

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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God Will Pardon

God wants to forgive. He wants to forgive everyone. That's hard to comprehend. The murderers, rapists, gossipers, robbers, and even back-sliding church members...He wants to forgive them.

Look through the gospels. You will not find Jesus saying to anyone, "I'm sorry. Your sins are too great. I wish I could forgive you, but I just can't." He died for the sins of all men – the sins of the whole world – all of them. He came to "seek and save the lost"...all of them.

Lost men should "seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near." Why? "For He will abundantly pardon." His pardon is abundant! It is not lacking. When God forgives, His pardon is complete and full.

Isaiah reminded Israel that God "will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7). Israel's sins included idolatry, immorality, spiritual degeneration, and many other despicable violations of God's will. Still, God wanted to forgive Israel. He longed for her repentance.

We must not minimize the sins we commit. They are numerous: sins of *thought* – rebellious, proud, cruel, defiant, unholy, false; sins of *word* – profane, hurtful, slanderous, hateful; sins of *deed* – theft, abuse, violence, murder. There is no way to count them all.

"God ...will abundantly pardon." How wonderful the theme. He *really* forgives sins. Have you ever questioned His forgiveness? Have you ever felt so far away from Him that you were certain He had given up on you?

God doesn't *pretend* to forgive. Your sins no longer exist when He forgives. They are completely destroyed — you will never see them again. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins.

The grace of God is sufficient. Not just for the apostle Paul, but for us. Abundant grace means abundant forgiveness. The poet was right when he said:

*"See here an endless ocean flows,
Of never-failing grace,
Behold a dying Saviour's veins,
The sacred flood increase.*

—Al Behel

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.
- Jan Messick— cataract surgery on right eye September 19.
- Sheryle Elkins-continuing chemotherapy. PET scan was good.
- Bill Valentine recovering from esophageal cancer.
- Larry Valentine—results of scan last week was GOOD!
- Joyce Keyser-completed chemo and radiation here-appointment at MD Anderson in Houston Oct. 4. 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.
- Joey Barnett—diagnosed with mono.
- Pauline Swallows is dealing with cancer.
- Jeanette Dyer had sinus surgery on Friday. Jerry is hospice this weekend.
- 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 will have 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

- Leah's and Patty's friend, **Amanda Rucker**, partial knee replacement after years as an amputee.
- Linda Blass, Vicki's mom, in rehab facility recovering from hip surgery.
- Leah's friend, **Denise Molinsky**, lost her husband recently.
- 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, Ohio following a car accident. Otis and family will be there this weekend. Doctors report that she has several blood vessels leaking in her brain and several other issues. Please keep her in your prayers and the family as they travel.

-Carrie Harp, daughter of Marc Hayes, is scheduled Oct. 3 for doctor visit to diagnose jaw tumor followed by possible surgery.

-Mary Wagner, Tina Yates' sister, is doing much better now and will be going back to the doctor every 3 months for checkups! We rejoice with Tina's family.

-Breana Ward, age 32, stage 4 cancer-has three children. Prayers and cards requested—address posted in foyer. This family visits here with us.

-Grief Support Group—See Patty Adair for updates.

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

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "He Is Not Your Father" (John 8:31-47)
P.M. - "The Shortest Verse In The Bible"

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

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Danny Cline will lead study on
Sanctification By Faith

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

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.