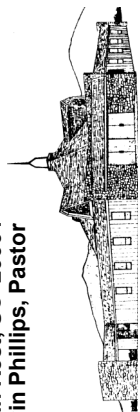


9915 Highlands Hwy., P. O. Box 37
Mountain Rest, SC 29664
Dr. Kevin Phillips, Pastor

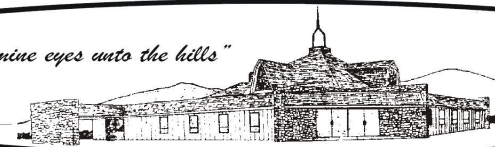


Mountain Rest Baptist Church

Return Service Requested

"As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news..."
- Proverbs 25: 25a

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills"



Upward

Mountain Rest Baptist Church
October, 2023

Greetings,

The life of our church has gone through a bit of turmoil lately. I don't really think specific items of this nature need to be discussed in a newsletter article, but I do think we need to address some other things that will help us cope with pain, confusion and concern that we are experiencing.

I will be the first to admit, it's been difficult. The things that have happened have caused a great deal of hurt. It has caused hurt in our family. It has caused hurt in your family. The reason that these things are happening is due to something we've known since the days of the writing of the Bible. We have an adversary that we forget is real. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*" Our adversary is Satan - not our brother. Satan is the real culprit. He's been doing the same thing, the same way with the church for centuries. His power is deception, cunning, lies and slander. He incites friend against friend and brother against brother. I once shared a sermon illustration with you, it was called the Devil's Yard Sale.

Satan advertised that he was selling off many tools, and he put on display some of his best items. Many demons showed up to see just what the devil was getting rid of that day. They came from all around to see what they could purchase to improve their shameful skills. Each tool sold almost as quickly as it was placed upon the display tables.

Satan had carefully marked the price upon each tool:

ANGER: \$100; RESENTMENT: \$400; HATRED: \$600; JEALOUSY: \$1,000 etc., etc.

Anger was selling fairly low...so common, so plain, so effective. Greed brought a big price, and Pride drove high bids to high levels. Multiple copies of the jealousy tool were hot items. Lust, as always, was at a bargain-basement price. But he had a glass case that contained an old wedge-shaped piece of wood, with a \$1,000,000,000,000 price tag. The case was protected by the strongman himself. The inquiry was made about the high price, to which he responded, 'Most Christians guard themselves against the others, but just a little tap, and ohhh how this little wedge can weasel its way in, divide Christians and destroy a church.'

Do you get the point of what I'm saying? A little wedge leads to a little disunity, which leads to a lot of disunity and complete separation. It is a rather simplistic view of what's going on in our church. The question we need to ask is, "what's the wedge in our church?" It's always a sin issue. Always. Our problem is a sin issue. It may be manifested as jealousy. It may be manifested as resentment. It may be manifested as anger. It may be manifested as lying. But it is always sin!

I recently heard about the story of a FBC in Jacksonville, FL. The story is told in a podcast from the perspective of Pastor Heath Lambert. The series is entitled, "What Happened at First Baptist?" He chronicles how one of the most influential churches in the country went through upheaval and came through on the other side stronger and more effective. Basically, he attributes the problems to a variety of things. It mostly revolves around - well yes, sin - but it also revolves around change, transition, growing pains, protecting your pew and a variety of other items that could contribute to the problem. I would encourage you to listen to the podcast series entitled, "What Happened at First Baptist?" and listen to all the episodes and carefully evaluate what you hear. You may discover something that will cause you to think... and change.

I hope that you will undertake this seriously and personally evaluate your role in our situation.

Blessings,

Pastor Kevin

**Drop-In Baby Shower
for
Hannah and Jonathan Roach**

When: Sunday, October 15th

Time: 2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Where: Church Fellowship Hall

~Registered on Amazon~



In Lieu of cards, please help the soon-to-be parents grow their collection of children's books instead.



**Mission Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes
and Prisoner Packets**

ALL Christmas Shoeboxes are due by Sunday, November 12th. Prisoner Packets are due by Sunday, November 19th; a list of approved items for Prisoner Packets is located on the bulletin board across from the office. These due dates are absolute! Any late donations WILL NOT be collected, so be on time!!! Thank you to everyone who supports these missions!



