

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Don't Mess With My Habits!

Change is hard. Habits are hard to break. Even if they are harmful or hurtful. In his book, *River Odyssey*, author Gerald N. Callahan, a professor at Colorado State University, discusses his views of life and the difficulties we have dealing with certain negatives. He confesses, "I drink too much . . . I eat like myocardial infarctions and colon cancer don't kill middle-aged men, and every morning I swear I'll change, but nothing ever changes."

Many of us could make a similar confession about how difficult it is to make the changes we need to make. We promise to lose weight, do a better job staying on task, or to change habits which enslave us. How many times do we hear people promise to quit smoking, drinking, or over-eating.

I once spoke at a church where three-fourths of the people sat in the back of the auditorium. I learned that some of those individuals had their own seats for 30-40 years and would become very upset if anyone, including visitors, occupied their seats. Moving to the front or changing to another seat was out of the question. I wondered what message non-members who visit would take from this practice.

Most people do not change significantly because we are creatures of habit. Psychologists know that the best predictor of future behavior is the individual's past behavior. But, change is really possible for those who see change as desirable and who want to change. The apostle Paul made major changes after meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road. The new birth brings a new life.

When professed Christians continue acting as they did before their conversion to Christ one might question the reality of their conversion experience. The "new creation" that results from our new birth means that "all things are new." We are not the same. We think like Christ, we act like Christ, and we look like Christ, because we are his disciples.

One's position in Christ is not determined by where one sits, but by what one does and how one is moved to be like Jesus. Christians share an excitement about spiritual things, about worship, and giving, and serving others. There is a joy that is recognized immediately by unbelievers. His followers love to be together in worship, love to be called upon to minister in his name to those around us, and love to sacrifice for his cause. The reason? Because we have been **changed** into his likeness (2 Cor. 3:18).

— Al Behel

Other News

-**Danny and Polly** will remain in Blue Ridge, GA, awaiting repairs to their roof. We are grateful that Danny's eye is improving. **Our Sympathy** is extending in the death of Danny's nephew, Chris Craig, who passed away of a heart attack on Wednesday morning, leaving his wife and 4 children. His memorial service will be next Saturday in Cartersville, GA. Many of their family will be together and will be supportive to his family. Please keep praying..

Daniel Cline, Danny and Polly's son, has been invited by the Faith Office of the Trump White House to go to Romania and into Ukraine to deliver 1 million meals to the needy. They leave this Sunday morning and are to return next Friday. Pray for their safety.

-**Doug Hill**—believed to have had a mini-stroke this week. Prayers for him.

-**Monday Night Ladies Class**—you will be notified in April when the class

Sermon Topics: A.M.— "No Ordinary Man, No. 6—Is Your House Clean?" (Al)
P.M.— "Ain't My People!" (Al)

The Builder

A builder builded a temple.
He wrought it with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will.

Men said, as they saw its beauty,
'It shall never know decay.
Great is thy skill, O Builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye.'

A teacher builded a temple
With loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.

None praised her unceasing efforts.
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the teacher builded
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple,
Crumbled into the dust.
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.

But the temple the teacher builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple
Was a child's immortal soul.

(Author Unknown)

Sunday Adult Class

A Study in Acts

Al Behel

Teen Class

Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

Monday Night Ladies Study

Topic: "O To Be Like Thee"

Mondays, 6:45 pm

Teacher: Polly Cline

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

Food Contact For Month:

Sue Hayes

Elder Contact for Month:

Jim Anderson 865-924-1067

Online worship: available on church website or FB page

Our Known Sick

-**Jeanette Dyer** was released from LeConte Medical Center on Saturday after spending almost 3 days with apparent pancreatitis. She is now at home. Several members and Gary and Priscilla (former members) are assisting her. Please keep her in prayer.

June McGowen, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. .

-**Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**— Prayers for several health issues.

FRIENDS & FAMILY 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, Mosie 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 is battling 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.

Fellowship Dinner & Meetings:

This Sunday following morning worship. Men & ladies meetings will be immediately after the dinner.

Men: fellowship and sharing session each Tuesday night at 7 pm.

Building Loan Balance

\$632,871.05

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

Archived sermons are available on the church website or at albehel.com