

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“Away In A Manger”

No room in the Inn. A stable as His nursery. The Son of God lying in manger, surrounded by farm animals. The earth He had created had no place for Him. He came to His own and His own did not receive Him. The Word had become flesh to dwell among us. His glory was that of His Father, filled with grace and truth. The King had been born...and His bed was a pile of hay.

The details of His birth are important for us to remember. Heaven’s favored Son was earth’s stable child. When He became one of us He went to the very bottom. No home opened its doors to Him. There was no celebration with extended family and friends. The angels were His guests. They burst into songs of praise and adoration. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!”

But a manger Jesus is not enough. A cross stood in the distance. From the manger to the cross His road would be filled with rejection. The Inn was not the only place that would have no room for Him. Hearts would reject Him. His neighbors would mock Him. The songs of angels would be silenced by the cries to “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

The babe wrapped in swaddling clothes would be stripped of His only garments and nailed to a cross. The wise men are gone. Earth will shake with grief. The temple veil will rip from top to bottom. The sun will hide its face. The Savior has died.

How foolish man is! How *incredibly* foolish! To think that the One who created it all could be destroyed by His own creation. A cave-den, sealed with a stone, could not hold Him. With a word He made it all. And with a word the stone rolled away and Heaven’s favored Son walked out of the tomb and ascended back to His Father.

The manger fades into the background as Calvary emerges into view. Without the Cross the picture is incomplete. And without the manger the Cross would have little meaning. The manger leads to the Cross.

The focus of our faith is not in Bethlehem’s barn. It is on the Crucible of Calvary where Heaven’s love met Satan’s hate and won. It is on the open tomb which could not hold Him. Our faith rests in a resurrected Jesus who is now our King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

__ Al Behel

Our Prayer For You

Our prayer for you is that God will bless each of you with the assurance of His love and grace, and that He will hold you close to Himself and to one another throughout the coming year. We pray that your holidays will be filled with good things with family and friends and that you will be blessed in the coming year. Thank you for your love and generosity toward us. With our deepest love.

__ The Behels, Haynes, & Elkins

Other News:

- Linda Goodnight’s husband, **John**, is now home from rehab.
- Samuel Haynes’** ear surgery has been postponed.
- James Hill**, 14 yr. old friend of Kenny and Charlotte, serious leg injury in a motor bike accident. He lives in Ohio.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. – “We Beheld His Glory, Full of Grace & Truth”

P.M.— “The Barnabas Factor”

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 recently. He was on a blood thinner.
- 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**— 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.
- 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 somewhat improved.
- Richard Nichols**, Nick Nichol’s brother—cancer surgery in Illinois.
- Barbara Copley**, friend of Sheryle Elkins—cancer.
- Ginny and Rick**—prayers for their daughter-in-law’s grandmother, **Anna**, in Argentina.
- Dee Lewis**, friend of the Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)

Ladies Bible Class—will meet again Tuesday, January 19, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Polly Cline is leading an excellent 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