

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XXI. No. 04

January 22, 2017

“Touch Me Again, Lord”

One day a blind man was brought to Jesus by his friends with the request that Jesus would “touch him.” After leading the man outside the city, Jesus spat on his eyes and laid his hands upon him. He asked the man, “Do you see anything?” Looking up the man said, “I see men; but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus touched him a second time and he saw everything clearly (Mark 9:22-26).

Every day I feel like I need a “second touch.” I need to receive again and again the touch of the Master Who alone can give me sight. The world distracts us. Satan doesn’t give up. And every day Jesus offers us another chance to get it right. I stand in wonder of His grace. No one else offers so many chances to get up and try again. He offers a second chance every day!

I’ve met some folks who seem to have forgotten that they were recipients of grace. Some men brought a woman to Jesus who had been caught in an act of sexual sin. They asked Jesus what He would recommend doing with her since the Law of Moses required that she be stoned. Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground. They continued to question Him about her. Jesus stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Again, Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground. While He was writing the men left, one by one. Jesus extended grace to her and told her to change her life. He gave her another chance.

I’ve often wondered what Jesus wrote on the ground that day. Maybe he wrote something about God’s love, or, maybe he wrote the words of Moses. Could it be that Jesus was writing the names of the accusers? One name at a time. Each man left, one at a time. Just wondering....

Scripture tells us that judgment will be without mercy to him who shows no mercy (James 2:13). The apostle John says that anyone who denies his own sinfulness deceives himself and the truth is not in him (I John 1:6). Facing our sins opens to us access to the continual cleansing of the blood of Jesus (I John 1:7).

When sin is in our lives we do not see God clearly. Only the pure in heart can see His splendor (Matthew 5:8). Being filled with the presence of God we extend mercy to others (Matthew 5:6,7), and our own hearts are cleansed. And we see Him as never before.

We need a second touch...every day. We need another chance to get things right. And He gives it to us...every day.

—Al Behel

Disaster Relief Update: Workers are staying very busy providing furniture and appliances to families who have lost their homes and jobs in the recent fires. Many have lost everything. We are also assisting families financially with rent, deposits, utilities, food, and other expenses. Congregations and individuals across the US and from some other countries have contributed more than \$271,000. God is so good and His people are amazingly generous! We thank all who have and are continuing to donate funds and those who are working so hard to help meet the vast needs that exist.

Food Contact For Month: Priscilla Dick

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - “In Gethsemane With Jesus” (Jn. 18:1; Matt. 26:36-46)
P.M. - “Seeing The Unseen”

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.
- Skip and Esther Stewart** have been ill this week. We missed them!
- Larry Barnett**—undergoing several tests involving lungs. They are waiting to complete the tests and for the results.
- 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, **Madelaine 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**, second transplant (peripheral blood transplant rather than bone marrow 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, passed away Saturday - thank you for your prayers.
- Breana Ward**, age 32, stage 4 cancer-has three children. Prayers and cards requested. Address in foyer. This family visits with us.
- Jessica Anderson**, 35 year old niece of the Tollivers, has stage 3b breast cancer. Double mastectomy was done on Thursday. Prayers are requested on her behalf.

-**Ladies Bible Class:** Meets every first and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. with Polly Cline leading a study on “Hunger In My Soul.” Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

-**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.

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

Building Fund

Loan balance on 01/14/17 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.

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