



# Pulpit and Pew

Our Mission is To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Volume 21, Issue 11

November 2011

## Being United Methodist Too!



### Doing the Hard Work It Takes

As I confessed in a recent sermon, I feel like I've been in the wilderness for a while now. Things have not been so well with my soul. Wilderness journeys are good for that. We don't stay in one place. We journey toward new lands that God calls us to and often to get there we must cross wilderness places, places that are barren, dry and void of life. I do feel like things are getting better for me. Many factors are coming together and are leading toward a personal revival of sorts, and my hopes are that the church will share in this period of renewal.

The United Methodist Church, through its Book of Discipline, helps me understand my role as Pastor as the church has understood it. It begins with the understanding that a Pastor's calling is to "Word, Sacrament, Order and Service." We are to preach and teach God's Word, administer the Sacraments, order the life of the church and practice the serving of God's people in the church and beyond. The *Discipline* further defines the responsibility of the Pastor into at least 15 different areas, summarized as follows:

- 1) Spiritual Leader
- 2) Worship leader, preacher and teacher
- 3) Trainer of laity
- 4) Administrative leader and steward of the vision
- 5) Custodian of institutional integrity
- 6) Participant in the UM connection
- 7) Community minister

The area that has captured my attention lately has been in the area of #4: Administrative leader and Steward of the vision. The Guidelines book that reflects on the *Discipline's* understanding of the role of Pastor talks about how in larger churches the Staff shares in that role of leadership, and how important that staff and leaders "spend time becoming a cohesive group." We have been doing that and I feel so positive about the Staff we have assembled.

The next statement in the book really struck me when I read it. It says, "Administration is always about people and therefore is a spiritual activity. As such it functions best when supported by personal and corporate spiritual practices." WOW! That hit me right between the eyes! Administration is necessary to accomplish the mission of the church. If done well, then I can positively impact the ministry of the various groups of the church by making sure that we do that well. We need clear goals and guidelines. We need organized agendas and clear direction. The old saying is true, "if you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." Through prayer and study and reflection on the meaning of scripture, we can truly be on the same page of God's guidance and leadership. I am seeing that so much more clearly!

Over the next months, as we learn what it means to live in to Ephesians 4:11-13, where the goal of the leadership is to equip, empower and enable the saints to do the work of ministry, I pledge to help hold the mission and administration of the church in these clear statements. I believe we are to love people like God loves. I believe God loves us where we are, but loves us too much to leave us where we are. If I can help hold that understanding faithfully before you, and can call us to live into that understanding by ordering the life of the church so that we truly embrace that understanding, then I will have grown significantly in my role as Pastor, and we as a church will grow as well. I encourage you to participate by first taking the spiritual gifts assessment that the Lay Leadership Committee is offering. This is a beginning step in helping our church fully embrace the proper administration of its life together. Secondly, pray that the vision and direction I am receiving is of God and is one that you can embrace. I covet your prayers as we take steps to become all that God wants us to be. May the Lord use all of us and grow us truly, "attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:13). May the peace of the Lord be with us all.

Grace and Peace, Paul B. Thompson

### NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

are due

**Monday,  
November 21**

Please email  
articles to

[fishrus8@morrisbb.net](mailto:fishrus8@morrisbb.net)

Don't have email?

Please place  
articles

in the Newsletter  
mailbox at the  
church. You can  
send them any  
time prior to the  
deadline.

Thank you.

**From the desk of Paige Ann . . .**

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other.

-Revelation 3:15

**Flatlanders**

My family's old church on the side of the mountain near Gerton gets pretty animated when the preacher stands up to ask for prayer requests, praises, and testimonies. For just a moment, silence hangs as he scans the small congregation, but as surely as an "Amen" follows an old hymn, that tiny sanctuary is about to be filled with hopes, hurts, testimonies, and praises.

