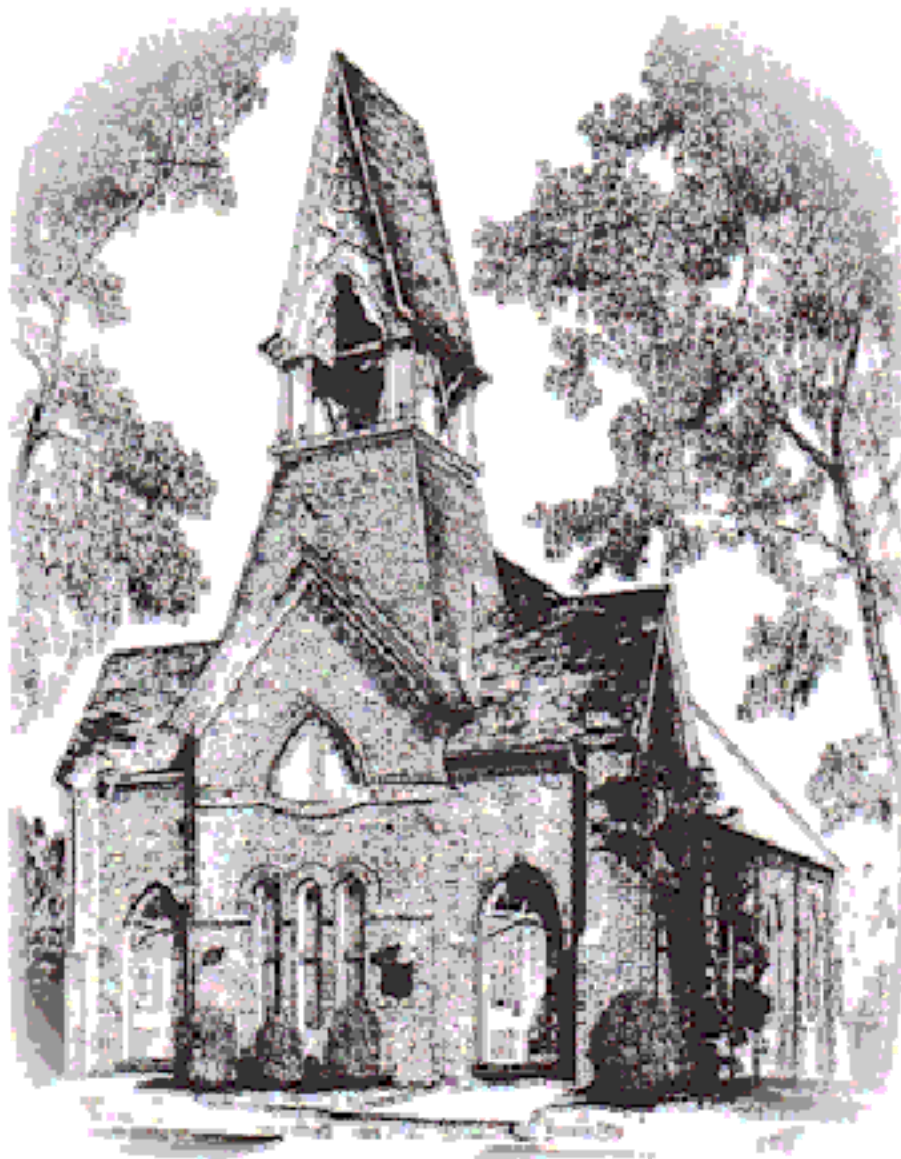


# HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION OF MARS HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2008





There's a new phenomenon in our culture these days and we see it especially here following Christmas. It's called "re-gifting." It means taking something that we've received from someone and passing it along to someone else. I guess this has actually happened in times past—we just didn't have a specific name for it.

