

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Let Your Words Be Gracious

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6)

Words are powerful. They can lift and they can crush. They can encourage and they can discourage. They have the ability to bring out the best in us or the worst in us. They are like arrows thrust into the hearts of those who hear us. And they are the soothing balm of compassionate love.

Remember the old adage, *"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me?"* That's rather silly, don't you think? I like some other versions better: *"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can break my heart!"* Perhaps the following is more to the point:

*Sticks and stones are hard on bones,
Cast with careless art;
And words can sting like anything
And silence breaks the heart.*

Words are symbols of ideas, and ideas reflect attitudes and values. Your words tell a lot about you. Are they gentle, warm, and sensitive? Are they harsh and rough, demeaning and denigrating? Your words tell others what you are like on the inside.

Gracious words are filled with beauty and kindness. They are heart-warming and cleansing. They have the power to bring comfort to those who feel defeated and joy to those who are depressed. Scripture tells us that Jesus spoke words of grace and beauty. No wonder the crowds wanted to hear Him; no wonder the outcasts came and sat at His feet. And His words are still gracious today. They are redemptive and healing...and they are life.

___Al

Other News

-Mandi has been experiencing episodes of fluctuating heart rate and nearly passing out. Her cardiologist has put her on medication to increase her sodium level. Keep her in prayer.

-Leslie Hanley has battled covid. She is improving but is still having some residual effects that will delay her full recovery.

-Bill Pierce, father of **Carol Kizer** (wife of Nelson), has been placed in Smoky Mtn. Rehab Center in Pigeon Forge. He suffered 3 broken bones in a fall. He was taken to the VA hospital in Johnson City, and was eventually referred back to Pigeon Forge. Carol also had a fall and is recovering. Please keep this wonderful family in prayer.

-The ladies of the GSM church are making **Christmas Care Bags** for children and teens in the PF area to be distributed by the police and fire departments. Tracey, Melanie and Tina are coordinating this effort. A list of items needed is on the ladies' bulletin board and table outside the sound room.

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

-Tithe.ly—our online giving platform allows those worshipping online to give your contributions directly into the church treasury. Simply click the "Give" button on the front page of the church website.

Food Contact For Month: Tracey Kihlberg

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Back To Basics" (Al)
P.M.—"Unbind Him and Let Him Go" - John 11 (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.

-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 which has metastasized and is in lymph nodes. Ginny reports that he is feeling better and responding well to chemo. 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.

-Cards For Covid Nurses— Susan Forman has made 24 handmade cards for covid floor staff at LeConte which were taken there by Jacob. She asks prayers for God's blessings and protection of them. A note was added letting the staff know that we would be praying for them. Thanks to Jacob for his prayer outreach to the LeConte workers.

EEM MILLION DOLLAR SUNDAY

Fund Raising Campaign

Eastern European Mission Fundraising Campaign to raise money for Bibles and religious literature to be placed in schools in former Soviet block countries is underway. The national goal this year is \$3.2. Darryl Willis will be with us on October 17 to speak to us about this challenge. Each year we encourage our members to help. \$100 will purchase 20 Bibles and \$1,000 will purchase 200 Bibles. Let's do our part to help meet the goal.

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

\$662,934.33

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