

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
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The Wrong Grave

Some years ago I conducted the funeral of a physician whose life was characterized by many humorous events. He was the epitome of the "absent minded professor." Following the funeral in which I relayed numerous comical events in his life we gathered at the cemetery for the burial. The casket was placed over the open grave, guests assembled around the casket, and I was about ready to begin with my final words when the doctor's widow stepped up to me and said, "Al, this is the wrong grave. Our graves are over the hill." I looked at her and we both broke into laughter as we agreed that the late physician would find the event hilarious. We agreed to not mention the fact, complete the service, and have the doctor's body moved to the appropriate site after the guests had left.

I have often laughed about having this doctor's funeral at the wrong grave. But that wasn't the significant part of his life. The important thing was how he lived, not where his final eulogy was delivered. His life was his story. His heart was his badge of honor. His faith in God was his greatest strength. His memory continues to live on because he touched the lives of thousands.

Well, Jesus wasn't buried in his own grave either. Instead, he was buried in a *borrowed* grave. The crowd had gone home. It was late in the day and he had no place to be buried. Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish ruling council, wrapped his body and laid it in his own rock-hewn tomb. It was the *right* grave. Because Jesus only needed it for two nights and three days and it was used to accomplish God's eternal plan. His body was wrapped in burial clothes; the tomb was sealed. Angels stood by...waiting. And watching. Then it happened! He arose! *He arose!* That grave opened up by the power of God to declare his victory over death and the grave. Thank God! **Christ arose!**

Al Behel

Disaster Relief Update: To date we have provided 6 tractor trailer loads of supplies to those affected by the fires. In addition, thousands of dollars have been provided for food, utilities, rent, and many other needs. Two automobiles were donated and placed. Around 435 families, including about 1400 individuals have been served through our distribution from our building. Additionally, we have responded to more than 200 school children and families. Volunteers have taken other supplies including food and clothing to shelters. We also passed out food and other supplies from our station at Boyd's Bear Distribution Center. Gift cards to Walmart, Lowes, Home Depot, Kroger, Shell, Food City, Burger King, Subway, and Dollar General have been given to victims and have supplied medical-related assistance to those affected by the fires. Three persons have been baptized into Christ and several persons are attending services with us. Others have expressed plans to join us as soon as they can move back to the area. 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.

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Jesus' Trial Before Pilate" (John 18:28-19:16)

P.M. - "The Golden Rule, Unconditional Love" (Matt. 7:12)

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.

-DeEtte Alexander had cataract removal surgery on Thursday.

-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 suffered a heart attack near Columbia, TN on Thursday. Kaye said he would be discharged on Saturday and they would plan to spend night in Crossville. Prayers appreciated.

-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.

-Kenny Jones has been moved to PF Rehab Center, Room 207-B.

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

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.

Linda Behel's cousin, **Connie Clepper**, had a recurrence of mouth and neck cancer and is in critical condition at this time. Cards would be appreciated:

Connie Clepper
2350 Fair Oaks Ct.
Cumming, GA 30040

Helped by our disaster relief, **Josh & Megan Williams** returned home to family where they were subsequently baptized and now attend Willett Church of Christ. They are thankful to all for the assistance and kindness. Address is:
1324 Wartrace Hwy.
Whitleyville, TN 38588

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
I 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 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.