

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Out of the Shadows

“ Consider Him...so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted “ (Hebrews 12:3)

Peter really felt awful. For three years he had been a faithful companion and friend to Jesus. Now, under the heat of the moment, he denies that he even knows Him. Not just once, but three times! His failure cast a dark shadow over his heart.

But Peter didn't stay in the shadow. On Pentecost Day he was up before thousands of people proclaiming that Jesus Christ is alive and is with His Father in heaven. Two letters bear his name in the New Testament and serve as a reminder that Peter refused to live in the shadow of failure and guilt. He was back in the running.

Remember Lincoln, Edison, and Hawthorne? Why do they stand so high above other contemporaries? Was it talent, or luck, or the right friends? No...the thing that separated these great men was their persistence...their unwillingness to give up and live in the shadows. When disappointments came they just got up again and kept going.

Giving up is easy. Especially when the road is uphill all the way. Aren't you glad Jesus didn't give up when He ran into the stubborn Jewish leaders who sought to kill Him? Imagine Him saying to God, “*They don't want me here. They aren't accepting me and are trying to kill me.*” He knew what His mission was...and He wouldn't be sidetracked by the rejection of angry crowds.

What do you do when you fail? When your sin is so dark that you cannot see tomorrow? What do you do when others criticize your efforts or belittle your service? Do you hide in the shadows and give up? Or...do you get up and confront the darkness and step out of the shadows into God's wonderful light.

Remember Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, and Paul. They refused to give in to criticism and hostility. And Peter refused to give in to guilt. Heaven's files are filled with the names and stories of those who confronted major obstacles and won. They refused to give up. They ran as far as they could go....then they took God's hand and kept on going. And they won.

The beloved apostle Paul, who bore in his body the “marks of Jesus”, looked at his own life and said, “all have sinned and fallen short.” He considered himself the worst of sinners. Yet, we revere him as an outstanding saint who gave his life for Jesus. As he faced the chopping block he said, “I have fought a good fight. I have finished race.” He never gave up. When he was knocked down he got up. We he was stoned and thrown out of cities, he got up and shook the dust off and went on. He won.

And you can win too. Just don't stop. Don't give up. Regardless of the obstacle, don't give up. God hasn't given up on you.

—Al Behel

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair and Priscilla Dick

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—“*Submission: In The Steps of Jesus*” (1 Peter 2:11-3:7)
P.M.—“*No Greater Gift*”

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. Her scan showed the chemo is working! Praise God! 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.

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

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

-**Wyatt Cox** (3 years old) -is home from Vanderbilt Children's Hospital following his third open heart surgery. He has been a real trooper and is progressing well. Keep praying for the success of his surgery. His recovery is expected to take a while.

--**Les Jewell** is continuing to improve following a recent brainstem stroke. It was good to have him and Barbara back last Sunday night.

-**Carolyn Sommerville**—very weak and struggling, as well as Ron. Her doctor is trying to arrange for home health.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**—recovering from pneumonia.

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

-**Martha**, Mrs. Rosa's daughter, had a serious foot injury. Is diabetic.

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, is now in remission from her cancer. 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**, frequent visitors from Fulton, MS.—bladder cancer. His wife, Irene, has requested that we pray for him.

-**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.

-**Rosemary Spivy**, Cathy Haynes' mother—Wellpark Rehab Center, Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville—following shoulder surgery.

-**Cindy Wills**, Tina's daughter, quadruple bypass..

-**Tyler Behel**, Al's nephew, deployed to Iraq. Third deployment.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
2 Timothy 4 —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 06/15/17 is **\$953,316.39** 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.