

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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God Gives Good Things

Have you ever made a list of things for which you are thankful? Did you have enough paper on which to write? The list would be enormously long for some of us. For others, whose hearts are filled with selfishness, it would be a very short list.

Thankfulness is a condition of heart which grows out of an awareness that what we have received is far greater than what we deserved. It is responsive gratitude for what someone else has done for us.

God gives good things. He always has. Every "good gift, and every perfect gift" comes from Him. From the morning sunrise to the food we eat, the health we enjoy, or the children who lift our hearts. God is the Giver of all.

Looking at my gratitude list is not an annual event. It is not turkey and dressing. My list includes many things which have enriched my life, and many people who have touched my heart in special ways.

At the top of the list is God's grace, without which I would still be a slave to Satan. I am thankful He broke sin's power and gave me life through His Son. I am thankful for the hope of eternal life.

I am also thankful for my church family. I am thankful for caring and loving brothers and sisters with whom I can share worship experiences and from whom I receive continuous encouragement in my Christian life.

I am thankful for physical families who give us a sense of meaningful relationships. Children are a special gift, and grandchildren reward us with unlimited opportunities to focus our attention, and from whom we receive unconditional love.

I am thankful for special friends who bring daily joy to our routines of work and life. Friends who understand us with our weaknesses and still love us. Friends who allow us to share their successes and struggles, and with whom we can be very honest.

I am thankful for our beautiful world with its mountains and oceans, its valleys and streams. I am thankful for the sound of birds singing, the wind blowing, and leaves falling slowly to the ground. I am thankful for the moon and stars, God's night-lights, which thrill lovers' hearts and provide guidance to travelers at sea.

I am thankful that I can be thankful...that I have the capacity to know that what I receive is greater than I deserve. To know that Someone greater than I had a hand in providing for my needs. I am grateful that, unlike the animals of the forest, I can know the origin of those gifts and express gratitude to the One who watches over me and supplies every need.

—Al Behel

Our Prayers for the Families and Sincere Sympathies to...

Tina Yates—her sister, Marylyne Hunneke, passed away Friday—she had been ill for some time—Tina and Howard will travel to St. Louis for the funeral.

Bud Thomason—his mother, Betty, passed away Friday after a long illness—Jana, Bud and Mandy will travel to Kentucky for the funeral.

Building Loan Now Below \$1 Million

We are very excited to announce that our building loan is now below \$1M at **\$996,956.76**. We moved into the new facility 7 years ago. Through the generosity of so many people, including members, visitors, and (initially) other congregations, our building debt is below half the original construction cost of \$2,216,800. We thank everyone who has donated to help provide a functional facility for our local members and over 20,000 annual visitors. There are several ways to help retire this debt, including regular or periodic donations, gifts of appreciated stock, and naming the GSM church in your will. Our goal is to glorify God by helping to spread the kingdom at home and abroad. **Thank you!!**

Food Contact For Month: Melanie Tolliver and Leah Turner

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "In My Father's House" - (John 14:1-6)
 P.M.—"Mirror, Mirror, On The Wall"

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.

-Geordie Haynes will have ear surgery at a later date.

-Sheryle Elkins-continuing chemotherapy. PET scan was good.

-Bill Valentine is in Ft. Sanders Regional, Rm. 829. He collapsed on the floor on Monday night and tests are being run to determine the current status of his cancer. Please keep Bill and Gail your prayers.

-Joyce Keyser-Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. M.D. Anderson doctors confirmed that her treatment here is best for her. It is always so good to back with us when she feels up to coming.

-Bill Green—suffering from many health issues.

-Jean Compton —is recovering at home.

-Kathy May—battling ongoing health issues.

-Jerry Dyer—was in PF Rehab for a few days of respite care but is home again.

-Charles & Frances Copeland-newborn great granddaughter, **Madelaine Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder. Prognosis is not good. She is home at this time.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Linda Blass, Vicki's mom -rehab facility recovering from hip surgery.

-Jackie Stearsman, minister friend of Al's, the Littletons, and Copelands, has leukemia. He is now in a nursing home and treatments have been stopped. His wife, Joyce, is also waiting for cancer surgery.

-Nita Watern, Brenda Scott's niece, chemo for liver cancer.

-Lida Cliett, Rick's aunt, ill with heart failure and cancer.

-Megan 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.

-Dee Lewis, friend of the Cliett's, 6th occurrence of stage 4 cancer.

-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.

-Ladies Bible Class: First and third Tuesdays with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul".

-Mark Your Calendars: Cookie Exchange Party, December 1 at Patty Adair's Home and Holiday Party, December 10 at 6 p.m.

Diabetic Emergency Supplies- located in a labeled kitchen drawer—There is also a **blood pressure cuff** located in the admin/copy room—one of the mail cubby holes. Please see Priscilla or a GSM member for assistance.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
 Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
I Timothy 4 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
"The Mind of Christ"—Rick Cliett
I Corinthians 2

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 on 11/14/16 is **\$996,956.76**. 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.