

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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The Power of The Empty Tomb

The resurrection is the central fact of Christian faith. Without the resurrection Christianity is a false religion and Christians are terribly deluded. If the resurrection is true, then Jesus Christ is God and we are fully responsible to follow Him. If the resurrection is true, all other religions are false and cannot stand in Judgment.

The empty tomb is not simply an Easter story. It is the one event of human history that ensures immortality and victory over death. Without the resurrection death is the end and Satan wins. Without the empty tomb Jesus is still dead and we are all without hope. But, the tomb is empty and he is alive!

How do we know the resurrection really occurred? Although the historical evidence is overwhelming, one of the strongest supports for the resurrection is the undeniable change in the disciples. Their hopes were fixed on the young reformer whom they expected would restore the Kingdom to Israel. When He was led away and crucified, their hopes died. The movement which they had championed also seemed to be dead.

But an amazing thing happened. On the third day He arose from the grave! He appeared to the disciples, and they were back in business. The same believers who fled in the presence of the cross were now willing to lay their own lives down for their conviction that He had arisen from the tomb. In the face of death, not one single disciple denied that conviction...because they all *knew* He was alive.

What difference does the resurrection make in your life? Is it just an interesting story or a historical fact? If He is alive, what does that fact mean to us? What does it demand from us? The resurrection is our hope, but it is also our mandate to follow Him. Since He is alive He commands our deepest devotion and the loyalty of our hearts. The risen Lord is more than a Savior...He is our King!

The apostle Paul, reflecting on all the things he had counted loss for Christ, said he rejected all these things, "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). The resurrection is the most powerful demonstration of the power of God. All of Christian faith hinges on that eternal fact. As the angel announced to the women, "He is risen!"

___ Al Behel

Bottles of Love: Please turn in your filled bottles today at the sound room or give to Esther. Thanks to everyone who is participating. Many children will benefit from your gifts.

Other News:

-**Sue Mercer** is recovering at home from knee replacement surgery. Cards would be encouraging as she is having a hard time. Her address is: 2005 Malibu Ct. Sevierville, TN 37876.

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

-**Charlotte Jones' uncle** passed away Thursday night. Prayers appreciated.

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—The Power of His Resurrection"
(Scripture: Philippians 3:4b-11)

P.M. - Congregation Singing

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.

-**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** scheduled for injections to ease pain back and hip.

-**Madison Barnett** is battling very painful kidney stones.

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

-**Samuel Haynes** is scheduled for ear surgery next Wednesday. Keep him in prayer.

Friends and Family News

-**Shannon Barnett, son of Larry and Helen**, is recuperating from successful surgery. He is now in Mississippi.

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

-**Judy Watkins and husband Jim**—continuing health issues.

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

-**John Devore's** (Linda Goodnight's husband) **daughter, Chelle Hendershot**, recovering from a severe automobile accident.

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

Congratulations to Josh Eaton and Lisa Sampson—they were married after Bible Classes here on Wednesday evening, March 23!

Ladies Bible Class—First and third Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Polly Cline is leading a study on "Hunger in my Soul". Next study on April 5.

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.