

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XXIV. No. 38

September 19, 2021

Kidney Disease

That's right. It was kidney disease that caused King Herod to be so mean and to order that all the innocent male infants under two years of age be killed, hoping to destroy the challenger to his throne. At least, that's what some scientists have concluded.

In a recent discovery medical researchers have decided that King Herod died of some form of kidney disease which caused him to become mentally ill, and thus to have a strong tendency to violence and ruthlessness.

Have you ever wondered if anyone is really responsible for his or her actions anymore? We can excuse abusive parents because they were not nurtured as children themselves. Thieves and robbers are victims of bad backgrounds, and rapists are just people who never learned to deal with their anger.

We have developed excuses for rudeness and disruptive behaviors, which place blame on biochemistry or poor genes. Sitting in my office one day a young boy explained his actions by saying, "I hit him back because he hit me back after I hit him."

While physical illnesses and mental illness can have a profound effect on human behavior, it sometimes appears that we have gone off the deep end looking for excuses for our actions. We can justify hatred because we were inadequately loved. We are selfish because we were overindulged on the one hand, or deprived on the other. We are substance abusers, whether legal or illegal, because life's stresses have activated our genetic propensity to become chemically dependent.

We have learned to avoid responsibility for spiritual involvement because we can't face the crowds or the rejection of others. We excuse our lack of spiritual development because no one has taken an interest in us and encouraged us to grow.

Whatever happened to personal responsibility? Is no one accountable for their actions? If Herod killed innocent babies because of a kidney disease, could it be that the crowd who participated in the crucifixion of Jesus did so because they were socially, economically, and educationally deprived?

God has always held man responsible for his actions. Paul reminded the Corinthian church we would all give an account of our actions to God on the final Day of Judgment.

Any person who is competent to make decisions about careers, indebtedness, contracts, and relationships is competent to stand accountable before God. Any person who has the ability to make a rational choice is capable of assuming responsibility for those choices.

—Al

Other News

-**Mandi** has been experiencing episodes of fluctuating heart rate and nearly passing out. She is to see a cardiologist on Monday. Keep her in prayer.

-**Skip Stewart** had a pacemaker installed on Monday. He is home and doing well.

-We are saddened to learn that **June Franks Booker** passed away Friday night. She suffered a stroke a few weeks ago and was in a rehab facility. She and her late husband, Al Franks, published the Magnolia Messenger.

-The next issue of Magnolia Messenger will have a picture of **Maddie Wade** on page 14. We are proud of Maddie and all our teens.

Online Worship: Online worship and Bible class may be accessed at www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.

Food Contact For Month: Tracey Kihlberg

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes, 732-608-4248

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"God's Temple" (Al)
P.M.—"No Longer A Human Point of View" (Al)

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.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**— We are happy to report that she is now cancer free! We give God thanks!

Ronnie Pitt, Tracey's dad, is being treated for uncontrolled A-Fib. Their address is: 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 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.

-**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.

-**Rick Cliett** is battling bladder cancer and is now hospitalized in San Antonio, TX. His cancer has metastasized and is in lymph nodes. He has been battling some infections and was hospitalized this week but is now home and feeling better. They expect to meet with his oncologist on Monday to consider treatment options. Please keep Rick and Ginny in your prayers. Rick is a former elder at the GSM church. They are deeply loved by us.

-**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.

Tennessee Children's Home Food Drive—Ends This Sunday

This is the last Sunday for the collection of food and money for children at TN Children's Home East in Knoxville. The truck is to be at our building on Wednesday morning. Food or money donations should be in by Sunday night. TCHE wishes to express their love and appreciation for your help in meeting their needs. Thanks to **Beth Hayes** for her excellent service in leading this effort.



Sunday Adult Class
A Study in Acts
Al Behel

Teen Class
Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class
Danny Cline—Colossians

Monday Night Ladies Study
"O To Be Like Thee"
Polly Cline

Zoom Bible Class Each Monday
Night 6:45-7:45

Follow Email Instructions

Building Loan Balance

\$667,683.32

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 PM