On one such Sunday a few years back in early October, a gruff, older man shuffled his feet on the pine floor, leaned back into the pew and gestured abruptly toward the road. His low voice boomed from the back of the church. "We'd best pray for all them 'flatlanders' who's gonna be comin' to see the leaves." The whole room nodded and smiled, some with sympathetic, closed eyes. By his tone of voice, I could tell that the crowds irritated him at least a little bit, and I muffled a snicker as I stared down at my shoes and shushed my daughter, who was looking up at me with questioning eyes and whispering at the top of her voice, "What is a FLATLANDER?"

"Anyone who doesn't live in the mountains," I wrote on my bulletin.

She was satisfied. But I was not. Now, my Mills River friends have my permission to correct me if I'm wrong, but a flatlander was more than this to the people in the Bearwallow sanctuary. A flatlander was a person who chose the easy roads when mountain people took the curves. A flatlander was one who might enjoy the peaks and valleys on holidays but would prefer to spend the majority of his or her days in the plains. In short, a flatlander was a person who, for whatever reason, would not or could not weather the extremes of mountain life.

I did not want to think of myself that way, but as I headed south toward Georgia and engaged the cruise control on the highway, I had to admit that they were right. Flatlanders are a different breed. And I would gladly accept their prayers.

As I settled into my drive, another kind of flatlander was now on my heart. I started thinking about *spiritual* flatlanders, and I had a sneaking suspicion I might be one of them. Spiritual flatlanders are very comfortable. Their walk with Christ might be consistent, but they would hesitate to call it exciting. They have made it through a few valleys and had a few "mountain-top" experiences, and they readily admit that they feel God's presence in the extremes. But, as a rule, when life plods along on a straightaway, they plod along with it, perhaps even forgetting to pray. It might even be said that spiritual flatlanders prefer it this way.

A picture of a mountain Christian began to form in my heart, and it was not one I was content to relegate to a rearview mirror. Mountain Christians are not people who hang on to that spiritual mountaintop experience for dear life. Nor are they the kind of folks who pitch a tent in the valley and set up camp. One gets the sense that they are not living for the highs and lows, but rather that they are on a journey and will not rest until they are Home.

In His message to the church at Laodicea, Jesus calls a lukewarm church to take an earnest look at its life, to repent, and to overcome the temptation to be comfortable. It is surprising to me that Jesus does not tell them to stay hot but rather to get out of that comfort zone.

This is a message we might all take to heart. We, too, need to willingly weather the extremes and take the curves. We should give fully of ourselves, remaining determined to wind up and down the roads of life with Him, enjoy every peak, and use whatever downhill momentum we gain to keep us moving through the valleys. This is no easy road. This kind of walk takes training, commitment, endurance, patience, and a steadfast reliance on God. And it means leaving the spiritual flatlands behind. Will you answer His call?

SPRC reminds you that

**October is Staff  
Appreciation Month**

At Mills River United Methodist Church, we are grateful for the dedicated staff members who go above-and-beyond in so many ways. **Consider showing your appreciation for the MRUMC staff by:**

- Verbally thanking them for their dedication and service
- Sending them a note or postcard of thanks and encouragement
- Sharing a meal, gift certificate, flower, poem, song, or good deed with the staff
- Providing yummy goodies for a weekly staff meeting
- Be present for events they sponsor; volunteer to assist
- Attend the Staff Appreciation covered dish luncheon on **Sunday, November 13**





The Methodist Men had their monthly dinner meeting on October 20. They enjoyed a lovely spaghetti dinner. The business meeting was held with a new format. President Jim Chapman reached out to many men in the congregation with an invitation to attend the meeting. He is on a campaign of changing the way the Methodist Men operate and trying to give them a new mission while still accomplishing the fundraising that has been successful in the past. More information about new plans will be forthcoming. Stay tuned and give the MM a try. The new format for success might be just what you are looking for!

The golf tournament was a huge success. Money was raised for MRLEC while everyone had a really great time in fellowship and sportsmanship. In the end Paul edged out for the win. Many thanks to all the participants, sponsors and everyone who made this outing a wonderful success. We look forward to next year!

