

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“What’s Your Gift Worth?”

I read of a woman whose husband gave her a dollar and told her, “Here, go buy yourself a nice card.” As unbelievable as that might be, Ann Landers once received a letter from someone who worked in a bookstore who observed a man come into the store with his wife, announcing that it was her birthday. They went to the card rack where he browsed a bit, selected a pretty card, handed it to his wife and waited for her reaction. “It’s lovely,” she said. The man then took the card and put it back into the rack and said, “That’s your birthday gift for this year.”

We don’t care much for stingy givers. Especially those who want lots of credit for doing nothing. One time King David was faced with an opportunity to give to God without it costing him anything. He wanted to buy a threshing floor so he could build an altar to the Lord. Aranunah, who owned the threshing floor, offered to give it to David along with everything he needed for his sacrifice. David refused, saying, “I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24).

What would a gift to a loved one mean if they knew you had received it from someone else “for nothing”? The value of a gift is not so much in its monetary value as in the amount of effort and hard work it represents to the giver. What value does your gift have to you? Are you giving what you have left over, or the best that you have? Jesus complimented a poor widow for her small monetary gift of two mites because it was everything she had.

What do you give to God? How much does it cost you? Under the New Covenant of Grace, God doesn’t give us mandatory percentages for our gifts. Tithing was an Old Covenant requirement. God wants our gifts to mean something to us. He wants us to give as we have been blessed. Freely we have received from His generous hands. Freely we should share with others in need. He blesses us daily and rejoices when we make our resources available for Him to use every day. He places opportunities before us according to our willingness to be used as instruments to share His redemptive love.

Gifts come in many forms. Some of the best gifts have no monetary value but do more good than a million dollars. Giving of oneself is priceless. Love is the extravagant expression of what is inside us.

—Al

Other News

-**Helen’s brother, Roy Boren**, is now home after having a heart valve replacement. Surgery went well. He lives in MO. Prayers, please.

-**Rick Cliett** underwent surgery last week for bladder cancer. The tumor was more serious than expected and more surgery will be required. We will keep you updated regarding his progress. 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.

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—received a port this week. He will be receiving treatment through the port for now. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep hm in prayer.

-**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. He is doing better.

-**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

Scripture Sermon

ISAIAH 40:31 “...they that wait upon The LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

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—The Shunammite Woman” (Al)
Evening Worship: Jacob Forman will be speaking

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