

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

When George Matheson's fiancée broke off their engagement after learning that he would soon be totally blind he was depressed and thought of suicide. She told him in no uncertain terms that she would not marry a blind man. Matheson finally discovered a strength beyond himself. He sat down and wrote the moving words to a familiar hymn, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go."

Matheson, though blind, later wrote these words:

"My God, I have never thanked Thee for my thorns. I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but not once for my thorns.... Teach me the glory of my cross: teach me the value of my thorn.... Shew me that my tears have made my rainbow."

It's easy to focus on our bad times or misfortunes. Looking through the clouds and seeing the rainbow reminds us that we are not alone. We always enjoy the protection of a heavenly Father whose eyes never sleep and whose mind never wanders.

The psalmist reminds us that His love endures forever. His mercies are without end. We can never move beyond the length of his love or sink beneath its depth. Nothing we do makes God love us more. Nothing we do makes God love us less. Because of that fact, in the words of Matheson,

*"I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be."*

*"O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be."*

Our tears can make our rainbows. Our crosses can bring strength as they teach us the true meaning of God's love that will not let us go.

— Al Behel

Other News

Our Sympathy: Garla Johnson, brother of former GSM members Gwen Johnson and Georgia Scott, passed away on Friday. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Meetings Today: Men and Ladies meetings are today at 4 p.m. Please attend.

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".

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 Love" (2 Peter 1:3-9)
P.M. - "A Little Leaven"

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.

-Jim Anderson had surgery recently on his arm. It was good to have him back with us Wednesday night.

-Sheryle Elkins— is continuing chemotherapy. Her recent scan showed a slight enlargement of one of the spots. Please keep praying.

-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.

-Larry Barnett fell a few days ago moving a basketball goal.

-Hazel Gosnell is receiving therapy for speech and feeding.

-Don Mayhall is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

-Sue Mercer is recovering at home from knee replacement surgery

Friends and Family News

-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.

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

-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.

John Devore is recuperating at home following a heart attack while traveling in California.

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 04/02/16 is **\$1,027,868.60**. 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.