*John Hubbs, Secretary*



## United Methodist Women

**Our annual Craft Bazaar** turned out really well. The ladies who canned tomatoes and beans saw their contributions snapped up quickly. Next year, we know to make more home canned pickles, jellies, beans and tomatoes. Please donate your extra garden vegetables to UMW and we, who do not can, need to get some lessons

from Joyce, Lynn, Marge, etc. Suzanne's bean soup mixture sold out, too. We sold lots of hand-crafted items and we want to thank all of you who have given us your crafts every year and a special thanks to those who participated for the first time this year, including our adoptee, Ms. Smee who lives at Brooks-Howell Home and is in her nineties.

**November 16**, is the day we assemble and deliver gift bags for our church shut-ins. If you would like to participate, just be in the Osborne Room at 10 AM. The shut-ins like to get note pads, candies, toiletries, and our visits and if you want just to give, clean out your overnight bags and give us the motel size soaps, etc. (you brought home with you from vacation). November's program for each circle is World Thanks Offerings.

**The Christmas Party** this year will be hosted by the Maggie Jones Circle. We will have a short meeting to vote and install a new President and Vice-president for our Mills River Unit. The event will be a fun time with just a bit of business. We have a covered dish dinner in the Fellow Ship Hall. We have each lady bring an inexpensive gift to exchange, entertainment, and finding out who that "Secret Pal" was and exchanging names for another "Secret Pal" year. Gets interesting when someone moves away and you are wandering who has your name when no gifts appear. So, if you choose to participate in the Secret Pal game, let someone know if you are leaving.

**The New Circle**, Susan Thompson Circle, is now meeting in the choir room on the month's second Tuesday, 6 PM. Many of the girls had handbell practice on Monday night and the circle time had to be changed. Little Mr. McCall will enter into Anna's family's life in October. We wish them good luck and God's blessings for the new addition.

**The Annual Christmas Luncheon and Fashion show** at Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska will be Thursday, Dec. 1, at noon. Krismart Fashions from Sylva will be showing their winter clothes.. Call Lambuth Inn for reservation, do so early, as there are a limited number of tickets for sale. Thank you to our church for all your support. We spend your monies for missions locally and internationally. Each circle focuses on their individual mission as well as the missions our unit supports.

**This year** it seems there is an increased number of our unit members who are having health problems. Please keep us in your prayers.

**Ladies of MRUMC, there is a group of the MRUMW that needs you!!**

### **Dates to Remember:**

**November 16<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Care Bags** assembled/delivered to shut-ins in the Mills River community

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - Annual UMW Christmas Dinner** hosted by Maggie Jones Circle

*-Anna Awald*

## Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Green
- 1 Pam Laughter
- 1 Kim Maltby
- 1 Paul Perrotta
- 1 Kim Tipton
- 1 Janet Green
- 2 Gary Bates
- 3 Kamden Robinson
- 4 Jake Barber
- 4 Hannah Green
- 4 Olivia Thrower
- 6 Haley Staton
- 6 Nancy Heiser
- 7 Wayne Youngdahl
- 8 Jessica Williams
- 8 Stephen Jenkins
- 9 Rose Bellamy
- 9 Jackson Guinn
- 9 Julia Perrotta
- 10 Ned Giddens
- 11 Anne Clewis
- 11 Grayson Lance
- 12 Ray Bryson
- 12 Eli McCall
- 12 Leonard Owen
- 12 James Power
- 13 Marett Bandy
- 14 Jennie Hernandez
- 15 Jonathan Cavanaugh
- 15 William Burnette
- 17 Leslie Lowe
- 17 Barbara Rathburn
- 18 Cayden Rejzer
- 23 Paul Bethea
- 23 Richard Green
- 23 Carole Burke
- 23 Joan Sitton
- 24 Madyson Barber
- 24 Steve Dozier
- 25 Norene Goard
- 25 Emory Jackson
- 25 Joe Strange
- 26 Tom Ciaramitaro
- 27 Erin Miller
- 29 Tim Tipton
- 29 Al Seal
- 30 Helen Beck
- 30 Samuel Gibbs



**The UMW thank everyone who helped make our Bazaar such a success. \$4,189.10 was raised for our Mission projects.**

Thank you for your get well cards, notes and prayers I received during my recent eye surgery. I'm feeling better and my vision is getting better every day.  
Thank you for your caring.  
Rich Patterson



