

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Why Church Attendance Is Important

I never like to talk about church attendance. It really should never be necessary. Every Christian should be so in love with God and His will and amazed by His glory that we are eager to worship Him. While we are not told in the Bible the frequency with which we should gather (other than the first day of the week), historically, Christians have believed that regular and frequent worship, study, prayer, and fellowship are necessary for spiritual growth and development. Well, if church attendance is important, just why is it so important?

- Scripture tells us that the Kingdom (church) of God must be our number one priority.** We can easily quote Scriptures like, *"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..."* (Matthew 6:33). God has never accepted second best and He will not now.
- It is taught in Scripture.** Scripture tells us not to forsake the assembling together *"as the manner of some is..."* (Hebrews 10:25). There was a church attendance problem in the first century and the inspired writer admonished Christians not to be negligent in church attendance, but to *"admonish one another as you see the day approaching."*
- When we assemble for worship we are assembling with deity.** Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20). What a rich opportunity to be in the intimate and uplifting presence of God Himself.
- It builds our lives and the lives of our family members.** Character is built through knowledge and conditioning, both internally and externally. The fellowship of other Christians builds families and helps shape the lives of our children. Notice these disturbing statistics:
 - If both mom and dad attend church regularly, 72% of their children remain faithful in attendance
 - If only dad attends regularly, 55% remain faithful
 - If only mom attends regularly, 15% remain faithful
 - If neither attends regularly, only 6% remain faithful
 Notice the profound importance of fathers in attending church regularly.
- It is a happy occasion.** The psalmist expressed it well, *"I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord"* (Psalm 122:1). *"We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His court with praise"* (Psalm 100:4).
- It helps ensure your eternal home.** Jesus told Christians in Smyrna, *"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life"* (Revelation 2:10). Regular attendance helps build faithful Christian service.

— Al Behel

Other News and Sick:

- Sympathy:** To **Tina Yates** in the death of grandson, **Trevor Gross**, who was killed in an auto accident on Monday night in Greeneville. His funeral was on Friday. Please keep Tina and her family in your prayers.
- Jim Dickson** passed away this week in Hattiesburg, MS. Jim and Barbara have worked at Dollywood each summer for several years and worshipped with us. Barbara's address is: Barbara Dickson, 521 Green Hills Dr., Hattiesburg, MS, 39402.
- Ladies Bible Class:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall. Next meeting February 3.
- Deployed:** **Tyler Behel**, Al's nephew, is in Afghanistan. Prayers appreciated.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "When God Gives Up on Kids"; P.M. - "At Home In The Psalms-A New Song" -Psalms 149, 150

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**—battling lung cancer. Will have PET scan Monday at 9 a.m. and get results at 1 pm Tuesday. 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.
- Hubert and Jean Compton**—Hubert recovering from a fall and Jean battling heart issues. Hubert's birthday was last Monday.
- Cody Kihlberg**—has been battling strep since before Thanksgiving. He is now dealing with immunodeficiency and a bacterial infection and had to go to Children's Hospital Friday evening. He is home and resting better.
- 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.

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.
- 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.
- Tom Behel**, Al's brother - slowly 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.
- Morris Fields**, Leah Turner's uncle, is hospitalized. He has been battling an undetermined illness.
- Allen McCord**—acute Leukemia, is doing better and **Peggy Neff**, metastasized cancer, still struggling. Both friends of the Clietts.

Meetings: Men & Ladies meetings are postponed til next Sunday.

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.