

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“Near To The Heart Of God”

Who stirs your heart? Perhaps it is a child who captures your deepest emotions of love. Or, maybe it is that special someone who shares the intimacy of your soul. We all have special people who are close to our hearts.

God holds certain people close to His heart. They can move Him to weep, or laugh, or celebrate. He delights in them daily. He finds pleasure in them. God was so passionate about us that He sent heavens greatest gift to us...the gift of His Son. And He did that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). King David said it well, “Great is the LORD, who *delights in the welfare of his servant!*” (Psalm 35:27).

What thrills God’s heart? Scripture tells us, “For the LORD takes *pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.*” (Psalms 149:4). The heart of God rejoices in His children...when we walk with Him and keep faith in Him. He delights in every victory we claim, in every holy moment we share with Him.

He surrounds us with good things. His glorious heavens whisper His praises. The mountains applaud His presence. He extends His strength to those who seek Him. He is not moved by our power or wealth. He is not impressed with our abilities...after all, He made us and gives us our unique talents. He is moved by our faith and love. He rejoices when we believe Him. His heart is near to those who trust Him.

God called David a “*man after my heart*” (Acts 13:22). The distinctive reason given is that David would do God’s will. When we do God’s will His heart is pleased. It is never enough to simply proclaim our allegiance...we must follow through. We must not waver, or lose heart. We must always walk under the shadow of His grace in full compliance with His will. Then we are near to the heart of God.

— Al Behel

Other News

-Skip and Esther Stewart—have been struggling with upper respiratory infections. Their covid tests were negative. Esther reports that both are feeling better.

COVID REPORT— Several members have battled Covid during the last week or two: Marc and Sue Hayes, Mark and Cathy Haynes, Dave and Helen Swentzel, Samantha, Brooklyn, and Braelyn Sheffield, Raja (our missionary in India), and Cody Kihlberg. Cody was diagnosed this week and is recovering at home. Marijane, Doug, and Marci have fully recovered. If you know if others who are ill, please let us know. You can respond to the church email or call Al at 250-1083.

-Congratulations To: Ethan Memolo on completing and graduating from basic training at the Marine Corp Base Camp Lejeune. We celebrate with wife Caroline and grandparents, Marc and Sue Hayes.

-Special Thanks to Danny, Jacob, and Mark for covering my class and the pulpit during the past few weeks as I was battling a respiratory issue. (Al)

-Online worship: greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com or FB page.
New website address: gsmchurchofchrist.com. Both are still accessible.

Food Contact For Month: Poliy Cline

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.— “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” (Al
P.M.— Mark Haynes will lead worship

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.

-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 episodes of passing out and falling. She is to have further tests at Vanderbilt.

-Jimmy Britt, Tracy Wade’s dad, is in a comma in the hospital in MS battling the effects of Covid pneumonia. He is on a ventilator at 100% and is in critical condition. Please pray for him, Tracy, and their family.

FROM OUR LADIES: Our next fellowship dinner will be postponed for a few weeks along with our monthly meeting. We hope to resume very soon.

A little humor:

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of a store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, “*Son, can you tell me where the post office is?*” The little boy replied, “*Sure, just go down to the end of the street and turn right.*”

The man thanked the little boy kindly and said, “*I’m the new minister in town. I’d like you to come to church on Sunday. I’ll show you how to go to Heaven.*” The little boy chuckled, “*Aww...come on... you don’t even know your way to the post office!*”

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”

Mondays, 6:45 pm
Teacher: Poliy Cline

Building Loan Balance
\$639,375.84

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