Dear MRUMC Congregation,  
The UMM sponsored golf tournament was a great success! We raised over \$4100 for MRLEC with 68 players participating. Without the support of the MRUMC congregation, this would not have been possible!  
We sincerely Thank You for your support of this event! May God continue to bless you for all that you do.  
Prayerfully,  
Mills River United Methodist Men

**FALL FOOD DRIVE !!**

Our congregation has done hat Jesus has asked us to do many times and in many ways. You were in service to him and His father by the work you did to collect over 750 pounds of food and \$50 for the recent Fishes & Loaves food drive. Many thanks to all for your kind and generous hearts.

**On behalf of the MRUMW,** I would like to express my personal thanks to everyone who provided me with vegetables and canning supplies. Many thanks to the Benfields, the Ray Brysons, the Meadows, and Lou Moore. Without the beans, cucumbers and tomatoes, I would not have had the canned items for the bazaar.  
-Joyce McCall

A huge thank you to Jim Chapman and the UMM for Providing the fundraising BBQ for Troop 622 on Saturday, September 24. The BBQ was amazing. We appreciate all the effort and thoughtfulness. The event was a great success and the proceeds will help purchase much needed scout equipment. Tyler, the music was wonderful. Thanks!  
With much appreciation,  
Troop 622

*Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for all the cards, visits, food and most of all your prayers during my recent illness. Your love and support have carried me through. God is Great!  
In Christian Love,  
Elaine Pettit*

**Missions Corner**

We as a church and body of believers have been supporting missions and missionaries for years. Our goal now is to develop relationships with the missionaries and projects we are supporting. Instead of just sending a love offering quarterly or annually, we hope to foster a friendship with the people and programs we support. With this in mind we are personally offering support to three missionary families, Stephen and Traci Edworthy serving in Krakow Poland, the Kevin Smith Family serving in Alaska, and the Mariano Family in Honduras. We encourage you to reach out to them to let them know how much their work is appreciated.

**Stephen and Traci Edworthy—traciedworthy@yahoo.com or stephenedworthy@yahoo.com or Stephen and Traci Edworthy, UI. Wesele 47/18, 30-127 Krakow, Poland**

**Kevin Smith—kevinssmith01@yahoo.com or Kevin Smith, P.O. Box 203, Savoonga, AK 99769**

**The Mariano Family c/o Larryoslund@gmail.com**

**Jennie Corpening Circle's 3rd Book Extravaganza** will be held in the Fellowship Hall on November 12th from 8 AM to 1 PM. Come and enjoy a good breakfast from MRLEC. Continue to enjoy your coffee as you peruse the great selection of books available for purchase. Prices are \$.50 for paperback books and \$1.00 for hardback books. What a great price!

Please help us with this missions fund-raiser by donating your gently used books to this effort. Starting November 1st, books may be delivered to the Sunday School room that is right of the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Your donations in past years have been so very much appreciated. Many have told me they reboxed their books from last year to donate. This is the truest form of recycling, as we resell, reuse, and continue to spread the joy of reading.

Help us get the word out. Tell all your friends and anyone you know who belongs to book clubs about the wonderful deals! Bring friends for breakfast and stay to shop! Again, Thank you and we'll see you at the book sale on November 12th!

Linda Westmoreland,  
Chair  
Jennie Corpening Circle



## THANKSGIVING DINNER DRIVE

Many have asked and here it is! Time to give thanks by sharing our blessings with others. The Thanksgiving dinner food drive begins October 30th with the last collection day being November 13th. Again, many thanks!

To make things easier for some of you, there will be two options this year. You can brave the grocery store and get the listed items *or* you can make a \$15 donation which will buy a complete dinner. Either way it's a heartfelt way to give thanks. Turkeys are being provided by Etowah United Methodist Church.

