

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Without Him I Would Be Nothing

I have often wondered what life would be like if God treated us the way we treat Him. If He just got busy and forgot to take care of the details that are essential in meeting our needs. I wonder if God stopped caring if life would be worth living.

The apostle Paul stated an obvious truth, "In Him we live and move and have our existence." (Acts 17: 28). Without, God we don't exist. With Him, we wouldn't want to exist. And if God just decided to go on strike or to give to us in direct proportion to our gifts to Him our lives would be devastated. What would life be without Him?

Well, if He forgot about us the sun wouldn't shine to warm the earth, the moon would darken in the sky and the oceans would run dry. The oxygen would be cut off, the rains stop, and disease would inflict unimaginable horror upon us. If God stopped caring hatred would fill every heart, no prayers would be answered, and we would soon destroy each other.

But He does care! And He doesn't treat us the way we treat Him. His love is constant and unrelenting. He makes His sun shine on the righteous and the unrighteous. He doesn't shut off the oxygen supply even when we complain or lift our voices to curse His name. He continues to give gifts to meet our physical needs although we reject His spiritual gifts to meet the needs of our souls.

I'm glad God is bigger than I am. I'm glad He doesn't react in anger when I fail or when I ignore His instructions. I'm glad He is always steady and dependable, and that He always loves me. His love never fails or gives up. He keeps giving and giving...even when I keep taking and taking.

The Passion of Christ shows how deeply He loves. His death is the ultimate demonstration of how much He wants our salvation. The hatred of man runs deep, but the love of God runs deeper. The greed of man is met with grace that is lavished upon us, an outpouring of mercy and forgiveness. But that grace cannot be taken for granted. It calls us to personal death to sin...it calls us to respond by putting God first and not as an afterthought. Then, and only then, will God come and dwell within us. Then He will give us Himself.

___ Al Behel

—Al Behel

Other News

Our Sympathy To: Jeanette Dyer in the death of her mother, Sylvia Hickman who passed away Wednesday. A private memorial event will be on Saturday afternoon. Our prayers are with Jeanette and her family.

Les Jewell suffered a brainstem stroke and is in Tennova Physicians Hospital (Old St. Mary's). He is in Rm 468 and will be having extensive rehabilitation. Please keep Les and Barbara in your prayers. Cards may be sent to him at 900 East Oak Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917.

Carolyn Sommerville—is scheduled for surgery to remove a section of her intestine on June 6. Please keep Carolyn in your prayers.

It was good to have **Raja Vundurthi** visit with us from India last Sunday. Raja is one of the missionaries supported by our congregation. A special collection was taken to help Raja with travel and for his daughter's much needed eye surgery. The total collected was **\$7,048.00**. Thank you!! For a generous response to the request for help.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair and Priscilla Dick

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes (731-608-4148)

Sermon Topics: A.M.— "It's Time To Remember" (Exodus 12:21-23)
P.M.— "When My Love For Christ Grows Weak"

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 treatment for cancer. Please keep praying for her and Dan.

-Dan Elkins— dealing with several health issues.

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

-Herman Byrne—several tumors inside the bladder have penetrated into the muscle. Further tests will be done and treatment options will be considered. Please pray for Herman and Ruth.

-Larry Barnett— pray for good outcomes with his tests

-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 home from the hospital and rehab. He wishes to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers, and cards.

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

-Wyatt Cox, 3 year old son of Heather and Alan Cox, will have a heart cath at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital on June 2nd and open heart surgery is scheduled for June 20th.

-Lindsey Cuevar, Mrs. Rosa's daughter, —ear surgery rescheduled.

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.

-B.W. Ausborn, from Fulton, MS.—his wife, Irene, has requested that we pray for B.W. as he undergoes a radical cystectomy for bladder cancer on May 24th.

-Faye Cline, Pat England's mother, has lung cancer and has been given 6-8 months to live. Please keep her, Pat, and family in your prayers.

-Wedding Tea/Shower for Mary Hayes and Andrew Schroeder—June 4th, from 2:00-3:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

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

Building Fund

Loan balance on 05/15/17 is **\$957,933.82** 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