

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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January 24, 2021

"The Disciples Were Called 'Christians'"

When Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, wrote that "...in Antioch the disciples were first called 'Christians'" (Acts 11:26), he was telling us that these believers were so radically different from the world and so much like Christ that people noticed. They noticed that they were like Jesus. They talked about Jesus. They lived and loved like Jesus.

The term "Christian" is only used three times in the Bible, all of which are in the New Testament. In addition to this passage, Luke records that after hearing Paul talk about his conversion to the Lord, King Agrippa responded, "almost you persuade me to be a Christian!"

The third reference is in 1 Peter 4:16 where Peter told early believers facing persecution, "If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name."

Christians are followers of Christ. That is who they are. At work, at home, when vacationing, and when making life choices. Christians in America are Christians first, and Americans second. Our permanent citizenship is not of this world. Like all Christians around the world, our primary allegiance is to Him. We have brothers and sisters who are citizens of different countries, under different forms of civil government, speaking different languages and living with different customs. Yet, we all have "one Lord, one faith", and are members of the *one body*, the church.

Love is the distinctive mark of discipleship. And, it binds everything and everyone together in Christ in "perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14 RSV).

—Al Behel

Honduras: This is Martrina Rodriquez, 10 years old. Martrina was born with no hands. She is among countless people being helped through the GSM church. Your gifts make a difference. The work in LaEsperanza is being sponsored by our congregation and many individuals are assisting with additional donations. Thanks to Jim Anderson for his and his family's help and regular guidance, children like Martrina and their families are being helped.



Church Services

Collective Worship on January 24 at 10:30 am only. No evening services or Bible classes at this time except the teens will meet at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. For your own safety and that of other worshippers, please follow recommended guidelines.

-Honduras Report: There are many continued needs among our brothers and sisters as the government is making many changes and basic needs are great among them and their neighbors. Any special financial assistance you can give will be deeply appreciated and go a long way.

-Online Worship is conducted each Sunday morning and is available by 10 a.m. Bible class and worship can be accessed at the bottom of the church web page using either the FB or YouTube icon. An opportunity to contribute is available online as well.

Our Known Sick

- Don Mayhall—still needs our prayers. His condition is fairly stable.
- Patsy Bevis—in Florida for winter.
- Hubert Compton—recovering from hip replacement.
- Carolyn Yates is recovering at home from rotator cuff surgery. She appreciates the thoughts, prayers, cards, and food. Keep praying.
- June McGowen, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.
- Jeanette Dyer is struggling with several health issues. She appreciates the calls and assistance some have graciously provided.
- Linda Valentine—receiving treatment for cancer.
- Anna Ruth Franklin—Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

- Carolyn Yates' daughter, Linda Wolf, - recovering from cancer
- Tracey's mom is now at home follow hospitalization for an infection in her colon. She is still having a lot of pain. Please keep Judy and Ron Potts in prayer.
- Melanie's brother and sister-in-law and 2 of their 4 children have Covid
- Jan Luft, sister of some of George and Melanie's best friends in Michigan (Jim and Kim), is not doing well. Chemo has been stopped. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Chris Heathcox, brother-in-law of Bryan and Beth, is suffering from pancreatic cancer and is having to increase his chemotherapy. This is a hard time for him and his wife, Bena. Please keep Chris and Bena in your prayers along with their children.
- George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson, is battling Covid and several other health issues. She is being moved to a nursing type facility that can care for Covid patients
- Steve Higgenbotham, minister of the Karns-battling cancer. Reports are encouraging.
- Reggie Webber and his wife Judy. Is responding well to chemotherapy. They are friends of George and Melanie Tolliver and have visited our services in the past. Their address is 1503 Landmark, Sevierville, TN 37862.
- Bob Martin, Al's brother-in-law, is having serious heart issues and prayers are requested.
- Mike Knott (deaf friend of Patty & Bob), fell this week from a 12 foot ladder. He suffered 3 broken ribs, punctured lung, and 3 cracked vertebrae. He and his wife visit with us periodically. Prayers requested.

Sunday AM Online Worship & Bible Class

Al is teaching an online Bible class on Sunday mornings that can be accessed beginning at 9:30 am. Current study is in 1 Peter. Worship

Online Worship and Bible class available at
www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com

Wednesday Night Bible Class

Danny Cline is leading our study in the gospel of Mark each Wednesday night by Zoom. Just respond to the email invitation to join the study at 6:45 each Wednesday night.

Ladies Bible Class

The weekly ladies class meets on Mondays from 6:45-7:45 pm EST by Zoom. Polly Cline will be leading the study of "God's Unshakable Faithfulness." Please join in.

Teen Bible Class

Tomorrow at 9:30 in the fellowship hall.
Jacob Forman will be leading the class

Current Building Loan Balance

\$717,117.62

Additional Contributions Appreciated

in turned to his younger brother and said,
Food Contact For Month: Tracey Killberg

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson (974-1067)

Online Sermon Topic: A.M—"Lessons from Cain and Abel" (Al)

In -Person Worship: Jacob Forman will speak: "Trust the Process: Joseph"

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.com