

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Richer Today Than Yesterday

You are richer today than you were yesterday ...

if you have taken the time to trace the handiwork of God in the simple things of life;

if you have learned to forgive more genuinely, to pass by things which don't count, and to be a little blinder to the faults of others;

if you have brought a moment of cheer into the heart of some lonely person, or caused a child to smile, or if you have lifted someone who has fallen;

if you have walked closer to God, if you have seen His foot steps in the sand before you, or, if you have spent time in quiet communion and prayer...

Then, you are richer today than you were yesterday!

Henry Drummond once said, "Instead of allowing yourself to be unhappy, just let your love grow as God wants it to grow. Seek goodness in others. Love more persons more. Love them more personally, more unselfishly, without thought of return. The return, never fear, will take care of itself."

The richness of God's gift depends upon our willingness to love...to love Him and to love others. Through love the nature of God becomes embedded in our hearts. Without love our world is dark, our hearts are full of bitterness, and our lives are deeply sad.

God has promised to open to us the "windows of heaven" when we place our trust in Him. He has promised to reward our faith with His presence, and to increase the fruit of our gifts when they are given in love. He has promised us "immeasurable" power to live above sin and to win over Satan. He has promised us the riches of His grace when we seek Him above everything else in life.

Every person who walks with God in the quietness of a faith-filled life will be enriched beyond measure. The peace which "passes understanding" is reserved for those who put their hands in His, for those who find in the simple expressions of kindness the richness of His gifts.

I am richer today than yesterday because I have been given new opportunities to grow, to love, and to serve. I have seen Him in the heart of a child, in the blossom on a flower, in the falling rain, and in the wind that blows through the trees. His footprints are left on every hillside, and the touch of His hand is felt in every moment of life. Our God is very good to those who love Him, and He richly rewards those who surrender everything in order to serve Him.

— Al Behel

Other News:

-**Al and Linda**—Al will be speaking for the Sycamore church in Cookeville Saturday night and Sunday. Mark Haynes and Danny Cline will speak for us.

-**Ladies Bible Class**—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. 16.

-**Rick and Ginny** are visiting their son and wife in Vancouver.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner, Back up Patty Adair

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. — Mark Haynes

P.M.— Danny Cline

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.

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

Friends and Family News

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

-**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 Watern**, -liver cancer and is receiving chemotherapy. She lives in New Madison, Ohio.

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

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

-**John Devore's** (Linda Goodnight's husband) **daughter**, who was severely injured in an auto accident recently, is out of ICU and now in rehab and beginning to walk again. Prayers appreciated.

-Kristi Elkins has requested prayers for **Chanda Elkins' mother**. She is in a diabetic coma and prognosis is not good.

-**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.

-**Connie Clepper**, cousin of Linda Behel, is undergoing tests regarding treatment for mouth cancer. Prayers appreciated. Her address is: 2350 Fair Oaks Ct., Cumming, GA 30040.

"Like" us on Facebook—we now have an official Facebook page—with a profile photo of the church building.

Men's and Ladies' meetings at 5 p.m. today.

Souper Bowl supper tonight immediately after services.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Danny Cline leading 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 02/02/16 is **\$1,037,578.48**. 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