

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XXI. No. 10

March 05, 2017

That Little Country Church

I loved that little country church in my community. It was a small white building with no bathrooms or water coolers. At first, it was heated with a coal burning stove that sat to one side of the auditorium. It had no baptistry or classrooms. The plain light fixtures in the ceiling provided easy access for the wasps in all seasons of the year. After church the children would play in the yard and woods while the adults visited and caught up on their week's activities. My nine-year-old brother's grave rested under one of the trees in the church graveyard.

Preaching was often done by twice-a-month speakers until we could afford a "regular" preacher. There was never a full-time minister...always men who supported themselves with other jobs. Children's classes were held outside under the shade trees in the summer and in cars in the winter. Finally, classrooms and bathrooms were added...built by the men and teenage boys. The auditorium was enlarged and the outside was bricked. Gas heat replaced the coal-fired heater.

That little church has many memories. Everybody was important to that church and that church was important to everybody. Dinners-on-ground were big events, followed by singings that attracted folks for miles around. Gospel Meetings were an annual event. Nearly 20 preachers were "trained" there with three of them growing up in that church. Many elders, Bible class teachers, and godly Christians were developed through the influence of that little church. Membership was usually around 40 to 60, but mission work and caring for the homeless was always a top priority. This church reminds me that God depends on people and not things to accomplish His work...and I am thankful that He allowed me to grow up among them.

Maybe you have some similar memories about your child-hood church. Its not the building that is important, but the people who helped shape your life and mine. They were simply being the real church that God used to make us who we are today. And we are thankful for them.

—Al Behel

Disaster Relief Update: A complete report is available in the foyer of the activities of our disaster relief program to date. The report was emailed to our members. Visitors: Please feel free to take a copy back to your congregation. We need men to help unload a trailer load of appliances Monday at 10 am and a load of furniture Tuesday at 12 noon.

-Bottles of Love—Now through March—pick up a bottle in the foyer and fill it with coins or GREEN. Also checks may be made out to this church and earmarked for Bottles of Love at any time. These funds assist the ladies in providing for the needs of 20 local newborns per month.

-Ladies Bible Class: Due to two trailer loads of appliances and furniture on Monday and Tuesday, the ladies class will be postponed one week to Tuesday, March 14 at 10 a.m. Polly Cline will lead the study on "Hunger In My Soul."

-The Special Combined Youth Class will meet in the fellowship hall and/or the teen room.

-Secret Sister Reveal and Potluck dinner will be on March 25th from noon to 2:00 p.m. Finally find out who she is!!

NEEDED: We need 2 male volunteers each day between 9-1 to assist the ladies who are working with our disaster relief and to help provide security for them. If you can assist please see Helen Barnett or Leah Turner.

Sympathy to Fred and Denise Bartley in the death last Sunday of Denise's mother, Betty Coleman. Fred works at Dollywood. They attend church with us.

Men's and Ladies' meetings TODAY at 4 p.m.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner, back up Patty Adair

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson (865-924-1067)

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "The Empty Tomb" (John 19:38-20:18)
P.M. - "Give Us This Day"

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.
- Patty Adair**—post shoulder surgery pain and difficulties.
- Dan Elkins**—ongoing back pain.
- Sheryle Elkins**—continuing chemotherapy. CT scan showed a minimal increase in size of the nodules in her lungs. Prayers appreciated.
- Joyce Keyser**—Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. Please continue to pray for her progress and control of her cancer.
- Bobby Gilbert**—glad he is recovering well from his recent heart attack. Was good to have him back with us last Sunday.
- Bill Green**—suffering from many health issues.
- Jean Compton**—is recovering at home.
- Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**—Jerry is having many challenges and Jeanette has bronchitis and is continuing to recover from a broken hand
- Kenny Jones** is in the PF Rehab Center, Room 219-A.
- Charles & Frances Copeland**—newborn great granddaughter, **Made-line Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder.
- Clara Mayberry**, one of our members who has been confined to home for a long time, is in PF Nursing Home, room 228 B. She would appreciate visits and cards.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

- Meagan White**, Joyce's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.
- Shannon Barnett**, son of Larry and Helen, had a good report from MD Anderson and does not have to return for six months.
- Cathy Haynes' mother, **Rosemary Spivey**, fell and had to have surgery—she is home but her left arm is in a lot of pain.
- 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.
- Breana Ward**, age 32, stage 4 cancer—has three children. Prayers and cards requested. Address in foyer. This family visits with us.
- Jessica Anderson**, 35 year old niece of the Tollivers, has stage 3b breast cancer. Double mastectomy was done recently.
- James Jester**, father of the Keyser's son-in-law, had brain surgery last week due to Parkinson's Disease.
- Mariejane's brother-in-law's** surgery to amputate his leg was postponed. He is currently improving and surgery may not be needed!
- Connie Clepper**, Linda Behel's cousin, has a recurrence of mouth and neck cancer and is in critical condition at this time. Her address is: Connie Clepper, 2350 Fair Oaks Ct., Cumming, GA 30040

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
2 Timothy 1 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
Danny Cline will lead our study

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 02/17/17 is **\$982,359.60** 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.