Why would someone do this? Well, even if it is the thought that counts and even if we appreciate the person and the sentiment behind a gift—the truth is that some gifts do not fit with the recipient's plans, or décor, or colors, or size, or some other element. Perhaps we already have another item similar to what we received. Perhaps the gift we received doesn't have a particular feature or function that we actually require. Perhaps someone else got us the same thing and gave it to us two weeks ago. Whatever the reason, there are times when we have to address the awkward question of what to do with the gift. And sometimes it seems the answer may be to forward that gift on to someone else.

Of course, this could lead to further awkward and difficult situations. I have heard of folks who found themselves trying to answer how and why a certain item ended up in someone else's possession. There are some things to consider before one "re-gifts" (I'm not sure if that would be the verb form, but I wouldn't be surprised.). I suspect that Miss Manners or someone else will take up this matter at some point and give us guidance on the proper points of such a process.

I would point out that there is one gift that we should always "re-gift." The greatest gift of Christmas is the gift of Christ himself. Our savior is born to bring us the good news of God's love and grace and to give us life eternal. That is the gift that we can pass along to everyone. It is always appropriate. It is always fitting. It is always valuable. It is always needed. It is, in fact, the perfect gift for all people, for all places, for all times.

I'm not sure what everyone should do with the gifts they received this year. But I do know that God actually expects us to "re-gift" the gift that has been given to us. Offer it freely to all those who you love and care for; offer it freely to those whom you do not yet know; offer it at every occasion that presents itself; give it away to others. God won't mind—indeed, that's why God gave it to us in the first place.

We need and want everyone to find their place of service here in Mars Hill Presbyterian Church.

## SESSION RETREAT

The Session will gather on Saturday, January 12, 9:00am to 2:00pm, for a planning retreat. We will be looking forward to what God is calling us to do as a church in 2008. We request that everyone be in prayer for our leaders as they guide us in God's will.

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### Thanks To....



Everyone on property and organ committee for all their hard work, getting the space ready for the pipes, and unloading the pipes...

Don Schubert, Jay Bott, & Mike Jaquish for painting the brackets...

All those good folks who jumped in to help during the holiday season ...

Harrison and the Youth who made the Children's Advent Event a success

Our wonderful children for their hard work in bringing the Christmas Story to us once again this year with such enthusiasm and love...

To Blair and Deborah, and all the parents in their support and encouragement for the children...

Charlie Engle for being our Santa Claus ...

Reba Powers' team for hosting our great Christmas Potluck and Janet Martin for the wonderful goody bags...

To all our families who have participated in lighting the advent wreath throughout the Advent & Christmas Season...

Barry Willis and all of the Christian Education Committee for providing our suppers through out our Advent Study...

Everyone who has helped out in the office so that Connie could take some time off during the holidays...

Our chimes ringers for offering their gifts of music ...



We ask that everyone come out to help in taking down the greens at 5:00pm on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Congregational Support would like to thank you for your support!



What a rush December was! We started out with our **Advent Kid's Night Out** on December 7, and man was it a sight to see. We had 18 children participate, with 12 youth facilitating and 5 adults overseeing. Activities included games, crafts, cookie baking, assembling a foam manger scene, the movie "Polar Express", and of course, musical chairs. I was very excited to celebrate with the kids, and very proud of our youth for their leadership.

We also had the opportunity to minister to area children by doing some **Christmas shopping** for them. We had seven kids to buy for, and thanks to several anonymous donors and St. Paul's outreach committee, we had \$700 to spend. A special thank you to my "crew," who bravely shopped the wild and dangerous aisles of Wal-Mart. Thanks also to those who undertook the wrapping of all those wonderful gifts.

Our **Christmas Caroling** adventure was a lot of fun too, and it was great to see some folks from church we hadn't seen in a while. Hopefully, we can forge this outing into an annual tradition.

Finally, Wed Night Youth meetings ended for the fall semester with our **Youth Christmas Party**. We had food, games, and of course the annual Chinese-Grinchy-Dirty Santa-Indian gift exchange. Thanks to all the parents and other parishioners who contributed goodies for the party.