**SHOPPING LIST:** Large cans sweet potatoes, green beans and corn, box of instant mashed potatoes, large box of red Jell-O, can of cranberry sauce, box of muffin mix, 16 oz. box or bag of stuffing mix, package or jar of turkey gravy mix, pie crust mix, can pumpkin PIE filling (not plain pumpkin). Lists will also be handed out at church.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

### Come and join God's children

celebrating Jesus's birth at the "Feast of the Lamb" on Christmas Day. We will be serving a Christmas meal immediately following the morning church service. The meal is FREE and open to anyone in the community wanting to share in the fellowship, with music, games, and goodie bags for children.



The Lillian Hall Circle will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011, at 7pm in the Osborne Room. Carroll Laughter will be the hostess. Elaine Pettit will have the program "World Thank Offering".

### E-NEWSLETTER

A HUGE thank you to everyone reading the newsletter electronically!! We welcome feedback! If you received a hard copy this month and are willing to read it electronically, please contact the church office at 828-891-7788 or [erica\\_mrumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:erica_mrumc@bellsouth.net) with your email address!

### The United Methodist Men's Christmas tree sale

will begin the day after Thanksgiving, November 25, 2011. We will be asking for help unloading the trees that morning. The lot will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. The sale will continue until all trees are sold. Normally this takes about 3 weeks. Please be thinking about times that you could volunteer to help with sales. Please consider a 2 or 4 hour shift. A sign-up sheet will be provided later. We hope you will purchase your family's Christmas tree from us and help us support the many missions of Mills River United Methodist Church. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Will McClung at 891-7582 or 674-6636 or [wilmcclung@att.net](mailto:wilmcclung@att.net). Thanks!



### The Primetimers

The Primetimers will be going to Hamrick's in Asheville on Tuesday, Nov. 8. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:30am. After some shopping we will go to J & S for lunch. If you would like to go call Evelyn at 891-3743 to reserve a seat on the bus. The Primetimers had a wonderful trip to The Bush Museum and store & cafe in Oct. Thank you Tommy Blackwell for suggesting this trip and for driving us each month on our trips. We appreciate you so much!!

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Worship Services</u> 8:15, 9:33, 10:55 am <u>Adult Sunday School</u> 9:45 and 10:45 am <u>Youth Sunday School</u> 9:30 and 10:30 am</p>		1	2 5:30 First Wed. Meal by Youth 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Youth Bible Stu. 6:15 Prayer/Share 7:15 Chancel Choir	3 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation	4	5
6 12:00 Children's Ministry Meeting 5:00 Jr Youth 6:01 Community 6:01 7:00 Youth Choir 7:00 Lay Leadership 7:45 Sr. High Chorus	7 6:00 Handbells 7:00 SPRC Meeting	8 9:30 Primetimers 1:00 Mission Com. 6:30 Susan Thompson 7:00 Lillian Hall	9 5:30 Wed Night Meal 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Youth Bible Stu. 6:15 Prayer/Share 7:15 Chancel Choir	10 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation Book Sale Set-up	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> Family Fun Trip to Dollywood and Sr. High Fun & Random Trip to Dollywood! Book Sale Set-up	12 8:00—1:00 Jennie Corpening Book Sale
13 <b>Staff Appreciation</b> <b>Cover-dish Luncheon</b> 5:00 Jr Youth 5:00 S.U.R.G.E. 7:00 Youth Choir 7:00 Youth Council 7:45 Sr. High Chorus	14 6:00 Handbells	15 1:00 Maggie Jones Circle Youth Labor of Love at Welcome Table	16 10:00 UMW Meet to Assemble Bags 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Prayer/Share 6:15 Youth Bible Stu. 7:15 Chancel Choir	17 10:00 MRLEC 1:00 Visitation 6:30 Worship Comm 6:30 UMM Meeting	18 <b>Parents Night Out</b>	19
20 <b>Volunteer Lunch</b> 5:00 S.U.R.G.E. 5:00 Junior Youth 7:00 Youth Choir 7:45 Sr. High Chorus	21 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Jennie Corpening <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	22	23 6:15 Thanksgiving Service in Chapel 7:15 Chancel Choir	24 <b>Thanksgiving</b> Office Closed No MRLEC	25 Office Closed UMM Christmas sales begin	26
27 5:00 Junior Youth 5:00 S.U.R.G.E. 7:00 Youth Choir 7:45 Sr. High Chorus	28 6:00 Handbells	29	30 6:00 Jr/Cherub Choir 6:15 Prayer/Share 6:15 Youth Bible St. 7:15 Chancel Choir			

## Children's Ministry



Shannon Barber  
828-808-6377  
sbarbermrumc@bellsouth.net

**G.R.A.C.E.**

Guide, Respect, Appreciate, Celebrate, and Embrace As we prepare Children for their walk with Jesus so that they may shine his word into the World!

