

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Wings of Eagles

"They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint"
(Isaiah 40:31)

Wings like eagles. Those who "wait for the Lord...shall run and not be weary." Isn't that a great promise? Experience is a great teacher. Waiting for God to act in our lives and on our behalf has infinite rewards. There is strength in old age, especially when it is anchored in a life of faith. The outward nature is "wasting away", but "our inner nature is being renewed every day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

For those who resent the passing years consider this frightening possibility. Just suppose we could reverse this process and become younger each year. You would start out in old age and every day grow a little younger. Each day you would know less than the day before. Each day you would move toward a smaller and smaller family. Soon your grandchildren would be gone. Then your children and your spouse. You would move from high school to first grade and kindergarten. Ultimately, you would end up being a helpless baby with a bottle, and then disappear from the world altogether.

Who would really be willing to reverse the aging process? There are many advantages to growing older rather than younger. Spiritually, who would want to see his relationship to God grow weaker, his faith and love for Jesus diminish with the passing years? Who would want to go from his or her kingdom citizenship back into the world where there is no hope?

God has some instructions for us about how we treat older people. "You shall rise up before the hoary (gray) head, and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:32). Again, "A gray head is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life" (Proverbs 16:31). Waiting on God throughout one's life prepares us for the inevitable challenges of old age...we will mount up with wings like eagles...run and not be weary...walk and not faint. What a victory!

—Al

Other News

-Helen's brother, Roy Boren, underwent surgery for a heart valve replacement. Surgery went well. He is in ICU. He lives in MO. Prayers, please.

-Rick Cliett underwent surgery on Friday for bladder cancer. The tumor was more serious than expected and more surgery will be planned. After that, it looks to be treatable. 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.

Thank you! To all who participated in hosting the bridal brunch for Azlin Hitchcock. These include Melanie Toliver, Tracey Kihlberg, Sue Hayes, Susan Forman, and Rita Garrett. A special thanks to David Garrett for setting up for the event. Azlin and Jacob will be getting married on August 28.

Online Worship: Online worship will continue for those who are not able to attend in-person worship. Also, the online Bible class is still offered. You may access these 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-Acts" (Al Behel)

Wednesday Night Bible Class-7 pm

"Colossians" (Danny Cline)

Ladies Bible Class

Not meeting during summer months through July

Teen Bible Class

Sunday and Wednesday - (Jacob Forman)

Current Building Loan Balance

\$694,452.34

Additional Contributions Appreciated

OPEN FOR ALL SERVICES

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

Food For Thought

- I don't know why some people change churches. What difference does it make which one you stay home from?
- Be fishers of men. You catch them. He'll clean them

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

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

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

Evening Worship: "Being An Authentic Christ-Follower" (Al)

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