



The Mountain View

Mountain Presbyterian Church
3831 Highway 515 East
Blairsville, GA 30512

December 2011
January 2012

Dear Children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival, although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just **GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

Now, having said that, let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that, there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be so many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching explaining who I am in relation to you what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15:1-8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth, here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell me all the time.
2. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
3. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and give them the gift of forgiveness I have given you.
4. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.
5. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas," that doesn't keep you from wishing them one.
6. If you really want to make a difference, support mission work through your church. Help those who make My life and Good News known through their ministry to those who have never heard it.
7. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have not tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the church or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you and bring joy to me.
8. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of min.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have the most blessed and happy Christmas holy days with all those whom you love. Remember:

I LOVE YOU, everyday—

JESUS



Annual Meeting



In accordance with our congregational By-Laws, the Session has called for our Annual Meeting to be held on January 15, 2012. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service. The congregation will vote on the Annual Budget and the report of the Nominating Committee. Reports will be presented from the Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men, and Stewardship and Finance Committee. All members are asked to be present. Following the meeting, a lunch will be served.

Stewardship and Finance

As we begin the Advent Season, a time of reflection and anticipation, we renew our commitment to the Ministries of Mountain Presbyterian Church by turning in our pledge cards. Commitment Sunday was November 20. If you have misplaced your card, just stop by the office and pick up a new one. If you were not with us on the 20th, please mail your card in the envelope we provided.

Even though the Church calendar is beginning a new year, there is still some left-over business. This past year our expenses have outpaced our giving. The Session asks that as you consider your year-end giving that you think of Mountain Presbyterian Church. During the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service a special offering will be taken to help the ministries of our church.

Revenue and Expenses for October 2011

Contributions:	\$14,573.14	Expenses:	\$13,976.58
September Net Income:	\$596.56		

Year-to-date our expenses are greater than our contributions by **\$4,412.90**

Good Presbyterian Men rejoice over breakfast and a gag gift exchange—\$10 tops! We'll meet at the church on Tuesday, December 13, at 8:00 a.m. for a delicious breakfast, followed by the gift exchange. All men of the church are invited—sign up on the sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall.



Mountain Presbyterian Women!

"We're saving a place for you!"

PW Thank Offering: We are proud to announce that \$360 will be sent to PW International. We thank all who gave so generously and shared in our church family Thanksgiving lunch. At least 43% of these funds will be used to support health ministries such as providing utility and housing assistance for female-headed households in South Appalachia and creation of a camp in Western Kentucky for individuals with brain injuries or other disabilities, to name a few.

Bake Sale: Come sample and order your Christmas goodies during fellowship time after worship, this Sunday, December 4. Your baked goods will be delivered Sunday, December 18.

There will be NO meeting in December—Merry Christmas to all!
January 19, 2012—First PW meeting of the New Year

Dear Family,

Please know how very much we have appreciated your cards and calls and have felt the strength from your prayers.

Our faith and your love have made the difficult time of Dad's death bearable and have been a witness to the powerful presence of God, the comfort of the Spirit and the sure knowledge of eternal life through Christ.

We could not have gotten through these days without you and we will never be able to thank you except by loving you as you have loved us!

Travis, Kathy, the Boys and Blair



A-Caroling We Will Go!



That's right! On Tuesday, December 20th, we will gather at Branan Lodge at 5:00 p.m. for our Annual Caroling. Festive Christmas hats and scarves are a nice touch.

At the conclusion of our caroling, we will head to Fatz Restaurant and enjoy a dinner together—Dutch treat. As those who participated last year will readily tell you, this is a delightful, and most appreciated, way to spark your holiday spirit and that of the residents.

Please sign up on the "Caroling Sign-Up Sheet" posted in the Fellowship Hall. This will help give us some idea of who will be coming. Tra, la, la, la, la!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Join us as we celebrate our Savior's birth on Saturday evening, December 24th, at 8:00 p.m. We will worship our Lord's nativity with song, the reading of Scripture and conclude with our traditional lighting of the candles. Come worship Christ, the newborn King.

