

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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When The Road Is Too Rough

*"let us go forth to Him outside the camp, and bear the abuse
He endured" (Hebrews 13:13)*

The Christian life is not easy. Being a Christian doesn't solve all our problems. In fact, it may create more than we had ever dreamed possible. The reason is simple. Christianity wasn't founded on blankets of ease and luxury, but through affliction and suffering. Jesus, God's own Son, was expelled from the company of His own brethren. He suffered outside the gate.

The price paid for our redemption was great. Jesus did not die so His name would be remembered. It was not a publicity stunt. He was abused and killed for you and me...for our salvation...and it wasn't easy. He made clear to us that if we would follow Him we must *"take up your cross daily."*

The road may be rough at times, but the reward is worth the price. And we are not alone. Olga J. Weiss has written,

*"The road is too rough," I said,
"Dear Lord, there are stones that hurt me so."
And He said, "Dear child, I understand,
I walked it long ago."
But there's a cool green path," I said,
"Let me walk there for a time."
"No child," He gently answered me,
"The green path does not climb."
"My burden," I said, "Is far too great,
How can I bear it so?"
"My child," He said, "I remember the weight;
I carried My cross, you know."
But, I said, "I wish there were friends with me
Who would make my way their own."
"Oh, yes," He said, "Gethsemane was
Hard to bear alone."
And so I climb the stony path,
Content at last to know,
That where my Master had not gone,
I would not need to go.
And strangely then I found new friends,
The burden grew less sore;
And I remember — long ago —
He went that way before.*

Isaac Watts fittingly asked, *"Must I be carried to the skies on flow'ry
beds of ease, while others fought to win the prize, or sailed thro' bloody seas?"*
We know the answer.

— Al Behel

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 has completed radiation and chemotherapy for esophageal cancer. Please keep Bill and Gail in prayer.
- Marti Cantrell**—radiation treatment for breast cancer.
- Estlina Wilson**—is recovering at home.
- Bill Green**—still struggling with health issues
- Jean Compton**— surgery delayed because of a growth in her mouth, which has now been removed.
- Kathy May** battling ongoing health issues. She is still in Baxter.
- Keely Chambers**, is recovering at home with her grandmother.
- Pauline Swallow** is dealing with cancer. Keep praying for her.
- Bill England** is now at home after having surgery to remove part of his lung. Bill is suffering from lung cancer and bone cancer. Please keep him and Pat in your prayers.
- Patty Adair**—recovering from shoulder surgery.

Friends and Family News

- Skip Stewart's sister, **Carol Nusser**, has a lung problem—doctors first thought her heart to be involved.
- Coleen Thomason's sister, **Sharon Roth** suffered a stroke and moved to rehab. Address: 6921 Pine Needle Lane, Boone Mills, VA 24065.
- 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 is in serious condition in Alabama.
- Morris Fields** -Leah Turner's uncle, lung issue. Hospice assisting.
- Barbara Copley**, friend of Bill England and Sheryle Elkins—cancer.
- Maegan White**, Joyce Keyser's 24 yr. old cousin from Huntsville, had a very delicate surgery at the base of her brain to relieve pain when she eats. The problem was more serious than doctors believed it to be. Maegan is in ICU in extreme pain, but surgery was deemed successful. She will remain in the hospital for several weeks.
- David Timmerman**, a friend of Al and Linda's family, is suffering from stage 4 cancer. Treatment options are being evaluated.
- 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.
- Dee Lewis**, friend of the Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)

Other News & Sick:

- Ben Lachica**, Mariejane's dad, is in the hospital with heart and lung problems and a high fever.
- Max Elkins**, Tom's brother, has been sent home with Hospice assistance.
- Please keep **Linda Goodnight's daughter** and her two daughters in your prayers as they adjust to the loss of her husband and father. Their daughters are ages 12 and 13.
- Bob Foust**—friend of Shirley Harmon, recovering from shoulder surgery.

Ladies Bible Study Resumed— 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.. Polly Cline is teaching a special series entitled, "Hunger in My Soul." Please see Polly or Sue Hayes for copies of the lessons.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair. Call her to assist.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M- "God Wants A Praying Church"; PM- Singing Night

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

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

1 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 08/01/15 is **\$1,062,602.56**. 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