

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XXI. No. 42

October 15, 2017

Seeing God

No one has ever seen God face to face. We have seen the evidence of His presence through countless demonstrations of His creative and sustaining power. Human eyes are limited only by the depth of human faith. Some see Him easily, while others struggle and still do not see. Some astronauts have returned with a sense of awe at His universe, while others have returned, saying, "I didn't see God out there."

Well, He's out there, all right. He is everywhere anything exists. Human eyes cannot look beyond Him, and human understanding cannot comprehend Him. But seeing Him doesn't depend on our ability to understand Him. It depends, rather, on our willingness to experience Him. It depends on our openness to perceive His presence and rejoice in His handiwork. Our God is a marvelous God Who cares for the smallest sparrow, and for every part of His creation.

I have seen God in the beauty of sunsets, the power of mighty storms, and in the quietness of the morning glory as it opens its petals to receive the warmth of the morning sun. I have seen Him in the eyes of little children, and in grandmothers who hold sweet memories in their hearts. I see Him in the outstretched hands of a suffering Savior, and in the open tomb that could not hold Him. I see Him in the holiness of His church, called out of a world which was under the curse of death into the glorious light of His salvation.

Perhaps the clearest vision I have of God is in the real meaning of love. I see Him when I see a heart open to share compassion with others who hurt, or in the smiles of understanding when two hearts connect in intimate embrace. I see God in the tender moments of forgiveness and restoration for those who have fallen prey to selfish pride.

Seeing God in all of life is very important. But equally important is the fact that we are seen by Him. He sees our actions before they occur. He understands our thoughts before they are formed. He sees our future as clearly as He sees our past. He knows our needs even before we ask.

Like friends whose eyes meet in a crowd, we rush toward our Father's outstretched arms to receive His warm, accepting embrace, and to experience the reassurance of His divine presence in our lives.

—Al Behel

Picture Time—Please Have Yours Made

In order to make it easier to identify everyone and to meet a request by visitors, we are in the process of preparing a pictorial bulletin board in the hallway to the right of the front lobby. Bryan Kendrick, Marijane Hill, and Tracey Kihlberg are taking pictures following morning and evening worship in the fellowship hall. Please sign the list in the front lobby to indicate the time you wish to have yours taken. Those unable to have one taken may submit a 4x6 print to be used. If you have questions please see Beth Hayes who is coordinating the picture project. Each picture will be mounted using an easy to use plastic sleeve allowing for convenient rearranging when changes need to be made.



Food Contact For Month: Patty Adair and Priscilla Dick

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.— "Jonah, The World's Worst Missionary" Jonah 1:1-17

P.M.— "Positive Attitudes: I Can Do All Things Through Christ, My Strength"

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 showed an infection in her lung. Please keep praying for her and Dan.

-**Dan Elkins**— dealing with several health issues.

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

-**Les Jewell** is continuing to improve following a recent brainstem stroke. It good to have him and Barbara back with us.

-**James Crowson** (who moved here from Florida several months ago) was hit head-on in a collision last Tuesday. He suffered a broken bone in his neck and will be in a brace for 12 weeks.

-**Ron and Carolyn Sommerville**—keep praying.

-**Hubert Compton** - recovering from surgery

-**Charles & Frances Copeland**- great granddaughter, **Madeline 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.

-**Jessica Anderson**, 35 year old niece of the Tollivers, has stage 3 breast cancer. Double mastectomy was done recently.

-**B.W. Ausborn**, frequent visitors from Fulton, MS.—passed away recently. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Irene.

-**Rick Cliett's** niece, **Penny**—liver failure. She is doing a little better.

-**Prayer request for Tim Tolley**, Charlotte Jones' brother.

-**Lauren Meier's son, Hunter**, suffered an injury. His address is 3378 Boogertown Rd, Sevierville, TN 37876.

-**Craig Hux**, frequent visitor from Greeneville, has requested prayer for him as he faces surgery on October 31 in Greeneville.

-**Cason Barnett** asked us to remember his 3rd grade friend at school, Vinny (8 years old), who is suffering from a lung disease.

Baptistery Replacement: Tom Elkins is in the process of removing and replacing our baptistery due to continued leaks and dysfunction of the heater. Our thanks to Tom for his good work.

Fall Festival—Next Saturday, beginning at 4 p.m. with fun and games for everyone. Please bring your favorite chili and trimmings. This will be great fun!!



Sunday Adult Class

Titus 2 —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class

"Sermon on the Mount"—Rick Cliett

Ladies-1st, 3rd Tuesdays, 10AM

"Hunger In My Soul: I Will Be Your God, You Will Be My People"—Polly Cline

Men's Prayer Session

Mondays—8:30 AM

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 09/15/17 is **\$931,107.49**. 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