

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XX. No. 21

May 22, 2016

God Is Great! God is Good!

Sometimes we sing, "God is so good, He's so good to me!" And we used to pray as children, "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for this food...." I'm really glad that our God is good and that everything He does is good.

Even though He is good, God often gets blamed for bad things. Someone we love dies, we lose a job, we get passed by for a promotion, or we lose our health. We wonder, "Does God really care? Does my struggle make a difference to Him?" And God gets bad press.

How do we know that God is good? What are the evidences of His goodness toward us? How far do we have to look to see the presence of the hand of God? Several things come to mind as I think of the goodness of God.

First, I see the goodness of God in the beauty of the world He has made for us to enjoy. There is incredible beauty all around us. The Master Artist has painted a mural in the sky, a master-piece on every mountain and in every valley, and has set before us the glory of a universe so magnificent we cannot comprehend it. As King David said, "When I consider Thy heavens, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him?"

I see the goodness of God in His unmatched love for me. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Can you fathom the depth of God's love? That love was so powerfully displayed on Calvary that none can comprehend that moment without crying out with the Centurion in charge of the crucifixion, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

God's goodness is further demonstrated in the continual flow of His grace. Forgiveness alone is not enough. We need the grace of God every day because we are constantly challenged by Satan's powerful temptations. He doesn't give up easily. We need to win. We must win! His grace enables us to overcome sin's destructive power. John reassures us that, "From the fullness of His grace we have all received grace upon grace" (John 1:16).

Finally, the goodness of God is seen in His judgment. The apostle Paul tells us that God's judgment is "based on truth" (Romans 2:2). We will be judged by our own actions (II Corinthians 5:10). God is not influenced by false testimony or biased opinions of others. He sees each of us clearly, as we really are, and His judgment is based on that reality. Yet, since no one is without sin, His judgment is tempered with grace toward those who are faithful.

—Al Behel

Other News

-Gary and Priscilla Dick leave this Friday for three months to Washington state, which includes a mission trip with Gary and his grandson going to a remote area of Alaska. Their address during their stay in Washington will be: 17705 Clear Lake Blvd. SE, Yelm, WA 98597

-Congratulations to Larry and Helen Barnett on the birth of their new granddaughter, Lorie Renee, 6 lbs. 8 oz, 19 inches, born Friday, May 20 to daughter Tina Holmes and husband Marcus in Mississippi.

-Ladies Bible Class is suspended for the summer. Resumes in the fall.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Living With An Awareness of God" - Psalm 8
P.M.—"He Shall Call On Me and I will Answer" - Psalm 91:15

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 is good to have him back with us.

-Sheryle Elkins—is continuing chemotherapy. Her last scan showed a slight enlargement of one spot in her lung. Please keep praying.

-Bill Valentine is recovering from esophageal cancer surgery. Please keep praying for Bill and Gail.

-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.

-Kenny Jones is in PF Care and Rehab Center.

-Otis Hawkes is in LeConte Medical Center, Rm 334, with spikes in temperature due to Diverticulitis—he may go home Sunday.

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, 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 especially requests prayers that a bone marrow transplant donor be found for her. 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, has liver cancer and is receiving chemotherapy. She lives in New Madison, Ohio.

-Judy Watkins and husband Jim—continuing health issues. (Rick Cliett's sister and husband).

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

-Randy Moore, brother of Tina Yates, suffering from kidney disease. He has had a set back and is not doing well at this time.

-Coleen Thomason's mother, Ruth Thomason, needs our prayers for failing health and unrest.

Sympathy: Teresa Johnson (Garla's daughter) passed away Saturday morning. Remember her mother, Linda, and brother Brian, in prayer.

Bottles of Love—total collected \$1,646.12. Thank you to everyone who participated.

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

I Timothy—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 05/02/16 is **\$1,022,578.85**. 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.