

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

For many years we have greeted each other with "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!" A similar greeting was shown on the first commercially available Christmas card in 1843. No one really knows how long people around the world have extended such wishes to one another. It provides a beautiful way to communicate to others our desire for good things to come into their lives.

When I think of the passing of one year and the start of another I am always looking back and looking forward. I look back at what was accomplished, but also at what I wish I had completed or done differently. I look forward with excitement that I have been given a clean page to write upon, new opportunities to serve and grow and, hopefully, make a difference in someone's life.

One thing that challenges us as we turn the calendar is that each year brings enormous changes. Yesterday I picked up a little book in my library that was printed in 1920, ninety-seven years ago. In one segment the author listed "The Seven Greater Wonders of the Modern World." Here they are: 1) the wireless telegraphy, 2) the telephone, 3) the aeroplane, 4) radium, 5) anti-septics and antitoxins, 6) the Spectrum Analysis, and 7) the X-ray.

We might chuckle at the above list as we think of the things that have happened since 1920. And we chuckled at Alvin Toffler's book "Future Shock" published in 1970. We didn't laugh long. And the Futurists are at it again, predicting unimaginable changes by 2030, 13 years from now. Among them are:

- 1) Driver's license will not exist—you won't need one because you won't be driving. Future cars are to be electronically controlled as you relax.
- 2) Data will become more like currency. Personal data can be sold.
- 3) People will visit doctors less often as sensors on your clothes will monitor your vitals and provide constant biometric updates. Chips will monitor your organs and signal when you need to change out a kidney which will be produced for your body by your body. 3-D printing will replace organ donation.
- 4) Those high-tech contact lenses in Sci-fi movies will exist. Your entire smart phone will be in contact lenses.
- 5) We will create robots that create robots, and the best jobs don't yet exist. Those jobs will include neuro-implant technicians, visual reality designers, and 3-D Printing Engineers.

Does that sound really "far out" to you? I'm still having trouble believing television is possible. In the face of these predictions I take comfort in the words of Solomon: "what has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl. 1:9). We don't really create anything. We just rearrange what our Creator has already made.

—Al

Our Known Sick

- Dez Anderson— suffering many health issues. Prayers and cards are encouraging and appreciated.
- Sheryle Elkins—continuing chemotherapy. PET scan was good.
- Bill Valentine is in Pigeon Forge Rehab Center, Rm 121. The family requests no visitors at this time as Bill is weak and visits tire him greatly. He appreciates your thoughts and prayers. Please continue to pray for him and Gail, along with Larry and Linda.
- Joyce Keyser—Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. It is always so good to see her back with us when she feels up to coming.
- Shirley Harmon—Heart Cath revealed that her heart failure had worsened. Aggressive measures are planned. Please keep her in prayer.
- Larry Barnett is still struggling with health issues in an attempt to fight off pneumonia. He also suffers from COPD and is taking antibiotics.
- Bill Green—suffering from many health issues.
- Jean Compton—is recovering at home.
- Kathy May—battling ongoing health issues.
- Jerry Dyer—Keep Jerry and Jeanette in prayer.
- Bob and Patty Adair are both recovering from surgery.
- Charles & Frances Copeland—newborn great granddaughter, Madeline Grace Kirby, is very ill with a genetic disorder. Prognosis is not good. She is home at this time.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

- Meagan White, Joyce's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.
- Sue & Marc Hayes' sister-in-law, Jane Hufford, received a second transplant (peripheral blood transplant rather than bone marrow transplant) from her donor on Thursday. Prayers are request for her.
- Jim & Judy Watkins—Rick's sister and husband, health issues.
- Dee Lewis, friend of the Cliett's, 6th occurrence of stage 4 cancer.
- Breana Ward, age 32, stage 4 cancer—has three children. Prayers and cards requested. Address in foyer. This family visits with us.
- Ladies Bible Class: Will resume the 3rd Tuesday of January with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul." If schools are closed due to weather the class will not meet that week.

Disaster Relief Now In Second Phase of After-Care: We will now focus our energy on meeting the needs of fire victims for furniture, appliances, rent, utilities, and supplemental financial support for those who have lost homes and jobs. Trucks loaded with furniture and appliances should be arriving in a few days. More will be announced.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
1 Timothy 4-5 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
Danny Cline will lead our study

Building Fund

Loan balance on 12/18/16 is **\$991,664.14**. 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.

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

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.

Sympathy To: Vicki Skelton in the death of her mother, **Linda Blass**, who passed away in Birmingham on December 27. She was a strong Christian servant who was very involved with her congregation's work. Please keep Vicki and her family in your prayers during this time of loss.

Food Contact For Month: Priscilla Dick

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes (1-731-608-4148)

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "2017, A Year of Prayer" (Jno. 14:13-14; 15:7,8,16; 16:23-24) P.M. - "I'm In The Right Pew But I Just Can't Sing"

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship