

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XXI. No. 09

February 26, 2017

Planting Shade Trees

I will never forget the two large oak trees that stood in the yard of my childhood home. The shade from those trees provided shelter and respite on extremely hot days on our Alabama farm. We prepared vegetables for canning under those trees. We worked on automobiles and farm tractors under those trees.

I don't know who planted those trees, but I know that their shade meant a lot to my family. Dr. Elton Trueblood once said, "A man has at least a start at discovering the real meaning of life when he plants a shade tree under which he will never sit." Doing something that benefits others while bringing no benefit to ourselves is the ultimate gift.

The sacrifices we make for others may out-live us and their effect may be felt for generations to come. The seeds we plant today may sprout years later and bear fruit for eternity. The greatest gift we can give to our descendants will be opened after we are gone.

Many of us have been recipients of blessing left by persons we never met. We worshipped in church buildings built by people whose names we have never heard. Their love for God and concern for generations to come led them to give sacrificially so others might experience God's grace. They were planting shade trees under which others would sit.

May we have the vision to see beyond our own interests and needs to the needs of other who will come after us. May we leave gifts that will last for eternity. The seeds we plant today may provide shade for weary hearts and lost souls long after we are gone.

—Al Behel

Disaster Relief Update: A complete report is available in the foyer of the activities of our disaster relief program to date. The report was emailed to our members. Visitors: Please feel free to take a copy back to your congregation. Josh and Megan Williams, whom we helped following the fires, were subsequently baptized and are now with family in middle TN. Their address is 1324 Wartrace Hwy., Whitleyville, TN 38588. They are worshipping with the Willet Church of Christ.

Help Needed Today: We need volunteers to help fold and stuff envelopes with the report for the fire disaster relief program. These are to be mailed to all donors. Please be here by 5 p.m. today. Thank you!

Moving: Steven and Lisa Hodgins are moving to Mississippi to be close to family. Today is Lisa's last day. Steven will remain here until he completes his teaching contract the end of May. Kelsey will remain here. She is manager of the Under Armour store in Tanger Mall. We will miss the Hodgins very much!

Bottles of Love—Now through March—pick up a bottle in the foyer and fill it with coins or GREEN. Also checks may be made out to this church and earmarked for Bottles of Love at any time. These funds assist the ladies in providing for the needs of 20 local newborns per month.

-Ladies Bible Class: Meets every first and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger In My Soul."

-Secret Sister Reveal and Potluck dinner will be on March 25th from noon to 2:00 p.m. Finally find out who she is!!

-The Special Combined Youth Class will meet in the fellowship hall and/or the teen room.

NEEDED: We need 2 male volunteers each day between 9-1 to assist the ladies who are working with our disaster relief and to help provide security for them. If you can assist please see Helen Barnett or Leah Turner.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair, back up Leah Turner

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "Jesus On The Cross" (John 19:17-37)
P.M. - *Worship In Songs*

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.

-DeEtte Alexander had cataract removal surgery recently.

-Sheryle Elkins-continuing chemotherapy. CT scan showed a minimal increase in size of the nodules in her lungs. Prayers appreciated.

-Joyce Keyser-Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. Please continue to pray for her progress and control of her cancer.

-Bobby Gilbert suffered a heart attack near Columbia, TN about 10 days ago. He is now home. Prayers appreciated.

-Bill Green—suffering from many health issues.

-Jean Compton —is recovering at home.

-Jerry and Jeanette Dyer—Jerry is having many challenges and Jeanette has bronchitis.

-Kenny Jones is in the PF Rehab Center, Room 219-A.

-Charles & Frances Copeland-newborn great granddaughter, **Madeleine Grace Kirby**, is very ill with a genetic disorder.

-Mariejane Hill is doing better after having sound wave treatment for kidney stones. Pray for continued success.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Meagan White, Joyce's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.

-Shannon Barnett, son of Larry and Helen, had a good report from MD Anderson and does not have to return for six months.

-Cathy Haynes' mother, Rosemary Spivey, fell and had to have surgery—she is home but her left arm is in a lot of pain.

-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.

-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.

-James Jester, father of the Keyser's son-in-law, had brain surgery last week due to Parkinson's Disease.

-Mariejane's brother-in-law's surgery to amputate his leg has been postponed because of high blood pressure. We will keep you posted.

-Connie Clepper, Linda Behel's cousin, has a recurrence of mouth and neck cancer and is in critical condition at this time. Her address is: Connie Clepper, 2350 Fair Oaks Ct., Cumming, GA 30040

Congratulations!!

Leah Turner's daughter, Lyda Nieshe, graduated from Army Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, on February 16. We congratulate both mom and daughter. Leah is a veteran of the United States Army. Lyda will be relocating to Arizona.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
I Timothy 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 02/17/17 is **\$982,359.60** 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.