

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### "When I Consider Your Heavens..."

Astronomers tell us that there are 100 Billion stars in our Milky Way. That is just a small segment of our known universe. And our planet is a but a tiny speck in relation to all the solar system.

Considering how insignificant our earth seems among all the stars, planets, moons, and suns, it is hard to believe that God cares for any of us much less each of us so intimately that even the hairs of our heads are numbered. How can he care what decisions we make, what struggles we face, or what disappointments come our way? The human family that has been cynically described as "a semi-invisible rash on the skin of a sub-microscopic planet in a second-rate solar system."

The reality is that God does care about each of us. Long before the telescope was invented, the Shepherd King looked up into the sky and said, "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have made, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:3,4).

Truly God cares for each of us as if we were His only child. Psalm 147:3-4 contrasts the stars in the sky with the hurts of a single soul: "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name."

Why does God care for us? The psalmist gives an answer. "You have made him a little lower than the angels and have crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet...." (Psalm 8:5,6). All things, sheep, oxen, beasts of the field, birds of the air...everything...has been placed under man's dominion. Only man is created in God's image, in His likeness. While all other objects of God's creation reflect His power, only man has the capacity to reflect His glory. Only man is made in His image and likeness.

God cares! We matter to Him. As nothing else in all the universe, we matter. That's why He sent His only begotten Son to carry our sins and redeem us from sin. The apostle Peter realized that he could turn to him in the darkest hours of disappointment. He urged us, "Cast all your anxieties upon him, because he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7).

How refreshing to know that God cares about every anxious moment... every weight we carry...every struggle with our children...or the bills...or the illnesses we face...Yes! God cares! He cares when hearts are broken, when loved ones die, when we are pressed on every side. The God who created the stars and the universe cares for you!

— Al Behel

### Other News/Sick:

**Tyler Behel**, Al's nephew, has been re-deployed to Afghanistan.

**Paul Huston**, son-in-law of Gary and Priscilla Dick, deployed to Egypt for one year. Prayers appreciated.

**Ladies Bible Class:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall. Next study January 20 at 10 a.m.

**Rick Cliett** will speak for us tonight. It is good to have him back from Malaysia and we are looking forward to hearing him.

**Elder Contact for Month:** Marc Hayes, Phone No. 1-731-608-4148

*Sermon Topics: A.M. - "When My Love For Christ Grows Weak"; P.M. - Rick Cliett will be our speaker - "Light & Momentary Trouble"*

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

### Our Known Sick

**-Dez Anderson**— fell recently and suffered a lot of pain. She continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

**-Sheryle Elkins**—good news! CT scan shows the tumor in her lung has shrunk by 90%. We rejoice and give God thanks! She is battling inflammation in her lung caused by the radiation. Keep praying. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

**-Bill Green** is now suffering from a sore on his heel and is confined to home.

**-Raelynn Bryant**, newborn baby daughter of Steven and Taylor Bryant, is home from the hospital and is improving significantly.

**-Kathy May**—ill in Baxter. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

**-Patty Adair**—recovering from back surgery. Back with us.

**-Pauline Swallow** has not been feeling well. Keep her in prayer.

### Friends and Family

**-Ray Henley**, brother of Beverly Finnell, has pneumonia and is in a hospital in Kentucky. He lives in Metropolis, IL.

**-Mrs. Florence Tolliver** is in Ft. Sanders Nursing Home, Rm 172. Her daughter, Rita Taylor from Kodak, has been visiting with us.

**-Jim Dickson** (he and Barbara have worked at Dollywood and worshipped with us several years) has a recurrence of lung cancer and is being treated with chemotherapy. Jim and Barbara live at 521 Green Hills Dr., Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Phone: 601-296-1547.

**-Scottie Elkins**, Tom and Deb's grandson, is still awaiting tests to determine if he has MS. Prayers are requested for him.

**-Tom Elkin's brother** in rehab following a four-wheeler accident.

**-Christopher Howell**—grandson of the Littletons—spinal cord injuries.

**-Jerry Ellison**, Brenda Scott's brother-in-law, failing lungs with no further treatment available.

**-Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum** (Al's nieces—battling cancer)

**-Al's brother, Tom Behel**, - improving from post-operative stroke and broken femur. Still having minimal speech.

**-Debbie Little**, mother of one of Marti's students, is suffering from a brain aneurysm rupture. Debbie is home and greatly improved. The family appreciates your prayers and cards. Their address is: Debbie, Randy, Michael, & Katie Little, 4152 Briggs Loop, Kodak, TN 37764. Please drop a note.

**-Allen McCord**, friend of Rick & Ginny—acute Leukemia.

**-Peggy Neff**—battling metastasized cancer, friend of Rick & Ginny

### Exploring The Life of Joseph

K-Teen, Winter Sunday School

Fellowship Hall—9:30 a.m.

Teens as Teacher's Aids

Mark Haynes, Director

Adult Class

Colossians—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 01/06/15 is **\$1,102,466.00**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew.

### 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](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com).