



The Mountain View

Mountain Presbyterian Church
3831 Highway 515 East
Blairsville, GA 30512

October 2010

“Seasons of Gratitude”

A Story of Stewardship Realization

Let’s face it...for most Christians, when they hear the word “stewardship,” they immediately think *“It’s all about the money.”* For many of us, when the minister starts talking about the need for a “grateful heart,” the eyes glaze over, the ears shut down, and the brain thinks *“How much money does the preacher think we have!?”*

But Stewardship isn’t a scheme to bring in more money or volunteers. It’s not a “program” or a “campaign.” Stewardship is a Way of Life – where stewards start to look at everything good as a gift from God. As our Stewardship Slogan, *“Season of Gratitude”*, implies, Stewardship is about giving back. It’s about offering up your grateful heart to your Heavenly Father. In fact, Stewardship is all about our intrinsic need to give back to God.

It took him a while, but long-time member Ed finally learned that. Ed and his wife Crystal, were there in First Presbyterian’s infancy. He was around when First Presbyterian met in the college chapel, when the baptismal font was an acrylic salad bowl, and when “meeting in the Fellowship Hall” meant getting together in someone’s home.

Ed considered himself a faithful – and faith-filled – Presbyterian. He made it to Worship most Sundays, plus Bible Study every Wednesday, and he was often the first to volunteer for projects at the church. Ed considered it an honor to give freely of his time and his talent. After all, he felt both were gifts from God anyway. His treasure was a different story. That was all his.

Each week at Worship, Ed says he would open his wallet as the plate approached and drop in his one- dollar bill. But one day, the Holy Spirit must have been at work in Ed’s house. Ed added up how much of his treasure he had given back to God that year and realized it was far less than he spent on just a single evening out with Crystal for dinner and a movie. It dawned on Ed that the sum total of his gratitude for all God’s goodness in his life amounted to the paltry amount of just one dollar a week.

Of course, God didn’t need Ed’s money, and God didn’t really care if Ed put \$1, \$100, or \$1000 in the collection plate. But what Ed realized is: it was Ed who had the need to give. It was Ed who yearned to sacrificially give back because it was the only way he could show how grateful he was to God.

From that day on, Ed’s attitude about his treasure matched his attitude about the time and talent God had also given. He realized that everything good comes, not from our own hard work or brilliance, but from our Heavenly Father who loves us enough to gift it to us in the first place. What Ed will now tell you is that his attitude about money back then signaled that he hadn’t truly given up his heart to the Lord. Maybe he had given up part of it, but it took the Holy Spirit to make Ed see that living as a steward meant radically changing the way he looked at life.

Ed will also tell you that it all begins with prayer...at home, with your family...eventually leading to the church, where we join together as a community of believers to receive Christ into our hearts. Ed came to understand that, more than anything else, what God wants most is our heart.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE: Revenue and Expenses for August 2010:

Contributions: \$20,984 Expenses: \$16,437

The August monthly contributions are greater than our expenses by \$4,547

Loan Balance: \$29,740

SPECIAL OFFERING: A total of \$5,685 was received. \$2,842.50 is being sent to NEGA Presbytery and \$2,842.50 will be used in the ministry and missions of our church.



Remembering Francis and Dana McDowall

Saturday, September 25th, was a day of sadness and joy. We had a joint Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Remembrance of the lives of Dana and Francis McDowall.

In the sanctuary filled with flowers and people whose lives they had touched, we said our earthly farewells to them and affirmed our sure belief that they now are with God in glad heavenly reunion.

Sonny and Dana were such a wonderful part of our church family and so supportive of our congregation and our ministry. We will certainly miss them both.

No more though than they will be missed by their family. Please remember in your prayers their daughters, Catherine, Susan, Lucy and Elizabeth, their spouses, and Dana and Sonny's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The loss of both parents so

soon after one another is a grief that is hard for most of us to even fathom.

It was with joy that we remembered their 71 years of love for one another. Their love of family and friends, their faith and generosity, their humor and lives.

Following the service the congregation provided for a reception and it became a gathering of smiles and laughter as further stories of Dana and Sonny were shared and a wonderful slide show was viewed.

Though the McDowalls are no long in our midst, they live on in us through our remembering their blessings in our lives and congregation. Thanks be to God from whom all our blessings come, especially the blessing of the lives of Francis and Dana McDowall.



Vespers—Sunday October 10th—6:00 p.m.

Vespers will be held on October 10th beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Weather permitting, we will have dinner and our evening worship on the Sharp Plaza overlooking the gorgeous fall foliage of the mountains that surround us. If the weather is inclement, we will be in the Fellowship Hall. Either way, we hope you will join us.

The meat and beverages will be provided by the Worship Committee. You're asked to bring a covered dish to share. A sign-up sheet to indicate what you are bringing is in the Fellowship Hall.

Following dinner, we will give thanks to God for the wonders of nature and each day with our evening Vespers. This evening service of praise is always special. So, come and "lift up your eyes and spirits to the hills" and He who is our help.

It's Kirkin' Time Again!

On All Saints Eve, October 31st, we will gather for our 17th Annual Kirkin' O the Tartans. This service highlights our Scottish Presbyterian Heritage.

The service is named Kirkin' O the Tartans for in the Scots language a Kirk is a church. Tartans, with their distinct plaids, represent specific clans, families, regions or regiments. The Kirkin' O the Tartans is then a service where a person presents their family's symbol at church for a blessing.

