

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XIX. No. 23

June 07, 2015

Filtering Out God

It's a noisy world. Everywhere we turn there is noise. There seems to be an infinite source of it—cars, music, televisions, children, machines, people all around us—the list is endless. It is hard to find a quiet spot any more.

Our brains are designed to filter out things we don't want to hear or that we listen to repeatedly. It's called "adaptation." Adaptation is the process by which the neurotransmitters in the brain that receive sound messages begin to fire less frequently until we hardly know the sounds are present. This process usually takes about 28-30 minutes of continuous exposure to a given sound. When multiple sounds are present we tend to select which one we want to hear.

Listening to God is sometimes difficult because there are so many sounds and messages which compete for our attention. Jesus spoke of people who have ears to hear but do not hear. These individuals filter out what they don't want to hear, or their hearts are so full of prejudices, preconceived ideas, or other commitments that they cannot hear what God has to say.

Our world has become quite adept at filtering out God's Word and selecting more entertaining and pleasing messages. His message is lost in a sea of noises which reduces His voice to a faint sound in the distance. One wonders why He keeps speaking... why He doesn't just give up.

Perhaps the answer is found in His love. And the fact that some do listen. Some open their ears and their hearts to every word. His desire penetrates deeply. Their hearts rejoice with the reassurance of each tender message. They are willing. They are ready. They will respond.

___ Al Behel

Other News & Sick:

-Baptism—Linda Dickey was baptized into Christ on May 24. We welcome Linda as our new sister and to the fellowship of Christians at the GSM church. Linda recently moved from Joplin, MO to Sevierville. Her address will be in the directory addition.

-Marti Cantrell—had a lumpectomy last Thursday for ductal breast cancer. She received good news—her doctor surgeon believes he got a clear margin and all her cancer was removed. The BRCA gene mutation test was also negative. We are rejoicing with Marti!

-Michael Jacob's mother has been battling extensive cancer filling her entire abdomen area. She is now in hospice. Michael, Gail, and their family are supported by the GSM church in Cape Town, South Africa. Prayers requested.

-Ronnie Jones, minister in Blue Ridge, GA (friend of Danny & Polly Cline), is urgently awaiting a kidney transplant. Danny is filling in for him temporarily.

-Patty Adair needs for VBS - EMPTY Kleenex boxes - both rectangular and square - please bring to building and place on labeled table in the fellowship room. VBS is scheduled for August 7-8. Theme: "Go Tell It On the Mountain."

Gary and Priscilla will be in Washington state until the middle of August. Their address til August will be 17705 Clear Lake Blvd. SE, Yelm, WA 98597.

Mens' and Ladies' meetings at 4:00 this afternoon.

Food Contact For Month: Linda Goodnight. Call her to assist.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Listening to Fools"; P.M. - "Patmos and Beyond-No. 14- God's Wrath Unleashed on Enemies of the Church" Revelation 13-20:10

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

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— still confined to home with multiple health issues. Keep praying. God is listening and answering.

-Jim Anderson—recovering from broken wrist. Healing is slow but progressing. Multiple challenges with himself and Dez.

-Sheryle Elkins— developed an allergic reaction and will need adjustment with her chemotherapy going forward. Has had several difficult days in the last week. 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 and his recovery is progressing. Keep him and Beverly in your prayers.

-Ron Sommerville—had surgery on Monday to implant a nerve stimulator. Too sore to tell if the device is helping yet.

-Jimmy Vance is scheduled to have surgery to remove a tumor from his jaw in a few days.

-John Devore, Linda Goodnight's husband, recovering at home from another stroke.

-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.

-Kathy May battling ongoing health issues. She is still in Baxter.

Friends and Family News

-Donna Walker's sister, Sandy—in ICU with infection.

-Ben Lachica, Marijane's father, had another stroke and pneumonia.

-Mary Wagner, battling cancer. She lives in Arlington, TX.

-Richard Nichols, Nick Nichol's brother—cancer surgery in Illinois.

-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

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night
Rick Cliett is leading a study
on the Book of Hebrews

Sunday 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