

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XXI. No. 03

January 15, 2017

### Becoming A More Holy People

Last Sunday I challenged us to make 2017 a year of prayer. Specifically I asked that we pray for four things: 1) that we will become a more holy people, 2) that God's glory will be magnified in our community through us being a servant church, 3) for the spread of the gospel both here in our local community and throughout the world, and 4) to pray daily for the leaders of our country and the leaders of the world.

Holiness has to do with God-likeness. Scripture tells us in certain terms, "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). It requires a total transformation of heart and life. Our sin nature must be replaced with godliness. Our unrighteousness yields to His righteousness, and our unholy nature is replaced with His holiness. How does that happen?

It doesn't occur instantaneously but is the result of spending much time in the presence of God with an open and receptive heart. We sometimes sing, "Take Time To Be Holy!" As the hymn suggests, holiness comes from speaking "oft with thy Lord." Spending time with God in private communion strengthens our resolve to become holy. In those moments God provides power for us to win over temptation and sin. In those moments we become like Him. As a child reflects the nurturing relationship of his parents, God's children who spend much time with Him reflect His glory.

Holy living also requires that we "feed on His word" regularly. Spirituality is directly proportional to the effective working of God's Word in our lives. The psalmist emphasized the importance of that Word in directing his steps: "Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

King David asked, "who can ascend to the hill of the Lord?" He answers, "he who has clean hands and a pure heart" (Psa. 24:3,4). With "each thought and each motive beneath His control", we can then be "led by His Spirit" and become adequately "fitted for service above."

\_\_\_ Al Behel

**Baptism:** We rejoice in the baptism Friday of Michelle Clifton, who was displaced through the recent fires as she lost her home in Gatlinburg. Michelle is one of the persons we are assisting to get back on her feet after losing everything. Following a study of Scripture with Larry Barnett and Mark Hayes she expressed a desire to be baptized into Christ. We welcome our new sister!

**Sympathy:** To Gail Valentine in the lost of her husband, Bill, and to Larry who lost his brother. Bill passed away last Sunday morning following a difficult battle with cancer. Bill and Gail are dear to our hearts and he will be greatly missed. Keep Gail, Larry, and their families in your prayers.

**Disaster Relief Update:** Trucks have already been delivering furniture and appliances to be distributed to those affected by the fires. A lot has already been distributed and more items are coming. 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. Congregations and individuals across the US and from some other countries have contributed more than \$250,000. God is so good and His people are amazingly generous! We thank all who are donating and all the volunteers from our congregation, other area congregations, and across the country who have worked so hard to reach out to those in need.

**Food Contact For Month:** Priscilla Dick

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M. - "Glorified, Sanctified, and Unified" (John 17)  
P.M. - Jim Anderson, Surviving A Firestorm

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.

-Dan Elkins—been battling several health challenges.

--Joyce Keyser—Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. Her tumor has shrunk but is not expected to completely disappear. Please continue to pray for her progress and control of her cancer. It is always so good to see her back with us when she feels up to coming.

-Shirley Harmon—reports that she is doing better with her new medications.

-Larry Barnett—glad to see him improving.

-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. 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 begins meeting this Sunday. Please meet in smaller foyer as the fellowship hall is being used for furniture in our disaster relief effort.

-MEETINGS TODAY— Men and Ladies Meetings are today at 4 p.m. Ladies will meet in designated area. Men will meet in teen classroom.

### Special Events

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

**Sunday Adult Class**  
1 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 **\$987,565.76**. 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).