



# The Mountain View

Mountain Presbyterian Church  
3831 Highway 515 East  
Blairsville, GA 30512

May 2011

## The Belhar Confession

The Presbyterian Church (USA) will be voting to approve the inclusion of the Belhar Confession into our Book of Confessions. The Confession is printed below and you are invited to attend our Wednesday morning Bible Study where, beginning May 11, we will be looking at the Confession and discussing its contents.

### Confession of Belhar—September 1986

1. We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.
2. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe

- that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
- that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;
- that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;
- that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens,

thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity;

- that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God;
- that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church;

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

- which absolutizes either natural diversity or the sinful separation of people in such a way that this absolutization hinders or breaks the visible and active unity of the church, or even leads to the establishment of a separate church formation;
- which professes that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace while believers of the same confession are in effect alienated from one another for the sake of diversity and in despair of reconciliation;
- which denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin;
- which explicitly or implicitly maintains that descent or any other human or social factor should be a consideration in determining membership of the church.

3. We believe

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of



irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;

- that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
- that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

- which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

4. We believe

- that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;

- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology

- which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

5. We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

Note: 1. This is a translation of the original Afrikaans text of the confession as it was adopted by the synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986. In 1994 the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa united to form the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA). This inclusive language text was prepared by the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA).



### Carole and Bob Maddox Have a New Craft Shop!

If you've ever wondered what our church secretary does in her spare time, wonder no more! Just drop by the new shop she and her husband have opened at Hwy. 515 and Trackrock Gap Road and you'll see what keeps her busy nights and weekends!

Their shop is called "Crafts from the Master's Hands" as they seek to give glory to God for the talents He has given them. Ask Carole to tell you the amazing story of how He brought them together and of the miracles He's worked in their lives.

You'll be amazed at the wide variety of items they craft: wooden toys and replicas, garden planter wagons, decorated gourds, yard décor,

needlecrafts, leather crafts, nature crafts, and more! They're open Tuesday through Saturday from 10-4. Give Bob a call at 706.633.7020 or talk to Carole for directions or more information.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS & NOTES

Here we are in May—already! Just a week ago we celebrated Easter and what beautiful weather we had—lots of sun and warm temperatures. Our Fellowship Hall was beautiful, thanks to all of you who donated a plant for the tables and even the windowsills. Soon those same plants will adorn the churchyard for everyone to enjoy throughout the summer. Again, ladies, many thanks.

**June Luncheon**—Just a reminder to all the ladies of MPC that the annual PW Installation of Officers Luncheon is coming up on Saturday, June 18, at 11:30 a.m. at Brother's Restaurant, Young Harris. Please sign up on the sheet on the PW kiosk.

### Trinkets and Treasures Yard Sale—July 15-16

It's been two years since our last sale. It seems we are all prone to collecting more "stuff" that we have need of or space for. PW will take those unwanted/unneeded items off your hands. We will accept furniture, clothing (clean and in good repair; NO shoes), books, toys, household items, tools, garden supplies, jewelry, etc. If you have any questions about donations, call Linda Guinn or Pat Grossman. Please keep in mind that proceeds from this sale go to local charities such as S.A.F.E., CASA, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice and Relay for Life—help us help



### Stewardship and Finance

**Revenue and Expenses for March 2011:** Loan Balance: \$24,092.00  
Contributions: \$13,397.69 Expenses: \$14,340.13

Year-to-date our expenses are greater than our contributions by \$3,669.71.

The Session is monitoring the finances and is doing an excellent job of keeping our expenses down.

### Mission and Outreach Giving

We are pleased to report that we have been able to contribute \$500 to each of these local organizations: S.A.F.E., Habitat for Humanity, and Hurlbert Johnson Friendship House. Also, your generous giving enabled us to send \$1,485 to the Japan Relief Fund and \$915 to One Great Hour of Sharing. You may still donate to either fund if you wish—just mark your check "Japan" or "One Great Hour."



### Please Remember the Food Pantry!

Please continue to bring in food and hygiene items. We are low or out of most items: cereal, tuna, tuna helper, Spam, jelly, soups, spaghetti sauce, beef stew, Spaghetti O's, canned green beans and corn, canned fruit, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, dish soap, clothes soap and toilet tissue. Thanks for your support of this ministry—it is a blessing to our community!



## Ready, Set, Walk!

We now have less than two weeks to make our goal of \$2,500. Please deposit your contributions in the cans located in the narthex and Fellowship Hall or you may give them to one of the ladies listed at the end of this article. Also, time to order your luminaries and torches in memory of loved ones.

The Relay this year is May 13 and 14 at Meeks Park from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. We invite everyone to walk with us this year—come help put an end to cancer.

To make a donation, ask a question, order luminaries or torches, or to sign up to walk, please see Linda Guinn, Dottie Riggs or Pat Grossman.



Luminaries light the path.



Getting ready to walk!



## Flowers, Greeters And Coffee Hour

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

**We really need your help to host the Sunday Coffee Hour!** Lots of dates are available. 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 \$32.10 for a lovely bouquet or you may provide your own flowers.

### May Greeters

- 1 Bud & June Lederer
- 8 Steve Sloan & Rosy DeVane
- 15 David & June Kinney
- 22 Richard & Patricia Czek
- 29 Les & Nancy Jones

### May Coffee Hour Hosts

- 1 Lorena Johnson & Kathy Adams
- 8 **Host needed**
- 15 **Host needed**
- 22 Kinneys
- 29 **Host needed**

### May Flower Calendar

- 1 Lilies
- 8 Les Jones
- 15 **Flowers needed**
- 22 Mays
- 29 **Flowers needed**



### Welcome Cord Kromhout!

Elaine Kromhout, who attends our church when she is here in her mountain home, is proud to announce the arrival of her new grandson, Cord Kromhout. Cord was born on April 12 at 4:30 p.m., weighing 8 lbs 1 oz. and is 20 inches long.

Congratulations and all best wishes to the happy family! We look forward to having Elaine back among us soon.

I have spent the better part of two months in the hospital with congestive heart failure. Now my heart has a pace-maker and I'm on a low sodium diet with a severe liquid restriction—believe me, this is a bummer!

I want to thank you all for your loving prayers and get well cards which considerably assisted in my speedy convalescence. My warmest regards to everyone.

Sincerely, B.J. Brandt



*Happy  
Mother's  
Day!*

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