

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Vol. XXIV. No. 49

December 05, 2021

They Think It Is Strange

The apostle Peter said, "They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you" (1 Pet. 4:4). That was the reaction of the neighbors of first century Christians who had decided to travel a different road from the unbelieving world around them.

When Mike Delcavo made a different turn in the 10,000 meter race in Riverside, California, only four other runners followed him. Although he kept waving to the other 127 runners only four believed he was going the right way. Delcavo commented later, "They thought it was funny that I went the right way."

That is precisely the reaction of people of the world around us when we choose to go the "right way/" While Christians are saying "no" to the pleasures of sin and "yes" to righteous living, they think it is strange. While Christians are in worship, they think it strange that we are not engaged with them in other activities which they consider to be more important. While Christians sacrifice financial resources to spread the gospel to the world, they buy bigger and better things for personal enjoyment and think it strange that we do not "run with them."

Some believers find it hard to make the right turn when they see their friends choosing a different path. They may question themselves and the choices they have made. The narrow way is always hard. The way can be rough. But it leads to the victory crown (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Non-Christians choose an easy path but there is no reward at the end of the race.

The world offers many diversions. Instant gratifications. Limitless pleasures. Admiring crowds. The way of the cross offers suffering and death. Still, it is the only way of life. Abundant life. Eternal life. It is the way home. The way to God's presence. Where joy never ends. And the choice is ours. To run with the crowd, or to choose the right way.

Al Behel

Other News

-**Rick Cliett**, former elder of the GSM church, passed away around 6 pm on Saturday evening. He has been hospitalized several times for extended periods in the last few months as he battled bladder cancer. We are saddened at the earthly loss of our brother but rejoice and find comfort that he can now enjoy his new home with God in heaven. Please keep Ginny and their family in your prayers.

-**Robin Holden**, sister-in-law of Carolyn Collier, underwent surgery on December 2, in Huntsville, Alabama for pancreatic cancer. Please keep Robin and her husband, Jerry, in your prayers.

-**Carolyn Collier** has been experiencing a lot of pain this week. She and Phil were supposed to make a trip back to Alabama but were not able to do that. Prayers for relief.

-Thanks to all the ladies who met at the building on Saturday to decorate for our holiday party and fellowship dinner. They also assembled Sunshine baskets for shut-ins and others who need to receive a special act of kindness. Also, some baskets were assembled for some workers at Cathy's school who have provided invaluable assistance to her in some difficult situations.

-Online worship for those who cannot be with us in person is available at our website: greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com or on our Facebook page.

Food Contact For Month: Polly Cline

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson 865-924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.- "What's So Amazing About God's Grace?"
P.M.- "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

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

Safety protocols will be in place. 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.

Scripture for the Heart: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28)

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