to remove cancerous tumor from his bladder.

-Judy Watkins, Rick's sister in Texas, is slightly improving.

-Richard Nichols, Nick Nichol's brother—cancer surgery in Illinois.

-Barbara Copley, friend of Sheryle Elkins—battling cancer.

-Ginny and Rick—prayers for their daughter-in-law's grandmother, Anna, in Argentina. She is very ill from a persistent infection.

-Dee Lewis, friend of the Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)

**Ladies Bible Class** meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul."

### Special Events

**Men's Prayer Session**  
Monday mornings at 8:30

### Wednesday Night

Rick Cliett is leading a study on the Book of Hebrews

### Sunday Adult Class

I Thessalonians—Al Behel

### Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

### Building Fund

Loan balance as of 12/02/15 is **\$1,047,057.38**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pews.

### Nursery

Located across main foyer. Closed circuit TV allows viewing and participation in worship.

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: [www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com)