# Children's Ministry Update for November 2011

## Children's Calendar



**November 6th:** Jr. Youth will meet from 5-7.

**November 11th:** Family Fun trip to Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas, RSVP for group rates no later than Tuesday, November 8th. In order for us to be eligible for group rates there is a minimum of 15 required. This in for anyone that would like to go. (Adults 12+ \$46.00 4-11 \$37.05).

**November 13th:** The Angel Trees will be placed in the Narthex on Sunday, November 13th. The packages need to be returned with the original tag no later than Sunday, December 4th. Please remember to **sign** for each tag you choose. Please make sure that tags are attached securely to each corresponding gift.



**November 13th:** Jr. Youth will meet from 5-7.



**November 20th:** Parents of our Preschool-5th grade Sunday School Ministry are invited to share a Thanksgiving Feast hosted by the children following the 10:55 service. Please RSVP no later than November 6th.

**November 20th:** Jr. Youth will meet from 5-7.

**November 25th: Happy Thanksgiving!**

**November 27th:** Jr. Youth will meet from 5-7.

## Youth Ministry Update

Paige Ann S. Miller, Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor  
Cell-424-0703 millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net

### Upcoming Dates:

#### November

Wednesday, November 2 - Youth Host 1st Wednesday Meal

Sunday, November 6 - 601 Youth Worship

Sunday, November 13 - S.U.R.G.E.

Tuesday, November 15 – Labor of Love (Welcome Table at Hope UMC)

Friday, November 11 - Saturday, November 12 - Family Trip to Pigeon Forge/Sr. High Fun & Random Trip

Sunday, November 20 - S.U.R.G.E.

Wednesday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Service (Chapel)

Sunday, November 27 - S.U.R.G.E.



Keep up with us on [facebook](#) at the S.U.R.G.E. Mills River Youth Group page!

## Volunteers

### Nursery

#### November 6

8:15 Jon & Lori Hart  
9:33 Tricia & Michael Young  
10:55 **need volunteer**

#### November 13

8:15 Tabea Davenport  
9:33 B Brown/K Deckard  
10:55 T & S Gross

#### November 20

8:15 **need volunteer**  
9:33 Lydia Gossett  
10:55 T Dozier/A Parent

#### November 27

8:15 **need volunteer**  
9:33 J Gladdin/N Willis  
10:55 Pates/E Woodall

### Children's Church

Nov 6 The Rathburns  
Nov 13 The Wikes  
Nov 20 Mollie Phillips  
Nov 27 Stephanie Austin

### Acolytes

Nov 6 Kyra Phillips  
Nov 13 Emily Maltby  
Nov 20 Hunter Barnett  
Nov 27 Ainsley Deese

### Greeters

#### November 6

8:15 Carolyn Moore  
9:33 Dale Thompson  
10:55 Jim/Martha Chapman

#### November 13

8:15 Kimball's  
9:33 Ippolito's  
10:55 Jay & Kelly Siltzer

#### November 20

8:15 Estelle Whieside  
9:33 Dan & Katrina Poeta  
10:55 Martha/Wayne Rankin

#### November 27

8:15 Carolyn Moore  
9:33 The Whitfields  
10:55 D Carland/C Burke

#### December 4

8:15 Kimball's  
9:33 Paul & Ann Bethea  
10:55 The Smithsons

## Music

### Greetings to all

**Chancel Choir** – Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:15 in the Sanctuary.

The Chancel Choir is back in full swing on our regular schedule. Our Christmas program for this year is "HOPE is BORN Emmanuel". This exciting musical is full of the hope only Jesus Christ can give. Combined rehearsals with Hope UMC will continue during November as we prepare our Christmas Program. This year we will present our Worship Service on:

December 16<sup>th</sup> Friday night, 7:00 at Hope UMC.

