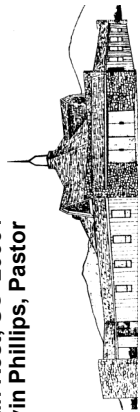


9915 Highlands Hwy., P. O. Box 37  
Mountain Rest, SC 29664  
Dr. Kevin Phillips, Pastor



*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**  
**November, 2023**

Greetings,

A few weeks ago, I mentioned a recent study on the current state of the modern church conducted by the George Barna research group (American Worldview Inventory 2020). The information was startling. The study showed that many people from evangelical churches have adopted unbiblical beliefs. In essence, the church is turning secular. 2000 adult Christians answered this survey. Here are some of the findings.

- 52% contend that there is no absolute moral truth; in their view, truth is uniquely determined by each individual according to their preferences and circumstances.
- 48% believe a person who is good enough or does enough good works can earn eternal salvation
- 44% do not believe that history is the unfolding narrative of God's reality
- 44% claim the Bible is ambiguous in its teaching about abortion
- 43% maintain that when Jesus was on earth, He sinned
- 43% do not believe that there is a common, God-given purpose to humanity (i.e., to know, love and serve Him)
- 42% seek moral guidance primarily from sources other than the Bible
- 42% do not identify and confess their sins on a daily basis
- 40% do not believe that human life is sacred
- 40% accept lying as morally acceptable if it advances personal interests or protect one's reputation

It really looks bad for the church in the US! Presumably, the individuals who took this survey reflect the modern church. But, let me summarize what the results of this study means. It means the average Christian has moved from biblical thinking to secular thinking. The modern secular Christian now looks outside the Bible and Christianity for truth and rejects the Bible.

Barna concluded his findings with this statement:

"It's one thing for Americans to be confused on the finer points or even hotly debated elements of theology," Barna said. "But for Americans to misunderstand or to flat out reject the Bible as a foundational source of truth and moral guidance, to reject salvation by grace alone, and to reject core doctrines of the Christian faith points to a major crisis in our society. Hopefully, bringing these issues to light can generate greater attention being paid to what matters and how to fix what's clearly broken."

The solution is to understand that God has given us His word to lead us to Him, teach us how to please Him and know what He requires. We must read, study and memorize the Bible. We must allow the truth of the Bible to transform our thinking. We must walk counter culturally and embrace a biblical lifestyle. I hope you will choose to be a biblical Christian.

Blessings,

Pastor Kevin



Please join us for a Drop-In  
**Wedding Reception**  
 for  
**Mr. and Mrs. Erric Fuller**  
**Friday, November 17th, 2023**  
**6:00 pm-8:30 pm**  
 Hors d'oeuvres will be served

**Walhalla Depot**  
**211 S College Street**  
**Walhalla, SC 29691**

*The couple is registered at Wal-Mart and Amazon.  
 Please let Tammy and Lauren know if you plan to attend.*

**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!



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

**Christmas Backpacks** – The group assisted 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 filled five backpacks for girls of various ages to help the GEMs with their total. Items included in the backpacks were winter accessories, food, Bibles, hygiene items and fun items. A hat and scarf was provided for each backpack by Tabitha's Hands Yarn Ministry.

**The Shoe That Grows and Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** – 37 pairs of these terrific shoes were ordered through the group from Because International that expand up to five sizes and last for years. Shoes ordered will be placed in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes by church members personally, and Multi-Focus funds will be used to fill more shoeboxes in hopes of sending every pair of shoes that were donated to the group to a child in need. Contact Janie Wilbanks if you would like to include a donated pair of shoes in your shoebox.

**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. There is a special plastic bin labeled for this in the Donation Center. Anyone is welcome to contribute to this project.

**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, NOVEMBER 2, 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, November 6th 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, November 8th at 6:00 pm.

### G.E.M.'S:

GEM'S next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:00 pm.

### Council Meetings:

No Council Meeting this month.

### 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, November 15th, 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, November 8th from 6:00-7:15 pm. Study will be held in the Joy Classroom.

### Men's Ministry:

Men's Ministry next meeting date: To Be Determined...

### Tabitha's Hands:

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