



# The Mountain View

Mountain Presbyterian Church  
3831 Highway 515 East  
Blairsville, GA 30512

August 2011

## Adult Vacation Bible School

### *“Practice Makes Perfect”*

Looking at our Spiritual Practices as Christians

Sunday, August 21 through Thursday, August 25  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

I have to admit it—

Your parents, teachers and coaches were correct. If you want to really become proficient at something, you have to practice it. What is true for tying your shoes or playing the piano or hitting the ball out of the park is true of our faith. In order to get and be good at it, you have to practice it.



Our faith ancestors of the Middle Ages knew this, and they instituted what are known as the “practices” of the faith. These practices were to be exercised in order to maintain a strong and healthy faith and through the following of them, strengthening the faith we already have.

But what are these practices? Well, this year’s Vacation Bible School is going to be focusing on our faith practices and how practicing them can make us more proficient followers of Christ.

Some of the practices we will be looking at are: the righteous rites; devotion to devotional life; pilgrimage, walking the earth in faith and exercising spiritual stewardship.

Vacation Bible School will begin August 21st at 6:30 p.m. and continue through August 25, ending each evening at 8:30 p.m.

Our spiritual life coaches are Nancy Calkins and Travis Adams and they are preparing, along with Jeanne Ketchen, practice sessions filled with dynamic discussion, fun and fellowship, creative crafts and fabulous food.



So mark your calendars—August 21-25 from 6:30 –8:30 p.m. and join us as we practice our faith in order to make it more perfect.



### Stewardship and Finance

**Revenue and Expenses for June 2011:** Contributions: \$12,874.14 Expenses: \$13,854.35

The monthly expenses are great than our contributions by \$980.21

Year-to-date our expenses are greater than our contributions by \$5,880.03.

**Loan Balance:** \$21,851.00

Dear Family,

In 1983 the General Assembly, of which I was a commissioner, after lengthy discussion on the new Form of Government (Book of Order) that we were being asked to vote on, the Moderator, before calling for the vote asked the Commissioners to join in singing the hymn, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." At the time I thought what a strange choice! Then as we sang it, I got it—we sang the words, "our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares...we share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens we bear...."

Our faith and our polity both call attention that we are one in Christ. We Presbyterians place a great deal of importance on our connectualism. This year we passed and instituted a new, new Form of Government and again we are, through it, called to remember that what one body does affects us all. In other words, we all are to share in each other's joys and burdens.

It is an easy task to revel in each other's good fortune—the real test of our faith is our sharing of each other's burdens. As you may know, we as a congregation are feeling the financial difficulties of our time. Our income again this year is not matching our outgo. The Stewardship and Finance Committee continues to scrutinize our expenditures and Session continues to severely limit our spending in order to contain our current deficit and hopefully lessen it.

These actions effect not only us, they also effect Presbytery. Although Session's cost containment does not negate what we as a congregation have pledged to their ministry, it will lessen the amount of our support because we pledge 10% of what we receive.

Session, therefore, has again approved a special offering to be taken on August 14th to offset our and Presbytery's financial burden. This "deficit reduction" offering will be split between us both. Our prayer is that this offering will enable both us and Presbytery to continue our ministries as we are called by Christ to do.

You, as church family, have always unselfishly supported us with your financial blessings and we ask for your extra commitment support of this offering of blessings on August 14th. Please mark your gifts "Extra Commitment" or "E.C."

I want to close with these words Paul wrote to the Corinthians when asking their support of a collection for the Church at Jerusalem. "Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in utmost eagerness and love—so we pray you will excel also in this generous undertaking."

Blessed be the tie that binds.

*Travis*



### *"Happy Anniversary to us, Happy Anniversary to us...."*



This year we celebrate our 25th Anniversary as Mountain Presbyterian Church! It was in 1988 that Presbytery authorized Mountain as a congregation and that the first church was built and dedicated to the "Glory of God."

We will be marking this milestone in our church life with a number of special occasions:

- ◆ On September 8th we are going to have dinner together and a program, "This is Your Life, M.P.C." Members of our family are going to share some of our history and how our church has changed and changed lives. If you would like to be a speaker, please let Travis know as soon as possible.
- ◆ On October 16th we will continue our celebration with Communion, following the bulletin of the first Service of Worship of our congregation.
- ◆ On October 30th we will have our Kirkin O the Tartans service and we will have a special guest in the pulpit.

Mark these dates in your calendars and come celebrate our 25th year with great joy!



