

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Mediocrity

Orel Hershiser, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher and World Series Most Valuable Player award winner, once said, "I don't like to fail, but I can handle it....I know if I give up a home run that makes me a goat, I'll survive. My wife and kids will still love me. God is still in his heaven."

He continues to point out, however, that "Being a Christian is no excuse for mediocrity or passive acceptance of defeat. If anything, Christianity demands a higher standard, more devotion to the task."

Ever wondered why, with all the engineering technology and expertise we have today, that a major auto-maker would have to recall hundreds of thousands of vehicles because of a poorly attached trailer hitch?

More importantly, have you wondered why the Lord's church is still a flickering light in the corner instead of a beacon on a hilltop? Why do we beg people to attend worship regularly, place Christ and His kingdom first, and worry about church budgets?

Why, if God is truly in His heaven and we are the sheep of His pasture, why do we wander aimlessly through that pasture looking for the poisonous plants which will destroy us?

Maybe the answer is that we have come to accept less than the best for ourselves. Maybe we are more content with this world than God wants us to be. Maybe we don't get excited enough about the terribly destructive consequences of sin, or expectant enough about our eternal salvation.

This world offers little and nothing of eternal value. Everything we grasp with our hands quickly falls through our fingers like sand. Holding onto the world is as futile as trying to collect air in our hands.

Jesus told His disciples to "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Seek first? You mean, before everything else? Yes, before everything! Before jobs, hobbies, sports, retirement income, possessions, our own lives. Then He will reward our faith.

Too long we have accepted mediocrity in our spiritual lives. We have accepted shallow attempts at prayer, casual efforts at worship and service, and have generally come to expect nothing spectacular from God...and that is what we receive.

—Al Behel

Other News

-Directory Updates: Please check the list on the bulletin board in the kitchen to update your directory information. Please check spelling of names, list the names of your children, check address information, phone numbers, and be sure to list contact information for your children if you choose to do so. If your name is not listed, please add your information to the list. After you have checked and/or updated your information please place a check mark beside it.

-Patty Adair will be starting a Grief Support Group to meet during the week. If you are interested, please let Patty know.

-Congratulations: to Rick and Ginny on the birth of their new grandson, Lucas Alexander Cliett, born last Sunday. Rick and Ginny will be leaving for Vancouver, BC on the 18th of June and will return the end of July.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

Elder Contact for Month: Dan Elkins (865-548-9852)

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"What's This Church Worth?"
Romans 12:3-8; Mark 8:34-38
P.M.—"The Stranger of Galilee (Personality of Jesus)"

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. 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.

-Charlotte spent one night in LeConte earlier this week. She is doing well.

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 are 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

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 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.