

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Failure To Protect

Sometimes when children are abused or neglected parents or caregivers are charged with a failure to protect. The result of this failure is serious damage to the children emotionally and physically. Custody of those children may be taken from the parents and given to someone who will appropriately care for them. This is a legitimate response to such failure.

Sometimes God gets bad press. He is blamed when bad things happen, when loved ones die, when misfortune hits, when prayers aren't answered the way we want, and when good people suffer. We generally expect that God is going to protect us from everything that would harm us. We seem to forget that He is not the author of bad things.

I have often heard people question God's goodness as if He is a negligent parent. "I asked God to help me but He didn't come through. If He is so loving, why didn't He help me?" That is a difficult question that challenges the faith of some well-meaning believers. Why doesn't He intervene when we are suffering?

The problem is that our basic assumption about God is faulty. Could God protect us from every evil? Of course He could...if He took away our own free will, or if He chose to negate the consequences of man's original sin. The apostle Paul tells us that through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world and death through sin...and death has passed to all men. We are not guilty of Adam's sin but we are clearly reaping the fruit of his choice.

God has not let us down. We cannot avoid all the bad things, but we can be assured with King David that, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Thou art with me" (Psalm 23). His presence gives strength to endure...not to escape from all the bad things that can happen to us. Good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people. The difference is that God's servants are not stopped by illness or death.

—Al Behel

### OTHER SICK AND NEWS

#### -Sympathy To:

**Dwight Grizzell** in the death of his mother, Laurel Grizzell, who passed away earlier this week. Her funeral is today (Sunday) in Winchester, TN. Prayers for the Grizzell family.

**Mrs. Rosa** in the loss of her sister last Sunday. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

**-Bill Sears**, son of Patsy Bevis, has colon cancer. He lives in Ohio.

**-Jesse Cox**, Sue Hayes' nephew, was t-boned by a drunk driver in an auto accident in Nashville and suffered serious injuries. He is a police officer.

**-Irma Martinez** is awaiting surgery again in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Irma and her father are assisted by the GSM church in mission work in La Esperanza and surrounding areas.

**-In Honor of Bob and Joyce:** Our hearts grieve as Bob and Joyce leave us to move to Lubbock, TX this week. They have been a vital part of our congregation for several years. Please bring finger foods and drinks (esp., diet Dr. Pepper) and join us after services this evening for a going away dinner honoring this wonderful couple.

**Food Contact For Month:** Patty Adair

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.- "Living to the Glory of God" (1 Peter 4:1-11)  
P.M.- "Let's Be Real"

**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.

**-Bobby Gilbert**—latest heart cath indicated some blockages—one was fixed with others to be scheduled. His daughter is scheduled for tests.

**-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**— Scans show no trace of cancer. We praise God for His loving kindness!

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

**-Kenny Jones**—Good to see him back with us after extensive rehab.

**-Wyatt Cox** (3 years old) -is continuing to do well following his third open heart surgery.

**-Les Jewell** is continuing to improve following a recent brainstem stroke. It good to have him and Barbara back with us.

**-Ron and Carolyn Sommerville**—keep praying.

**-Brooklyn and Braelyn Sheffield**—tonsillectomies this past week.

**-Larry Barnett** had back surgery on Thursday at LeConte Medical Center. He has to remain flat in bed until Monday due to a leak in his spinal cord. Currently he is in ICU. Please keep Larry, Helen, and their family in prayer.

**-Charles & Frances Copeland**- great granddaughter, **Madeline Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder. She has been moved to Alabama for a special treatment.

### 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.

**-Jessica Anderson**, 35 year old niece of the Tollivers, has stage 3 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.

**-Rosemary Spivy**, Cathy Haynes' mother—now at home.

**-Rick Cliett's** niece, **Penny**—liver failure. She is doing a little better.

Prayer request for **Tim Tolley**, Charlotte Jones' brother-in-law.

**-Tyler Behel**, Al's nephew, deployed to Iraq. Third deployment. Please pray for his safety.

**Ladies Bible Class Resumes:** The ladies Bible class will resume on September 5 with Polly Cline leading a study in "Hunger In My Soul-The Intentional God".

### Special Events

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

**Sunday Adult Class**  
*Titus 1 —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 **\$941,232.09**. 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).