

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister  
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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### When Winter Comes

*"Do your best to get here before winter" (2 Timothy 4:21)*

Paul was in a dungeon prison cell in the city of Rome. The year was about 67 A. D. Seventy percent of the city had burned three years earlier, and to deflect the blame from himself, the Emperor Nero had accused Christians of setting the fire. Since Paul was so prominently known, Nero was more than happy to fix the major responsibility on him as the ringleader. Now, living out his days in that cold, damp, lonely cell, Paul asks Timothy to bring him a coat before winter.

Although Paul was facing imminent death, the main concern of his heart was for others...the churches he had established, friends he loved and who were suffering, others he longed to see, and especially for Timothy. Twice in his letter he asked Timothy to come and see him.

There are always winters in our lives. Times when we are alone, or think we are. Times when it seems hopeless. Times when we feel the dampness deep within our souls. We need the cloak of friends who are there with us, who wrap their arms around us and tell us that it will be all right, even when we know the road ahead is rough.

In times like this we need to do what Paul did. We need to shift our concern to others. To causes greater than ourselves...and to a mission worth dying for. When the steel axe severed that noble head from Paul's shoulders which had borne it so long, he took the fun out of it by declaring, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* Then he adds, *"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me in that day..."* (2 Timothy 4:7,8). They could take his head, but they couldn't take his crown.

When winter comes to your life, remember the apostle Paul. Remember his suffering...but also his victory. And don't forget to ask someone to come into your life *"before winter."* The prayerful support of those who love us makes the struggle more bearable and the victory much sweeter.

—Al Behel

**-Jeanette Dyer**— please keep praying for her as she continues to grieve the loss of her sister, Freda Ramsey. Another memorial service will be conducted this weekend in Little Rock, AR. Jeanette has many challenges as she tries to address the daily struggles taking care of Jerry in his deteriorating condition.

**-Graduation Celebration** will be tonight following worship. This will be a potluck dinner and you are asked to sign the sheet in the lobby to indicate kind of dish you will bring. There is also a card box on the table in the front foyer designated for our seniors. Graduates this year are: **Caroline Holliman** (SCHS), **Rachel Bailey** (SCHS), **Lydia Cantrell** (Tennessee Tech, Cookeville), **Josh Hawkes** (Home schooled), **Warren Dick** (Greeneville HS), **Samantha Sheffield** (EMT School at Walters State), **Ryan Bates** (SCHS), and **Lady Nwadike** (Spelman College, Atlanta). We appreciate our graduates. Come celebrate with us!

**-Our Thanks** to our young men who did an outstanding job leading our worship last Sunday night.

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

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.— *"Loving God, Loving Jesus"* (Matt. 10:37; Jn. 8:39-47)  
P.M.— *"The Challenge Is Ahead"*

**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. Other treatment is being considered. Please keep praying for her and Dan.

**-Dan Elkins**— good to see he is feeling better and back with us.

**-Joyce Keyser**—Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. Please continue to pray for her progress and control of her cancer.

**-Herman Byrne**—several tumors inside the bladder have penetrated into the muscle. Further tests will be done and treatment options will be considered. Please pray for Herman and Ruth.

**-Larry Barnett**— Test show no leukemia! We give God glory! He is scheduled for a sleep study on May 20..

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

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

**-Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**—Jerry is having many challenges and is in steady decline, according to Hospice.

**-Kenny Jones** is in LeConte Medical Center, Rm 304. Plans to transfer him to Parkwest have been delayed. Keep praying for Kenny.

**-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.

**-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.

**-Otis Hawkes'** sister, **Darlene Clark**, is in critical condition in Colorado.

**-Roger Thompson**, Chris' son, thanks everyone for your prayers.

**-Ladies Bible Class:** The ladies Bible class will meet 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 10 a.m. Polly Cline will lead the study on *"Hunger In My Soul."*

**Church Humor:** Most people go to church three times during their life-time: We they are hatched, matched, and dispatched.

**Food For Thought:** Life has many choices. Eternity has two.

### Special Events

**Men's Prayer Session**  
Monday mornings at 8:30

**Sunday Adult Class**  
2 Timothy 1-2 —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 03/22/17 is **\$967,303.84** 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).