

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Are You A Voice?

When John the Baptist came as a forerunner to Christ the people were amazed at his message. It was unique. It was challenging. It was disturbing. It was a simple message, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" While it was a simple message it didn't fit with the messages they had always heard from their rabbis. What is this kingdom he's talking about? And why should we repent?

Crowds came to hear him. All the way into the desert. And who is this weird man? He wears weird clothes and eats locusts. But his message was compelling, "Repent!"

The religious leaders asked him, "Are you the Messiah, or Elijah, or Moses?" He answered "No, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness" (John 1:23). "I'm just a voice."

Just a voice. Just a messenger, a witness. Until we come to the place in our lives when we are content to just be a voice for Jesus, then we will continue to try to steal the show. Our lives are to be about Jesus, but so often we make it about ourselves. The entire focus of the Christian life is to promote Jesus, to proclaim the "way of the Lord."

Someone has said that our struggle is with our EGO's. When your egos is too big, then you are stealing attention that belongs to Christ. When your ego is involved, you are Edging God Out. When God is edged out, you'll lift yourself up in pride and start to think that you deserve credit for all that is accomplished in your life.

John was a cousin to Jesus, but he didn't want to be first. He didn't want to steal the show. He wanted to be a servant. And that's what we need to be. When we have servant hearts our greatest satisfaction comes from seeing other's become servants too. We just need to be a "voice" for Him. Are you willing to be a voice?

Al Behel

Other News

-Welcome New Members: We welcome **Tom and Brenda Fussell** to our church family. They have recently moved to Seymour from Hendersonville, TN. 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. His condition has gotten worse and your prayers are being requested for comfort. Please pray fervently for Rick and Ginny. They are very dear to our hearts.

-Mary Beth Seibel, Cathy's niece, had surgery on Tuesday to remove a tumor from her neck. They are awaiting results of her pathology report. Please pray.

-Raja Vijay Kumar's father has been hospitalized with a bile duct obstruction and has received a stent. He has just been released and they are awaiting pathology reports to determine if it is cancerous. Raja is our missionary in India. He requests our prayers for his father.

-Paul Chinwendu Onwukwe serves as our missionary in Nigeria. He is doing a wonderful work which includes starting a growing school for children who are being taught the word of God.

-Juan Tomas Martinez is our missionary in LaEsperanza, Honduras. Through his ministry three congregations of the Lord's church are now growing numerically and spiritually. His daughter, Irma, and his entire family, are dedicated servants working diligently for the cause of Christ.

Food Contact For Month: Poliy Cline

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.- "What A Fool Remembered and What a Fool Forgot"
P.M.- "In My Father's House"

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 next 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