

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Listening to God

He sat in my office with his family as tears filled his eyes. When I asked what his tears meant he replied, "Nobody is listening to me." This small child captured the essence of the family's problem. Nobody listens to anyone else.

Talking. That's what many of us do well. But, how well do we listen? How much do we hear? How much do we understand? Do we listen to the hearts of others?

In our relationship with God there is a critical need for us to listen. Moses told Israel shortly before his death, "...listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him for the Lord is your life..." (Deut. 30:20). As long as Israel listened to God she was blessed; whenever she turned away from His voice she suffered indignity and defeat. Jesus said, "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27). Again, "They will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice" (John 10:5).

Listening to God is not a priority for many people today. The ancient sound heard throughout Scripture reminds us repeatedly, "Thus says the Lord", or, "This is what the Lord says." How seldom we seek His message, His voice to lead us. How weak is the sound of His voice in our ears. Jesus warned that some would have ears and do not hear, eyes and do not see. (Matthew 13:13-17).

Why do we need to listen to God? Why follow His voice? We need to listen to Him because He knows us and knows our needs better than we know them. We need to listen because our ability to perceive and understand is limited. We need to follow His voice because we don't know the way by ourselves. The mysteries of our universe, of disease, and of man himself constantly remind us of our finite nature. Our sinfulness and our pride blind us to our possibilities. We have mastered much, but we have never mastered sin. We cannot heal the wound in our own souls.

Through listening to God we find answers we never dreamed could be within our reach, peace which transcends all our mood-stabilizing drugs, and the potentials offered through a relationship with our Creator. Listening to God opens our hearts to love, to understand, and to grow. We are free to live, and free to die. We are free to experience the deepest fellowship with both God and man. We then have peace because we know Him Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (John 14:6).

—Al Behel

Other News and Prayer Requests

We rejoice with the entire **Cox** family as **Mackenzie Cox** was baptized last Sunday morning—welcome to our sweet sister!

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

-Geordie Haynes is experiencing problems with his left eardrum—surgery will be scheduled at a later date.

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

-Madison Barnett—had gall bladder surgery on Aug. 30—doctor believes that was the root cause of her pain. Madison is doing very well.

-Samuel Haynes recovering from successful ear surgery.

Mark your calendars!! Ice Cream social with finger foods—Sunday evening September 11 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.- "A True Man-Reasons for Believing in Jesus" John 7:14-24—Al Behel

P.M.- A Season of Singing and Prayer

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.

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

-Bill Valentine recovering from esophageal cancer-last test report was good.

-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. Hospice has been called in to assist Jerry.

-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 friend, **Georgia**, known to many of us, requested prayers for her mother, **Lexie Johnson**, who entered hospital with heart issues.

-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, post brain surgery, not doing well but continues to experience pain.

-Chris Robertson, Brenda Scott's sister is home after hip surgery.

-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, continuing health issues.

-Catherine Rose, Leah's 96 year old neighbor, receiving PT to regain strength.

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

-Mark Baker, Coleen Thomason's brother-in-law, has pneumonia.

NOTE: The Men's and Ladies' meetings will be held NEXT Sunday, Sept. 11, at 5 p.m.

Grief Support Group—See Patty Adair for Information

Ladies Bible Study—Resumes on Tuesday, Sept. 6 with Polly Cline leading a wonderful study on "Hunger in My Soul" at 10 a.m. every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall—Plan now to attend!

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session

Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Rick Cliett "Essence of Faith" - Hebrews 11

Sunday Adult Class

Rick Cliett—Essence of Faith—Hebrews 11

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.

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