

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XX. No. 04

January 24, 2016

The Treasures of The Snow

Most people, especially children, find snow to be fascinating. School kids get excited when it begins to fall. Schools are cancelled, snow men are built, snow ball fights...it's a great day when it snows!

But snow is more than just an opportunity for fun. It holds many mysteries and treasures. When Job was questioning God about all the tragedies he had faced, God asked him if he had considered the treasure of the snow (Job 38:22). Snow has many benefits to life on earth.

About 20% of the earth's land mass is covered permanently by snow. One in four square miles of dry land receives snow each year. One third of water used for irrigation comes from snow. In the Western U.S., it's 75%. Snow blankets provide warmth for plants during the winter as it warms the earth's soil and preserves plant life.

Some of our great rivers depend on snow for their water supply. It is estimated that 26 trillion gallons of water from melted snow flows into the Columbia River each year. That's enough water to cover the entire state of Kansas with knee-deep water and to raise the level of Lake Michigan by six feet.

Farmers depend heavily upon snow for natural irrigation as well. Without snow the soil is harder and reduces the productivity of crops, hence raising the price of goods in the market. Everyone benefits from snow.

And every snowflake is different. Each has unique qualities although they look very similar to the naked eye. Under the microscope, snowflakes take the form of needles, trees, stars, fish bones, and other objects known to man, but no two are alike.

Snow is formed in the atmosphere and collects nitrogen as it falls to the earth and dispenses it to the ground. It's moisture cleanses the air much like an air filter.

God wanted Job to know that he wasn't so smart, that even the tiny things in our world glorify Him and show the limitations of our wisdom. Like snow, we are all unique and are intended to bless the world we live in. Snow is not just a thing of beauty, it is essential to life as we know it. And like snow, our world needs us to bring God's blessings of grace to others.

The whiteness of snow shows its purity. Isaiah promised, "...*though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow*" (Isaiah 1:18), and David declared that when God washes us we are "*whiter than snow*" (Psa. 51:7).
___ Al Behel

Other News:

-**Bob Keyser**—is recovering from a broken shoulder. Good to have him back.

-Joyce Keyser's cousin, **Megan White**, recovering from brain surgery.

-**Mark Haynes**-good report from his upper and lower GI tests. We thank God.

-Al and Linda request prayer for Linda's cousin, **Connie Clepper**. She had cancer in her mouth 4 1/2 years ago which has returned on her gums. Treatment options are limited due to previous radiation and the location of the cancer. They are awaiting tests from Emory. Please keep her and her family in prayer.

-**Randy Moore**, brother of Tina Yates, suffering from kidney disease and on dialysis—Tina is very close to her brother and appreciates prayers for him.

NOTE: CHURCH SERVICES WILL HELD ON SUNDAY

Food Contact For Month: Linda Goodnight

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes, phone: 1-731-608-4148

Sermon Topics: A.M. – "Living for Jesus"

P.M.— "When Jesus Prays for Us"

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. She has been on antibiotics for laryngitis.

-**Bill Valentine** is recovering from esophageal cancer surgery. We rejoice with him that all indicators are good.

-**Bill Green**—suffering from several health issues. Cards would mean a lot to him.

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

-**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, delivered a baby girl on January 8. Her name is Amberly Lynne. Congratulations!

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

Friends and Family News

-Rick Cliett's stepmother's brother, **Kennel**, age 99, suffered a stroke—hospice is assisting.

-**Sue Hayes sister, Joyce**, recovering from a fall.

-**Pat Thomas**, friend of Linda Valentine and other members here, had bladder cancer surgery recently. Pat lives in Brentwood, TN.

-Brenda Scott's niece, **Nita Waterm**, 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**, has bladder cancer—doctors have determined that hospice should be called in to assist.

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

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

-Linda Goodnight's husband, **John Devore**, just learned that his daughter was involved in a snow related accident today in Indiana in which her car flipped end over end. She has multiple breaks and injuries and was flown to a hospital in Indianapolis. Her three children (also in the vehicle) are not seriously injured. Please pray for this family.

Ladies Bible Study

First and Third Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. Polly Cline is leading a study on "Hunger in my Soul"— next meeting on Feb. 2.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Danny Cline will begin a study-
"They Met the Messiah in Mark"

Sunday Adult Class

2 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