

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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March 13, 2016

It's Easier to Build a Boy ...

Several years ago I met a man who had been sentenced to die in the electric chair in Nashville. He was waiting with shaved head, ready to take the last 22 steps down the corridor to the chair when word came from the governor that his sentence had been commuted.

Maybe you've never met a murderer, or a rapist, or a robber. As I think about those I have spent time with who have committed capital offenses, most of them were never taken to Sunday school and church on a regular basis.

I remember one young man who was near my age who wanted to become a Christian. He and his mother attended a gospel meeting at my home church. He wanted both of them to accept Christ that night. When he walked down the aisle, his mother, who was not a Christian, followed him to the front and refused to let him be baptized into Christ. Years later, she became a Christian, but her son would refuse to become a follower of Jesus. In fact, his life became an embarrassment to his family. I wonder where he is today.

Children are easily impressed and can be taught. Surely, "it is easier to build a boy than to mend a man." Don't send your children to Bible class; bring them. Let them see in us an example of deep devotion.

We wouldn't think of allowing our children to miss school week after week, but many Christian parents teach their children that it is alright to miss Bible study and worship. Could it be that we consider secular education more important than spiritual training? Do we consider their success in this world more important than living eternally with God?

Our love for our children should move us to provide the best spiritual example and training we can provide. Their souls depend on it.

— 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:

-**Al and Linda** are away today as Al will be conducting a meeting today through Tuesday at the Shiloh church in Florence, Alabama. Mark Haynes will speak in Al's absence. Our young men will lead worship tonight.

-**Congratulations to Cody Kihlberg**, son of Leif and Tracey, on his baptism last Sunday March 6. Please let him know how proud we all are of him!

-**Congratulations to Helen and Larry Barnett** on the birth of a new great granddaughter—Braelyn Saige—in Mississippi. Mother and baby doing fine.

-**Sue Mercer** will have knee replacement surgery on March 16.

-**Larry Valentine** had an excellent report last week—no signs of cancer.

-**Sue Hayes' sister-in-law, Jane Hufford**, is suffering with a recurrence of Leukemia. She lives in Nashville.

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. — Mark Haynes will be our speaker today

P.M.— Our young men will lead our worship

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** is 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.

-**Anakin, Lisa Peter's son**, recovering from Fifth Disease and Strep.

Friends and Family News

-**Shannon Barnett, son of Larry and Helen**, is scheduled for surgery on the 23rd at MD Anderson in Houston. Please keep 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 Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)

-**John Devore's** (Linda Goodnight's husband) **daughter, Chelle Hendershot**, who was severely injured in an auto accident a few months ago, is 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.

-**Hazel Gosnell** is receiving therapy for speech and feeding. She and her parents, **Heather and Mark**, have been worshipping with us.

-**Chase McNabb's grandmother** suffered a stroke last week and passed away a few days later. Chase is part of our teen group.

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".

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