

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Our Citizenship Is In Heaven

"Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior..." (Phil. 3:20)

I sat with a family who had just passed their examination to become citizens of the United States of America. They were estatic that they can now call America their "home."

As I reflected on this family's excitement about being American citizens, I was reminded that we are part of a greater nation (1 Peter 2:9). We are citizens of heaven, the greatest "commonwealth" known to man. As citizens of that "better kingdom", we live by higher laws and enjoy greater blessings.

But, like many of us in America, we take our citizenship for granted. We forget the battles that were fought by saints of old and the martyrs who gave their lives to further the cause of this Kingdom. Many are dissatisfied with the privileges we have and the laws set in place by our sovereign God. Seeking to be free of those laws they wish to redefine them to serve their own pleasure. They forget that we are "not of this world" (John 18:36), and that we must "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

While we raise the flag and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance with pride as Americans, we bow our knees before the throne of the Almighty King and embrace His eternal rule over all nations of men. He is the "King of glory" and we are honored to be citizens of His great Kingdom.

Citizenship in America is a marvelous privilege. Citizenship in heaven is a precious gift and reserved for those who truly desire it.

__ Al Behel



Special Guest Speaker Sunday, August 23. Mark Posey, minister of the Austinville congregation in Decatur, AL will speak for us next Sunday morning for Bible Study and worship. Mark has a background as a college teacher and has done mission work in the Caribbean islands, Europe, and Ukraine. He is a frequent speaker at Polishing The Pulpit, college lectureships, conducts numerous meetings each year and is the publisher of a religious periodical for preachers entitled Pulpit Preview. I spent several days last year with Mark and the Austinville church. Having heard him speak I am confident that you will find his messages to be timely and very edifying.

__ Al

Other News & Sick:

-**Bill England** is in Room 215 at Tennova Hospital Turkey Creek following lung surgery. Bill is but is still very ill. Please keep Bill and Pat in your prayers.

-Ginny and Rick are requesting prayers for their daughter-in-law's grandmother, **Anna**, who lives in Argentina. She is very ill from a persistent infection.

-**Sharon Roth**, sister of Coleen Thomason, was moved to rehab this week. Her address is: 6921 Pine Needle Lane, Boones Mill, VA 24065. She suffered a stroke after surgery recently.

-**Bob Foust**, who attends often with Shirley Harmon, had shoulder surgery on Monday. He is at home but has been in a lot of pain.

-**Danny Cline** was stung four times by wasps this week in Georgia and went into anaphylactic shock and required medical treatment. He had already been stung last week.

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

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes. Phone: 731-608-4148

Sermon Topics: A.M - "Prayer: When God Doesn't Answer"; PM—"Consider the Ant"

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.

-**Sheryle Elkins**— is continuing to receive chemotherapy for lung cancer. Please pray fervently for her. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-**Bill Valentine** is receiving radiation and chemotherapy for esophageal cancer. Please keep Bill and Gail in prayer.

-**Marti Cantrell**—radiation treatment for breast cancer.

-**Estlina Wilson**—in UT Medical Center with E.coli and other infections.

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

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

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

-**Keely Chambers**, granddaughter of Shirley Harmon, was hospitalized this week with a UTI.

-**Pauline Swallow** is dealing with cancer. Keep praying for her.

-**Mrs. Anna Ruth Franklin**—tests this week for another cancer.

Friends and Family News

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

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

-**Tom Behel**, Al's brother, had a seizure and is back in the hospital.

-**Morris Fields** -Leah Turner's uncle dealing with serious lung problems and hospice is assisting.

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

-**Megan White**, Joyce Keyser's 24 yr. old cousin from Huntsville, is in NYC awaiting delicate surgery at the base of her brain to relieve pain when she eats. Surgery now postponed until September.

-**David Timmerman**, a friend of Al and Linda's family, is suffering from stage 4 cancer. Treatment options are being evaluated.

THANK YOU! Our thanks to Bryan Kendrick for a great lesson last Sunday night.

Monday mornings—8:30 to around 9:30—men's prayer meeting—visitors are welcome to join the men here at the building.

Polishing The Pulpit

August 21-27
Sevierville Events Center

Edifying the whole family with hours of Bible study, singing, classes for all ages.

Go to: polishingthepulpit.com
to register

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 08/01/15 is **\$1,067,940.55**. 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

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