

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XXI. No. 29

July 16, 2017

If I Were God For A Day

A popular game show in the 1950's was entitled, "Queen For A Day." It was a sob show in which women in desperate circumstances described their dreams. The audience selected the winner by their applause and the winner received her "crown" along with her dream.

I have often wondered what it would be like to be God for a day. I have occasionally switched roles with my young patients, allowing them to sit in my chair and be the "doctor". I will describe "my" problems, which are actually the child's problems, and ask for advice to help me deal with them. The advice I receive is incredibly on target. The experience is often the turning point in the child's treatment.

How would I handle switching roles with God? How would I react to the lack of gratitude and selfishness and evil in the world? How would I respond to the half-hearted prayers of those who claim to have faith in me but distrust my decisions? I wonder how I would deal with those who poke fun at me or deny my existence. How would I deal with those who say my Word is the source of authority for living but who disregard clear instructions which I have given to them? How could I extend grace to those who exploit it and claim unabashed freedom to do as they please?

If I were God for a day would I look favorably on those who sing "All to Jesus I Surrender", while complaining about how much the church seems to require of me? Would I be willing to continue to pour blessings upon greedy people who never lift their eyes to heaven and say "thank you"? Could I resist the temptation to use my unlimited power to teach vivid lessons to insolent, arrogant, defiant, and disobedient people?

When I consider these questions I think I would rather leave the business of being God to God. I don't think I would make a very good God. I am grateful that He is in charge and that He is patient with me as I struggle to joyfully do His will. I am thankful that He doesn't react as I would, that He is forgiving and loving toward me when I fail, and that He gives me another chance. I am glad to have a God who understands me and intervenes on my behalf. I am glad my God is a Savior, a Redeemer, and Friend.

—Al Behel

OTHER SICK AND NEWS

- Tom Elkins sister-in-law, **Sandy Elkins**, successful surgery to repair torn ligament.
- Rick Cliett's niece, **Penny**—given a short time to live due to liver failure. Has surrendered to Christ and has asked for prayers.
- **Kenny Jones**—transferred to Newport Rehab Center. He will appreciate prayers, visits, and cards. His address is 135 Generation Dr., Newport, TN 37821. (By the way, he loves snacks).
- Deepest Sympathy To **Naomi Nwadike** in the death of her mother, **Esme McIntyre**, who passed away this week at Naomi and Emmanuel's home. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. Arrangements are unknown at this time.
- Rick and Ginny** will be returning the end of July. We have missed them!
- Gary Dick** will do a special presentation July 30th on their recent trip to Israel. He will share a PowerPoint presentation.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair and Priscilla Dick

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"In His Steps" (1 Peter 2:21-25)
P.M.— "Never Grow Old"

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.
- 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.
- Wyatt Cox** (3 years old) -is home from Vanderbilt Children's Hospital following his third open heart surgery. He has been a real trooper and is progressing well. Keep praying for the success of his surgery. His recovery is expected to take a while.
- Les Jewell** is continuing to improve following a recent brainstem stroke. It was good to have him and Barbara back last Sunday night.
- Carolyn Sommerville**—very weak and struggling, as well as Ron. Her doctor is trying to arrange for home health.
- Charles & Frances Copeland**-newborn great granddaughter, **Madeleine Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder.
- Martha**, Mrs. Rosa's daughter, had a serious foot injury. She is diabetic. Lindsay seems to be doing better but has a few lingering ear issues.

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**, frequent visitors from Fulton, MS.—bladder cancer. His wife, Irene, has requested that we pray for him.
- 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.
- Rosemary Spivy**, Cathy Haynes' mother—Wellpark Rehab Center, Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville—following shoulder surgery.
- Cindy Wills**, Tina's daughter, quadruple bypass.
- Tyler Behel**, Al's nephew, deployed to Iraq. Third deployment.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
2 Timothy 4 —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 07/14/17 is **\$948,182.02** 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.