

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Limiting God's Power In Us

Limit God? Preposterous! God cannot be limited. His power is infinite. He is the "Almighty" God. He is the Creator. He is the One who sustains us, and gives to all of us "life, and breath, and everything else" (Acts 17:25). He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. How can man limit such a God as this?

As powerful as He is, God's power may be limited in our lives. Sure, He has control *over* us, but He refuses to take control *within* us without our consent. He gives us the choice. He desires to empower us from the inside, but He only empowers those who have faith in Him. Faith that sees Him as He is and ourselves as we are. He gives strength to those who trust Him.

When we limit God's access to our hearts we effectively shrink His ability to use us or work in us. God-shrinkers are left spiritually powerless. If you are not experiencing His power in your life maybe your concept of God is too small...too limited.

Jesus tells us about God's power: "What is impossible with men is possible with God" (Luke 18:27). With man...impossible! With God...possible! We have accomplished much in our history, but with God "all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). Our God makes the sunset. He placed the stars in the sky and spoke the worlds into existence (Hebrews 11:3).

The good news is that this God is our Father and has made His power available to us. We must not limit His access to our hearts. We must not limit the power of His Word to change us, or His Spirit to empower us. We must not resist His blessings upon us.

God wants to share His power with us. That's why He sent His Spirit to live in us. The apostle Paul says we can be filled with "all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). That's an awesome reality...that God's fullness is ours. Surely He will accomplish through us whatever He desires if our hearts are open to Him.

—Al Behel

Winter Quarter 2018!

(January 7th through March 25th)

The Good, the Bad, and the VERY Bad!

Prophets & Kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Don't miss a single Sunday!

For Grades K –Teens Sundays from 9:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall TEAM TEACHING WITH THE TEENS Bible Skits, Puppet Shows, Songs, Games, & Activities! Adult Teachers: Mark Haynes & Marc & Sue Hayes

Other News

Guest Speaker: Bill Irby, minister of the West Hobbs Street church in Athens, AL will be our speaker this morning. Bill is a faithful preacher of the gospel and has served the West Hobbs Street congregation for about 30 years. He is a long-time friend of Al's. We are delighted to have Bill with us today along with several members of his congregation.

Church Email: If you are not receiving the church email (including emailed bulletin) please sign the list in the foyer.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.— Bill Irby, Guest speaker from Athens, AL
P.M.— "Praying With Paul"

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— is home and will be receiving in-home health care. She is having a hard time. Please keep praying for her and Jim.

-Sheryle Elkins— is now at home in Franklin and is slowly improving. Their address is: 870 Oak Meadow Dr., Apt. #3405, Franklin, TN 37064. Both really need our prayers.

-Bill Green—suffering from many health issues.

-James Crowson (who moved here from Florida several months ago) was hit head-on in a collision.. He suffered a broken bone in his neck. He is improving and looks forward to being back in worship soon.

-Ron Sommerville—keep in prayer.

-Bill Shirley (DeEtté's husband) - diagnosed with cancer in his right lung. No treatment is planned. Keep Bill and DeEtté in prayer.

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

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

--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.

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

-Connie Randolph, friend of Skip and Esther in Indiana- Uterine Cancer surgery scheduled for January 2.

Church Directory App: Please see Mark Haynes or Marti Cantrell for assistance. Changes or corrections can be submitted to the sound booth before or after worship or they may be emailed to Linda Behel or Haynes at lbehel@ix.netcom.com or m47haynes@gmail.com

If you haven't had picture made please see Beth, Mariejane, or Linda. We hope to have 100% participation and are near that goal.

-Special Prayers for Jefri Sierra (Cody Kihlberg's friend) and his family. His father died suddenly from a heart attack on New Years Eve. This family is one we helped during the fire tragedy.

-Men & Ladies Meetings—Today at 4:30 p.m. Please try to attend. Several important items need to be discussed. The men will discuss a plan for church security and this year's budget.

Sunday Adult Class
Philemon —Al Behel

Wednesday Night Class
Danny Cline is leading our study

Ladies-Bible class-January 16th.
"Hunger In My Soul: I Will Be Your God, You Will Be My People"- Polly Cline will lead the study.

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 12/17/17 is **\$923,285.67**. 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