

WELCOME

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

3078 Veterans Boulevard *** P. O. Box 173, Pigeon Forge TN 37864

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Elder **Mark Haynes** 865.805.2293 Elder **Marc Hayes** 731.608.4148

January 22, 2023

From the Word - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Our puppy, Loki, is full of mischief and chaos as his name suggests. He is a mixed breed, mountain feist and mountain cur, apparently useful in hunting small game. Since I am not a hunter, Loki will never be useful for that purpose. However, watching him use his gifts for hunting rabbits or squirrels in unproductive ways like clawing, biting, chewing, and destroying everything in our house made me realize that he needs a new purpose and putting him in a cage just won't do.

I can't sling a gun, but I can sling a frisbee—a great joy my sons have taken up in sport and leisure time. Now they are teaching me the fine art of throwing discs with a purpose. So, my new trainee with teeth and claws that just won't quit has a new purpose, to run and snatch discs out of the air. After being cooped up all day it just takes Loki about 20 minutes to wear himself out catching and fetching which entertains and pleases his master.

God has given man gifts, but we are to seek and find good purposes for those gifts. Edification is the building up of others within the body of Christ, the church. All gifts should be used to bring joy to another's life which pleases God, our master. Love is the supreme purpose of all. So, when it comes to using our gifts, God calls us to build up the church for the ultimate reason of love. Love seeks the interest of others and not ourselves. When we use our gifts to benefit others, the act becomes our reward in itself and not to gain something in return.

May we use our gifts to bring joy to his church.

Mark Haynes

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - Good News! We have begun the new year with a search for a full-time minister who would like to work with our local membership and help us grow spiritually and in numbers as we continue to serve our many visitors, reach out to the local community and also work with us as we help to support foreign missions. If you know of an interested candidate please ask him to contact us by sending an email to: gsmcocdeacons@gmail.com

FAMILY & FRIENDS' PRAYER REQUESTS - Please remember Heath, George and Melanie Tolliver in your prayers; **Coleen Thomason's** cousin, **Richard Hopwood** and her sister, **Teresa** and brother-in-law, **Mark Baker**; **Leah Turner's** friends, **Ingrid and Steve Osborn**; **Anna Ruth Franklin**; **Jeanette Dyer** and her grandson **Eric**; **Tracey Kihlberg's** father, **Ronnie Pitt**; **Treavor, Jason and Kelly Hayes**; **Leslie Henley**; **Raja's wife** in India;

UPDATES

Howard Yates will be moving to Dominion Senior Living on January 26. Please keep **Howard, Tina** and their family in your prayers as they adjust to this change. Tina says Howard would enjoy lots of visits and cards. His **Dominion address is Room No. 127, 1102 Medical Park Ct., Sevierville, TN 37862**.

Esther Stewart is slowly improving from her fall. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues her physical therapy. Please continue praying for **Linda and Larry Valentine** as she continues her treatments and as Larry recovers from foot surgery. They plan to be back with us soon.



Our First Sunday monthly meetings and potluck dinners are immediately following morning worship service **on February 5**. There is a covered dish sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.

Current Building Loan Balance: \$518,413.88

Contacts for January: Food Assistance - **Elora Crabtree** ; News Contact - **Tracey Kihlberg**

Sunday Morning 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship **Sunday Evening 6:00 pm**
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. ; Men's Meetings Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m at building.