December 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday night, 7:00 at Mills River UMC.

December 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning at 11:00 at Mills River UMC.

We are excited about this joint endeavor. Please mark your calendars and don't miss this life changing worship.

**Ladies Hand Bell Choir** – Our Ladies Hand Bell Choir rehearses on Monday evenings at 6:00 in the choir room. If you were as blessed as I was by our great Hand Bell Choir during worship on October 16<sup>th</sup> please let them know. The ladies will be playing again on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Choir** – Rehearsals are Sunday evenings at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. The Youth Choir has begun work on a wonderful Christmas Celebration as well as music to share in worship on November 13<sup>th</sup>. I am also excited about a Sr. High choir that was inspired by our very own Sarah Blackwell.

This talented group will meet at 7:45 on Sunday evenings following Youth Choir rehearsals. We still have room for a few more so please come and join the fun.

**Jr. Choir** – Rehearsals are Wednesday evening at 6:00 in the Choir Room. We are so blessed to have a great children's music program. Our Jr. Choir will be participating in the Christmas musical with the chancel choir on Dec. 16, 17 and 18. We are also planning to play chimes and sing during our Christmas Eve service at 6:00.

**Cherub Choir** – Rehearsals are Wednesday evening at 6:00 in the Ed. Building upstairs. Our Cherub Choir is being directed by Tammy Gross and Beverly Gladin. This year they are doing music related crafts and learning new songs to share both in worship and during Sunday School.

We are all so blessed with the gifts God continues to bring our way. Let us always be careful to give Him all the praise.

God's Blessings to All Steve Carson

### Visitation Ministries

If you or someone you know would like a visit from one of our church visitation teams, please call Paige Ann at 828-424-0703 or e-mail [millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net](mailto:millsriveryouth@bellsouth.net). If you are willing to join a visitation team, we go out on Thursdays from 1-3 pm. You will be blessed, and you will certainly be a blessing!

### Blessings Saints Alive-Living Generously Through the Power of Christ!

#### Blessing for Commitment

God has uniquely equipped you for service. Recommit to God the gifts he has given you. Use the gifts to be a breath of fresh air and to help others who are seeking the Father. May they see in you a life blessed by faith. "So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship. Do not change yourselves to be like the people of this world, but be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect." *Romans*

12:1-2

#### Blessing for Stewardship

Be grateful for what the Father has given you. Spend money as he would spend it. Be generous as God is generous. God loves a cheerful giver because he is a cheerful giver. "You are rich in everything—in faith, in speaking, in knowledge, in truly wanting to help, and in the love you learned from us. In the same way, be strong also in the grace of giving." *2 Corinthians 8:7*

#### Blessing for Gratitude

Have a grateful heart! Everything you have comes from God and belongs to him. Share with others with a happy heart. Imitate the love of Jesus in dealing with others.

"Happy are those who respect the Lord and obey him. You will enjoy what you work for, and you will be blessed with good things." *Psalms 128:1-2*



## Mills River Life Enrichment Center

### September Highlights:

"Hee Haw" was our last program of September. Variety was the order of the day. Cowbells, dishpans and washboards were instruments of choice by our very own MRLEC band. We do have business cards printed if you care to hire the MRLEC Band for a future performance. A special thank you to the MRUMC choir who performed skits and sang country music on key!

### October Highlights:

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Arnie Gourd and the UMM for their generous donation to MRLEC from the proceeds of their golf tournament. We appreciate all the time and

effort the Methodist Men put into this project.

**Dr. James Crutcher** presented an interesting program discussing how the Bible interacts with us in our everyday lives. He gave a history of medicine, progression of medicines from early times to the present. He stressed the importance of good hygiene to avoid spreading germs. Dr. Crutcher's lovely wife, Arlene, sang some beautiful inspirational songs.

**All other October programs** have not been presented at the time of this writing. We hope the programs on the Civil War in WNC and Identity Theft were very intriguing.

