

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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March 08, 2015

Is Anybody Listening?

I couldn't follow the conversation because the entire family wanted to talk at the same time. Finally, I reached into my desk drawer and pulled out a ball which I tossed to one of the family members and said, "If you have the ball you have the floor; everyone else has to listen!" Listening is hard work. Understanding what we hear is even harder.

Jesus talked about people who have ears but do not hear. He wasn't talking about children who tune out their parents. He was talking about grownups who have closed their minds and will not allow the Word of God to penetrate their hearts.

Many of us have selective hearing. We listen to what pleases us, makes us feel good, while rejecting messages that call us up short or points out our flaws. Sometimes we don't listen because there are too many noises around us...too many voices calling for our attention. It's hard to slice through competing and conflicting messages. In the religious world there are many voices calling us and we find ourselves confused as to which voice represents the voice of God.

We must learn to listen when God speaks. We must learn to differentiate between His voice and the voice of men. The parable of the Sower suggests that our readiness to receive His Word determines how clearly we hear and how deeply the Seed penetrates our hearts and changes our lives. So...are we listening? Are we eager to hear when He speaks?

— Al Behel

Other News:

-**Donna Walker** fell on the ice on recently and severely injured her knee.

-**Randy Messick**, Jan's son, is battling liver cancer. He lives in Winston Salem, NC. Please keep him, his family, and Jan in your prayers.

-**Shirley Harmon's** granddaughter, **Keely**, had extensive knee surgery two weeks ago and has experienced a severe allergic reaction and a bacterial infection. Keep her in your prayers. Also, Shirley's friend, **Bob Foust**, had hip surgery. He frequently attends services with Shirley.

-**Tennille Wiles** is suffering from multiple seizures. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Men's Prayer Session—Monday mornings at 8:30

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall.

Chili Supper—next Sunday night, March 15, following worship. Some of the men (I'm sure some of the ladies will rescue us) have volunteered to make chili. Everyone else should bring side items like chips, crackers, cornbread, onions, relishes, grated cheese, sour cream, desserts, and drinks.

Sunday School News: This is the last Sunday for our combined age groups for children and youth in the fellowship hall. Regular classes will begin next Sunday. Teachers, please be prepared for your students March 15.

Bottles of Love—Please fill your bottles with your coins/green bills or earmark a check for "Bottles of Love" and place in collection or give to one of the men. This project helps provide items for newborns at the hospital and clothing for needy school children. Bottles may be turned in at the sound booth. Visitors who wish to donate may place your donation in one of the large baby bottles located in either foyer.



Food Contact For Month: Linda Goodnight. Contact her if you wish to help with any upcoming needs.

Elder Contact for Month: Rick Cliett. Phone: 865-789-9619

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "A Friend Closer Than A Brother"; P.M. - "Lessons From Revelation: Patmos and Beyond"-No. 5 - A Doctrinal Weak Church

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. Had a PET scan recently that indicates the tumor continues to shrink. Keep praying. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-**Polly Cline** has macular degeneration in both eyes, requiring shots in her right eye. Let's keep her in prayer that her left eye will stabilize.

-**Estlina Wilson** is battling blood clots in her leg.

-**Bill Green**—good to have him back with us.

-**Hubert and Jean Compton**—Hubert recovering from a fall and Jean battling heart issues.

-**Larry Valentine** received a cancer free report from his CT Scan.

-**Linda Valentine** is suffering from a condition which produces too many red blood cells. She is having a lot of difficulty. Please pray.

-**Francis Laney** suffered a stroke recently in North Carolina. She is now in rehab. Her address is on the bulletin board in foyer.

-**Pauline Swallow**-has colon cancer. Please pray.

-**Bill England**-began radiation treatment for bone cancer on Tuesday.

Friends and Family News

-**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.

-**Scotty Elkins**, Tom and Deb's grandson, waiting results of liver tests

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

-**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 now home and will be seeing a cardiologist & pulmonologist soon. Home health is assisting.

-**Barbara Copley**, friend of Bill England and Sheryle Elkins—cancer.

-Bill England has requested prayer for his friend, **Bill Forsythe**.

Deployed to Afghanistan: Tyler Behel, Al's nephew.

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

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 02/05/15 is **\$1,097,710.52**. 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.