



The Mountain View

M o u n t a i n P r e s b y t e r i a n C h u r c h
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B l a i r s v i l l e , G A 3 0 5 1 2

February 2011

Dear Family,

It seems everyone is tired, both physically and emotionally.

We seem to be “spinning our wheels” just to remain in the same place. We are constantly being asked to do more with less—less energy, less excitement, less largesse.

Last Sunday, though, I was pepped up by the reports given at our Annual Meeting. I was made aware once again of our enthusiastic giving to our church, community and sisters and brothers in Christ all over the world.

Mountain Presbyterian Church ended the year in the black, we had a balanced budget year, although that was accomplished by utilizing some fund money.

We also continued our support of missions and ministries through our special offerings. The Souper Bowl offering which is used to help those “hungry” in our community received \$400. We supported world and national disaster relief ministries through our giving of \$1,450 to the One Great Hour of Sharing. We gave in direct disaster support \$4,300 to Haiti and Chile. The Joy Gift offering received \$1,350. Also, we gave \$3,400 to the Special Joint Offering for the work of our congregation and Northeast Georgia Presbytery. The Christmas Eve offering was \$1,473. In support of the American Cancer Society’s search for a cure, our donation to Relay for Life was \$2,927. This special giving amounts to \$15,300.

The Presbyterian Women and Men sent support totaling \$4,400 to Regency Hospice, C.A.S.A., S.A.F.E., Thornwell Home, Columbia Fellowship, and Habitat for Humanity.

Along with this, we through our budgeted giving, supported the ministries of our denomination through our tithing of our General Fund receipts which amounted to \$16,878. We also gave \$1,876 to our P.C.(USA) seminaries. We awarded college scholarships to John Campbell and Jacob McClain which amounted to \$3,000.

Through the Outreach and Evangelism Committee we gave \$3,400 to Friendship House Homeless Shelter in Murphy, NC. , The Open Door Homeless Shelter in Atlanta, GA, Gooch House in Blairsville, the Medical Benevolence Foundation for Overseas Care, Rivers of the World, the Mexico Mission of our Presbytery and the Ministerial Association of Union County as well as financial aid to people of Towns and Union Counties.

If you add this giving to the already mentioned amounts sent to support missions, programs, projects and ministries, it totals \$44,854. That is energizing to my/your spirits and the Spirit.

May we remain as energized in 2011, showing our love and support to those who are also “weak and heavy laden” as we have last year. We are truly a blessed and blessing people! Thanks be to God!

ἀγάπη,

Travis



PW NEWS AND NOTES

Happy New Year, Everyone! The Presbyterian Women thank you for the support you've given us over the last year and hope we can count on you again in 2011.

PW is very blessed to have such a generous, however anonymous, donor who gifted 100 salad plates for our kitchen. Thank you!

PW Monthly Meeting

We are moving along in our **study of Revelation**, having just completed Chapter 7 and the opening of the seven seals. In February we move on to Lesson 6, "Witness to Hope," (Revelation Chapter 12) in which we encounter two deeply symbolic stories, representing the life-and-death struggle that is at the heart of the book. The key idea of this lesson is that "With Christ's victory on the cross, we are given power to defeat the forces of evil through witness."

Trinkets and Treasures Yard Sale

It's that quiet time of year—outdoor activity is non-existent because of the weather and shorter daylight hours. But that doesn't mean the hours we have available cannot be productive. It's a great time for going through closets, cupboards, basements, garages and collecting all that stuff that's been taking up space and/or collecting dust because you no longer use or need it.

So what to do with all that stuff you've just collected? Box it, bag it or just put it aside for **PW's Trinkets and Treasures Yard Sale** coming July 15-16, 2011. Yes, it is back with some changes. We've scheduled it a little later than in past years and also decided to do a yard sale every other year instead of every year. More details will be available in the coming months. Meanwhile, start sorting!



Food Pantry

Thank you for generously donating food, cleaning supplies and personal care items to our pantry. It has been and will continue to be a blessing to so many in our community.

We've had many families coming in for food over the last few cold and snowy weeks. We are running low on spaghetti noodles, Spam, cereal, tooth brushes, shampoo, soap, clothes and dish soap, cooking oil, crackers and **toilet tissue**.

Also, don't forget those who are also struggling with diabetes. Low or no-sugar-added food products are very appreciated by these folks. Call Carole in the church office if you have questions.



Relay for Life has lots of news this year:

First, the date is new. No more hot summer sun! We will walk to the pleasures of a beautiful May 13th evening.

