

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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In Everything Give Thanks

“...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 1:18)

Sometimes it’s hard to feel grateful...especially when things aren’t going so well. Oh, it’s easy to be thankful for health and wealth and life without a struggle. But, when things don’t go so well...that’s a different story. To be grateful in hard times and difficult moments isn’t in our nature.

Still, Paul tells us to give thanks in every situation of life. In the good times and the bad times. When we have good things happening to us, and when the road is very rough. Can you do that? Can you thank God in every situation or circumstance in your life? We are not told to thank Him for everything that comes our way...even Jesus didn’t do that. We are told to never become bitter and ungrateful regardless of the difficulties we face.

Why should we give thanks in every situation of life? Isn’t it a bit unreasonable to think that our hearts would be grateful during periods of intense suffering and loss? How can God expect us to be thankful when someone we love dies or when we lose our health? Because God knows that the body we live in is temporary and we are not home yet. Every circumstance will ultimately change and give way to His higher and eternal purpose.

Grateful hearts never give up. Our hope is not in the flesh but in the life-giving Spirit of God. While the outward man is decaying we rejoice because the inner man is being renewed daily (2 Corinthians 4:16). Our peace comes not from having the right circumstances, but in having the right heart in every circumstance.

Because He lives in us, “we rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances” knowing that “this is the will of God in Christ Jesus” (Thessalonians 5:16-18). Then, the God of peace will sanctify us wholly and our “spirit and soul and body” will be “kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (5:23).

— Al Behel

Other News:

-Thank You! What a wonderful response last Sunday to our appeal for special contributions to assist our benevolence ministry. We requested \$3,000 and received \$3,337. That was in addition to \$4,611 for general funds, \$100 for Honduras, and \$225 for our building fund...a total of **\$8,273**. This is a wonderful church and God is using you to touch the lives of so many people.

-Holiday Fellowship and Dinner: Please plan to join everyone in the fellowship hall next Saturday (December 5) at 6 p.m. for a period of holiday celebration, fun time, fellowship, and a great pot luck dinner. If you haven’t signed up please do so in the main foyer today and indicate what dish or dishes you plan to bring.

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. — “Thanks Be To God!”

P.M.— “Christian Ethics: Understanding Our Times”

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 in past weeks.

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

-Bill Valentine is home recovering from surgery for esophageal cancer. Doctors are encouraged by the absence of cancer markers and the prognosis is positive. Keep Bill and Gail in prayer. God is good!

-Shannon Barnett, son of Larry and Helen, suffering from brain tumor.

-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.

-Bill England— so good to have him back following surgery for lung cancer. He reports that he is feeling much better. Keep praying.

-Skip Stewart— was good to see him back with us following surgery to bypass a blockage in his leg. Keep him in prayer.

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

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

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.

-Mariejane Hill’s Brother is very ill in the Philippines.

-Judy Watkins, Rick’s sister in Texas, is slightly improved.

-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)

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

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 11/02/15 is **\$1,053,307.89**. 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