

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“Forgetting The Past”

Aren't you glad you can forget painful and embarrassing events? Can you imagine awakening every day with all the hurtful memories from your past staring you in the face? Things you had hoped would go away and you would never have to look at again? Angry words spoken to you or about you? Well, thank God for the ability to forget.

Studies show that some forgetting is uncontrollable and may result from insufficient storage of information, enzyme deficiencies in the frontal lobe of the brain, failure to use or rehearse the information we have learned, or just the passage of time. Aging accounts for much of our forgetfulness.

Then there is intentional forgetting which occurs because we determine that the information no longer serves a useful purpose or may actually harm us. We selectively drop certain things from our memory system. The apostle Paul has instructed us to forget the past and stretch forward...to the goal that is before us (Philippians 3:13-14).

We need to forget certain things. Past hurts, resentments, grudges...these all need to be forgotten. If we carry resentment and anger in our hearts we endanger our souls and give Satan a “foothold” in our lives (Ephesians 4:31-32).

We need to forget our sinful past with its enticing allurements and reach forward to a more honorable and Christ-like future. Forgiveness takes our sins away forever. We may have suffered damage, but we are not destroyed. We are God's people and He is in the business of restoring broken hearts and lives.

God expects us to release the past and reach (literally “strain”) for a glorious future which is blessed by His presence in our lives. Forgiven, we now have a goal worth reaching...the “upward call of God” which is ours in Jesus.

— Al Behel

Other News & Sick:

Sympathy: Howard Yates' mother, **Cletta Yates**, passed away early Monday morning in Chattanooga. A memorial service was conducted in Chattanooga on Wednesday.

Al's brother, **Tom Behel**, passed away Tuesday morning in Alabama. A memorial service will be held November 7 at the church where he served as an elder.

Ben Lachica, Mariejane's father, passed away on Thursday morning in the Philippines. Cards can be sent to Mariejane here and to her mother at the following address:

Marcelina Lachica
Pongpong Sto. Tomas
La Union 2505
Philippines

Ladies Bible Class: Every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in fellowship hall. Polly Cline is leading a study entitled, “Hunger In My Soul”.

Fall Festival and Chili Supper—October 31. Sign up in foyer for food items. See Mark if you would like to plan and host a game for children. Fun, food, and good fellowship.

Food Contact For Month: Beverly Finnell and Linda Goodnight.

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes. Phone: 731-608-4148

Sermon Topics: A.M. — “Take Me To The Cross”

P.M.— “Hearts That Are Blind”

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. It was good to see Dez at services recently.

-Sheryle Elkins— received good news from her scan. No trace of tumor in one lung and greatly reduced in the other. Will continue periodic chemotherapy.

-Bill Valentine is battling esophageal cancer. Surgery is scheduled for October 21. Please keep Bill and Gail in prayer.

-Bill Green—still struggling with health issues

-Jean Compton—is recovering at home.

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

-Keely Chambers is recovering at home with her grandmother.

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

-Bill England— is now home after being hospitalized with a staph infection at the surgical site. He recently had lung surgery for lung cancer. Keep praying.

-Otis Hawkes has been battling pneumonia. Home now from hospital.

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 will start chemotherapy on Monday. Her liver is almost completely consumed. She lives in New Madison, Ohio.

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

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

-Barbara Copley, friend of Bill England and Sheryle Elkins—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)

-Sue Hayes' sister, Kathy Williams, made it safely out of Haiti with her medical mission team. Roberta Edwards, who has run a church related orphanage for many years, was ambushed there a few days ago. We are grateful that Kathy and the team made it home safely.

Deployed to Stuttgart, Germany: Lt. Col. Jim Vance, Jr. (USAF), son of May and Jimmy Vance.

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

1 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 10/01/15 is **\$1,058,800.25**. 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