

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XX. No. 33

August 14, 2016

Running To Win (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

During the past few days I have been able to watch the 2016 Olympics in which Team USA has dominated the Gold Metal count. I am impressed with the stamina and endurance of these athletes as they have persisted game after game.

It was the Grecian equivalent of these games that Paul had in mind when he wrote, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable." (1 Cor. 9:24-25).

In order to win in Olympic competition athletes must 1) exercise self-control, or discipline themselves through years of preparation; 2) stay focused on a single goal; and 3) finish the race ahead of all competitors.

In similar terms Christians must discipline themselves. Paul said, "I discipline (pommel) my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." We must discipline our hearts, minds, and bodies to be ready for every challenge that confronts us. The enemy is real and Paul knew it.

The prize (imperishable wreath) is at the end of the race. One must stay focused on that goal. Marvin Bracy was ahead of the game and the clear winner until he turned and looked at his competition. In that moment two of his competitors passed him knocking him into third place.

Christians must never give up. A good beginning is wonderful, but the prize is awarded to the one who crosses the finish line successfully. Paul kept looking at that "crown of glory which the Lord...will give to me in that day." This same imperishable crown is yours and mine if we don't give up but persevere to the end.

—Al Behel

Other News and Prayer Requests

MOVING: We are sad to announce that today will be **Lynette Helton's** last Sunday with us—she is moving back to Indiana to be closer to her family. Lynette has been with us for many years, and we will miss her very much—she has said she will be back for visits. Safe travels, Lynette, and God Bless you in your new adventure.

-**Jan Messick** had cataract surgery on her left eye Monday, Aug. 8; surgery on right eye scheduled Sept. 19.

-**Madison Barnett**—continues to have pain—many tests and no answers yet.

-**Samuel Haynes** is recovering from successful ear surgery Aug. 4.

-**Al Behel** has begun PT post knee replacement surgery—he hopes to be back with us next Sunday.

-**Speakers Today**- Our speaker this morning and this evening in Al's absence is **Danny Cline**. The Sunday morning adult Bible Class will be led by **Rick Cliett**.

****Reception today** to celebrate the marriage of **Ian and Abby Ragan**** (grandson of Bob and Patty Adair) in the fellowship hall from 2-5 p.m. Cake cutting at 2:30 p.m.

Directory Updates: Please review your directory information and make any additions or corrections and send these to Linda at lbehel@ix.netcom.com.

Food Contact For Month: Sue Hayes

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.— "War in the Soul" - 1 Peter 2:9-12—**Danny Cline**
P.M. - "Where is Your Faith?" - Luke 8:22-25—**Danny Cline**

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

Prayers for Our Known Sick

-**Dez Anderson**— still suffering with multiple health issues.

-**Sheryle Elkins**—continuing chemotherapy. PET Scan was good.

-**Bill Valentine** is recovering from esophageal cancer.

-**Larry Valentine**—skin cancer removed requiring numerous stitches.

-**Joyce Keyser**—undergoing chemotherapy and radiation for peritoneal cancer.

-**Patsy Bevis**—very weak from some blood chemistry imbalances.

-**Bill Green**—suffering from several health issues.

-**Jean Compton**—is recovering at home.

-**Kathy May** battling ongoing health issues.

-**Pauline Swallow** is dealing with cancer.

-**Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**— they are facing several challenges.

-**Larry Barnett** - has begun cardiac rehab.

-**Charles & Frances Copeland**—newborn great granddaughter, Madeline Grace Kirby, remains in critical condition.

-**Sue Mercer** recovering from a procedure on her back.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Jackie Stearsman**, friend of Al Behel, has leukemia.

-**David Timmerman**—friend of the Behels—advanced cancer.

-**Harold Petty**, Elaine and Marti's uncle, is now in rehab and recovering well after breaking his hip.

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

-**Maegan White**, Joyce Keyser's cousin, post brain surgery, not doing well but continues to experience pain.

-**Chris Robertson**, Brenda Scott's sister is home after hip surgery.

-**Sue Hayes' sister-in-law, Jane Hufford**, is suffering with a recurrence of Leukemia needs a bone marrow transplant.

-**Pat Thomas**, friend of members, battling bladder cancer.

-**Nita Watern**, Brenda Scott's niece, continuing chemotherapy for liver cancer.

-**Jim & Judy Watkins**— Rick's sister and husband, continuing health issues.

-**Catherine Rose**, Leah's 96 year old neighbor, receiving PT to regain strength.

-**Dee Lewis**, friend of the Clietts, 6th occurrence stage 4 cancer.

-**Mark Baker**, Coleen Thomason's brother-in-law, has pneumonia.

Grief Support Group—see **Patty Adair** for more information.

Ladies Bible Study—Resumes on Tuesday, Sept. 6 with Polly Cline leading a wonderful study on "Hunger in My Soul" at 10 a.m. every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall—Plan now to attend!

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session

Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Rick Cliett "Essence of Faith" -
Hebrews 11

Sunday Adult Class

Rick Cliett—Shield of Faith—
Ephesians 6

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 07/02/16 is **\$1,002,855.22**. 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.