



# The Mountain View

Mountain Presbyterian Church  
3831 Highway 515 East  
Blairsville, GA 30512

February 2012

## From the Pastor's Desk

The adage, “You are never too old to learn something new” is so true. Over the Christmas holidays, I learned a new term from the boys—“Sweet!” Now I know the word sweet is as old as sugar, but what is new about it is the way it is now used.

You ask a younger person, “How’s life?” and “Sweet!” may well be the reply. Sweet can mean good, great, amazing or wonderful. Any positive adjective that you can think of. And to use it correctly, you never place a pronoun with sweet like, “It’s sweet.” Sweet is just sweet.

So, if you were to ask me how was last year for Mountain Presbyterian Church, I’d immediately answer, “Sweet!”

2011 was a sweet year for our church and church family. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we paid off the mortgage 10 years early, and we ministered to one another and others as God called us to. Sweet.

We ended 2011 financially in the black—the budget was balanced, although that was accomplished by utilizing the balance of our contingency fund.

We again supported mission and ministry here and worldwide through our giving to special offerings.

The Souper Bowl, offering which is used to help the hungry in our community, received \$415.

We sent \$1,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, \$1,345 to tsunami disaster relief in Japan, and \$1,213 to help those devastated by tornadoes here in Georgia.

Our offering to the One Great Hour of Sharing was \$965 and we gave \$946 to the Joy Gift.

In August we received \$2,499 for the joint offering to our congregation and Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

In support of the American Cancer Society’s search for a cure, we donated \$2,600 to Relay for Life.

Our total giving to these offerings was \$11,013. Sweet!

Along with these offerings, we supported the ministries of the PC(USA) through our tithing of our general fund receipts which amounted to \$15,159. We also gave \$1,684 to our Presbyterian Seminaries.

Through the Evangelism and Outreach Committee of Session, we gave \$1,660 to S.A.F.E., Habitat for Humanity, Friendship House Homeless Shelter and Presbyterian Men’s Happy Bike Program.

Presbyterian Women gave \$7,887 to our Food Pantry, Thornwell Home, H.O.P.E. House, Regency Hospice and other programs.

Therefore, our ministry support last year was \$21,390. Add this to the special offering giving and we gave \$32,403 to outreach ministries here and worldwide. That is so Sweet!!

We also received \$20,148 to pay off our mortgage, enabling us to do more ministry in Christ’s name this year and in the future.

There is a hymn in our hymnal that begins, “There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;” no truer words could be sung about our Church Family.

The Spirit of the Lord has directed our generosity and ministries in 2011—there is no doubt about that. May it be the same in this year of our Lord 2012, hopefully even sweeter!!

We truly are a sweet, blessed and blessing congregation! Thanks be to God!

***SWEET!***

*Travis*



**PW NEWS AND NOTES**— After all the hustle and bustle of the last few months, the doldrums of January come as a relief. Someone made the comment at last week's meeting that since there was nothing better to do, everyone showed up. I'd like to think otherwise. Of course, our thoughts and prayers have centered on Nancy and Less Jones. CaringBridge (website) keeps us (and anyone else interested in participating) updated on Nancy's progress as well as providing a way to send messages to her. To find out how to access CaringBridge, please see the article below.

PW is in the process of planning a fund raising event this summer to substitute for not having a yard sale. Details will be announced at a later date.

### PW Monthly Meeting

February's Bible study lesson focuses on the beatitude calling us to be genuine (pure) of heart. Isn't it interesting that the lesson coincides with the month dedicated to our hearts? Hope to see you February 16.



To find out the latest on Nancy Jones, go to:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nancyjones3>

If you would like to send her a note or card, the address is:

Room 522, Shepherd Spinal Center, 2020 Peachtree Road Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30309.

### Thornwell Report

For the last four years the Presbyterian Women have been collecting labels and box tops that are turned into cash for the Thornwell Home. Over these four years we have collected 5,196 labels/box tops with a value of \$519.60!

For more information on how you can participate, check the display on the PW kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.

### Habitat for Humanity® Recycling

These are the items you may place in the box in the narthex (under the name badge table) for recycling: calculators, GPS systems, video systems and games, DVDs, iPods, I-Pads, Tablets, Readers, Laptops, cell phones and printer cartridges—inkjet and laser. Habitat cannot accept other kinds of phones, computers, towers, etc.



### 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. In the first three weeks of January we have helped 32 families with a total of 87 people. That's a lot of food!

