

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XX. No. 42

October 16, 2016

Making Moral and Ethical Decisions

We all have a system of ethics. Ethics encompasses our belief systems upon which we base our behaviors and how others should think and act. There are multiple challenges to our decision-making every day, from the soccer field to the corporate office, from politics to whom we invite to dinner. At the core of our ethical challenge is how we decide between two actions.

Ethics are not limited to religious beliefs, and not all religious people have the same ethical beliefs. Many people are not religious but still have ethical standards. We tend to think others believe and act as we do, or as we expect them to think and act. If we share belief systems we may share ethical standards, but if our beliefs differ our ethics may differ as well.

Ethics are not feelings, although feelings often drive our actions. Feelings don't tell us what to do, but they do tell us how we are doing or think we are doing. Hence, many people do not feel bad when they do something harmful to others.

Since there is no commonly accepted standard of ethics people approach the issue of right and wrong differently. Many base their standard on what works for them. "If it feels good, I'll do it. If it makes me happy, I'll do it." Some are based on cultural norms while others seek the common good. Still others believe ethical behavior is following the law, though some laws may be deemed unethical by others.

In a complex world of varying philosophies and ideas that looks much like a garbage heap, there is one dependable standard for human thought and behavior. That standard comes from a Creator God who knew that we would struggle with decisions between right and wrong. He knew we would be challenged by the darkness of this world and the Tempter who would go to the core of our thinking. He did not leave us on our own to figure it out for ourselves. That would never work.

The psalmist captured the simplicity and complexity in one sentence: "Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). If we are to think and act appropriately in a corrupt world, we need a common and dependable standard. His Word provides that and much more. It alone provides guidance out of the darkness into God's marvelous light and eternal life.

__Al Behel

- Priscilla Dick-recovering from a broken foot.
- Carrie Harp, daughter of Marc Hayes, received good news that the tumor in her jaw is not malignant.
- 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.
- Hurricane Matthew-If you would like to help the victims of the hurricane through the Church of Christ Disaster Relief go to <http://disasterrelieffort.org> to contribute or earmark a check for "Disaster Relief" and put it in today's collection. Cash or checks can be given to an elder or Al.
- Rick and Ginny are visiting their granddaughter in TX (and her mom and dad) and expect to return the first of November.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Reactions To Jesus—Breaking The Alabaster Box"
(John 12:1-11)
P.M. - "Satan's Compromises" (Exodus 8-10)

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

Our Known Sick

- Dez Anderson— suffering many health issues. Prayers and cards are encouraging and appreciated.
- 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. He will be evaluated on Tuesday for possible radiation treatment. Please keep Bill, Gail, Larry, and Linda in your prayers.
- Joyce Keyser-Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. M.D. Anderson doctors confirmed that her treatment here is best for her. It was so good to have her with us last Sunday.
- 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.
- 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.
- Note: Please notify Al, Linda, or Ginny of any changes in above list.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
I Timothy 3 & 4 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
Danny Cline —"As Your Faith Grows" 2 Cor. 10:15

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.