

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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January 10, 2016

“When Your Love for Christ Is Weak”

Sometimes we sing,

*“When my love to Christ grows weak, when for deeper faith I seek,
Then in tho’t I go to thee, Garden of Gethsemane!”*

Ever had those moments in your spiritual life when you just felt empty? Nothing seemed to help. You tried to pray, and that didn’t work. You tried going to worship with other Christians and just felt worse. *“How could they be so excited and I’m just sitting here?”* You tried to read the Bible, but nothing “spoke” to you. God was so far away.

In those moments it helps to look inside, in our hearts. Maybe the excitement is gone because I’ve quit loving as much. Maybe the world seems more appealing because I’ve been spending more time away from home, away from the family of God. My affection is weakening because it isn’t being reinforced with time alone with Him.

A weak love is the direct result of misdirected energies. Without reinforcement of expression, love slowly diminishes in strength. Over a period of time, it disappears altogether. Does any couple believe they can build their love for each other without spending time together and expressing that love frequently?

The hymn suggests that we need to revisit Gethsemane. We need to reflect again on the love Jesus has for us. In that Garden the heart of God and the heart of man meet in deep communion. There a decision is made. A heart pours out its most intimate love.

The cross reflects that decision. Gethsemane is continued on Calvary. The angels stood by, their voices silent. The Son of God speaks, *“Not as I will, but as Thou wilt!”* *“Father, into Thy hand I commend my spirit.”* *“It is finished!”*

The cross brings heaven and earth together. *“Father, forgive them...”* That’s what it is about. That’s why he died! No greater expression of his love can be found. *He forgives our sins! He accepts us!*

There, in Gethsemane...there, on Calvary, my love is strengthened. My faith is deepened. My heart is lifted. *“Because he loves me so!”*

___ Al Behel

Other News:

-**Sympathy: To Bryan Kendrick and Beth Hayes** in the loss of their brother, **Brad Kendrick** who was killed in an auto accident last Saturday evening. His funeral was Tuesday in Wetumpka, AL. Our prayers are with this family.

-**Bob Keyser**—fell on black ice in Texas and broke his upper arm. Bob is experiencing much pain and will see an orthopedic specialist this week for another exam and consultation.

-**James Hill**, 14 year old friend of Kenny and Charlotte, serious leg injury in a motor bike accident in Ohio.

-Remember tornado and flood victims. **Rick’s cousins** lost two houses and another was severely damaged due to a tornado in Texas.

-Joyce Keyser’s cousin, **Maegan White**, had more brain surgery on Friday. The surgeon believes procedure to be a success. She remains in ICU at this time.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. – *“What God Expects of the Church”*

P.M.— *“What God Has Promised”*

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

Our Known Sick

-**Dez Anderson**— still suffering with multiple health issues. Keep praying. God is listening and answering.

-**Sheryle Elkins**— is continuing chemotherapy on a periodic basis. Her last lung scan was encouraging. Keep her in your prayers.

-**Dan Elkins**—prayers requested as he deals with high blood pressure issues.

-**Bill Valentine** is recovering from esophageal cancer surgery. We rejoice with him that all indicators are good. It is so good to have him and Gail back in worship with us.

-**Bill Green**—suffering from pneumonia.

-**Jean Compton**—is recovering at home.

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

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

-**Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**— they face several challenges.

-**Keely Chambers**, Shirley Harmon’s granddaughter, is dealing with complications affecting her pregnancy.

-**Tanya Smith** (former member) has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Initial tests indicate the cancer is confined to the thyroid. She is now living in Collinwood, TN

Friends and Family News

-**Sue Hayes sister, Joyce**, had a fall resulting in a small fracture to her leg and a serious foot drop issue. Home care and rehab planned to assist in healing.

-Brenda Scott’s niece, **Nita Watern**, has liver cancer and is receiving chemotherapy. Her liver is almost completely consumed. She lives in New Madison, Ohio.

-Leah Turner’s friend, **Nesbit Allen**, surgery to remove cancerous tumor from his bladder which has metastasized.

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

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

-**Barbara Copley**, friend of Sheryle Elkins—battling cancer.

-**Ginny and Rick**—prayers for their daughter-in-law’s grandmother, **Anna**, in Argentina, as she is in poor health.

-**Dee Lewis**, friend of the Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)

Ladies Bible Class meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall with Polly Cline leading a study on *“Hunger In My Soul.”* The next get together will be on Tuesday, January 19.

Men’s and Ladies’ Meetings—today at 4 p.m.

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 01/02/16 is **\$1,042,098.86**. 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