

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
acbehel@gmail.com

Vol. XXIV. No. 47

November 21, 2021

Thanksgiving

Have you ever made a list of things for which you are thankful? Did you have enough paper on which to write? The list would be enormously long for some of us. For others, whose hearts are filled with selfishness, it would be a very short list.

Thankfulness is a condition of heart which grows out of an awareness that what we have received is far greater than what we deserved. It is responsive...gratitude for what someone else has done for us.

God gives good things. He always has. Every "good gift, and every perfect gift" comes from Him. From the morning sunrise to the food we eat, the health we enjoy, or the children who lift our hearts...God is the Giver of all.

Looking at my gratitude list is not an annual event. It is not turkey and dressing. My list includes many things, which have enriched my life, and many people who have touched my heart in special ways.

At the top of the list is God's grace, without which I would still be a slave to Satan. I am thankful He broke sin's power and gave me life through His Son. I am thankful for the hope of eternal life.

I am also thankful for my church family. I am thankful for caring and loving brothers and sisters with whom I can share worship experiences and from whom I receive continuous encouragement in my Christian life.

I am thankful for physical families who give us a sense of meaningful relationships. Children are a special gift, and grandchildren reward us with unlimited opportunities to focus our attention, and from whom we receive unconditional love.

I am thankful for special friends who bring daily joy to our routines of work and life. Friends who understand us with our weaknesses and still love us. Friends who allow us to share their successes and struggles, and with whom we can be very honest.

I am thankful for our beautiful world with its mountains and oceans, its valleys and streams. I am thankful for the sound of birds singing, the wind blowing, and leaves falling slowly to the ground. I am thankful for the moon and stars, God's night-lights, which thrill lovers' hearts and provide guidance to travelers at sea.

I am thankful that I can be thankful...that I have the capacity to know that what I receive is greater than I deserve. To know that someone greater than I had a hand in providing for my needs. I am grateful that, unlike the animals of the forest, I can know the origin of those gifts and express gratitude to the one that watches over me and supplies every need.

___Al

Other News

-Welcome New Members: We welcome **Tom and Brenda Fussell** to our church family. They have recently moved to Seymour from Hendersonville, TN. Tom is retired from the State Department of Disability where he served to recruit doctors to do disability screening. Brenda is a former teacher. Both Tom and Brenda have actively served in benevolence outreach. We are very happy that they have chosen to become part of our fellowship. Their address is: 2214 Frewin Court, Sevierville, TN 37876.

-Rick Cliett, former elder of the GSM church is in critical condition in the hospital in San Antonio, TX. He is suffering from bladder cancer and it has metastasized. Please pray fervently for Rick and Ginny.

Food Contact For Month: Polly Cline

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.- "Thanks Be To God"
P.M.- "Before The Rooster Crows"

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

Our Known Sick

-June McGowen, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.

-Linda Valentine— battling cancer.

-Anna Ruth Franklin— Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Keep Tracey's dad and mom, Ron and Judy Pitts, in your prayers. 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.

-David Byrd, son of Herb and Sybill Byrd, has been suffering from a mysterious illness with cranial leaking. He has n moved to Knoxville for rehab. Their son-in-law, **Joel Davenport,** has been suffering from post-covid blood clots, sarcoidosis in the lungs, and currently stage 2 renal failure. Herb is an elder of the Maryville church and has spoken for us several times in the past.

-Priscilla Dick has completed her chemotherapy and is doing well.

-Bill Pierce, father of **Carol Kizer** (wife of Nelson), has been placed in Smoky Mtn. Rehab Center in PFs. Please keep this wonderful family in prayer.

-Tricia Hayes' mother, Debbie Odham, has been diagnosed with leukemia with only months to live. Her father is also struggling with COPD and is in critical condition. Please keep Tricia and her family in prayer.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

And Fellowship Gathering

Will be Sunday, December 5, following morning worship

Sign-up board will be in the foyer next Sunday

Safety protocols will be in place that day. Food will be separated into different stations instead of one long buffet (so everyone will not be gathered in one location). Gloves for handling food will be provided on each table.

Ladies will meet at the church building at 9 am on Saturday, December 4 to decorate tables, the fellowship hall, and to put Sunshine baskets together.

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—Ladies Bible Class

Each Monday Night 6:45-7:45

Follow Email Instructions

Building Loan Balance

\$653,326.74

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