

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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My Daddy's Anvil

Times are different now. When we want something we can usually buy it and have it available for use immediately. That hasn't always been the case. In past generations many things were hand-made or hand-shaped. Anvils and bellows were common sights around the farm. Tools were sharpened, metal was bent, plows were set, and steel was formed into usable parts.

I remember many times watching my dad as he laid a piece of steel on the anvil and pounded it with a hammer until he had achieved the shape he wanted. After the steel was formed and it had cooled, its shape was permanent.

I have often thought of dad's anvil. It reminds me of how God shapes us for His purposes. Each hammer-blow moved the metal closer to the shape dad wanted to achieve. The steel was subject to his strength and to the design created in his mind as that powerful arm pounded steel against steel again and again.

Sometimes the anvil God uses seems unusually hard. The hammer-blows make us reel with the force behind them, but we are being shaped for a greater use. Like the steel on the anvil our form is being shaped in the mind of our Creator who knows what use He wants to make of us.

Sometimes the anvil God uses involves major losses and trauma, as in the case of Job, or when illness or career changes bring us up short. Sometimes he uses other people who challenge us to become all that we can be. At other times we find that our ability to love is sharpened through personal experiences of infinite grace.

The anvil of God's discipline is hard but not harsh. He loves at all times and strengthens us with His power when we yield to His guiding hand. Like steel against the hammer we resist change, yet we are fashioned into the likeness of His Son each time we yield our wills to His will. Until He shapes us into His image we are of no use to Him. When He lifts us from the rubble and fashions us as He wills we become functional instruments for use in His kingdom.

—Al Behel

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! -To All Our Dads

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.

-Rick and Ginny will be away for 4-6 weeks visiting their new grandson (and his parents) in Vancouver, BC. They left yesterday and will be driving. Pray for safe travels and a wonderful visit.

-Grief Support Group—Patty Adair is offering a grief support group. Anyone who has experienced a significant loss of any kind may find the group beneficial. Please see Patty if you would like more information.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Is God Really Your Father?" (John 8:34-47)
P.M. - "What A Treasure!"

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.

-Herman Byrne passed out Wednesday and was taken to the ER. He is waiting for test results.

-Keep Madison Barnett in prayer as she continues to battle kidney stone problems. **Larry Barnett** is better. It was determined that he had too much B-12 which was causing some issues for him.

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)

-Gary and Priscilla Dick's address during their stay in Washington will be: 17705 Clear Lake Blvd. SE, Yelm, WA 98597

Christianity & Mental Health Series—Al will lead a study on Wednesday nights beginning July 6.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Marc Hayes will lead our study on the Book of James

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.