The second great news is the location has been changed to Meeks park. We will miss the old football field, but parking will be level and we will have a new path to walk for the cure.

The coin can is out in the Fellowship Hall for your weekly change. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for the dates of the Spaghetti Dinner and contribution updates. All contributions can be made to American Cancer Society and given to Dottie Riggs, Linda Guinn or Pat Grossman. Let's work to find a cure for this horrible disease and to support those who have it.

Presbyterian Men's Breakfast—February 15

Time for another yummy Presbyterian Men's Breakfast on Tuesday morning, February 15, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

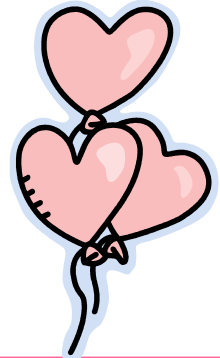
Be sure to mark your calendar and sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



On Sunday, February 13th, Love will fill the air. The Service of Worship will focus on God's love for us.

Following worship we will gather for a lovely and, I'm sure, decadent Coffee Hour and reflect on the joy of God's love known and shown to us through others.

Please join us for this lovely and loving Sunday!



Prayer Person

We recently mailed out a letter with your Prayer Person for 2011. If you have not received yours or have any questions, please call Carole in the church office at 706.745.8036.



Newborn Lives Saved Around the World with Caps from Blairsville

Ask Ruth McKinley why she has spent hours knitting tiny caps with colorful yarn and she will tell you about the newborn babies in some of the poorest countries in the world and their need for warm caps, as well as basic hygiene supplies and information for their mothers. She enlisted the help of the CroKnitters Group at our church, as well as ladies from several other local organizations to join in this project.

Save the Children Foundation and the Warm Up America! Foundation asked Americans across the country to pick up their knitting needles and crochet hooks to help save the lives of nearly four million newborn babies in the developing world by knitting and crocheting caps. Caps have been sent to Central and South America, Africa, and Asia.

While this particular campaign to provide newborn caps is wrapping up, Warm Up America! Foundation continues to encourage knitters and crocheters around the country to make afghans and Friendship Shawls to distribute locally or through the foundation to those in need in our own country. For more information and free patterns, visit www.WarmUpAmerica.org.



Ruth McKinley (left) and Dottie Riggs with caps for babies.

Flowers, Greeters And Coffee Hour



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

Lots of dates are available to host our Coffee Hour on Sunday following worship. Check the calendar in the Fellowship Hall and pick your Sunday.

There are many Sundays available for you to purchase the flowers for the church in honor or memory of a loved one. Sign up on the calendar in the narthex. Flowers are \$32.50 for a lovely bouquet.

February Greeters

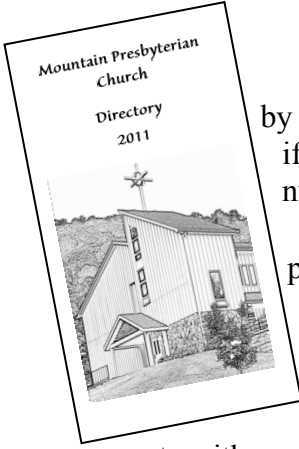
- 6 Barbara & Don Ransom
- 13 Dee, Joe & Brad McConnell
- 20 Nancy & Les Jones
- 27 Sue Royal & Bob Johnson

February Coffee Hour Hosts

- 6 Bob Johnson & Sue Royal
- 13 Valentine's Day
- 20 **Host needed**
- 27 **Host needed**

February Flower Calendar

- 6 Grossmans
- 13 Ransoms
- 20 Beltons
- 27



It's Directory Time

We're hard at work on our 2011 Church Directory and we plan to print and distribute it by the end of February. Of course, we want it to be as current and accurate as possible, so if you have moved recently (or plan to do so in the near future), have a new phone number or email address, please let us know.

If you would not like to have your cell phone number included in the directory, please let the office know. We plan to print cell phone numbers unless you ask us not to.

Also, if we don't have your birthday and/or anniversary date and you'd like it listed, please give us those important dates.

All changes and/or additions may be called in to Carole in the church office at 706.745.8036, sent in an email to Secty@mtnpres.org, or dropped off at the office in a note with your name and pertinent information.

Deadline for changes and additions is Tuesday, February 15.



Souper Bowl Is Coming!

More than 20 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a prayer from a Presbyterian youth group in South Carolina, "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." On Super Bowl Sunday, February 6, we will receive a special offering to help those in need in our community.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Mountain Presbyterian Church
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