

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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### New Clothes and Salvation

*We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.*  
—Isaiah 64:6

A couple of Christmases ago we gave our youngest grandson a new coat. When he opened it he looked at his mom and said, "Is this mine?" She responded, "Yes, it's yours." He kept going, "Is it new?" "Yes, it's new. Grandmother and granddaddy bought it for you", she said. He asked again, "You mean nobody in the whole world has ever worn this coat?" "No," she said, "Nobody has ever worn it!" He started jumping up and down, shouting, "O boy! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" Younger brothers and sisters get lots of hand-me-downs and a new outfit seems overwhelming to them.

I remember my first real suit. It was new and bought it from a friend for whom it didn't fit for \$10. I was a teenager and had never owned a suit before and was really proud to have one. It wasn't a perfect fit but it was new and it was mine. And, no one had ever worn it!

Today my closet is full of suits. The idea of buying another one causes a bit of anxiety about where I will put it. Affluence diminishes appreciation for things we can easily acquire. Finding a gift for someone who has all he or she needs makes special occasions difficult. The value we place on something depends largely upon how difficult it is for us to acquire it or how much we feel a need for it.

I think salvation is like that. For some of us who grew up in Christian homes salvation seems easy and commonplace. For those of us who have lived in the grip of sin's power and experienced its devastating effects salvation is a precious gift. When we know how fearful it is to be lost being saved brings great joy.

Giving a rich man a dollar doesn't elicit much gratitude. Giving a beggar a dollar thrills his heart. We are all spiritual beggars who cannot secure salvation for ourselves. We must acquire it as a precious gift from a loving Father.

Living in sin is a bit like wearing old, tattered, filthy rags. Isaiah knew that quite well. Israel had fallen so far away from God and had become so riddled with sinful practices that they were even confused about what morality really meant. They called wrong right, and right wrong. They needed a good cleansing to rid them of their filth. But, they had grown proud and seemed to think they were wearing beautiful new clothing when all they had was a bunch of filthy rags. We can have the same problem if we don't appreciate what it means to be lost and what it means to be saved.

—Al Behel

### 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.
- Linda Valentine** is in LeConte Medical Center room 101. She experienced a heart attack and other complications. Please keep praying.
- Doug Hill** is in UT Medical Center room 1104 with Cellulitis. He is scheduled to have a toenail removed on Sunday.
- Ginny and Rick**—on their way home from Austin but have had to stop at numerous places because Ginny contracted the flu.
- Bill Shirley** (DeEtte's husband) - diagnosed with cancer in his right lung. No treatment is planned. Keep Bill and DeEtte 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.
- Church Directory App:** Please see Mark Haynes or Marti Cantrell for assistance. Changes or corrections can be emailed to Linda Behel or Haynes at [lbehel@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lbehel@ix.netcom.com) or [m47haynes@gmail.com](mailto:m47haynes@gmail.com)

### Other News

- Rosemary Spivy**, mother of Cathy Haynes, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Treatment options are to be addressed on Monday
- Up-Coming Events:** Mark your calendars for our after-worship Pot-Luck dinner and Super Bowl party for Sunday night, Feb. 4. Also, the ladies will have a Ladies Day on March 24.
- Church Email:** If you are not receiving the church email (including emailed bulletin) please sign the list in the foyer.

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

**Food Contact For Month:** Leah Turner

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.— "Worship, What Does God Want?" John 4:16-26  
P.M.— "Why Was I Baptized Anyway?"

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

**Sunday Adult Class**  
Philemon —Al Behel

**Wednesday Night Class**  
Danny Cline is leading our study

**Ladies-Bible class-1st/3rd Tues.**  
"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 **\$912,844.39**. 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](http://www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com)