

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Are You A Bargain Hunter?

This is the time for major bargains. Black Friday and Cyber Monday are two of the biggest shopping days of the year. People actually stand in line for hours just to get that discounted item. Weary shoppers crowd the stores from early morning to late at night. Since I don't like to stand in long lines I end up paying the higher price.

Spiritually, there are many bargain hunters. They look for the best deals and they will fight hard to get to them...just to save a little on the cost. Satan is in the marketing business. He advertises his products beautifully and promises great savings. He takes advantage of our insatiable desire to get the most for the least investment. He offers cheap grace.

Dietrick Bonhoeffer, German minister who gave his life under Hitler in defense of his faith, points out that grace cannot be had without the cross. Regarding cheap grace, Bonhoeffer said, "Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does everything they say, and so everything can remain as it was before.... Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

He adds, "Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods."

We want a bargain. Give us salvation without obedience, eternal life without repentance and sacrifice. We love shortcuts and Satan is all the more willing to offer them. That's why we are quick to alter the requirements for discipleship, promising that God is still pleased when we claim allegiance to Him without full surrender to His plan for our salvation.

Are you a bargain hunter? Are you looking for shortcuts? Looking for cheap grace without true discipleship? God doesn't give discounts on what He has offered to us. A counter offer will be rejected.

—Al Behel

### Other News and Sick:

**-Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class:** The final class for 2017 will be December 5th.

**-Cookie Exchange-Ladies:** December 7 at 7 p.m. at Tracey Kilberg's home.

**-Trisha Hayes-**prayers for a safe delivery of her and Travis' baby boy on November 29. Kenny and Beth Hayes are Travis' parents.

**-Oscar Perez**—serious blockages in neck artery too near brain to operate.

**Please mark your calendars** for our **Holiday Party** on December 2 at 6 p.m. This will be a covered dish celebration of the season. Please come and enjoy the fellowship and entertainment.

**Gifts for Honduras:** We have been involved in mission work in LaEsperanza, Honduras for more than 10 years. If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of gifts for children and families for the holidays, please give your donation to one of the elders or to Al. Family income there is about \$5 per day. Your help in the past has done much good in touching hearts and encouraging these wonderful Christians.



### Have You Had Your Picture Made?

If you haven't had your picture made, please see Beth Hayes or Linda Behel. We are trying to complete all pictures today.

**Food Contact For Month:** Beth Hayes, Ginny Cliett back up.

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.—"Because God Meant It For Good" -Gen. 50:1-3; 15-26  
P.M.— "The Fullness of Christ"

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

### Our Known Sick

**-Dez Anderson**— is now at home. She is battling many health issues and is confined to home. Please keep her and Jim in your prayers.

**-Sheryle Elkins**— has been transferred to Sevierville Rehab Center, room 101. The family is requesting no visitors at this time. Thank you for keeping her in your prayers. Also prayers for Dan as he struggles with his own health issues as well as Sheryle's.

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

**-James Crowson** (who moved here from Florida several months ago) was hit head-on in a collision a few weeks ago. He suffered a broken bone in his neck and will be in a brace for 12 weeks. He is improving and looks forward to being back in worship soon.

**-Ron Sommerville**—now at home and seems to be making significant improvement. Keep him and Carol in your prayers.

**-Charles Copeland**—doing better after hospitalization for breathing difficulties. He and Francis have gone back to Florida. Thank you for your continued prayers on his behalf.

**-Kenny Jones**—has been released from rehab and was able to be back with us last Sunday night. Please keep him in prayer.

**-Members:** Many of our members have been battling illnesses during the past few weeks. Rick and Ginny, Dan and others have been sick.

**-Charles & Frances Copeland-** great granddaughter, **Madeline Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder.

### Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

**-Sue & Marc Hayes'** sister-in-law, **Jane Hufford**, second transplant (peripheral blood transplant rather than bone marrow transplant) appears to be successful. Prayers are requested for her.

**-Jessica Anderson**, 35 year old niece of the Tollivers, has stage 3 breast cancer. Double mastectomy was done recently.

**-Rick Cliett's** niece, **Penny**—is doing better.

**-Prayer request for Tim Tolley**, Charlotte Jones' brother-in-law.

**-Lauren Meier's son, Hunter**, suffered an injury. His address is 3378 Boogertown Rd, Sevierville, TN 37876.

**-Cason Barnett** asked us to remember his 3rd grade friend at school, Vinny (8 years old), who is suffering from a lung disease.

**-Eric Behel**, Al's nephew, is still having serious liver problems and is taking continuous antibiotics in hope of being placed on a donor list.

**-Bob Martin**, Al's brother-in-law, fell last week and broke his ankle. Surgery was delayed. He fell Saturday and broke his hand.

### Sunday Adult Class

Titus 2 —Al Behel

### Wednesday Night Class

"Sermon on the Mount"—Rick Cliett

### Ladies-Bible Class-Dec.5, 10am

"Hunger In My Soul: I Will Be Your God, You Will Be My People"—

Polly Cline

### Men's Prayer Session

Mondays—8:30 AM

### 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 11/17/17 is **\$927,396.67**. 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](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com).