

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Simple Rules For Living

Perhaps you have made some New Year's resolutions. If you are a typical person you have made many of the same ones year after year. Especially a resolution to go on a diet, exercise more, and perhaps be nicer to someone in your family. Maybe it would be better to adopt some simple rules to live by during the next year. Here are a few suggestions.

Rule No. 1—"Wake Up!" Wake up to the possibilities each day brings. The psalmist said, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psa. 118:24) Decide to have a good day every day.

Rule No. 2—"Dress Up!" Oh, I don't mean standing in front of the mirror to make sure you look like a million dollars. I mean dress from the inside out because God looks at the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). Peter reminded women that the outside is not nearly as important as the inside, "the hidden person of the heart" (1 Pet. 3:4).

Rule No. 3—"Shut Up!" Watch your words. "He who guards his lips guards his soul" (Prov. 13:3). Withhold hurtful words and replace them with words that encourage the hearts of others.

Rule No. 4—"Speak Up!" Speak up for Jesus and tell others the good news of God's redeeming gospel. You are His mouth to speak. So, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!" (Psa. 107:2). If you cherish the salvation you have received share the story of the cross with those you know or meet.

Rule No. 5—"Look Up To God!" Remember, He invites you to lift up your concerns to Him continually. In Him you find strength for life, comfort in death, and confidence for eternity. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything" (Phil. 4:6). He is there for you and will strengthen you. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

Rule No. 6—"Reach Out!" Reach out to others. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men..." (Gal. 6:9-10). We are the hands of Jesus in our world. On the final day Jesus will remind us, "as you did it unto one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

You may have other rules to add, but these will give us a start in making this new year a year to remember.

___ Al Behel

Other News:

-Bob Keyser—fell on black ice last week in Texas and broke his upper arm. He and Joyce are now home, but Bob is experiencing much pain and will see an orthopedic specialist on Tuesday.

-Dan Elkins—prayers requested as he deals with high blood pressure issues.

-James Hill, 14 year old friend of Kenny and Charlotte, serious leg injury in a motor bike accident in Ohio but is currently here with family. Mark Haynes is in contact and will keep us posted if there are ways to help.

-Sympathy To: Heather Cox and family—her great grandfather, **Harold Hopkins**, passed away Wednesday in Virginia. Keep her family in prayer. He was 90 years of age.

-Rick and Ginny's 14 month old granddaughter, **Ellie**, will have ear surgery on Monday to install tubes. Keep her in your prayers.

-Anna Ruth Franklin, undergoing tests for cancer.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair

Elder Contact for Month: Rick Cliett. Phone: 789-9619

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "An Unchanging Message for A Changing World"

P.M.— "Walking With Jesus"

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

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— still suffering with multiple health issues. Keep praying. God is listening and answering.

-Sheryle Elkins— is continuing chemotherapy on a periodic basis. Her last lung scan was encouraging. Keep her in your prayers.

-Bill Valentine is recovering from esophageal cancer surgery. We rejoice with him that all indicators are good. It is so good to have him and Gail back in worship with us.

-Bill Green—suffering from pneumonia.

-Jean Compton—is recovering at home.

-Kathy May battling ongoing health issues. She is still in Baxter.

-Pauline Swallow is dealing with cancer. Keep praying for her.

-Skip Stewart— improving after bypass surgery in his leg. It is good to see him back with us.

-Jerry and Jeanette Dyer— they face several challenges.

-Keely Chambers, Shirley Harmon's granddaughter, is dealing with complications affecting her pregnancy.

-Tanya Smith (former member) diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Initial tests indicate it is contained. She is living in Collinwood, TN

Friends and Family News

-Sue Hayes sister, Joyce, had a fall resulting in a small fracture to her leg and a serious foot drop issue. Home care and rehab planned to assist in healing.

-Brenda Scott's niece, **Nita Watern**, has liver cancer and is receiving chemotherapy. Her liver is almost completely consumed. She lives in New Madison, Ohio.

-Leah Turner's friend, **Nesbit Allen**, surgery to remove cancerous tumor from his bladder, which has metastasized.

-Judy Watkins, Rick's sister in Texas, is slightly improving.

-Richard Nichols, Nick Nichol's brother—cancer surgery in Illinois.

-Barbara Copley, friend of Sheryle Elkins—battling cancer.

-Ginny and Rick—prayers for their daughter-in-law's grandmother, **Anna**, in Argentina, as she has health challenges.

-Dee Lewis, friend of the Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)

-Flood and tornado victims—please remember them in prayer. The Cliett's cousins were hit by a tornado NW of Dallas TX last Saturday evening—no human life lost and no serious injuries but physical/material devastation.

Men's and Ladies' Meetings next Sunday, Jan. 10, at 4 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class next meets on Tuesday, Jan. 19, in Fellowship Hall with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul."

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Rick Cliett is leading a study on the Book of Hebrews

Sunday Adult Class

I Thessalonians—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

Loan balance as of 12/02/15 is **\$1,047,057.38**. 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