

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Amen!

Amen! We used to hear it a lot in churches across America. Preachers knew the audience was listening and agreeing with the strong declaration of the gospel message. And the more he heard it, the more he felt encouraged to keep on proclaiming the convicting truth of the Word.

Churches used to have a special pew section referred to as the "Amen Corner." Generally, some of the older men would sit in this corner and repeatedly say "Amen" as the minister preached.

What does the word "Amen" mean? The early church appears to have been accustomed to saying "Amen" in unison at the giving of thanks (I Corinthians 14:16). It was a statement of agreement, or affirmation. Literally, the word means, "So be it."

Faithful members of the congregation of Israel in the Old Testament customarily responded by saying "Amen" to messages delivered by God's prophets. The word is also used as a title for Jesus in the New Testament (Rev. 3:14).

Jesus is God's Amen, God's "So Be It!" He is God's final Word to man. He is the affirmation of God's love, God's grace. Jesus is the faithful and true Witness of God's redemptive plan. Jesus is "the Amen" because he guarantees the truth of the message and the execution of all His promises.

"Amen" expresses the unity of the believers as we share a common heart and a common mission. As we accept one another and experience the deeper dimensions of brotherhood through a fellowship of service we say "Amen!" We face the forces of Satan and the darkness of this world with confidence in the "Amen" who lives in us and guarantees the victory.

Is our failure to say "Amen" at the giving of thanks or the proclamation of the message a reflection of the influence of culture over conviction? Or, have we lost our sense of involvement in a common mission? Do we lack agreement or unity in our service to the Master? Maybe the reason is simply that we are embarrassed to speak up in our assemblies. Perhaps we need to turn again to "the Amen, the faithful and true Witness" and, together with Him lift up our requests to our loving Father Who is deeply moved when only two or three of us agree on anything we bring before His throne.

The practice of saying "Amen" in worship was always voluntary and was not used as a measure of one's love or devotion to God. It is far more important that we recognize the need for unity of mind and heart and a common commitment to the message of the cross.

—Al Behel

Other News and Prayer Requests

-We rejoice with **Glen and Vicki Skelton** in the birth of their granddaughter, **Cora Belle Gammon**, on Sept. 5, weighing 6 lbs., 11 oz. and 18 inches long. Parents are Brittany (their daughter) and Daniel Gammon. Congratulations! Please remember **Brittany** in prayer as she is recovering from a diagnosis of HELLP syndrome that led to an emergency C-section—she is doing all right.

-**Linda Blass, Vicki Skelton's** mother, broke her hip last week, had surgery, and is now in a rehab facility for therapy.

-**Carrie Harp**, daughter of **Marc and Sue Hayes**, possible surgery on lower jaw tumor—do not know if it is malignant.

-**Shelly Stewart**, daughter-in-law of **Skip and Esther**, had a TIA on Aug. 26 and will see a vascular doctor in Sept. Shelly is **Tera's** mother.

-**Joey Barnett** diagnosed with possible mono virus—test results tomorrow.

-**Today is the Day!!** Ice Cream social with finger foods—tonight immediately after services—hope to see all of you there!

-**Directory Updates:** Please review your directory information and make any additions or corrections and send these to Linda at lbehel@ix.netcom.com.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner, Back Up Ginny Cliett

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

Sermon Topics:

A.M.- "Putting Down the Stones" John 8:1-11—Al Behel

P.M.- "Show Me Your Glory"- Al Behel

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

Prayers for Our Known Sick

-**Dez Anderson**—still suffering with multiple health issues.

-**Madison Barnett**—gall bladder surgery on Aug. 30-she is slowly feeling better—good to see her last Wednesday evening.

-**Geordie Haynes** will have ear surgery at a later date.

-**Jan Messick** cataract surgery on right eye scheduled Sept. 19

-**Sheryle Elkins**—continuing chemotherapy. PET Scan was good.

-**Bill Valentine** recovering from esophageal cancer.

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

-**Joyce Keyser**—undergoing chemotherapy and radiation for peritoneal cancer. She is plagued by bouts of weakness and nausea.

-**Patsy Bevis**—feeling a little better.

-**Bill Green**—suffering from several health issues.

-**Jean Compton**—is recovering at home.

-**Kathy May** battling ongoing health issues.

-**Pauline Swallow** is dealing with cancer.

-**Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**- facing several challenges.

-**Larry Barnett** - has begun cardiac rehab.

-**Charles & Frances Copeland**—newborn great granddaughter, Madeline Grace Kirby, remains in critical condition.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Leah's and Patty's friend, Amana Rucker**, partial knee replacement after years as an amputee.

-**Leah's friend, Denise Molinsky** lost her husband after a 25 year battle with a rare form of lung cancer.

-**Jackie Stearsman**, friend of Al Behel, has leukemia.

-**Nita Watern**, Brenda Scott's niece, chemo for liver cancer.

-**Lida Cliett**, Rick's aunt, ill with heart failure and cancer.

-**Maegan White**, Joyce Keyser's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.

-**Sue Hayes' sister-in-law, Jane Hufford**, suffering from leukemia, received a long awaited bone marrow transplant Aug. 23.

-**Jim & Judy Watkins**—Rick's sister and husband, health issues.

-**Catherine Rose**, Leah's neighbor, receiving PT to regain strength.

-**Dee Lewis**, friend of the Clietts, 6th occurrence stage 4 cancer.

NOTE: The Men's and Ladies' meetings will be held this afternoon at 5 p.m.

Grief Support Group—Patty Adair wants everyone to know there will NOT be a meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Ladies Bible Study—Next meets on Tuesday, Sept. 20 with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger in My Soul" at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Rick Cliett "Essence of Grace"
Hebrews 4

Sunday Adult Class

Rick Cliett "Faith & Prayer"
Matthew 6

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 08/08/16 is **\$1,009,725.10**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pews.

(Note—loan balance increased since July due to refinance closing costs)

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.