

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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December 26, 2021

### The Passing Years

A few years ago we had a visitor to our worship service who was the mother of 16 children. She had 11 daughters with her in worship that day. I was amazed at her young appearance and youthful demeanor. I found her to be rather fascinating sitting on the front pew with her "children", singing every word without looking at a hymnal and mouthing passages I would be reading or quoting. Her years had been rather good to her.

After speaking extensively about the brevity of his own life, the Psalmist turns his thoughts to God and says,

*"Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; they will all wear out like a garment. You change them like clothing, and they pass away; but You are the same, and Your years have no end." (Psalm 102:25-26).*

The ending of one year and the beginning of a new one reminds us that time passes very quickly for all of us. Our days "pass away like smoke" and "like an evening shadow." (Psalm 102:3,11), but God is constant. He never ages and never changes. He is as young today as He was when He created the universe. He has no wrinkles or age spots. God is eternally young. He is "everlasting."

Each passing year reminds us that our time is limited. We measure it in segments, ranging from milliseconds to millennia. Infinity is beyond our ability to fully grasp. Within these time segments we recognize the limitations of our abilities, opportunities, and accomplishments. Everything we do has a beginning and an end. God's purposes are not limited by time or eternity. His purposes transcend all time segments.

Some people live one year over and over again, accomplishing little more than the year before. Others live a lifetime with each year filled with exciting new possibilities and accomplishments. The apostle Paul reminds us that we should make the most of time because "the days are evil."

Let us make the New Year one of new possibilities...possibilities borne of faith. Possibilities empowered by a limitless God who loves us. Let's resolve to focus our eyes on Jesus every day because he is truly the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Let's draw closer to one another and encourage one another on our journey toward eternity where we, too, will have no end.

Al Behel

### Other News

**Disaster Relief:** a total of \$5,325.05 was contributed to help the victims of tornadoes covering several states. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**Sam Haynes:** Last Sunday we announced that Sam has decided to pursue a degree in Bible at Freed-Hardemen to prepare for ministry. Sam can use our help financially in meeting his goal. A total of \$7,750 was donated last Sunday night by individuals to help him. If you would like to help, you can make a check payable to the GSM church and designate it for the Ministry Scholarship Fund.

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

**A Special Thank You!** For your love and kindness and the wonderful spirit you have demonstrated to all of us, not only at this season, but throughout the year. *The Behels, Clines, Formans, and Elkins. Happy Holidays!*

**Food Contact For Month:** Poliy Cline

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.— "The Limits of God's Grace" (Al)  
P.M.— "Another Counselor: Let's Talk About The Holy Spirit" (Al)

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at [albehel.com](http://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 him 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.

-**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.

-We are happy to report that **David Byrd** (Herb and Sybil's son) has improved and has been able to return to Louisiana and is tentatively back at work. Also, **Joel Davenport**, their son-in-law has been downgraded from stage 4 to stage 1 kidney failure 10 months post-covid.

(The following FB post was written by one of my dear friends and fellow classmates as Bible majors. I wanted to share this with you. AB)

### SHEPERDS

"In New Testament times shepherds were part of the outcasts of society, so much so that the scholar William Barclay says they were not even allowed to testify in court (Commentary on Luke). God did not have that view of them. God's host of angels first announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds (Luke 2:8-18). It is ironic that the courts would not let shepherds testify in court, but God chose them to be the first to testify of Jesus' birth. God still reaches out to all, but most often those who answer that call are people the world reject (I Corinthians 1:26). Those wise in this world often think they do not need to accept Jesus nor to declare to others His birth, life, and death!"

\_\_\_ Wayne Burger

### Sunday Adult Class

*A Study in Acts*

Al Behel

### Teen Class

Jacob Forman

### Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

### Monday Night Ladies Study

Will not meet again until

January

Follow Email Instructions

### Building Loan Balance

**\$647,293.90**

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