

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Who's In Charge?

Do you like to be in charge? Or, do you prefer to sit back and let others decide what will be done? Most of us want to be in control...at least of the choices that directly affect us. Some people seem to want to control everything. These persons we tend to avoid or somehow sabotage their efforts.

In reality we have little control over anything except our own choices. And some of those choices are limited by the opportunities or limitations over which others may have control. When our choices are taken away we lose our freedom to the control of someone else.

There are extremists in both directions. On one extreme are people who are referred to as "control freaks", while others on the opposite extreme are called "Yes" men. We may avoid the first and manipulate or control the latter.

When it comes to many of the major issues of life we have little or no control. We have no control over whether we will die and only limited control over how long we will live. Scripture tells us that, at best, our life is a vapor, or like a blade of grass that withers and dies.

We have some control over how others may treat us because we have complete control over how we treat them. We may help ensure the stability of our jobs by performing them well, but we may not control the changing market demands which decrease the need for our services, or the attitudes and actions of others which may result in our loss of employment.

Two important questions to ask ourselves are, "How much control do I need?", and "What can I do when my life seems out of control?" The major control we need is to have the freedom to make healthy choices which lead to satisfactory results. Some situations or events, however, leave us with few desirable choices. The death of a loved one, major illnesses, and termination of employment in later years may greatly reduce our options.

When our lives seem out of control we need to find some sense of stability and resolution. For Christians that possibility exists in our faith in an all-powerful God Who never changes. He is the Rock we can stand upon in any storm, the Anchor through turbulent winds, and the Light Who will guide us through the darkest night. Our God is controlled by no one, nor is He ever without choices. Although we cannot see over the mountain He looks down from "on high" and knows all possibilities. Placing our hands in His provides a secure grip which will keep us from falling even when the road is rough. As long as He is in control, I can relax.

— Al Behel

Other News:

-Our Sympathy: To the family of **Bill England** who passed away Wednesday evening. Bill and Pat have been members of the GSM church for many years. Our prayers are with Pat and the England family at this time. Bill will be greatly missed. He and Pat sat on the second row.

-Linda Goodnight's husband, **John**, had surgery this week and is in Fort Sanders Sevier Rehab Center. Keep John and Linda in your prayers.

-Holiday Fellowship and Dinner: Our thanks to everyone who helped make our holiday party a great time of fellowship, fun, and celebration.

Food for Thought: "Never miss a good chance to shut up" —Will Rogers

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. — "What I Love About The Church"

P.M.— *Young Men will lead our worship*

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.

-Dan Elkins has been experiencing continuous bleeding following a tooth extraction last week. He was on a blood thinner.

-Bill Valentine has received a very encouraging report on his recovery from esophageal cancer surgery. We rejoice with him. Let's keep praying for a complete recovery.

-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— 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— 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.

-Rick Cliett's niece, **Wendy**, had surgery this week. She is doing well. Thank you for your prayers.

-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, somewhat improved.

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

-Barbara Copley, friend of Sheryle Elkins—cancer.

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

Ladies Bible Class— 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Polly Cline leading study on "Hunger In My Soul." Next class is December 15.

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