

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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A Second Touch

When Winston Churchill was questioned about failing a grade in high school he replied that he had not really failed, but had two chances to get it right. When someone spoke to Thomas Edison about his 200 failed attempts to invent the light bulb he reminded his critic that he did not have 200 failures, but had learned 200 ways not to do it.

Sometimes I feel like God has given me a lot of chances to get it right...to learn what doesn't work. Solomon seemed to have learned the same thing as he kept trying to find happiness in wealth, pleasure, and self-gratifying pursuits. He concluded that *"all is vanity and vexation of the spirit."*

One day a blind man was brought to Jesus by his friends with the request that Jesus would *"touch him."* After leading the man outside the city, Jesus spat on his eyes and laid his hands upon him. He asked the man, *"Do you see anything?"* Looking up the man said, *"I see men; but they look like trees, walking."* Then Jesus touched him a second time and he saw everything clearly (Mark 9:22-26).

Every day I feel like I need a "second touch." I need to receive again and again the touch of the Master Who alone can give me sight. The world distracts us. Satan doesn't give up. And every day Jesus offers us another chance to get it right.

I stand in wonder of His grace. No one else offers so many chances to get up and try again. He offers a second chance every day!

Scripture tells us that judgment will be without mercy to him who shows no mercy (James 2:13). The apostle John says that anyone who denies his own sinfulness deceives himself and the truth is not in him (I John 1:6). Facing our sins opens to us access to the continual cleansing of the blood of Jesus (I John 1:7).

When sin is in our lives we do not see God clearly. Only the pure in heart can see His splendor (Matthew 5:8). Being filled with the presence of God we extend mercy to others (Matthew 5:6,7), and our own hearts are cleansed. And we see Him as never before.

We need a second touch...every day. We need another chance to get things right. And He gives it to us...every day.

__Al Behel

-Priscilla Dick fell this week at Sterchi Lodge and broke her ankle. Keep her in prayer.

-Carrie Harp, daughter of Marc Hayes, had surgery this week for a tumor in her jaw. They are awaiting the biopsy report.

-Randy Moore, Tina Yates' brother, who is on kidney dialysis, fell and required surgery in his neck. Surgery appears to be successful. Also, Tina's older sister, Marylyne Hunneke, is home from rehab but is not doing very well, staying in bed and not eating. Please keep both in your prayers.

--Men and Ladies Meetings—today 4 p.m. Please join us and share your input.

-Hurricane Matthew-remember the victims of the hurricane, especially the residents of Haiti. More than 800 deaths have been confirmed. If you would like to help go to <http://disasterrelief.org> to contribute or earmark a check for disaster relief and put in collection. Cash or checks can be given to an elder or Al.

-EEM Contribution total—\$5,567.32.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Was Blind But Now I See" (John 9:1-12, 41)
P.M. - "Mary Magdalene"

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

Our Known Sick

- Dez Anderson—suffering many health issues. Home from hospital.
- Madison Barnett-recovering from gall bladder surgery.
- Geordie Haynes will have ear surgery at a later date.
- Sheryle Elkins-continuing chemotherapy. PET scan was good.
- Bill Valentine received disturbing news as his cancer has recurred. Please keep Bill, Gail, Larry, and Linda in your prayers.
- Larry Valentine—results of scan last week was GOOD!
- Joyce Keyser-completed chemo and radiation here. Her evaluation at M.D. Anderson in Houston this week confirmed that her current treatment protocol is appropriate. Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer.
- Patsy Bevis—feeling a little better.
- Bill Green—suffering from many health issues.
- Jean Compton—is recovering at home.
- Kathy May—battling ongoing health issues.
- Pauline Swallows is dealing with cancer.
- Jeanette and Jerry Dyer—as they face many struggles.
- Larry Barnett—has begun cardiac rehab.
- Charles & Frances Copeland-newborn great granddaughter, Madeline Grace Kirby, is very ill with a genetic disorder. Prognosis is not good. She is home at this time.
- Patty Adair had wrist surgery Oct. 7 to remove three bones. She will not be able to sign for at least three months.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

- Linda Blass, Vicki's mom, in rehab facility recovering from hip surgery.
- Jackie Stearsman, minister friend of Al's, has leukemia.
- Nita Watern, Brenda Scott's niece, chemo for liver cancer.
- Lida Cliett, Rick's aunt, ill with heart failure and cancer.
- Meagan White, Joyce's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.
- Sue Hayes' sister-in-law, Jane Hufford, suffering from leukemia, received a long awaited bone marrow transplant August 23.
- Jim & Judy Watkins—Rick's sister and husband, health issues.
- Catherine Rose, Leah's neighbor, receiving PT for strength.
- Dee Lewis, friend of the Cliett's, 6th occurrence of stage 4 cancer.
- Diana Hawkes, Otis' sister, is in Riverside Hospital in Columbus, OH following an auto accident.
- Breana Ward, age 32, stage 4 cancer-has three children. Prayers and cards requested. Address in foyer. This family visits with us.
- Grief Support Group—See Patty Adair for updates.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
I Timothy—Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline will lead our study
on Justification By Faith

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

The latest Loan balance is **\$1,005,383.88**. 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.