

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XIX. No. 27

July 05, 2015

I Pledge Allegiance

When the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776 its founders were declaring independence from an earthly power while making a clear *declaration of dependence* upon Almighty God. The closing words of this historic document declares solemnly:

"With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

The founding fathers of this nation recognized the need for divine guidance. Relying on the providence of God they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the mutual good of the citizens of this new nation. Their declaration was one of *dependence* on God while exercising freedom from foreign domination.

Pledging allegiance to our national flag represents our mutual commitment to preserve our *sacred honor* under divine leadership and guidance. We recognize the position God holds far above governmental leaders and that all nations stand or fall as He wills.

As Christians our allegiance extends beyond flags and declarations of independence. Our God is supreme over all nations, all peoples, and all cultures. He stands untouched by the corruption and greed of rulers gone bad, or governments whose leaders refuse to bow before Him. Arsenals of mass destruction pale under His power. Our allegiance is to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

More than 3,000 years ago God gave a solemn warning to a new nation born out of oppression. That warning was that Israel should not forget the God who brought them out of slavery into a land of freedom (Deut. 8:7-14). That nation would later reject His prophets and corrupt His holy temple. Ultimately, they would kill His only Son.

More than 200 years ago God blessed the founding of a new nation, born for religious freedom. Let us not forget our heritage nor the purpose for which we exist. Let us honor the resurrected Son upon Whom we depend for life and freedom...*eternal* freedom.

___ Al Behel

Other News & Sick:

-**Bill Valentine** has been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. He is scheduled to begin radiation treatment on July 9. Please keep Bill and Gail in prayer.

--Prayers requested for Beverly Finnell's daughter-in-law's grandmother, **Hazel Haulcroft** (in Arkansas)-diagnosed with endometrial cancer. Surgery July 9.

--**Patty Adair needs for VBS** - EMPTY Kleenex boxes - 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.*"

Food for Thought: A young mother was shocked to learn that her little son told a lie. Taking the boy on her knee, she vividly explained what happened to little boys who told lies. "*A big black demon with fiery red eyes and two sharp horns grab little boys who tell lies and carries them off at night. They have to work in a dark canyon for 50 years. Now, you won't tell another lie, will you?*" To which the little boy replied, "*No, Ma'am, you can tell them better than I can any-*

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

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Chariots of Fire—Seeing the Unseen"; P.M. - "What Does The Church Do?"

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**— Some encouraging news but will continue 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 and his recovery is progressing. Keep him and Beverly in your prayers.

-**Ron Sommerville**— nerve stimulator seems to be helping.

-**Cody Kihlberg**—recovering from tonsillectomy. Keep him in prayer.

-**Jimmy Vance**—recovering from surgery to remove tumor from jaw.

-**John Devore**, Linda Goodnight's husband, recovering from stroke.

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

-**Jean Compton**— surgery delayed until July because of a growth in her mouth.

-**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

--**Howard Yates' mother**— ill with pneumonia in Chattanooga.

-**Judy Watkins**, Rick's sister in Texas, is slightly improving.

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

-**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.

-**Cecil Flowers**, friend of Dwight's, congestive heart failure and diabetes. He was a long-time member of the church in Sanford, FL, before moving to Kodak where currently worships. In Ft. Sander's Knoxville.

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

I Thessalonians —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 06/01/15 is **\$1,078,297.82**. 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.