

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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October 22, 2017

“Thank You For The Birds That Sing”

I love to hear the birds sing in the springtime. One of my favorite birds is the robin, whose voice is so encouraging as it penetrates the morning air. It is full of life, echoing through the trees and valleys. It's songs are always upbeat and full of hope.

As a farm boy I learned to love nature. I learned to love animals and to appreciate the uniqueness of each part of God's creation. One I never learned to appreciate, however, is the buzzard. Although he soared high in the sky and was able to look down on countless things of beauty, he would continue to fly until he found some dead animal carcass to feed upon. He never seemed to look for things that were lovely and clean.

The robin reminds me of people who always see the good in others and inspire us to greater and greater heights. They look beyond imperfections and see possibilities. They look for and find the beautiful around them. Their songs lift the downtrodden and strengthen the hearts of those who are struggling.

The buzzard, on the other hand, reminds me of people who see only the negative in the world around them. They pounce upon sin and never seem to love the sinner. They self-righteously devour others for their own gratification and miss the joy of forgiveness. They only see the ugly in life and their skies are always cloudy and gray. They spend their lives looking for the dirty.

There are others who devote themselves to building others up, looking for something to celebrate, and are a source of encouragement to everyone they meet. Their voice is a beautiful reminder of God's tender love. They bring songs of gladness every morning.

Perhaps Paul was reminded of the contrast between the robins that awakened him outside the Roman cell and the buzzards he had seen throughout the countryside when he wrote, *“whatever is honorable...whatever is pure...whatever is lovely...whatever is commendable...if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”* (Philippians 4:8).

Do others long to hear your words of cheer, your songs of praise? Or, do they want to avoid conversations with you because they are negative and dreary, critical and harsh? If God had made you a bird, would you be a robin or a buzzard?

—Al Behel

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

Have You Had Your Picture Made?

If you haven't had your picture made for the directory board and phone app directory, please do so asap. You may go to the fellowship hall after worship this morning or tonight to have yours made. There were a few pictures made last Sunday by Bryan's camera that need to be re-made due to a defective SD card. Your assistance in helping complete this project will be greatly appreciated.



Food Contact For Month: Sue Hayes

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.— *“Dumber Than A Donkey”* Numbers 22:21-35
P.M.— *“Positive Attitudes: Restoring Compassion”*

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-developed complications following a lung biopsy on Tuesday and was placed in ICU. She is now in MCC (Medical Critical Care) being treated for lung and heart issues. She went into A-Fib. She is very sick and needs your prayers. Also prayers for Dan..

-Dan Elkins— dealing with several health issues.

-Jeanette Dyer is having flu-like symptoms and arthritis but hopes to be with us on Sunday.

-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—Ron fell on Friday and required assistance from neighbors to get him into bed. Please keep praying.

-Hubert Compton - it was good to have him back with us.

-Madison Barnett was diagnosed with Strep-Throat this week in addition to her kidney issues.

-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.

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

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

-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.

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 10/15/17 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