Our denomination traces its historic roots through the Church of Scotland. Kirkins, therefore, are a way to recognize and celebrate our faith and families' Scot's heritage.

Following the service, we will have a lunch in



the Fellowship Hall. Meat desserts, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad or side dish.

You are invited to wear your family's tartan or whatever plaid you would like and are encouraged to wear your kilt if you have one!

Whether or not you are of Scots ancestry, this service will be one you won't want to miss. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

I have been told we may have a special guest that day. I can't say who, but—hint, hint—think gelatin.

As a prelude to our Kirkin' Service, on October 10th, during the service of worship we will have piping for us Drum Major Betsy McFarland of Ohio. Betsy is the daughter of Jan Kowalski.

So, mark your calendars October 10th and 31st for a time to recall the "auld sod."



News and Notes for the Women of Mountain Presbyterian

Our next meeting of the PW will be on Thursday, October 21st, at 10:00 a.m. ALL women are welcome! Our study is “Worshiping God and the Lamb: The Heavenly Journey Begins,” which is an overview of the Book of Revelation.

The focus is on the true power found in Jesus Christ and that when we recognize that power, we join with all creation in singing praise to God. No other book of the Bible has shaped Christian music

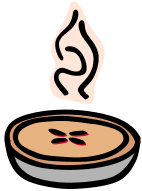
as much as Revelation. Just think of: “When the Saints Come Marching In,” the “Hallelujah Chorus” and “Blessed Assurance.”

Join us as we continue this fascinating and enlightening study.

Memorial Donation: PW received a donation in memory of Pat Krick. Remembering Pat’s love of music, this gift will be given to our music program. We’re sure Pat would approve.

Holiday Bakers Needed!

PW is expanding its Holiday Baked Goods Sale to include Thanksgiving as well as Christmas. Samples of the baked goods will be our dessert on Kirkin’ Sunday. Orders will be taken at that time. EVERYTHING will be appreciated: candy, cookies, breads, pies, cakes. Please contact Jeanne Ketchen, Nancy Jones or Connie Johnson if you can provide baked goods.



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 noticed that many of those coming for food are also dealing with diabetes. It would be wonderful if we could offer them “no sugar added” or “sugar-free” items, brown rice, as well as low-fat or fat-free items. Call Carole in the church office if you have questions.

Thornwell Turkey Coin Holders

When I was a child, as Thanksgiving approached, I looked forward to filling my Thornwell Turkey Coin Holder. To help the children at the home, I added my nickels, dimes, and pennies every chance I had.



This year, the Presbyterian Women have ordered these Turkey Coin Holders. If you would like to join us in this easy Thornwell project, they will be available downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

When full, coin holders can be returned to the “Thornwell Turkey Collection Basket” in the Fellowship Hall. On November 14th, they will be sent to the Thornwell Children’s Home in Clinton, SC. Let us bless the children as we are blessed.

Carol Anne Harrison, PW Thornwell Chair

“What Does Advent Mean to You?”

The Christian Education Committee will be preparing a 2010 Advent Devotional Book “Advent Reflections” for your use in the weeks preceding Christmas (November 28—December 25) and we need your help! All members and friends of MPC are asked to share an Advent or Christmas experience, a childhood memory, an Advent song or a poem.

Please limit your submission to 150 words or less and also include a related scripture, if possible. Please place your submission (before November 1st) in the “Advent Mailbox” in the copier workroom next to the church office.

Questions? Contact Carol Anne Harrison at 706.835-1948 (carolhar@windstream.net) or Barbara Baumgardner at 706.835.2812 (bertnbarb@aol.com).

Flowers, Greeters And Coffee Hour



Thank you all so much for your continued support of these ministries!

October Greeters

- 3 Virginia & Howard Fisher
- 10 Mary Katherine & Bill Gettys
- 17 Pat Hermann & Bobbi Tower
- 24 Diana, Skip & Tucker Belton
- 31 Barbara & Don Ransom

October Coffee Hour Hosts

- 3 Kathy Adams
- 10 Bobbi Tower
- 17 June Kinney
- 24 Barbara & Don Ransom
- 31 Kirkin’

October Flower Calendar


- 5 Kathy Adams
- 10 Helsleys
- 17 Kinneys
- 24 Barbara & Don Ransom
- 31 Kirkin’



Halloween on the Square

Once again, we will be participating in this fun-filled event on Saturday, October 30. We'll begin collecting wrapped candies (individual pieces or small bags) on Sunday October 10th. Boxes will be provided in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.


Plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship on October 24 to fill bags to be handed out on Halloween night.

Men's Breakfast Tuesday, October 19th at 8:00 a.m.

Steve Sloan, a member of the National Speaker's Bureau, will be our speaker discussing diagnosis, treatment and recovery of prostate cancer. Steve has led a "Man to Man" discussion group at the Cancer Treatment Center of Union General Hospital.

Of course, we have solicited our famous breakfast chefs for this occasion. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall!



We appreciate the prayers for my brother-in-law, Gary Shepard. He didn't have to have near the radical surgery they first thought he would. At the last minute, things started turning in his favor. He is on the mend at home and getting better every day. Thanks to all our Church Family.

David & June Kinney


Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of your cards, emails and words of support. They have been a great source of comfort to us during this sad time.

Jim & Jeanne Ketchen

Daylight Saving Ends November 7

Set your clocks back one hour. Also a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries.




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