

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“He Lifted Me”

“He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.” (Psalm 40:2)

God wants to forgive us. That’s what the cross is about. That’s what the resurrection is about. That’s what the church is about. God’s eternal love...waiting to forgive. Waiting for the right time to take our sins all the way to Calvary. Oh, how He wants to forgive!

Sin is dark and shameful. It hurts and destroys. It separates us from our Father. It brings death and destruction to everyone it touches. It is never pretty. It robs us of peace and creates enemies among neighbors. It leaves its stain like scarlet. It is red like crimson. But, the blood of Jesus makes us “white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18).

And God wants us to forgive. The cross makes that possible. There we died to ourselves and our sinful pride. There we found grace not only for ourselves but to extend to others through that same cross. Forgiveness is from God. It is not in our fleshly nature. But that nature is buried with Christ in our baptism (Romans 6:4). We die to self and self-will. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20).

Forgiveness is freeing. It is not forgetting, but it is freeing another from the just consequence of his or her wrong. And it frees us. It frees us to let go of hurts and injuries and move forward in love. It frees us from having to remember the pain that binds us.

It is not produced by commandment. Nor does it depend on human strength. It is accomplished through surrender. Through acceptance. The prodigal’s father didn’t want repayment or retribution. He wanted his son home. He ran to meet him before he reached the front yard (Luke 15:11-24).

— Al Behel

Other News & Sick:

-**Daniel Norris**—nephew of Elaine and Marti-(and pitcher for Detroit Tigers) -declared cancer free after recent surgery for thyroid cancer.

-**Donna Walker** saw a cardiologist this week due to some health issues. Further tests are scheduled for November 16. She is not allowed to drive until the doctor clears her. She needs assistance at this time with transportation to church, her doctor, and to the grocery store. Please offer assistance as you can.

-**Ladies Bible Class:** Every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Polly Cline is leading a study entitled, “Hunger In My Soul”. This Tuesday, please bring a salad for luncheon following lesson. We will all drive together to Polly’s home.

-**Madison Barnett** (teen who just moved from Mississippi with family) rededicated her life to Jesus on Wednesday night.

-**Meetings:** Men and Ladies, today at 4 p.m.

-Priscilla Dick has set up a drawer in the kitchen with **emergency diabetic supplies**. Please see Priscilla if you would like to donate an item.

-**Al and Linda** will be attending his brother’s memorial service next Saturday afternoon in Alabama. They will be gone through next weekend. Mark

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

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. – “It’s A Sad Day When God Gives Up”

P.M.— “What If No One Came?”

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**— ia continuing chemotherapy on a periodic basis. Her last lung scan was encouraging. Keep her in your prayers.

-**Bill Valentine** is battling esophageal cancer. He underwent surgery and his surgeon said the markers were clear. We rejoice at the good news. He is recovering at home. 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**—now home after being hospitalized again with dehydration. He recently had lung surgery for lung cancer. Keep praying.

-**Wyatt Cox’s** audiology and cardiology appointments went well.

-**Skip Stewart**-scheduled to have stents in his leg on November 11.

-**Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**—keep in prayer as they face several challenges.

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 started chemotherapy last week. 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)

-**Deployed to Stuttgart, Germany:** Lt. Col. Jim Vance, Jr. (USAF), son of May and Jimmy Vance. Support services to Middle East.

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 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.