

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“We Are Brothers”

I like the fact that I have brothers and sisters around the world. It's true that mom and dad had lots of kids but I'm speaking of relatives with whom I have eternal ties. They are “blood” relatives, joined through the precious blood of our common Savior. It is imperative that we love one another with the love of Christ. Jesus made it clear that the way we treat one another is the way we treat Him because He lives in us (Matthew 25:31-46). Our eternal destiny is at stake.

History is filled with instances when spiritual brothers mistreated one another to the deep disappointment of our heavenly Father. Cain rose up against his brother Abel and slew him. The descendants of Esau, the Edomites, were constantly seeking revenge against Jacob (Israel). The battle went on for centuries.

When Abraham returned to Canaan from Egypt there arose a conflict between the herdsmen of his nephew Lot and Abraham's herdsmen as to how the land would be divided. Abraham spoke to his nephew and said, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen; for we are brothers” (Genesis 13:8). Abraham grasped the true meaning of brotherly love.

Hebrews 13:1 teaches us to “Let brotherly love continue.” The NIV translates the real meaning, “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.” Paul told the Roman Christians, “love one another with brotherly affection” (Romans 13:10). The Greek text translates, “in brotherly love to one another loving warmly”, or “loving one another warmly in brotherly love.” Two different words for love are used. The first is “*philadelphia*” and the second is “*philostorge*”. This is the only time in Scripture that the second word is used. It is a combination of two Greek words for love: “*philos*” (deep warm friendship love) and “*storge*” (family love).

From these and countless other passages we can easily conclude that God intends for the members of His family to love like brothers and sisters and like the closest of friends. This love is deep. It is emotional. It is enduring. We don't give up on each other because of weaknesses or differences of opinions. We forgive and restore one another. We lift each other up in prayer. And we show affection through action.

The beauty of God's family is that it transcends the present world. Ultimately, will meet our Father face-to-face and see the fullness of His glory. We will never be disappointed with one another or say “goodbye.” This is our forever family.

___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 \$278,000. 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. - “The Arrest of Jesus” (Jn. 18:1-14)

P.M. - “The Parable of the Fig Tree”, Steven Hodgin, guest speaker

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.

-Larry Barnett—undergoing several tests involving lungs. They are waiting to complete the tests and for the results.

-Madison Barnett had to go to the hospital this week and was released.

-Bill Green—suffering from many health issues.

-Jean Compton —is recovering at home.

-Kathy May—battling ongoing health issues.

-Jerry and Jeanette Dyer—Jerry is having many challenges

-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**, 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.

-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 recently.

-Ladies Bible Class: Meets every first and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. with Polly Cline leading a study on “*Hunger In My Soul.*” Next meeting February 7.

-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.

-Steven Hodgin will be our guest speaker tonight. Steven teaches high school in Jefferson City and formerly preached for the Jefferson City congregation. We look forward to hearing Steven.

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

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