

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XX. No. 28

July 10, 2016

Traditions Are Still Traditions...

One of my friends told me about meeting a visitor in the foyer of his congregation at 10:50 a.m. one Sunday morning. The lady asked, "Has church started?" He replied, "Yes ma'am. We started at 10:30." She then asked, "Is this the Church of Christ?" "Yes, ma'am", he said. "And you started before 11 o'clock?", she asked. "Yes, ma'am, we start at 10:30." She then asked, "Are you *sure* this is the Church of Christ?" "Yes, ma'am, I'm sure." She sighed, turned and walked out the door.

There are many traditions we have developed which may be good and useful, but we must always know the difference between traditions and matters of faith or doctrine. Having three songs and a prayer before the sermon is traditional in many congregations. But singing is not traditional; it is required for approved worship. Taking communion at a particular time during worship may become traditional but the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper is not traditional. It is in response to Biblical teaching and apostolic example. Baptism by immersion is not traditional. It is doctrinal and required for union with Christ.

When we confuse tradition with doctrine we may find ourselves being contentious about matters that have no eternal significance while ignoring things which are vital to salvation. We can falsely judge our brothers when we bind traditions on them. The catch phrase of the Restoration Movement was, "*We will speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent.*" That was a good motto then and is still relevant today. In all things we should practice love toward one another.

—Al Behel

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.
- Larry Valentine**—skin cancer removed requiring numerous stitches.
- 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.

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)
- Rick and Ginny** are still visiting new grandson in Vancouver, BC.
- Mark Baker**, Coleen Thomason's brother-in-law. Pneumonia.

Directory Updates: You should have received a copy of the new directory soon from Linda Behel in PDF format. Please review your information and make any additions or corrections and send these to Linda at lbehel@ix.netcom.com. Please do not hit reply as this will send it to everyone one in the church group.

Christianity & Mental Health Series—Al is leading a study on Wednesday nights. Next: "*Coping With Anxiety and Stress*"



July 15 & 16
Friday—6:30 PM
Saturday—8:30-2:30

Other News

- Larry Barnett** is home now following several days of hospitalization. He passed out last week and was taken to LeConte, then transferred to Ft. Sanders. Heart Cath revealed totally blocked LAD artery. By-pass is not an option. He will wear a monitor for about a month to determine cause of blackouts.
- Joyce Keyser** has been diagnosed with peritoneal cancer. This is a rare form of cancer that develops in a thin layer of tissue that lines the abdomen and other organs. They will do further tests to see if it is contained to one area and the appropriate treatment options for her. Please keep Joyce and her family in your prayers. She and Bob are very special to our church family.
- Grief Support Group**—see Patty Adair for more information.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes (1-731-608-4148)

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "I Will Draw All Men Unto Me" (John 12:20-36)
P.M. - "Life In The Son" - Youth Led Worship

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Al Behel will lead a special study for the next four weeks

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 07/02/16 is **\$1,002,855.22**. 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.