Janie Chapman State Offering

Offering Goal: \$3,000.00

Offering Received to Date: \$2,249.00

Thank you for supporting state missions!



**Multi-Focus Women on Mission
October 2023 News**

The Shoe That Grows – Donations and orders were taken for the third year for these terrific shoes from Because International, that expand up to five sizes and last for years. 37 pairs were ordered to be included in the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes again this year and for any ongoing local needs.

Drop-In Baby Shower for Hannah and Jonathan Roach – Sunday, October 15, from 2:30 – 4:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. The couple is having a boy and his name will be Jonah Craig Roach. They are registered at Amazon. Children's books for their collection would be appreciated in lieu of greeting cards.

Christmas Backpacks – The group is assisting the GEMs (Girls Engaged in Missions) with this October project. The Christmas Backpacks Ministry seeks to meet the spiritual and physical needs of children and teenagers living in the Appalachian Area and in Upstate South Carolina. The Multi-Focus group will fill five backpacks for girls of various ages to help the GEMs with their total. Items included in the backpacks are winter accessories, food, Bibles, hygiene items and fun items. A hat and scarf will be provided for each backpack by Tabitha's Hands Yarn Ministry.

School Supplies for James M. Brown Elementary – There is a need for supplies to be replenished for students halfway through the school year. Instead of a gift exchange by group members during the annual Christmas Party, supplies will be donated by members and delivered to JMB Elementary to be given out when the students return to school in January.

Annual Christmas Party – Thursday, December 7, at 11:00 am at the Clayton Café in Clayton, GA.

Donation Center – The Multi-Focus group delivers these donated items monthly. Remember to buy a few items each month and place them in the church's donation center for:

1. JMB Elem Food Pantry – Any non-perishable food items are accepted (especially dry beans and rice) and kid-friendly items that can be eaten with no help from adults.
2. JMB Elem Grace's Closet – new or lightly used clothes, toiletries, school supplies.
3. Our Daily Bread – paper products (specific list is on the container). Item needed most: sandwich size ziplocks.

Please Join Us – This special group has a "multi-focused" approach to MISSIONS as we spread the good news of Jesus locally and beyond through study, prayer, encouragement, support, gifts, and service. We meet at 10:00 am on the first Thursday of every month. Ladies of all ages are welcome.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023 AT 10:00 AM IN THE JOY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM

Announcements and Upcoming Events Continued...

Men's Bible Study:

Next meeting will be on Monday, October 9th at 6:30 pm, there will be a Men's Bible Study in the Joy Class.

Key Usage:

If you need a key, please contact Pastor Kevin during the week. If you need a key for an event on the weekend, come by the office during the week. If you unlock a door, YOU ARE responsible for locking it.

Newsletter Information:

If your organization/committee have regular monthly announcements that need to be posted, please submit all information at the business meeting. Gathering information collectively and in a timely manner will allow for more production time and time for any questions and/or communication regarding announcements before publishing. Thank you.

Facility Rental:

Facility Reservation Forms are located in the upper-left wall pocket across from the office. See Summer if you have any questions or need assistance.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

Trail Life:

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:00 pm.

G.E.M.'S:

GEM'S next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:00 pm.

Council Meetings:

Next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 pm.

SOUP-er Supper:

Fall is here!!! Come join us for a SOUP-er Supper, prior to the Wednesday night Business Meeting at 6:00 pm. A sign-up sheet for soup, breads, crackers and desserts is located in the hall.

Business Meetings:

The next Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18th, at 6:30 pm. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall. Attendance is encouraged!

*Approved Minutes from the last Business Meeting are available to the congregation; they are located in the upper right wall pocket across from the front office.

Women's Discipleship:

Women's Discipleship will resume on Wednesday, October 11th from 6:00-7:15 pm. Study will be held in the Joy Classroom.

Men's Ministry:

Men's Ministry will meet Thursday, October 26th at 6:30 pm.

Tabitha's Hands:

Tabitha's Hands Yarn Ministry meet each week on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, in the Joy Classroom. Newcomers welcome!