

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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You've Got To Use It

An agnostic soap manufacturer once chided a preacher about his work. "You say the gospel has the power to cleanse the world of sin?" "Yes," replied the preacher. "Then why is there so much sin in the world? I have little faith in your gospel's cleansing power!"

The preacher responded, "Does your soap have the power to cleanse the dirt from all the people of the world?" "Yes," exclaimed the soap maker. "But I see dirty people everywhere! I have little faith in your product's cleansing power!"

The soap manufacturer protested, "But there would be no dirty people if they would only use my soap!" "Exactly," the preacher said, "and so it is with the gospel. It cleanses only when properly used."

The gospel is the power of God for salvation "to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). In the New Testament belief carries the idea of obedience (Romans 1:5). God doesn't force salvation on anyone. Nor does He force obedience.

Just this week I listened as a man criticized Christians and their faith in God. I noted that he didn't seem very happy with himself, his family, the world around him, or what his life is about.

Christianity hasn't failed but Christians have. Just as sitting in a garage doesn't make you into a car, sitting in a church building doesn't make you Christ-like unless you believe and act on that faith. Gandhi said, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

It is heart-breaking to see so called "Christians" who are so unlike Christ that the world stumbles over them. The gospel doesn't work until it is applied. Christ hasn't failed us. We have failed him. Unfortunately, the world judges Christ by those who claim to follow him.

— Al Behel



Bottles of Love: Please remember to pick up your baby bottle to fill with coins, bills, or checks to assist the women's project to provide necessary items for newborns at the local hospital and to provide school clothing to needy children. Your generous help will be appreciated. Visitors may contribute into one of the large bottles in either foyer.

Other News:

-Ladies Tea and Regular Meetings: All ladies are invited to a tea today from 3-5 pm in the fellowship hall. The men's meeting will be at the same time. The ladies will have an opportunity to see all the projects they have underway and decide which ones you would like to be involved in. At 5 pm the men are invited to join the ladies for "leftovers".

-Al will be speaking in a meeting at the Shiloh church in Florence, Alabama March 13-15. Mark Haynes will speak in Al's absence.

-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".

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner, Back up Linda Valentine

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. — "Walking By Faith: Add To Your Faith Goodness"

P.M.— "Talking To Yourself"

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.

-Patty Adair is having hyperbaric treatment for a leg infection. She is getting positive results.

-Larry Barnett suffered a dog bite this week and had to receive treatment. He is also scheduled to see an orthopedic doctor on the 15th to see what can be done to relieve his pain.

-Madison Barnett is battling very painful kidney stones.

Friends and Family News

-Jeff Barnett, son of Larry and Helen, underwent shoulder surgery in Tupelo, MS on Thursday. He came through the surgery well. Another son, **Shannon**, is scheduled for surgery on the 23rd at MD Anderson in Houston. Please keep both in prayer.

-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 Cletts, 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 03/04/16 is **\$1,032,244.50**. 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