

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Independence

Freedom. What would you pay for it? What does it mean to you? Do you take it for granted? For what price would you sell it?

Occasionally we hear of someone who has traded their freedom for a few minutes of fun or greed. No longer do they have control of their own lives. In their attempts to exercise their "freedom", they have destroyed it.

Independence is a championed American heritage. We value our choices, our ability to determine our own course of action. Driving our automobiles, investing our money, speaking our thoughts, living wherever we please...these are symbolic of our "rights" as citizens of this country.

Often I hear persons in relationships talk about how others attempt to control them. Frequently teenagers say to me, "I can't wait until I'm 18!" He wants "out of the house" so he can make his own decisions, have whomever he wishes as friends, do anything he wants to do without parental interference. Of course, there may be no plan for employment, but he wants freedom!

Christian freedom means that we have been released from real bondage...from sin-controlled prisons where we surrendered our choices, we were slaves to destructive habits, sinful pride dominated every decision, and we had no power to escape. For some of us, we knew the horrors of that prison; for others, there was a false sense of security and pleasure.

Christian liberty is freedom "from" as well as freedom "to"...freedom from sin and its enslaving power. It is freedom from spiritual death. It is also freedom to experience a new life, a new relationship, a new beginning, and new possibilities. It is the freedom to become all that God created us to be.

What price did this freedom cost? It cost the blood of God's own Son. Grace is not cheap. Freedom was bought with a price which we could not pay.

—Al

Other News

-**Helen's brother, Roy Boren**, is being scheduled for an urgent heart valve replacement. He lives in MO. Please keep him in prayer.

-**Rick Cliett** has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. Rick is a former elder of the GSM church and he and Ginny moved near San Antonio, TX to be close to their daughter and grandchildren. Rick is scheduled for surgery next Friday morning. A treatment plan will be determined. Please pray for Rick and Ginny. They are deeply loved by our congregation.

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

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

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

-**Danny Cline, Associate Minister:** The elders have announced the appointment of Danny Cline as Associate Minister. Danny has been actively involved in teaching and preaching periodically with us for several years. Polly also teaches in our education program. They are tremendous assets to our congregation. We welcome Danny to this new role.

Online Worship: Online worship will continue for those who are not present for in-person worship. Also, the online Bible class is still offered. You may access through www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.

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 continuing to improve slowly following her colon cancer surgery. 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.

-**Prayers requested for the daughter and brother of Linda Boyers.** Linda has joined our online worship and Wednesday night Bible class for many months. Her daughter, Stephanie, is battling Melanoma and her brother is dealing with heart issues.

-**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. 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 Bible Class-9:30 am

"The Church in the Beginning" (Al Behel)

Wednesday Night Bible Class-7 pm

"Colossians" (Danny Cline)

Ladies Bible Class

Not meeting during summer months of June and July

Teen Bible Class

Sunday and Wednesday - (Jacob Forman)

Current Building Loan Balance

\$694,452.34

Additional Contributions Appreciated

RE-OPENING OF ALL SERVICES-JULY 4

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am


Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

Please join us as we re-open all services

Bridal Brunch—Change

 Because of the heat, the drive-thru bridal brunch for Azlin Hitchcock has been changed to a Stop-in-Bridal Brunch on Saturday, July 10th, from 10:00-11:30 am. You may meet the bride, Miss Azlin Hitchcock, in the foyer on the Veterans side of the building.

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

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

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

Evening Worship: Congregational Singing with Devotional Thoughts (Jacob)

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