

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XX. No. 49
December 04, 2016

A Cup of Water

This is a time of mourning for our members, our county, and our nation. The fires that have destroyed thousands of acres in the Great Smoky Mountains has deeply affected our church family. We lost our precious sister **May Vance** who suffered a heart attack trying to escape the flames that destroyed their home. Although Jimmy and May had moved here from Nashville they had come to consider the mountains their home and our church their spiritual family. Our hearts are saddened and we share the family's grief.

Many other members were forced out of their homes and experienced unimaginable fear as they were surrounded by flames. We are grateful to our Father that their lives and homes were spared. We know that deep scars will remain but we pray that all of our hearts will remain strong. Chris Thompson's home experienced major damage from the high winds that came through Monday night. Our thanks to so many of our members who marshaled forces and helped repair her home.

Our county and nation have lost much as there are more than 10 million visits to our area each year. Our beautiful mountains and the city of Gatlinburg have suffered much destruction and have been marred for a long time to come by the ravaging flames. Our sister congregation in Gatlinburg lost their building to the fire and three of their families lost their homes. The Sortores, who were part of our fellowship until their work in Gatlinburg made it difficult to attend worship here, lost their home to the fire. They continue to be very special to our hearts. Our prayers are with all who have suffered losses.

What We Are Doing To Help?

Our congregation is partnering with Churches of Christ Disaster Relief to reach out to our community with needed supplies and necessities. A tractor trailer load of supplies was delivered Saturday morning and distribution is expected to begin Monday. **Volunteers from our congregation should sign up on the sheets posted on bulletin board in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall.** Those outside our congregation are asked to go to www.churchesofchristdrt.org and register. During our initial sign-ups, the hours of distribution will be in three hour shifts Monday—Saturday from 9 a.m.—6 pm. Our thanks to the large number of volunteers who came early Saturday morning and unloaded the trailer.

Countless brethren from across the country have reached out with offers to help. We are asking them to provide monetary support to help meet the massive needs. (See side bar for details). The Karns congregation in Knoxville delivered a load of supplies on Friday. We thank Karns and the children from Tennessee Children's Home East who came and unloaded this truck.

Mark Haynes has done an exceptional job organizing our response to this crisis. He has worked long hours with many supporters to bring it all together. Thank you, Mark!

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome **Les and Barbara Jewell** to our fellowship. The Jewells were long time members of the Maryville Church of Christ and have come to us with high commendation from their elders. Les and Barbara live at 1621 Walnut Flats Road, Walland, TN 37886. We look forward to having them worship and work with us.

Food Contact For Month: Linda Goodnight

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "The Spirit of Christ"
P.M. - "What Does The Church Do?"

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.
- Sheryle Elkins**-continuing chemotherapy. PET scan was good.
- Dan Elkins**-dealing with low blood pressure and dizziness.
- Bill Valentine** is in Pigeon Forge Rehab Center, Rm 127 B. The **family requests no visitors** at this time as Bill is weak and visits tire him greatly. He appreciates your thoughts and 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**—Keep Jerry and Jeanette in prayer.
- Madison Barnett**—continues to suffer from pain and discomfort.
- 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.

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". The class will not meet this Tuesday due to distribution for disaster relief.

How To Donate For Response To Crisis : Make checks payable to Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ and earmark "*Fire Relief Fund*". Mailing Address: P.O. Box 173, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class

1 Timothy 4-5 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class

"The Mind of Christ"-Rick Cliett
1 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.