

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
acbehel@gmail.com
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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March 28, 2021

"I'll Exchange My Cross"

Contrasting the Christian life with the ancient Olympic games, the apostle Paul said, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable crown" (I Corinthians 9:24, 25).

Have you ever seen a real crown? Housed in a museum in London are many beautiful crowns which have adorned the heads of British royalty over the years. Those gold bands studded with gorgeous gems are worth millions of dollars. They were not given to their recipients because of their accomplishments, but because of their royal birth.

The crown given to the ancient athlete who won the Olympic race was usually a wreath made of ivy or pine. It symbolized many years of training and discipline. It represented a victory over many skilled and fierce competitors. There was only one crown to be won.

God has many crowns for us. Crowns which symbolize the reward He has for us at the end of the race. He promises a "crown of rejoicing" for those who bring others to Christ (I Thessalonians 1:19,20); a "crown of righteousness" for all who fight a good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7,8); a "crown of life" for those who are faithful unto death (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10); and a "crown of glory" for those elders who shepherd and set good examples for others to follow (I Peter 5:3,4).

Charles H. Gabriel captured the essence of the successful Christian life:

*"I'll exchange my cross for a starry crown,
Where the gates swing outward never;
At His feet I'll lay ev'ry burden down,
And with Jesus live forever."*

—Al

Church Services

Collective Worship on March 28 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.

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

-Our Deepest Sympathy To George and Melanie Tolliver in the death of their 37 year old son, **Weston**, who passed away this week in Michigan. Our love is extended to them and our prayers go up to our Father for comfort and strength. Funeral service was conducted Saturday in Clio, OH.

-Priscilla Dick has been diagnosed with Lymphoma. She is receiving radiation treatment, Chemotherapy is planned after radiation. Keep praying for Gary and Pris.

-Karen Ferguson, friend of Phil and Carolyn Collier, is suffering from an evolving hemorrhage in the brain. Karen and her husband are members of the Hobbs St. church in Athens, AL. They have worshipped with us at GSM and are friends with Al.

-Dale Pendley suffered 2nd degree burns on his head and face and 3rd degree burns on his hands and arms. He had skin graft surgery in Memphis. Dale and Martha spend much of their time worshipping with us at GSM.

Our Known Sick

- Doug Hill** is doing well. And is able to be back in worship.
- Don Mayhall**—still needs our prayers. His condition is fairly stable.
- Hubert Compton**—recovering from hip replacement.
- Carolyn Yates** is improving steadily from her recent shoulder 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.
- 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**, - battling cancer
- Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt**, is recovering from colon cancer. She is weak but improving with some weight gain. Once she gains another 15 lbs corrective surgery can be performed. Please keep Judy, Ron, Tracey, and their family in prayer. Her address is: Judy Pitt, 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064
- 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 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 COPD and recently recovered from Covid. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.
- 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.

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 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

\$707,990.91

Additional Contributions Appreciated

CHURCH MAILING LIST

We have had problems with our email server and some have not been receiving mail. To ensure that everyone is receiving mail we have created a new group. You may receive 2 copies for a while.

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

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

Online Sermon Topic: A.M.-"The Narrow Road" (Al)

In -Person Worship: A.M.- "The Narrow Road" (Al)

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