

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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The Lord's Work

We define much of our lives by the work we do. Studies show that men take as much as 70% of their identity from their jobs. That's why retirement can be difficult for one who suddenly faces that life changing event which leaves him to redefine who he is and how to fill his days with new and meaningful activities. Tensions may mount in his marriage as he begins to try to reorganize "his wife's" kitchen. Never mind that he couldn't find a fork on his own for the past 30 years.

Jesus defined himself and his mission as "to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work" (John 4:34). And that work took him all the way to the cross. When he was 12 years old his parents unknowingly left him in Jerusalem following their visit to the temple. Finding him still in the temple engaged in a discussion with the religious leaders, they gently reprimanded him. He replied to them, "Didn't you know that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49 KJV).

Like Jesus, our work is to do His work. And that work doesn't stop at night or on weekends. It doesn't have holidays or vacations. It is the work of the church. It is the work of every Christian. All the time. Whether we are at home or traveling. Wherever we are the Lord's work is in our hearts and on our minds.

There is a sense of personal responsibility for all that the church tries to do. The work of the local church is my work and your work. Its financial commitments are my commitments. Even when I am away. Its mission is still my mission. And, like Jesus, we give our lives for his church because it is the Father's business. We sacrifice self on the cross. We lay our lives down. And we join the early Christians in considering nothing that we possess to be our own since we are stewards of the Father's resources (Acts 4:32).

There is an urgency in doing the Lord's work. Jesus said, "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night comes, when no one can work" (John 9:4). Opportunities lost are gone forever. Souls perish while we wait.

In speaking of the urgency for doing the work of God, Jesus told his disciples, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together" (John 4:35, 36).

When the church works God is glorified and treasures are laid up in heaven.

— Al

Disaster Relief Update: We are expecting trucks to begin arriving on Monday with furniture and appliances to be distributed to those affected by the fires. In addition to these items we are assisting families financially who have lost jobs and homes. Many have lost everything. We will help with rent, deposits, utilities, food, and other expenses these families may have.

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" (John 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

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. He and Gail appreciate 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. Please continue to pray for positive results of upcoming tests.

-**Shirley Harmon**—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, **Madeleine 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. The transplant appears to be successful. Prayers are requested 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 January 17 with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul." A salad luncheon will follow the class. Please bring salad and "fixings" to share. Please remember that the class will meet unless schools are cancelled due to snow.

The Special Combined Youth Class will be postponed til next Sunday.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
I Timothy 5-6 —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 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.

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