

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“Are You A Net-Dragger or A Fish-Counter?”

Following the resurrection of Jesus we find five of his disciples together. Peter told the others, “I’m going fishing.” The other four disciples said, “we’ll go with you.” All night they fished but caught nothing.

Early the next morning, Jesus was standing on the shore and asked if they had caught any fish. “No”, they said. Jesus told them to throw their nets on the right side of the boat and they would catch some fish. Since Scripture says they didn’t know it was Jesus I’ve often wondered why seasoned fishermen would believe him, but they did as they were told and caught so many fish they couldn’t lift the net into the boat.

At that moment, the disciple John realized it was Jesus. When Peter heard him say, “It’s Jesus!”, he immediately jumped into the water to go to Jesus as the others followed behind in the boat dragging the net full of fish.

Following a breakfast of fish with Jesus, Peter got back into the boat and drug the net ashore. Scripture reports that there were 153 large fish in that net. I wonder who counted those fish.

This story reminds me that in the church we often have people who drag the nets and others who count the fish. According to studies, 20% of church members drag the nets while 80% count the fish. In other words, 80% of the work is done by roughly 20% of the members in the average congregation.

We’ve talked about biblical church membership. A biblical church member actively participates in the work of the church. The body of Christ has many members but form one body. Each member of the body has a function and each does his or her part to enable the body (church) to glorify God under the headship of Jesus. Each of us needs to ask ourselves, “Am I a net-dragger or a fish-counter?”

—Al

Other News

-Special Collection for Hurricane and Flood victims: We will have a special collection today for those who have experienced enormous devastation from the hurricane in New Orleans and flooding in Waverly, TN. Many fellow Christians have suffered great losses in these storms. The collection baskets will be passed a second time to assist with these disasters. Online giving can be made through the front page of our website. Click the “GIVE” button and select the “Disaster Fund” for your gift.

Other Sick

-Bre Barnett-was at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital on Thursday for a heart procedure. We are very happy that no new or urgent issues were found.

-Rick Cliett is battling bladder cancer and is now hospitalized with severe pain. His surgery has been cancelled as scans revealed that his cancer has metastasized and is in lymph nodes. Other options will be evaluated. Please keep Rick and Ginny in your prayers.

-Priscilla Dick, former member, is dealing with cancer but reports that she is feeling better. She has completed her chemotherapy. Keep praying for her and Gary.

-Leah Turner requests prayers for her mother, **Barbara Boggs**, whose sister passed away this week.

-Online Worship: Online worship and Bible class will continue for those who are not able to attend in-person worship. 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

-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 is receiving treatment through a port which has been installed to make his treatment easier. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep him in prayer.

-John Seibel, Cathy Haynes’ brother-in-law, had to be hospitalized in Florida for gallbladder surgery. They live in Karns and visit us often.

-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.

-George Tolliver’s sister, Mossie Simpson, is battling COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-Shannon Wade requests prayers for **Harley Tucker**, who is a 24 year old friend of their family. She just started chemo for breast cancer. She lives in MS.

Sunday AM Bible Class-9:30 am

“The Church in the Beginning-Acts” (Al Behel)

Wednesday Night Bible Class-7 pm

“Colossians” (Danny Cline)

Monday Night Zoom Ladies Bible Class

Resumes Monday night after Labor Day from

6:45-7:45 pm. Polly Cline will lead the study.

Topic: “O To Be Like Thee”

Teen Bible Class

Sunday and Wednesday - (Jacob Forman)

Current Building Loan Balance

\$667,683.32

Additional Contributions Appreciated

Food Drive

We are again participating in Tennessee Children’s Home East (in Knoxville) food drive. A collection container is located in the front foyer. Thanks to Beth Hayes for overseeing this project. She has placed a list of needed items in the foyer. Please see her if you have questions. The truck will pick up the items we have collected on Tuesday, Sept. 28.



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

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

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes (731-608-4148)

Sermon Topic: A.M—“That They All May Be One” (Al)

Evening Worship: “The Image of Christ—Col. 3” (Danny)

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