

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Preparing The Heart

I thought I had the perfect solution to my problem. I was about 13 years old and had just been commissioned by my father to plant beans in the field. Since our family was large it seemed that everything we planted was big enough to feed the entire county. I knew if I planted all the beans he had given me I wouldn't have any time to do the things I wanted to do. So, I had to find a way out of my dilemma.

After a few hours on the tractor the answer seemed to fall right out of heaven into my little brain. (*It must have been divine inspiration!*) I quickly stopped at the end of the row, dug a hole in the ground, and proceeded to deposit the remaining seed into that hole. I thought, "*That does it, I'm finished!*" Back at the house I assured my dad that I had in fact *planted* the beans! Now I could go do fun things like going to the creek or riding my bike to a friend's house.

Well... after a few days my dad went out and walked around the field. **Judgment day had arrived!** "*Son, remember those beans you were supposed to plant?*" "*Yes, Sir!*", I said. He just stood there looking at me. I knew he could see all the way to my soul. "*Son, they came up!*" I was caught... dead in my tracks. I was convicted without a jury. Why did they have to come up? Why couldn't they have stayed buried?

The reason is simple. The soil I had selected in which to bury the evidence was well-cultivated and rich. It was some of the best soil on the farm. It was receptive to the seed I had hidden there. And the seed my dad gave me was good and I planted it deep within that soil.

Jesus told us that human hearts are like soil (Matthew 13). Some are like the packed soil of the trodden path which doesn't allow the seed of God's Word to take root. Some are like rocky ground which receives the Word gladly and eagerly but the soil is so shallow that the Word quickly dies for lack of sufficient depth. Other hearts are like ground filled with thorns and the briars of sinful attractions which destroy all possibility for the Word to grow. Yet there are some hearts represented by the good soil which allow the Seed to establish roots deep within the heart of the believer.

The Word of God will go as deep into our hearts as we allow it to go. *We* choose the soil, and *we* choose the depth at which the seed will be planted. When God's Word is planted deep in a receptive heart the results are obvious to everyone. Our lives are changed, our faith becomes stable, our love grows, and God is glorified. The fruit of the Spirit grows out of a heart in which the Word has been planted deeply.

— Al Behel

### Other News

**Thanks** to the young men for presenting an excellent lesson in Exodus last Sunday night and to all who helped develop the material.

**Ladies Bible Class**—First and third Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Polly Cline is leading a study on "*Hunger in my Soul*". Next class is May 3.

**Food For Thought:** *If spiritual training is more important than public education why does Bible school rank lower on our list of priorities?*

**Food Contact For Month:** Linda Goodnight, Back up Tina Yates

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M. - "*Walking By Faith-Add Brotherly Love*" (2 Peter 1:3-9)  
P.M. - "*A Little Leaven*"

**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 Friday to install a plate in his arm. He is in a lot of pain. Keep him and Dez in prayer.
- Wyatt Cox**—check up with the cardiologist last week went very well! He most likely will not need another heart surgery for about one year.
- Sheryle Elkins**— is continuing chemotherapy on a periodic basis for treatment of lung cancer.
- Bill Valentine** is recovering from esophageal cancer surgery. We rejoice with him that all indicators are good.
- Bill Green**—suffering from several health issues.
- Jan 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.
- Madison Barnett**—continues to struggle with kidney stones.
- Larry Barnett** fell a few days ago moving a basketball goal.
- Don Mayhall** is recovering from knee replacement surgery. It is good to have him at services once again.
- Sue Mercer** was back with us last week after knee replacement surgery—it was so good to see her.

### Friends and Family News

- Lida Cliett**, Rick's aunt, very ill with heart failure complicated by cancer. Her sister is Rick's stepmother, Billie.
- Joyce Keyser's cousin, **Maegan White**, recovering from brain surgery.
- Sue Hayes sister, Joyce**, recovering from a fall.
- Sue Hayes' sister-in-law, Jane Hufford**, is suffering with a recurrence of Leukemia. She especially wants 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 Watem**, -liver cancer and is receiving chemotherapy. She lives in New Madison, Ohio.
- Judy and Jim Watkins**—continuing health issues. (Rick Cliett's sister and her husband)
- Dee Lewis**, friend of the Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)
- John Devore's** (Linda Goodnight's husband) **daughter, Chelle Hendershot**, recovering from a severe automobile accident.
- Randy Moore**, brother of Tina Yates, is doing better. He is suffering from kidney disease.
- John Devore** is recuperating at home following a heart attack while traveling in California.

### Special Events

**Men's Prayer Session**  
Monday mornings at 8:30

### Wednesday Night

Danny Cline leading a study-  
"*They Met the Messiah in Mark*"

### 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 04/02/16 is **\$1,027,868.60**. 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).