

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### Friends Forever

A little boy cut a worm in half, smiled kindly, and said, "Now you have a friend!" His method was crude, but his intention was good. We all need friends. We need people who will always love us, be there for us, and never, ever walk away. We need people who understand us, forgive us, and lift us up. And we need to be that kind of person to someone else.

What is friendship worth? The friendship between Jonathan, King Saul's son, and David, is exemplary of the kind of friendship that outlast difficult times and hardships. At the risk of his own life, Jonathan helped David escape the murderous plots of his father. And David never forgot the value of that friendship.

Sometimes friends are lost through distance, misunderstandings, or because of the lack of contact. Good friends never stop loving and caring...even when time and space separate us. The love that binds the hearts of friends is called "philia" in Greek. It is a love that has deep emotional roots, shared interests, and commitments that last. It is a love that holds even through the passing years.

God made us with the capacity to love and be loved. He cherishes friendships that draw us closer to Himself as we support and encourage one another. Solomon tells us that there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. That friend is Jesus. His friendship with us is eternal...it is totally selfless.

Friendships based on sharing healthy core values strengthen character and enables us to minister to each other. Hearts that are anchored in God's Word will seek to engage the hearts of others who share those values. Scripture tell us that friendships are powerful and that "evil companions corrupt good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Parents should instill dependable and strong values in their children and guide the development of friendships with others who share those values.

Frequently, friends from the past surface again in our lives. Although life events have taken us in different directions and experiences have expanded our associations, it is refreshing to see the lasting connections in our hearts. Heaven promises us a great reunion of loved ones who have been separated through distance, time, and death. Many of our hymns capture the excitement of that reunion: "Friends and dear loved ones will welcome me there...", and "Won't it be wonderful there?" As children often say, we are "friends forever!"

—Al Behel

**-Disaster Relief Update:** Our daily response office is now closed and needs are being met by appointment. Our thanks to everyone who has given so much of your time and energy to help with receiving and distribution of goods. Special thanks are due to Helen and Larry, Leah, Esther and Stewart for manning the building for almost five months.

**-Graduation Celebration** will be May 7. This will be a potluck dinner and you are asked to sign the sheet in the lobby to indicate kind of dish you will bring. Graduates are: **Caroline Holliman** (SCHS), **Rachel Bailey** (SCHS), **Lydia Cantrell** (Tennessee Tech, Cookeville), **Josh Hawkes** (Home schooled), **Warren Dick** (Greeneville HS), **Samantha Sheffield** (EMT School at Walters State), **Ryan Bates** (SCHS), and **Lady Nwadike** (Spelman College, Atlanta). Exciting times! We appreciate our graduates.

**Ladies Bible Class:** The ladies Bible class will meet 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 10 a.m. Polly Cline will lead the study on "Hunger In My Soul."

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

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.— "Go! Make Disciples" (Matt. 28:16-20; Mk. 16:15,16)  
P.M.— "What Happens After Death?"

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**—CT scan showed that her current treatment is not working. Her doctor is sending her profile off for evaluation of treatment options. Please pray for her and Dan.

**-Dan Elkins** has been battling several health issues, including bronchitis, sinus problems, and back and neck problems.

**-Joyce Keyser**—Joyce suffers from peritoneal cancer. Please continue to pray for her progress and control of her cancer. She and Bob have been in Texas for a special event involving their granddaughter.

**-Herman Byrne** was diagnosed with bladder cancer. There are several tumors inside the bladder and they have penetrated into the muscle. Further tests will be done and treatment options will be considered. Please pray for Herman and Ruth.

**-Larry Barnett**—is being referred to an oncologist to rule out Leukemia because of an extremely low platelet count. They lost a daughter to Leukemia in 2009 and are very concerned about his other symptoms. A diagnosis is expected soon. He also needs another sleep study.

**-Bill Green**—suffering from many health issues.

**-Jean Compton**—is recovering at home.

**-Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**—Jerry is having many challenges and is in steady decline, according to Hospice.

**-Kenny Jones** is in PF Rehab Center Rm 104 A—doing better

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

### 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.

**-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.

**-Otis Hawkes' sister, Darlene Clark**, is in critical condition in Colorado.

**-Roger Thompson**, Chris' son, has been having heart issues and had a cath this week in Kentucky.

**-Meetings:** Men and Ladies meetings will be next Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

### Special Events

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

**Sunday Adult Class**  
2 Timothy 1-2 —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 03/22/17 is **\$967,303.84** 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).