

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Why I Love Young People

I love young people. Oh, I've met a some whose behaviors weren't very likable, but for the most part, teenagers have always had a special place in my heart. I have spent countless hours talking with teens, listening to them, crying with them, and sharing their dreams.

Why do I like young people? The reasons are too numerous to mention or think about at once. But, there are several I want to share with you.

1) *I love young people because they haven't become overly discouraged by insignificant things.* As we grow older reality sets in and with it comes the temptation to see problems as obstacles. Our youth can still see a way around many of the things which causes their older counterparts to give up.

2) *I love young people because they are alive and know it!* I know some of them have to be awakened with dynamite, but when awakened, there is zest for living. There is a freshness in each new friendship and in each new song.

3) *I love young people because God isn't done with them yet.* Some of us have become hardened by life's experiences. We have chosen our politics, our values, our prejudices, and our religious mind-sets. Young minds are still fresh and young hearts are still pliable. God can shape them and reshape them until they reflect His image.

4) *I love young people because they forgive so easily.* If you listen to them one day their friend has just become the worst person on campus, but if you wait until tomorrow...well, "we've worked it out and we're friends again." Forgiveness is easier when you don't hold onto the grudges.

5) *I love young people because I was a teenager, my children were teenagers, and my grandchildren are and will be teenagers.* Maybe you've forgotten, but I haven't. I remember the pimple on the end of the nose, the shirt that wasn't like my friends wore, and the music that was felt rather than heard. I remember the pants which were so tight you needed to remove your feet to get them on and off. I remember that the older folks weren't as smart as I was, and that my parents weren't as neat as someone else's parents. But...I grew up...and they will too! I'm thankful for our teens and the things they teach me, for their spirit, and their hearts. I'm glad to be part of their lives and to have them as part of mine.

— Al Behel

Baptism: We rejoice in the baptism of **Sonja LaFollette** who confessed her faith and was baptized into Christ last Sunday. Sonja is a student at King's Academy and has grown up at the GSM church. We welcome her as a sister.

Ladies Bible Study: NEW Topic—*In Understanding Be Mature*. Join us on Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for Lesson One. See Sue Hayes for a copy of the lessons. Meetings every first and third Tuesdays.

You Have To Use It

An agnostic soap manufacturer once chided a preacher about his work. "You say the gospel has the power to cleanse the world of sin?" "Yes," replied the preacher. "Then why is there so much sin in the world? I have little faith in your gospel's cleansing power!"

The preacher responded, "Does your soap have the power to cleanse the dirt from all the people of the world?" "Yes," exclaimed the soap maker. "But I see dirty people everywhere! I have little faith in your product's cleansing power!" The soap manufacturer protested, "But there would be no dirty people if they would only *use* my soap!" "Exactly," the preacher said, "and so it is with the gospel. It cleanses only *when properly used*."

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson, Phone No. 924-1067

Sermon Speakers: A.M. - Mark Haynes; P.M. - Devotional and Singing (Al Behel is not feeling well today)

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

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— 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. She is able to attend services again.

-Judy Sortore is recovering from knee surgery.

Friends and Family

-Mary Wagner, sister of Tina Yates, is facing radiation treatment for cancer. She lives in Arlington, TX.

-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.

-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 recovering from a brain aneurysm rupture. 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—acute Leukemia, doing better and **Peggy Neff**, metastasized cancer, still struggling—both friends of the Clietts.

-Tyler Behel, Al's nephew, is in Afghanistan. Prayers appreciated.

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.

Exploring The Life of Joseph

K-Teen, Winter Sunday School Fellowship Hall—9:30 a.m. Teens as Teacher's Aides Mark Haynes, Director

Adult Class

Colossians—Al Behel

Rick Cliett conducting a study on James 1 today in Al's absence

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