

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XXI. No. 38
September 17, 2017

Will He Find Faith?

Jesus asked, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8) That is a sobering question. What will Jesus be looking for when He returns? What will He find us doing? What priorities will dominate our lives? What will be the passion that consumes us?

I wonder if the faith Jesus will find when He returns will move His heart. I wonder if He will be "amazed" at our commitment to trust Him even when the odds are against us. I wonder if He will find disciples who will stand in the gap between an unbelieving world and a God Who never lets us down.

Perhaps the question should be, "Will He find real faith" when He returns, or will He find a fantasy faith that trusts God to do His part regardless of how we treat Him, whether we obey Him, or whether we make any real commitment of our lives to Him. A fantasy faith sees God on the one hand as being indifferent to our offensive lives, and on the other hand as a God who will reward us for the slightest nod in His direction.

Fantasy faith believes that God doesn't take His own Word seriously, nor does He expect us to be serious about our obedience to Him. This faith sees God as one who states clearly His will for us but ignores all but the most extensive defiance of His will.

Fantasy faith trusts God to always be there for us even when we are not there for Him. It seeks forgiveness without repentance, blessings without obedience, and eternal life without faithfulness. This faith offers life without a cross and resurrection without a death. It claims a corner on God's power, and places the responsibility clearly on His shoulders to "come through" for us whenever we need Him. Fantasy faith is really no faith at all.

—Al Behel

OTHER SICK AND NEWS

-**Bill Sears**, son of Patsy Bevis, has colon cancer. He lives in Ohio and is now at home and declared cancer free. Patsy is back with us.

-**Jesse Cox**, Sue Hayes' nephew, was T-boned by a drunk driver in an auto accident in Nashville and suffered serious injuries. He is a police officer.

EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday we will have a special collection to meet the goal of \$2 Million Dollars to purchase Bibles for schools in Ukraine, Russia, and Romania. Please plan to give generously.

Picture Time

In order to make it easier to identify everyone and to meet a request by visitors, we are in the process of preparing a pictorial bulletin board in the hallway to the right of the front lobby. **Next Sunday** Bryan Kendrick and Marijane Hill will begin taking pictures of members in the fellowship hall. Please sign the list in the front lobby to indicate the time you wish to have yours taken. Those unable to have one taken may submit a 4x6 print to be used. If you have questions please see Beth Hayes who is coordinating the picture project. Each picture will be mounted using an easy to use plastic sleeve allowing for convenient rearranging when changes need to be made.



Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"How To Win Over The Devil" (1 Peter 5:5-11)

P.M.—"Destructive Attitudes: Apathy, I Don't Know & I Don't Care"

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 treatment for cancer. Her scan showed the chemo is working! Praise God! Please keep praying for her and Dan.

-**Dan Elkins**— dealing with several health issues.

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

-**Wyatt Cox** (3 years old) -is continuing to do well following his third open heart surgery.

-**Les Jewell**-continuing to improve following a recent brainstem stroke.

-**Ron and Carolyn Sommerville**—keep praying.

-**Larry Barnett** is now at home and feeling much better.

-**Madison Barnett** - diagnosed with congenital ectopic gastric mucosa, an inflammatory gastric condition that is treated with medication.

-**Charles & Frances Copeland**- great granddaughter, **Madeline Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder. She has been moved to Alabama for a special treatment.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Hal Elkins**, Tom Elkins' brother- advanced metastasized lung cancer.

-**Nita Watern**, Brenda Scott's niece, is now in Hospice care.

-**Meagan White**, Joyce's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.

-**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.

-**B.W. Ausborn**, frequent visitors from Fulton, MS.—bladder cancer. His wife, Irene, has requested that we pray for him.

-**Rick Cliett's** niece, **Penny**—liver failure. She is doing a little better.

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

Ladies Bible Class: The next ladies Bible class will meet on September 19 with Polly Cline leading a study in "Hunger In My Soul-The Intentional God"

Baptistery Replacement: Tom Elkins is in the process of removing our old baptistery and replacing it with a new one due to continued leaks and heater dysfunction. The process will take a few weeks. Meanwhile, we have other arrangements for baptisms.

Grief Group-Patty Adair begins Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. for six weeks of two hour sessions—see Patty for more information.

Legos-any outgrown sets please give to Patty Adair for K-1 classes.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
Titus 1 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
"Sermon on the Mount"
Rick Cliett

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 09/15/17 is **\$937,556.96**. 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.