

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XXI. No. 36
September 03, 2017

Answer A Fool According To His Folly

A man went into a building supply center and told a clerk, "I would like to buy some two-by-fours (2x4)". The clerk asked, "How long to you want them?" He responded, "I'd like to keep them for a long time...I'm building a barn."

Two of my favorite verses come from the lips of King Solomon. On the surface they seem to be contradictory:

"Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes" (Proverbs 26:5)

"Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself" (Proverbs 26:4)

I think Solomon is counseling us to learn to out-manipulate manipulators, or for us to avoid getting caught up in other people's stuff. When we are caught up in the dysfunctional behaviors and thoughts of others we become like them and empower their control over us. Solomon is instructing us to stay the course and to not lose sight of what is truly important.

Parents who become entangled in the temper tantrums of their children or the manipulative messages that challenge their competence are empowering those behaviors. Teens who want to do right can expect challenges from their peers. Unbelievers may question the intelligent basis of your faith. We must stand firm with confidence when others would challenge our course.

The apostle Paul encourages us to be careful when we are dealing with the unacceptable behaviors of others "lest you also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). Refusing to get caught up in unproductive arguments or to succumb to pressures to conform strengthens our character. The instruction of James is simple, yet powerful: "let your **yes** be **yes** and your **no** be **no**, that you may not fall into temptation" (James 5:1).

—Al Behel

OTHER SICK AND NEWS

-**Bill Sears**, son of Patsy Bevis, has colon cancer. He lives in Ohio and is now at home. Patsy expects to return in about a week.

-**CONGRATULATIONS to Larry and Helen Barnett** on the Aug. 30 birth of grandbaby number 9—**Brailey Mae**—in Tupelo, MS -6lbs.13oz., 19 in. long.

-**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.

Special Collection To Help Hurricane Victims

We are all moved by the death and destruction which has occurred in the past few days due to Hurricane Harvey in and around the Houston area. Many lives have been lost and thousands have suffered enormous property damage. Church buildings have suffered extensive damage. Generally insurance will not cover damage done by flooding. We are deeply concerned about our Christian brothers and sisters and fellow congregations and others in the regions. We will be passing the basket a **SECOND TIME** to allow all who wish to help with the disaster response. We have already sent \$15,000 from remaining Fire Relief funds. While we are still receiving requests for assistance we believe this need is paramount and needs immediate help. Please give generously.

Monthly Meetings—postponed until next Sunday.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"The Christian's Big Challenge" (1 Peter 4:12-19)

P.M.—Mark Haynes will speak in Al's absence

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.

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

-**Wyatt Cox** (age 3) —doing 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.

-**Larry Barnett** is in Sevierville Rehabilitation Center, rm. 114 following ing back surgery. Please keep him in prayer and Helen and the family as they provide emotional encouragement to him during his recovery.

-**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.

-**Rick Cliett's niece, Penny**—liver failure. She continues to do better.

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

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

Ladies Bible Class Resumes on September 5 with Polly Cline leading a study in "Hunger In My Soul-The Intentional God"

Baptistery Replacement: Tom Elkins is in the process of removing our old baptistery and replacing it with a new one due to continued leaks and dysfunction of the heater—will take a few weeks.

Grief Group-Patty Adair will begin on October 5 at 10 a.m. These two hour sessions will continue for six weeks—more info—see Patty.

Legos—if you have outgrown any Lego sets or pieces—please give to **Patty Adair** for the K-1 Bible Classes.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
Titus 1 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
Rick Cliett will lead a study in the Sermon on the Mount

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 08/13/17 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.