

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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June 5, 2016

### Scrap Cotton

Farm life was tough and with 10 mouths to feed there wasn't much money for Christmas toys or any non-essential items at our house. Dad would take a loan with the bank in the spring for seed, fertilizer, and other supplies needed to plant the crops and pray that the harvest would render enough to pay back the loan and buy clothing and other essentials through the winter months.

When the cotton crops matured and were harvested by hand there were still unopened bolls in the field. These would open a month or two later in late November and December. In order to have money to buy Christmas for the kids, mom would go out in the near zero weather and pick these bolls and take them to the gin where it brought a much lower price than the prime cotton.

While this left over cotton gave us a few toys and fruit for Christmas, there was never enough for mom and dad to share gifts with each other. I have often thought of how the children of Israel tended to consume the best of their produce and farm animals for themselves or sell them and make a significant profit while leaving the leftovers, the lame and sickly animals, and the produce that should have been discarded, for God.

God warned his people through Malachi that He would not accept second best. He condemned the priests for accepting blind, lame, and sick animals for the altar. Malachi equated their actions with robbing God. (Malachi 1, 3). Today God still demands to be number one in our commitments and to receive our best service, the best of our time and energies, and the best of our resources.

While we didn't grasp the significance and enormity of their sacrifice while growing up, each of their children came to know the depth of their love and to honor them as parents. Though both are no longer with us, their lessons remain. They taught us to love God and to give Him our best. They even insisted that we wear our best clothes to church because they believed God deserved that honor. Jesus said the kingdom of heaven must take priority over all other commitments or relationships in life (Matthew 6:33).

—Al Behel

### Other News

**-Sympathy** to Coleen Thomason on the passing of her mother, Ruth Thomason, on Monday, May 30. Services were Saturday at West End Church of Christ.

**-Sympathy** to James and Jennifer Greene and their children in the death of James' father, Ron Greene. Ron and Lucia and their family were members at the GSM congregation for many years. Lucia passed away a few years ago. A memorial service will be held at the GSM building next Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m.

**-In appreciation** for the year's teaching by Polly Cline, the Ladies' Bible Class recently donated funds in her honor for the purchase of a 600 piece Bible felt figures set for teaching Old and New Testament stories to children from preschool through age 11. The ladies will cut out and assemble the figures in a filing system for our teachers. Thank you to all who donated.

**Meetings Today:** The men's and ladies, meetings today at 4 p.m.

**Food Contact For Month:** Leah Turner

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.—"What Makes a Church Great" - Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35  
P.M.—"He Wore a Crown of Thorns For Me"

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.

**-Herman Byrne** has had some health issues recently—prayers appreciated.

**-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.

### Friends and Family News

**-Lida Cliett**, Rick's aunt, very ill with heart failure complicated by cancer. Her sister is Rick's stepmother, **Billie Cliett**, who is also suffering from low sodium levels and extreme vertigo.

**-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.

**-Gary and Priscilla Dick** will be in Washington state for the next 3 months. Gary and his grandson going to a remote area of Alaska for a mission trip. Their address during their stay in Washington will be: 17705 Clear Lake Blvd. SE, Yelm, WA 98597

**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

*1 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 06/03/16 is **\$1,007,433.30**. 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).