

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XIX. No. 20

May 17, 2015

“Down But Not Out”

Have you ever had the props knocked out from under you? Maybe it was a job termination, or some major disappointment, or some moral failure. You were tempted to give up and quit. Maybe you were struggling with anger or feelings of guilt. Sometimes the blows come from people you trusted and loved.

The apostle Paul talked about how we are sometimes knocked down but that we are not knocked out (II Corinthians 4:8). The attacks are hard to bear. The disappointments and failures are so heavy we feel we can never get up again. But, the battle is not over.

The reason we are not out is stated a few verses later, “...our inner nature is being renewed every day” (4:16). We can get up because deep inside of us we are not destroyed. The faith we trusted before is still there. The strength that kept us going for so long is still there. We may have stumbled over some sin in our lives or some obstacle from the outside...yet we can get up again.

The greatest servants have been broken. They have learned discipline through confronting the ugly parts of themselves. They have learned humility at the foot of the cross. They have learned that God didn't give up and neither should they. They have learned that cleansing may come through tears of brokenness.

The Holy Spirit renews us through empowering our feeble efforts. He doesn't let us stay down when we want to get up. He created new life in us once and He can do it again. No one needs to stay lost.

When you are knocked down don't lie on the floor and groan about how unfair everyone is or how weak you are. Take hold of His hand and He will lift you up. He isn't finished with you yet.

— Al Behel

Other News:

Honoring Our Graduate: We will honor our high school graduate tonight, May 17, following worship. We will have a covered dish congregational dinner and honor **Nathan Cantrell** for his accomplishments as he graduates high school. This is a time of celebration for the Cantrell family and for his church family. He is a remarkable young man whose devotion to Christ is exemplary.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study—Rick Cliett is leading a study of Hebrews. If you would like any additional information and “homework” assignments, please see Rick.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair. Contact her if you wish to help.

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

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

Our Known Sick

-**Dez Anderson**—was admitted to the hospital with a low hematocrit. They are currently trying to stop blood loss. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

-**Jim Anderson**—a hard cast affixed to his wrist recently. Healing is slow but progressing. Multiple challenges with himself and Dez.

-**Sheryle Elkins**—is undergoing a second round of chemotherapy. Please pray fervently for her. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-**Al Finnell**—triple bypass surgery on May 6. He is now at home recovering. Keep him and Beverly in your prayers.

-**Ron Sommerville**—surgery to implant a nerve stimulator is now scheduled for June 1.

-**John Devore**, Linda Goodnight's husband, was hospitalized recently with a “small” stroke. He is now at home

-**Estlina Wilson**- good to have her back with us.

-**Bill Green**—still struggling with health issues

-**Jean Compton**— heart issues.

-**Francis Laney** — Her address is on the bulletin board in foyer.

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

-**Bill England**-receiving radiation treatment for bone cancer which has now spread to his spine.

Friends and Family News

-**Ben Lachica**, Mariejane's dad, had another stroke and also has pneumonia.

-**Joyce Keyser's cousin, Ann**, under hospice care with failing lungs.

-**Mary Wagner**, battling 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.

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

-**Tom Behel**, Al's brother - slowly improving.

-**Morris Fields** -Leah Turner's uncle, a lung infection.

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

-**Brenda Moore**, friend of Leah, has thyroid cancer and is having a very difficult time.

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

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

Special Events

Ladies Bible Class
1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

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 05/01/15 is **\$1,084,800.14**. 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