Christmas Sunday O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant, to worship our Savior's birth on December 25th. The Christmas Service will begin at 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate our Lord's nativity with song and the reading of Scripture. Plan to "come as you are," or wear your Christmas finery. But be with us on the holiest day of the year. Come and worship Emmanuel, the newborn King!

New Year's Holy Communion On January 1st we will usher in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve in a very meaningful way. During the worship service we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Plan to join with us, remembering Christ and the new year our God is presenting to us.



Be an Angel this Christmas!

Once again, we will have the opportunity to "be an angel." Select one of the angel tags on the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree, purchase a gift for the adult or child listed on it and return it by December 18. It's a great way to share the joy of Christmas with those less fortunate in our community.

It's Poinsettia Time Again!



We'll be decorating the church with pots of poinsettias on December 18th. The cost will be \$6.00 per plant. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please see Jane Allen or Ruth McKinley by December 11th to place your order.



Dear Friends,

I am a bit uncomfortable to even ask you to give anymore to a church offering. You have been amazingly generous with your financial gifts to so many special appeals as well as to our own congregational budget! And the requests just keep coming. A term has even been coined to express how many people are feeling—"philanthropic fatigue."

Christmas Joy Offering

But, I make this request of you because I know how important this offering is to so many. The Christmas Joy Offering goes to help support our ministers and their spouses who retired before Social Security was an option for Clergy. It also helps those ministers and missionaries who have had to leave active service in the church because of medical disability. Thirdly, this offering helps our Presbyterian

Racial-Ethnic High Schools and Colleges with scholarship funds.

For over 70 years through the Christmas Joy Offering we have shared the light of God's love through Christ with those of our church whose lives, for many reasons, have been darkened. I hope that this year we again will bring joy to many by our giving to the Christmas Joy Offering which will be received on Sunday, December 18th. Thank you.

May God's gifts of Christmas bring to you great joy,

Travis



Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express our gratitude and thanks for the support you have shown us since the accident. The prayers, visits, cards, phone calls and gifts have sustained us in this time. Your prayers have had a powerful impact. We are thankful to be part of the Mountain Presbyterian Church family. Thanks to each of you and may God's presence abide with you.

Love, Bill and Mary Katherine Gettys



Flowers, Greeters And Coffee Hour

Thank you all so much for your continued support of food, flowers, and fellowship!

The new Flower and Coffee Hour calendars are up! Check the calendar in the narthex for flowers and in the Fellowship Hall to host Coffee Hour and pick your Sunday. Also, we need your help this month as many Coffee Hour dates are still available for December, 2011.

Flowers in honor or memory of a loved one are \$32.10 for a lovely bouquet or you may provide your own flowers.

December Greeters	December Coffee Hour Hosts	December Flower Calendar
4 Doug & Nancy Calkins	4 Bake Sale Tasting/Ordering	4 Baumgardner
11 Scotty & Beckie Hargrove	11 Host Needed	11 Kissel/Nowak
18 Skip, Diana & Tucker Belton	18 Host Needed	18 Poinsettias
24 Jim & Jeanne Ketchen	25 Fellowship	25 Poinsettias
25 John & Joan Hollingshead		
January 1 Les & Nancy Jones		

U.S. Congregational Life Survey on December 11

We had originally planned to take the survey on November 13. However, as you are aware, Rev. Adams was called away to be with his father in Florida. We have now rescheduled the survey for December 11.

This survey asks worshippers about their faith background and beliefs, involvement in the congregation, community involvement, and views about congregational priorities. All responses are confidential.

The short, easy-to-answer survey will be passed out in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service on December 11. Please make every effort to be with us and stay for a brief time to complete the survey.

Please remember the Food Pantry in this time of great need in our community. A list of needs is included in the bulletin each week. Volunteers are also needed to staff the pantry. If you can help for a few hours, once a month, please call Carole in the church office for details—706.745.8036. Thank you for your faithful contributions to this ministry.



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