

# NEWSLINE

## Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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January 16, 2022

### 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." They think it strange when Christians pray, or bow and thank God for the food they are about to eat.

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 diversion. Instant gratifications. Limitless pleasures. Admiring crowds. The way of the cross offers suffering and death. Still, it is the 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

**-A Great Loss:** We are saddened at the passing of our former elder, Dan Elkins, who passed away on Wednesday in Franklin. Dan and Sheryl were members of the GSM congregation from the mid-90's until about 5 years ago when they moved to be closer to their children. Sheryl was suffering from cancer and passed three years ago. Dan was a backbone in our fellowship, greeting every visitor possible and remembering their names. Visitors still ask about him on a regular basis. He made them feel welcomed and at home. Our grief is overshadowed with joy that he and Sheryl are now at home with God.

**-Memorials:** Donations have been made to the building fund in memory of: Rick Cliett, Bill Valentine, and Kay Mabry.

**-Tom Fussell** was hospitalized earlier this week due to very high blood pressures and low sodium levels. He will continue to be monitored. Keep him and Brenda in your prayers.

**-Jacob's neighbor** is in need of prayer for both his physical health and spiritual well-being.

**Food Contact For Month:** Polly Cline

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

**Sermon Topics:** A.M.— "Looking To Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-3) Al  
P.M.— Jacob Foreman will speak

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.

**-Marc and Sue—** positive covid test. Both feeling better.

### 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.

**-Larry Sanderson,** Al's brother-in-law, is losing his eyesight. Doctors are trying to determine if he had a blood clot or a stroke. Please keep Larry and Helen in your prayers.

**-Emma Oliver,** girl friend of Al and Linda's grandson, received an MRI report that revealed some abnormal developments in a portion of her brain. She has passing out and falling. She is to have further tests at Vanderbilt later in the month.

**Ladies:** Your Monday night Zoom Bible Class will resume Monday, January 10, at 6:45 pm. Polly Cline will be leading the study entitled, "O To Be Like Thee." All ladies are invited to log in for the class. If you are not receiving emails (bulletins, etc.), please turn in your email address to Linda in the sound room or give to Polly for the ladies class.

**Online worship** for those who cannot be with us in person is available at our website: [greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com](http://greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com) or on our Facebook page.

### Sunday Adult Class

*A Study in Acts*

Al Behel

### Teen Class

Jacob Forman

### Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

### Monday Night Ladies Study

Resumes Mon., January 10

Topic: "O To Be Like Thee"

January 10, 6:45 pm

Teacher: Polly Cline

### 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