## Advent/Christmas Devotional Booklet

The Christian Education Committee has begun working on our church family devotional. We want it to be full of your special memories of the Advent/Christmas Season.



Please take a few minutes and write down an activity, poem, hymn, recipe or event in your life that you associate with Advent/Christmas and tell us why. It can be recent or from your childhood or any time in between. Just share it in a couple of paragraphs and include a Scripture verse or prayer if you wish.

We hope you saw the display of Advent devotional books in the Fellowship Hall and that they gave you some ideas to get your thoughts going. Turn in your recollections now through October 1st. Then the Christian Education Committee will get busy assembling your contributions into a booklet to be distributed the first Sunday of Advent—November 27th.

For more information, contact co-editors Carol Anne Harrison, 706.835.1948—carolhar@windstream.net, or Barbara Baumgardner, 706.835.2812—bertnbarb@aol.com.



### “HAPPY BIKES”

The men of MPC are hard at work getting the bicycles donated to the ‘HAPPY BIKES’ Program ready for their new owners. If you, or someone you know, have an idle bicycle or tricycle to donate, contact the church office at 706-745-8036 or John Hollingshead at 706-896-4134. Also, contact John if you’d like to volunteer to help with the bike refurbishing.



### We will be celebrating the mid-summer Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, August 7th.

#### Habitat House Dedication

This is the Cody Family at the dedication of their Habitat for Humanity house. Our church family spent a recent Saturday putting the finishing touches on their home.

In the background are quilts made for each family member by women of MPC. The parents’ quilt features patterns that have special meaning for all who love this mountain area. Each quilt has a label that says, “With blessings from Mountain Presbyterian Church.”



#### Please Remember the Food Pantry!

Please continue to bring in food and hygiene items. We need cereal, **canned meats (tuna, Spam, Vienna sausages, small hams)** peanut butter, **jelly**, soups (especially chicken noodle), **macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce**, beef stew, Spaghetti O’s, canned veggies, canned fruit, **shampoo**, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, dish soap, clothes soap and cleaning supplies. Thanks for your support of this ministry—it is a blessing to our community!



### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS & NOTES

Are you glad to see August arrive? I am because it means that September and cooler weather are not far off. It also means a new PW year with a new Bible study—*Confessing the Beatitudes*. Think you know and really understand the Beatitudes? Have you considered them in context? What does that mean—“in context?” Join us and find out.

**Trinkets and Treasures**—Pat Grossman and Linda Guinn want to once again say thanks to everyone for your help making the PW Trinkets and Treasures sale a huge success—we made just under \$2,600 to go to local charities! Special thanks to the men who put in long, hard hours. The women really stepped forward and put in some hard time getting everything sorted, priced and displayed and then went home and baked for the bake sale! Great job, ladies!!! The Lord truly blessed us for all your hard work.

#### Coming Events

August 20, 2011 – Presbyterian Women’s Workshop, Lavonia, GA

September 15, 2011 - First PW meeting, 10 AM – Noon in the Sunday School Room

September 17, 2011 – Retreat at Hinton Center, Haysville, NC



## 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 still 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.

### August Greeters

- 7 Tom Sullivan & Wilma Yates
- 14 Anita Derflinger & Jeanne Ketchen
- 21 Howard & Virginia Fisher
- 28 Bert & Barbara Baumgardner

### August Coffee Hour Hosts

- 7 **Host needed**
- 14 Lorena Johnson
- 21 **Host needed**
- 28 Jane Allen

### August Flower Calendar

- 7 Ketchens
- 14 Adams
- 21 Kissels
- 28 Allens



has revised its recycling program. In addition to inkjet and laser cartridges, Habitat is now accepting cell phones, DVDs, iPods, GPS devices, PDAs, laptops, video systems, games, consoles and digital cameras.

Please place these items in our labeled collection box under the table in the narthex. They will be sent off with proceeds to go toward Habitat's building of local houses for families in need.

*"We can make a difference."*

**Cro-Knitters**—A "HUGE" thank you is extended to all who donate yarn, to PW who pay postage, and especially to those who keep knitting for kids. There are also crochet instructions, ladies....



These sweaters are distributed near and far through Christian organizations to children who have very little of their own. These children are truly grateful and this is our way to keep them warm, not only physically, but with the love that is knit into each sweater.

Our Cro-Knitter ranks are very sparse and we need your help. Won't you join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except August, in the Church Library at 1:00 p.m.. An occasional update is posted on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Ask Marguerite Drayton or Dottie Riggs.



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