

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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The Carpenter

"Is not this the carpenter...?" (Mark 6:3)

Regarding Jesus, historian Philip Schaff declared, *"A character so original, so complete, so uniformly consistent, so perfect, so human and yet so high above all human greatness, can be neither a fraud nor a fiction. The poet, as has been well said, would in this case be greater than the hero. It would take more than a Jesus to invent a Jesus."*

Mark tell us that the people called Jesus *"the carpenter."* Matthew tells us that they asked, *"Is not this the carpenter's son?"* (Matthew 13:55). Jesus was a carpenter and the son of a carpenter. He had learned well His earthly father's trade. The people knew Him by reputation as the *"the carpenter"*.

How could Jesus have gotten this label? During His personal ministry He moved from town to town and village to village. But He was best known in His home town of Nazareth. When His reputation grew as the Teacher and as a worker of miracles the home town folks were astonished and questioned how He could have risen so far beyond their expectations. They knew Him as the *"the carpenter."* Likely He, along with His father, Joseph, had built many of their houses and barns. He had worked hard and they knew His work.

We tend to see the personal ministry of Jesus as a daily walk around the countryside teaching people who followed Him. We forget that, as the older son, He had family responsibilities, which was reflected in His concern for His mother while dying on the cross. Joseph was probably dead and Jesus wanted to be sure His mother was cared for by one who would love her. He commissioned John to the task.

The Carpenter was a rugged man. The hot sun had darkened His appearance. Surely the years of hard labor had created large muscles and physical strength. Yet, His heart was set on the business of His heavenly Father. When He wasn't building houses He was building souls for eternity. He longed for their salvation...a shelter from the destructive blows of sin. When He returned to the Father He promised to build for us a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. The Carpenter is still building our eternal home. And what a beautiful home it will be!

—Al Behel

Other News

-Deepest Sympathy—To Jeanette Dyer in the death of her beloved husband, Jerry, who passed away last Monday morning. Jerry was a faithful preacher of God's Word for many years and he and Jeannette have done extensive mission work, including some 7 years in Australia. A celebration of life was held at the GSM church on Saturday afternoon.

-Continue to remember **Ruth Byrne** in the passing of her husband, Herman. His funeral was Tuesday of this week at the GSM church. He was very special to us and will be greatly missed.

-Carolyn Sommerville—had to return to the hospital and spent a few days in ICU to stabilize her condition. She is greatly improved and came home Saturday afternoon.

-Cathy Haynes' mother, **Rosemary Spivy**, underwent shoulder surgery on Friday at Parkwest Hospital. Her surgery went well. Keep her in prayer.

-Welcome Home! We are happy to have Gary and Priscilla back from Israel.

Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair and Priscilla Dick

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.- *"What's In Your Mouth?"* (1 Peter 1:23-2:3)
P.M.— *"Give Me The Bible"*

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.

--Bill Green—suffering from many health issues.

-Jean Compton —is recovering at home.

-Wyatt Cox (3 years old) had his third open heart surgery on Tuesday, at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. His recovery is slow and he is still having some challenges. Please keep him, Heather, Alan, and his sisters in your prayers.

-Patty Adair had surgery in Nashville last Monday for a torn abductor tendon in her hip. She will have an extensive recovery period

-Les Jewell is having in-home rehab following his recent brainstem stroke. He is in good spirits and is making progress.

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

-Lindsey Cuevar, Mrs. Rosa's daughter, recovering from ear surgery.

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, 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.

-Steve Durbin and his wife, Diane, from Montgomery, AL is staying at Cedar Lodge Condominiums, 102, South River Road, while Steve is receiving rehab for a severe attack of COPD. He and Diane visit with us periodically. He is slowly recuperating and expects to return to Montgomery the end of the week.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Sunday Adult Class
2 Timothy 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 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.