

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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March 22, 2015

Are You A Risk Taker?

The poet Edgar Lee Masters wrote *The Spoon River Anthology*, in which he described the residents of a town on their tombstones in the town graveyard. One that seems particularly relevant to Christians is the one that describes George Gray.

"I have studied many times the marble which was chiseled for me-- A boat with a furled sail at rest in a harbor. In truth it pictures not my destination but my life. For love was offered me and I shrank from its disillusionment; Sorrow knocked at my door, but I was afraid; Ambition called to me, but I dreaded the chances. Yet all the while I hungered for meaning in my life. And now I know that we must lift the sail and catch the winds of destiny wherever they drive the boat. To put meaning in one's life may end in madness, but life without meaning is the torture of restlessness and vague desire-- It is a boat longing for the sea and yet afraid."

The scriptures describe many Bible characters who were also afraid to take risks – like the one-talent man in the parable of the Talents as told by Jesus in Matthew 25:14-30.

Fear immobilizes us and prevents faith from acting. Perhaps that is why Jesus named the “fearful” and “unbelieving” together in his list of those who will be lost (Revelation 21:8). If we focus on the world and the dangers of the world, we might fail to act when faith calls for action.

Hebrews 11 records the names of many saints of old who were not afraid to step forward when others cringed and ran. That’s what faith is.

Other News:

-Roger Thompson, son of Chris Thompson, is battling several health issues, including an irregular heart rate.

-Ron Sommerville - preparing for more back procedures.

-Donna Walker's sister - very serious condition with congestive heart failure, kidney and liver issues. Donna was bitten by a dog - awaiting possibility of a series of rabies shots.

-Tennille Wiles is suffering from multiple seizures. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

-Leah Turner's uncle, **Morris Fields**, is back in the hospital (Central Baptist in Lexington, KY) with difficulty breathing once again.

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

Bottles of Love—Please fill your bottles with your coins/green bills or earmark a check for “Bottles of Love” and place in collection or give to one of the men. This project helps provide items for newborns at the hospital and clothing for needy school children. Bottles may be turned in at the sound booth. Visitors who wish to donate may place your donation in one of the large baby bottles located in either foyer. The bottles are due the end of March.



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

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

Sermon Topics: A.M - "1 Samuel 26, Loving Our Enemies"; P.M. - "Lessons From Revelation: Patmos and Beyond"-No. 6- The Church With the Open Door

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

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

-Sheryle Elkins—battling lung cancer. Had a PET scan recently that indicates the tumor continues to shrink. Keep praying. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-Estlina Wilson is battling blood clots in her leg.

-Bill Green—still struggling with health issues

-Hubert and Jean Compton—Hubert recovering from a fall and Jean battling heart issues.

-Larry Valentine received a cancer free report from his CT Scan.

-Linda Valentine is suffering from a condition which produces too many red blood cells. She is having a lot of difficulty. Please pray.

-Francis Laney is now in rehab in NC following a stroke. Her address is on the bulletin board in foyer.

-Pauline Swallow-has colon cancer. Please pray.

-Bill England-receiving radiation treatment for bone cancer.

Friends and Family News

-Randy Messick, Jan’s son, is battling liver cancer. He lives in Winston Salem, NC. Keep him in prayer.

-Mary Wagner, sister of Tina Yates, completed radiation treatments. Tests will be run in a few weeks to determine how successful the treatments were. 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.

-Scotty Elkins, Tom and Deb’s grandson, waiting results of liver tests

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

-Tom Behel, Al’s brother - slowly improving from post-operative stroke and broken femur. Still having minimal speech.

-Debbie Little, mother of one of Marti’s students, is recovering from a brain aneurysm rupture. The family appreciates your prayers and cards. Their address is: Debbie, Randy, Michael, & Katie Little, 4152 Briggs Loop, Kodak, TN 37764. Please drop a note.

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

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 03/05/15 is **\$1,093,821.71**. 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.