We continually need, rice, canned and dry beans, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles, canned ravioli, Spaghetti O's, tuna, tuna helper, Spam, cereal, canned vegetables, canned soups and dry soup mixes, evaporated milk, canned fruit, toothpaste, tooth brushes, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, hot dogs and buns (please place in first freezer in pantry), shampoo, soap, dish soap, clothes soap and toilet tissue.

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.

Also call Carole to volunteer for a few hours to help our clients in the pantry. We still need folks from 10 to noon or noon to 2 (or all 4 hours) on the second Thursday and Friday, third Thursday and fourth Friday. Also, some months have five Thursdays and/or Fridays and you could volunteer to come in those days.



We have had our kick-off dinner and are now ready to start preparing for the event. Our Relay for Life will be held on May 18th and 19th at the Union County Farmers' Market. Mark your calendars now!

Our annual fundraising Spaghetti Dinner with our own Chef Guido will take place on Friday, April 20.

We will again have our change cans available to relieve you of that cumbersome loose change each Sunday. Watch for more information on luminaries, memory signs and keepsake plates.

**Presbyterian Men's Breakfast—February 21**

Time for another yummy Presbyterian Men's Breakfast on Tuesday morning, February 21, 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.



**Lenten Worship**—February 22nd marks the beginning of Lent. We will gather that evening at 7:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday Service of prayer and the imposition of ashes. On Sunday, the 26th, we will celebrate Holy Communion during worship.

This year Palm Sunday is April 1st, Maundy Thursday is April 5th and Easter is on April 8th. More about these services in next month.



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 5, we will receive a special offering to help those in need in our community



**Prayer Person**

We recently mailed out a letter with your Prayer Person for 2012. If you have not received yours or have any questions, please call Carole in the church office at 706.745.8036.



**Two of the Talented Quilters of MPC**

Hazel Douglas, 93 years young, stands in front of the hand-stitched quilt she finished to give to her granddaughter. Pieced together in the 1970's by

her daughter, Connie, for her father who was ill, when he passed on it was never finished and was stored away.

When she wanted to give her granddaughter a special housewarming gift, she remembered the unfinished quilt and set about to complete it.

Hazel has quilted all her life, learning from her mother who sewed by coal oil lamp. A retired business teacher and former professional pianist, she is an active volunteer, delivering food for "Meals on Wheels." She enjoys taking computer classes through OASIS here in Blairsville.

Sue Royal is one of 18 fiber artist invited to create a block to be sewn into a large "Women of Valor," quilt recognizing extraordinary women from Georgia who

have made major contributions to society. It will be displayed at the Breman Museum in Atlanta.

Sue's work shows the Savannah home of Ruth Furst Byck who founded Senior Citizens, Inc. 50 years ago. The organization now has adult day care centers and delivers 1800 meals to elderly people each day in the three-county area around Savannah.

Using a photo of the Byck home, Sue spent many hours piecing together the quilt block depicting the house, then embellishing the trees with "thread painting."



**Well done ladies!**

**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 starting in March. To make it easy and fun, why not partner with someone? Punch recipes and ingredients are available. Questions? Ask Connie Johnson or Linda Guinn.

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 or you may bring or purchase your own.

**February Greeters**

- 5 Steve Sloan & Rosy DeVane
- 12 Lynn & John Gonsalves
- 19 Lou Ann Bleakley & Elaine Kromhout
- 26 Gail & Skip Brehm

**February Coffee Hour Hosts**

- 5 Steve Stratman & Nancy Harwood
- 12 Don & Barbara Ransom
- 19 Jim & Jan Kowalski
- 26 Connie Johnson

**February Flower Calendar**

- 5 Grossmans
- 12 Sue Royal & Bob Johnson
- 19 Mary Rhodes
- 26 Elaine Kromhout

## It's Directory Time



We're hard at work on our 2012 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 have a cell phone number you would like included, please let us know the number as soon as possible.

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 14.**



**Butternut Squash Soup**—We understand this soup was a big hit at the Annual Meeting lunch and many asked for the recipe. Thanks to Gail Brehm, here it is:

**1 Butternut Squash**

**1 Carton Swanson's 99% fat-free Chicken Broth**

**Salt & Pepper**

Split squash, de-seed, brush with extra virgin olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper, place face down on foil-lined cookie sheet. Place in 375° oven for 20-25 minutes until knife goes into squash easily. Remove and when cool scoop out pulp. Put into blender in batches with equal amount of chicken broth and liquefy. Serve hot topped with a dollop of sour cream and minced green onion. Enjoy!

*Happy Valentine's Day!*



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