

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XXI. No. 06

February 05, 2017

When God Laughs

Laughter is good medicine. That was Solomon's conclusion. Humans laugh when they are happy. Some laugh at the misfortunes of others. Funny stories and jokes elicit laughter. But, have you ever considered that God also laughs?

When the Scriptures tell us of God's laughter it is usually a sad day for man. The Old Testament records at least four occasions when God laughs. Each time God is laughing at man's foolishness, rebellion, and pride.

Psalms 2:4 tells us how God responds to those who reject His supreme authority: "He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision." This Messianic Psalm declares that God expects all in positions of power to submit to the authority of Him who "sits in the heavens." God laughs at those who would pretend to stand up against the ultimate authority of heaven.

Psalms 37:13 tells us that "the Lord laughs at the wicked, for He sees that his day is coming." As an old man, King David gives encouragement to those who try to serve God in the middle of a wicked, sinful world. He assures the righteous that God is still in charge and will ultimately punish the wicked and reward the faithful.

In Psalm 59:8 David prays for his enemies and expresses his trust in God. In response to the enemy's taunts and jeers, David says, "But You, O Lord, laugh at them; you scoff at all the nations." David's confidence in God as the great Deliverer was rewarded with victory over his adversaries.

Solomon spoke of those who scoff at God's will and reject true wisdom. The Lord's response to them is recorded in Proverbs 1:26, "I will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you." The apostle Paul declares that the "preaching of the cross is foolishness" to those who are perishing. Finite man cannot comprehend the God of Infinity. Trusting ourselves brings "calamity" and chaos. God watches and laughs at our foolishness.

Truly, it is a sad day when God laughs. God laughs at our arrogance and pride. When we flex our muscles to demonstrate our strength, the Almighty who brought the worlds and universes into existence by the Word of His mouth, laughs at our delusive thinking. When we point to our great scientific discoveries and conclude that there is no God out there, God laughs at our blindness and stupidity. Without Him nothing would exist.

God is still in charge whether we acknowledge it or believe it. The God Who awakens the dawn and cradles the sparrows in His hand quietly observes our doings and is unscathed by our attacks upon Him. But He Who "sits in the heavens" weeps through the laughter because He knows that without Him we are nothing.

—Al Behel

Disaster Relief Update: To date we have received 1 tractor trailer load of emergency supplies, 2 loads of furniture, 1 load of bedding, 1 load of appliances, and another load should arrive on Thursday. In addition, thousands of dollars have been provided for food, utilities, rent, and many other needs. Two automobiles were donated and placed. Our thanks to so many who have worked so hard and given so much. Plans are to keep the relief office open through March 10. That date may be adjusted and help will continue to be available beyond that date.

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

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.- "Are You One Of His Disciples?" (John 18:15-18,25-27)
P.M.- "Do You Want To Be Healed?" (John 5:1-16)

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 chemotherapy. Her CT scan results show a minimal increase in size of her nodules in her lungs.

-**Tina Yates** had a heart cath Thursday—report was excellent.

-**Dan Elkins**—been battling several health challenges.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**—heart cath last Thursday.

-**Joyce Keyser**-Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. Please continue to pray for her progress and control of her cancer. It is so good to see her back with us.

-**Larry Barnett**—waiting to complete some tests and for the results.

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

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

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

-**Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**—Jerry is having many challenges and Jeanette has a broken arm—her mother is very ill also.

-**Bob and Patty Adair** are both recovering from surgery.

-**Charles & Frances Copeland**-newborn great granddaughter, **Madeleine Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder. Prognosis is not good. She is home at this time.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Mikey Sheffield**, Barnett's granddaughter's husband, is recovering after having gall bladder removal surgery on Friday.

-**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.

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

-**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.

Other News

-**Ladies Bible Class:** Meets every first and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul." Next meeting February 7.

-**The Special Combined Youth Class** meets Sunday in the small foyer as the fellowship hall is being used for disaster relief supplies.

-**NEEDED:** ONE additional male to help disaster relief Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2. Several needed to help unload truck on Thursday.

-**Disaster Relief Office** will be closed on Monday of this week for R&R and medical appointments of those staffing.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
1 Timothy 6 —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 01/14/17 is **\$987,565.76**. 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.