

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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June 06, 2021

My Daddy's Anvil

Times are different now. When we want something we can usually buy it and have it available for use immediately. That hasn't always been the case. In past generations many things were hand-made or hand-shaped. Anvils and bellows were common sights around the farm. Tools were sharpened, metal was bent, plows were set, and steel was formed into usable parts.

I remember many times watching my dad as he laid a piece of steel on the anvil and pounded it with a hammer until he had achieved the shape he wanted. After the steel was formed and it had cooled, its shape was permanent.

I have often thought of dad's anvil. It reminds me of how God shapes us for His purposes. Each hammer-blow moved the metal closer to the shape dad wanted to achieve. The steel was subject to his strength and to the design created in his mind as that powerful arm pounded steel against steel again and again.

Sometimes the anvil God uses seems unusually hard. The hammer-blows make us reel with the force behind them, but we are being shaped for a greater use. Like the steel on the anvil our form is being shaped in the mind of our Creator who knows what use He wants to make of us.

Sometimes the anvil God uses involves major losses and trauma, as in the case of Job, or when illness or career changes bring us up short. Sometimes he uses other people who challenge us to become all that we can be. At other times we find that our ability to love is sharpened through personal experiences of infinite grace.

The anvil of God's discipline is hard but not harsh. He loves at all times and strengthens us with His power when we yield to His guiding hand. Like steel against the hammer we resist change, yet we are fashioned into the likeness of His Son each time we yield our wills to His will. Until He shapes us into His image we are of no use to Him. When He lifts us from the rubble and fashions us as He wills we become functional instruments for use in His kingdom.

—Al

Church Services

Collective Worship on June 06 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.

-**Online Worship** each Sunday morning on Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ website, YouTube, and Facebook.

-**Karen Ferguson**, friend of Phil and Carolyn Collier and frequent visitors with us, is suffering from an evolving hemorrhage in the brain.

-**Carolyn Collier** is recovering from a broken her hip in Athen, AL. They spend part of their time with us at the GSM church.

-**Pris Dick**-continuing treatment for cancer. Prayers continue for her and Gary.

-**Mark Haynes**-prayers as he awaits esophageal test results

-**Alan Cox**—knee surgery on June 3 to repair a torn ACL, meniscus, and ligaments on the sides of his knee.

-**INDIA REPORT:** Thanks to the generosity of our church members, Raja, our missionary in India, reports that almost all the Covid patients and families in the seven congregations in his area have received medical kits and supplies, thanks to the generous support of the GSM church family. As the result of this service many are requesting Bible studies and several are being baptized into Christ. Thank you for being a great loving church family.

-Join us in person for worship as we look at **Great Women of the Bible**.

Our Known Sick

-**Don Mayhall**— still needs our prayers. His condition is fairly stable.

-**Hubert Compton**—confined to home with health issues.

-**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.

-**Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**— Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Carolyn Yates' daughter, Linda Wolf**, - battling cancer

-**Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt**, is in Vanderbilt Hospital following surgery to reverse her ileostomy. She is having a rough day. Please keep Judy, Ron, Tracey, and their family in prayer. Her address is: Judy Pitt, 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

-**Edwin Anderson**, Jim's son, will be having surgery on Wednesday in Fairfax, VA. He requests our prayers.

-**Treavor Hayes**, 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue—preliminary report shows that his tumors are stable. His ophthalmologist is not recommending chemo for tumor on optic nerve at this time.

-**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 sufferin 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 COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

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 The Sermon on the Mount. Log in 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 will be leading the study. Subject: "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

\$703,517.67

Additional Contributions Appreciated

Ladies Drive-Thru Bridal Brunch



Ladies, please join us as we celebrate Miss Azlin Hitchcock with a drive-thru bridal shower on Saturday, July 10, from 10:00-11:30 am in the church parking lot. You drive up, greet our bride with your gift, and she will hand you a bridal brunch box. Please enter the parking lot on the South side (KOA side) and make a one-way line. Our bride and groom are registered at Amazon. RSVP by June 26 for accurate count. To Melanie: 865-444-5617 (or, mellstamper@gmail.com); Rita: 865-850-0288 (or, rmsgarrett@gmail.com); Sue: 731-6083401.

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

Elder Contact for Month: Mark Haynes (865-805-2293)

Online Sermon Topic: A.M.—"Great Women of the Bible-Ruth" (Al)

In Person Worship: A.M.—"Great Women of the Bible-Ruth" (Al)

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