As the third year of "The Journey" comes to a close, I would like to extend a **BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who has helped in some way this year. We've done a whole lot of stuff this year, and we couldn't have done it without chaperones, drivers, and "behind the scenes" people who help me get things together. We couldn't have made it without you volunteers, and we're blessed to have you.

Having said that – for 2008 we still need helpers!!! Here's a look at what's going on:

February 2-3 (SAT-SUN) D.Y.E. Diocesan Youth Lock-In in Knoxville.

\*Need chaperones and drivers.

February 15-17 (FRI-SUN) SKI TRIP – Banner Elk, NC / Sugar Mnt.

**\*\*In serious need of chaperones and drivers**

March 7-9 (FRI-SUN) High School Youth Summit – Gatlinburg, TN

April 11 (FRI) Mark Shultz Concert – Athens Jr. High \*need chaperones

April 11-13 (FRI-SUN) Diocesan Junior High Spring Retreat – Ocoee, TN

\*Need chaperones and drivers

Thank you all again for another wonderful year! In Christ, Harrison

# Treasurer Report

## Financial Report Operating Fund

<b>Income</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Year-to Date</b>
Pledges	\$ 15,412.00	\$ 159,555.00
Non-Pledging Members	\$ 900.00	\$ 12,670.00
Friends of the Church & Visitors	\$ 125.00	\$ 3,712.00
Loose Contributions	\$ 138.11	\$ 1,477.71
Sunday School	\$ 81.25	\$ 1,168.65
Other	\$ 100.03	\$ 7,618.84
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 16,756.39</b>	<b>\$ 186,202.20</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Payroll	\$ 7,203.07	\$ 79,037.42
Administrative	\$ 2,205.29	\$ 38,566.57
Benevolence	\$ 267.15	\$ 31,888.70
Christian Education	\$ 669.82	\$ 6,498.11
Congregational Support	\$ 24.24	\$ 512.75
Worship	\$ (25.75)	\$ 2,056.00
Property	\$ 3,047.64	\$ 42,689.79
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,391.46</b>	<b>\$ 201,249.34</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,364.93</b>	<b>\$ (15,047.14)</b>

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**Blood Mobile-** January 21<sup>st</sup> at Big Lots - Athens  
1637 Decatur Pike Athens TN 10:00 am 6:00 pm



Laura and I would like to thank the good people of Mars Hill Presbyterian Church for their care and consideration to us during the holidays and throughout the year. Your generosity and thoughtfulness to us are greatly appreciated. We thank you with grateful hearts and pray that God will bless you all.

Dear Session and MHPC Congregation,

I wanted to be sure to thank-you for the generous gift included with my last check. It is very much appreciated. The Session and the Congregation have been very supportive and welcoming of me and my family. Again, I tank you. Deborah Bare

It is always with a humble heart that I write thank you to all the kind and generous members of Mars Hill . My family and I appreciate the care that you show us now and always. Know that we keep you in our prayers.  
Connie Dalton

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## Thanks To Our Outgoing Class Of Elders

We want to say a special word of thanks to our outgoing elders: Don Den Uyl, Davis Haynes, Merna Jaquish, and Sherree Reed. They have served you with energy and enthusiasm; they have guided us in numerous changes; they have worked well with one another and the congregation. Please let them know you appreciate their service.

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## NEW COMMITTEES FORMING

Each year we reform our committees in the church. If you have an interest in serving in Christian Education, or Worship, or Property, or some other group, then please let us know. If you are contacted and asked about serving, please give it prayerful consideration.





