

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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February 21, 2016

The Lord Is My Rock

David often referred to God as his "Rock." I have wondered what David had in mind when he made those statements. He seemed to feel a certain stability when he was in the presence of God, a certain confidence which gave him strength beyond words. God was a "Rock" to David.

Sometimes we feel spiritually weak. Sometimes we don't live up to the expectations we have for ourselves. Life delivers some hard blows, some challenges which threaten us to the foundation. In those moments we need a Rock to stand on.

Tragedy hits. We lose a job, or a child. A divorce breaks a long term relationship, or we have to move away and leave our friends. We need a Rock who will never leave us, or let us down.

Illness strikes our family. Maybe it is very personal. The doctor gives us the bad news of a terminal disease. What do we do now? "How do I tell my children that I will be going away and won't be coming back?" We need a Rock who will anchor our souls and give us the right words to say to our little ones.

A conflict occurs which seems pointless. Feelings get hurt. Things are said which would have been better left unsaid. Tempers fly. We need a Rock Who will keep our feet planted firmly with love in our heart. We need a Rock to help us love when we want to lash out in spiteful rage.

The flesh seems so weak. Temptations come so fast its hard to resist them. They offer excitement and we're already pretty bored with school or work, or with a stagnant relationship. We need a Rock Who will not let our foot be moved, Who understands every temptation we face...because He has been there before us.

And then, there is that failure which we promised would never happen. We had taken our eyes off the cross. We were thinking more of self than anyone else. We were pretty confident in ourselves, but...in that moment of weakness...we really quit looking at Jesus, because we knew his eyes would have penetrated our very being...and we **sinned!** We sinned so badly that we wondered how anyone could forgive us. Then we remembered...we have a Rock! Not just "A" Rock, but "The" Rock, Who always loves us, even when we are so dirty that no one wants to touch us. He forgives us even though we don't deserve forgiveness.

With David we can cry out that He is *my Rock*, and *my Redeemer!* He is my *Fortress* in time of need.

— Al Behel

Other News:

-**Connie Clepper**, Linda Behel's cousin, will be having extensive surgery for mouth cancer on Tuesday. Her address is 2350 Fair Oaks Court, Cumming, GA 30040. Cards and prayers from our members have been greatly appreciated.

-Thanks to **Mark and Gary** for covering last Sunday while Al was away.

-**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.

-**George and Melanie Tolliver** and **Howard and Tina** are in Florida for a few weeks.

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. — "Walking By Faith, What God Has Done"

P.M.— "Walking With God"

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 for treatment of lung cancer.

-**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.

-**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

-Good to see **Bob Keyser** doing better and back with us.

-**Charlotte Jones** had a minor injury in an accident on Wednesday
-**Patty Adair** is having hyperbaric treatment for a leg infection. She is getting positive results.

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.

-**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.

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

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