

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### God Has A Father's Heart

I've often wondered how my parents could deal with the illness and death of my nine year old brother. I was too young to appreciate their loss at the time. Through the years, however, I listened to their hearts. Sure, they had eight other children, but that didn't take away the pain for the loss of that one son.

God is portrayed in Scripture as a Father who also has a broken heart for every child of His who is being destroyed by sin. His heart aches for those who have given Satan a foothold in their lives, for those who have given up their place at His table and left the fellowship of a loving family.

Our Father was faced with a strange dilemma. In order to save His other children from death He had to sacrifice another Son. A Son He loved dearly. A Son without sin of His own, but one who shared the Father's concern for all mankind. A Son who would come into our world and be killed by the very people He came to save.

The parable of the "Prodigal Son" ends as a parable of the "Loving Father" (Luke 15). That father never quit waiting and watching for his son's return. His heart never wanted to give up. Even though his son had broken ties, wasted hard-earned money on sinful living, rejected all the values his parents had taught him, still that father waited and prayed for his return. Everyone else could give up, but not him. His was the heart of a father.

Our Father's heart doesn't want to give up, either. He waits. He watches. He sends messengers and invites us to return. He keeps on giving and sending us gifts. Day after day, He sends us gifts of His love. His love never dies.

Many have never known a father's loving heart. They are victims of abuse and neglect. They suffer many scars. Just so, many have never accepted God as Father. They continue to choose a surrogate father, one who glories in their fate, who delights in their pain, and abuses them for his own pleasure. He promises happiness and fulfillment, but his promises are empty. He leaves them alone. The wounds Satan inflicts upon his victims are deep. The scars are hard to remove.

But God, "Who is rich in mercy", rescued us from imminent danger and from ultimate death. He has given us a second chance. We have a choice. We don't have to return to sin and its destructive power. Yet, God will not force a decision. He only extends a loving heart. It's up to us to respond to that heart. That heart is the heart of a Father! *God has a Father's heart!*

—Al Behel

### Other News

**-You Are Invited: Baby shower** for Brittany Skelton Gammon - June 4, 1 pm - 2:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited. Brittany is having a baby girl and is registered at Target and Amazon.com. RSVP to Vicki Skelton or Esther Stewart.

**-Gary and Priscilla Dick** left on 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

**Food Contact For Month:** Patty Adair

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.—"God's Memorial Days" - Exodus 12:1-14  
P.M.—"Five Crowns for the Believers"

**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. He is improving.
- 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 recovering from his recent illness and hospitalization.
- Skip Stewart** is recovering from a third procedure on his leg.

### 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, and she is not doing well but rather continues to experience pain and suffering.
- 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**, is in failing health and is not eating. Coleen and family would appreciate your prayers..

**For Your Information:** We now have a labeled Diabetic Emergency Supply Drawer in the kitchen. Also a Blood Pressure cuff.

### Special Events

**Men's Prayer Session**  
Monday mornings at 8:30

### Wednesday Night

Rick Cliett is leading a study—*"Essence of Faith"*-Heb 11

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