

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Living In Luxury

*"Moah has been at ease from his youth...so his taste remains"* (Jeremiah 48:11)

An epitaph reads, *"My wealth consisted not in the largeness of my means, but in the fewness of my wants."* How many wants do you have? How many of your wants do you consider to be necessities? Statisticians estimate that today the average American has over 500 wants. This compares with statistics in the late 1800's when there were 72 wants and 16 necessities.

Advertisers have bombarded us with "want" lists. We are told that we will be happier, live longer, be the envy of our neighbors, and have better relationships if we buy their products. Back when the "want list" consisted of 72 items there were only 200 items being pushed by advertisers. Today the list is countless. A little parody expresses it this way, *"Hush little luxury, don't you cry; you'll be a necessity by and by!"*

If you compared your want list with your need list which would be greater? Researches have determined that our want list is several times larger than our need list. One of Satan's greatest lies is to tell us that we don't have enough. We can easily become miserable when we our wants become necessities.

Jeremiah tells us that Moab was fat and lazy because *"he has been at ease from his youth."* The nation had become so accustomed to luxury that the thought of sacrifice and struggle was a repulsive thought. Moab's insatiable thirst for things brought God's judgment upon this nation.

Plutarch describes how Alexander the Great and his Macedonian troops became flabby and undisciplined because of the luxury they acquired by conquering their enemies. Once strong and vigilant soldiers became self-indulgent and lazy. The empire crumpled before their eyes.

Luxury is a mixed blessing. It challenges us to choose faith over pride, selflessness over greed, and compassion for others who have less of the earth's bounty. It challenges us to put our trust in a God who supplies our needs and not in a heavenly grandfather who fills our every want with things which may ultimately destroy our ability to struggle and win. Strength grows through pain and character is developed through discipline.

—Al Behel

### Other News

**-Deepest Sympathy—To Ruth Bryne** and her family in the death of our beloved brother, **Herman Bryne**, who passed away on Friday night at home. The family will receive friends at the GSMC building on Tuesday from 3-5 PM with the funeral immediately following. Burial will be at the Middle Creek Cemetery.

**-Our Sympathy** is also extended to **Jim Anderson** in the death of his last surviving sibling, **Elsie Johnson**, who passed away at 5 pm on Saturday. Our prayers are with Jim and his family.

**Carolyn Sommerville**—is in ICU at Tennova West (Turkey Creek) Medical Center in Knoxville. She had undergone surgery to remove a section of her intestine a week and half ago and had come home on Wednesday. She was taken back yesterday and was placed in ICU with swelling in her stomach and probable pneumonia. Keep Carolyn, Ron, and their family in your prayers.

**-VBS**—Our thanks to all who helped make VBS a great success.

**Food Contact For Month:** Patty Adair and Priscilla Dick

**Elder Contact for Month:** Marc Hayes (731-608-4148)

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.—*"Three Great Commands"* (1 Peter 1:10-2:3)

P.M.—*"Helping Those Who Hurt"* and a season of prayer

**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. Please keep praying for her and Dan.

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

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

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

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

**-Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**—Jerry is in rapid decline and has been given a few days to live. Please keep him and Jeanette in your prayers. They are deeply loved by the church family.

**-Wyatt Cox** (3 years old) will have his third open heart surgery on Tuesday, June 20, at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Prayers please.

**-Patty Adair** will have day surgery in Nashville on Monday, June 19, for a torn abductor tendon in her hip.

**-Les Jewell** will be having in-home rehab following his recent brainstem stroke. He is in good spirits and is making progress.

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

**-Lindsey Cuevar**, Mrs. Rosa's daughter, had ear surgery this week.

### 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, is now in remission from her cancer. 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.

**-B.W. Ausborn**, from Fulton, MS.—his wife, Irene, has requested that we pray for B.W. as he undergoes a radical cystectomy for bladder cancer on May 24th.

**-Faye Cline**, Pat England's mother, has lung cancer and has been given 6-8 months to live. Please keep her, Pat, and family in your prayers.

**-Steve Durbin** from Montgomery, AL was released from the hospital this week and is staying at Cedar Lake Condominiums while receiving rehab. He had a severe attack of COPD. He and Diane visit with us periodically. He is slowly recuperating.

### Special Events

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

**Sunday Adult Class**  
2 Timothy 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 06/15/17 is **\$953,316.39** 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).