

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Surprised By Love

All of us have been surprised. But have you ever been surprised by love? Maybe a gift you didn't expect. You had almost given up and a helping hand was extended from someone you didn't know. Or, maybe you fell in love with someone you never noticed before.

Surprises come in many forms. Some positive; some negative. Some good; some bad. Some of us like surprises and some of us don't. We'd rather know what is in the box.

The best surprises of all are those produced by love. Who can resist the kindness of others who go out of their way to show compassion or give encouragement? Love has a way of going beyond the expected, reaching into our deepest doubts and fears, and lifting our hearts on the darkest day.

Love puts us in the heart of God because God is love. When we love one another God lives through us and in us. The apostle Paul, who had suffered so much hate from others, said, "...love binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14).

How does love surprise us? To begin with, *love is extravagant*. It goes beyond the expected or the demands of duty. It gives more than is required. That's why the woman used very expensive ointment, worth almost a year's salary, to anoint the head of Jesus prior to his crucifixion. Jesus commended her and silenced her critics (Mark 14:3-9).

*Love forgives when forgiveness isn't deserved*. That's love's gift. Not because the offender has earned forgiveness or should receive it. It's all about the forgiver. It's the parent who forgives the person whose carelessness results in the death of their child. It's the person who holds no grudge towards someone who tries to damage their reputation or character.

*And, love waits*. It is patient and kind and understanding. It doesn't rush to conclusions. It waits for others to experience the fullness of joy and the meaning of success. It is patient when others move too slowly, or when they stumble and fall. Yes, love has many surprises.

— Al Behel

**Area Youth Fellowship:** We will host the area youth devotional and fellowship next Sunday at 4 p.m. We need volunteers to provide food items for the meal at 5. A list is on the bulletin board in the foyer. They will worship with us at 6 pm.

### Other News:

**-Don Mayhall** is in Ft. Sanders Regional, Rm 558, following knee replacement surgery on Thursday. Friday was a hard day but Saturday was much better.

**-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.

**-Bottles of Love:** Thanks to everyone who participated. Many children will benefit from your gifts.

**-Meetings Today:** Men and Ladies' Meeting Today at 4 p.m. We will meet together first in the fellowship hall for a cleanup planning meeting.

**Food Contact For Month:** Linda Goodnight, Back up Tina Yates

**Elder Contact for Month:** Rick Cliett (865-789-9619)

**Sermon Topics:** A.M. - "Walking By Faith-Add Self-Control" (2 Peter 1:3-9)  
P.M. - "God Uses Fire"

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** started his injections for pain back and hip.

**-Al Behel** is scheduled for cardiac ablation on April 12 at Park West Hospital.

**-Hazel Gosnell** is receiving therapy for speech and feeding.

**-Samuel Haynes** is recovering from ear surgery on Wednesday.

### Friends and Family News

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

**-Lida Cliett**, Rick's aunt, very ill with heart failure complicated by cancer. Her sister is Rick's stepmother, Billie.

**-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 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, is doing better. He is suffering from kidney disease.

**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](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com).