### Programs for November:

**3** Character Portrayal of "Carlie" an Appalachian Mountain Women presented by Pat Hammond Greenwald  
**10** Bingo and the WOW Van (Glucose Screening w/ no fasting)  
**17** Mountain Marionettes presents, "Stories from Aunt Nellie's Home"  
**24** NO MRLEC - Happy Thanksgiving!

### Ongoing Events:

In addition to the above programs each week, MRLEC provides Blood Pressure Checks - Chair Exercises @ 9:45am - Magazine Swap - A Nutritious Meal and Fellowship with Others.

### Mission Statement:

The mission of the Mills River Life Enrichment Center is to minister to the mind, body, and spirit of seniors in our churches and community by establishing a Christian based community center offering a place for fellowship, service, and enjoyment.

**All programs begin at 10 am and are held in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Lunch reservations are required for each program. Please call the MRLEC office (828) 808-5581 by noon the Tuesday before each program.**



### Welcome Table Updates

I would like to fill you in on some changes and upcoming events at the Welcome Table.

1. First of all the time has been changed to 5 – 6:30. The results of the surveys showed that the majority wanted the new time.
2. Help with homework will be starting soon. I am a retired elementary schoolteacher and I will help when I'm there and not cooking the meal. I will also be looking for some folks willing to help with this.
3. Sometimes the Welcome Table cooks will get a much deserved break:
  - Nov. 1 - Some of the gals from MRLEC will be cooking
  - Nov. 8 - Jennie Corpening Circle will be cooking
  - Nov. 15 – MRUMC youth will be cooking

**Thank you guys soooooo much!**

  - Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving meal provided by our Welcome Table cooks
4. We will be getting a wall-mounted diaper changing station for the bathroom across from the kitchen.
5. I appeal to everyone to become involved by committing to one Tuesday a month at the Welcome Table starting in December.

Thank you so much to my fellow cooks: Beverly and David Parris, Glenn and Karen Banning, and Will and Ruby McClung. Thank you to all my Mills River volunteers (32 plus), the dessert team, and some folks from other churches. I really appreciate all your support!

Thanks again. Carol West

**MILLS RIVER  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**Sunday Worship**

8:15 am Traditional  
9:33 am Worship & Praise  
10:55 am Traditional

**Sunday School**

Children: 9:30 am  
          10:50 am  
Adult: 9:45 am  
         10:45 am

**Wednesday Night  
Services**

5:30 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm Prayer/  
Worship in the Chapel

**We're on the Web!**  
[millsriverumc.org](http://millsriverumc.org)

**MRUMC is now offering our  
newsletter electronically! If  
you are willing to receive the  
newsletter electronically,  
please contact the church  
office at 828-891-7788 or  
[erica\\_mrumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:erica_mrumc@bellsouth.net).**

**Ministry and Staff**

The Rev. Paul B. Thompson . . . . . Senior Pastor  
Paige Ann Miller . . . . . Associate Pastor/Youth Director  
Steve Carson . . . . . Director of Music  
Dean Cavanaugh . . . . . Worship Leader  
Shannon Barber . . . . . Children's Ministry  
Ruth Williams . . . . . MRLEC Director  
Kevin Robinson . . . . . Organist  
Erica Woodall . . . . . Administrator  
Gina Long . . . . . Custodian

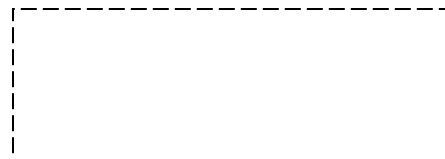
Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm Mon - Fri  
Phone: 891-7788  
Fax: 891-2590  
[www.millsriverumc.org](http://www.millsriverumc.org)  
Church E-mail: [erica\\_mrumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:erica_mrumc@bellsouth.net)  
Newsletter E-mail: [fishrus8@morrisbb.net](mailto:fishrus8@morrisbb.net)



**Mills River United Methodist Church**  
137 Old Turnpike Road  
Mills River, NC 28759

**Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Horse Shoe, NC  
Permit No. 14**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Postmaster: Dated Material  
Please deliver by November 8, 2011**