January:

**1<sup>st</sup> Elder on call** – Randy Ayres

**2<sup>nd</sup> Elder on call** – Judith Dyer

**Acolyte** – Cassandra Coleman

**Communion Preparers:** Danny & Sherree Reed

**Communion Servers:**

Elder Class of 2010 – Randy Ayres, Carole Haynes, Darrel Linkous and Kay Moses

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## Men's Prayer Group Devotional Schedule

January:



**Highnooners** will be enjoying lunch out at Hunter's Restaurant on January 15<sup>th</sup>. They will meet in the church parking lot at 11:00 am and car pool to the restaurant. If you are planning to attend, please contact Jay Bott at 746-0403

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Ordination & Installation  
of  
Elder Class of 2010

On Sunday, January 6, we will ordain and install our new class of elders: Randy Ayres, Carole Haynes, Darrell Linkous, and Kay Moses. This is an important moment for them and for us as a church. Please be here to lend your support and to participate in this special service of worship.



## Birthdays

### January

Arliss Mulinix	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ralph Anderson	17 <sup>th</sup>
Frank Carpenter	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nicole Hayes	18 <sup>th</sup>
Dick Pelley	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Carolyn Wilson	18 <sup>th</sup>
Marsha Lucas	4 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Nelson	20 <sup>th</sup>
Matt Harrison	6 <sup>th</sup>	Benjamin Walker	20 <sup>th</sup>
Suellen Perry	6 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Dyer	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Donald Schubert	10 <sup>th</sup>	Harrison Hart	26 <sup>th</sup>
Willa Engle	11 <sup>th</sup>	Barry Willis	27 <sup>th</sup>

## *Anniversaries*

### January

John and Judith Dyer 14<sup>th</sup>

The  
Church  
Office



Will Be  
Closed:

We will be closed  
December 31<sup>st</sup> and  
January 1<sup>st</sup> for the  
New Year Holiday.



**Annual Reports** are due from every chairman of every group that used Mars Hill Presbyterian Church in 2007. These reports are due into the church office by January 14<sup>th</sup>. Our annual meeting will be on February 3, 2008.

## **Katrina Mission Trip**

**Mars Hill sponsored six men for a Katrina Mission Trip to Waveland, Mississippi, on February 25 – March 2, 2007. While there they worked on the home of Fred and Dorothy Welch who had survived the Katrina storm, but had sustained significant damage to their home. Since the storm, they had done what they could to rebuild.**

**All they were asking for was help with the rebuilding using the material accumulated and purchased as their funds would allow. Fred had picked up and acquired lots of material including scrap. He also had a lot of tools, some of which were used by the team.**

**The team did purchase the material used to build a deck and some other items. Dorothy was ecstatic with the deck saying they never had one and that it was a wonderful addition.**

**Fred and Dorothy live in a FEMA trailer on site. Fred's health was not great, but each day the team worked on their home they helped as they were able. One day when the team returned from lunch, Dorothy said Fred was lying down and was worried about not being with the team. He had physically done a little more than he should have in the morning and needed the rest.**

**The trip was a very rewarding experience for the team. When leaving the site for the last time they were asked to all join hands for a prayer. The six team members who went on the mission trip received a Christmas card from Fred and Dorothy. They stated "We are enjoying our Deck and our house is almost finished. May God continue to bless you and your family."**

**Circle I** met December 10<sup>th</sup> in fellowship hall for our Christmas luncheon. We were honored to have three guests, Gail Long and Gail Scofield, who attend GriefShare with Jo Ann Webb, and Connie Dalton also joined us for lunch.

We were able to buy the following items from the Heifer International program:

A den of honeybees, One llama, Two sets of rabbits, Two packages of tree seedlings, and we were so blessed to find that we could buy 2 sheep that would be delivered to Nepal. Yes, Nepal so we did this in honor of our own Jennifer Hand, who is in the mission field in Nepal. We could possibly impact at least six families with the animals and bees, and several families with the tree seedlings. We are thankful to God for giving us the resources to be able to impact His children in other parts of the world.

We are placing catalogs from Heifer International on the table outside the office. If you or a group you are in would be interested in this worthwhile endeavor, please feel free to pick one up and share it with others. We will meet in January in fellowship hall and will be studying Chapter 33 of *The Purpose Driven Life*.

Merna Jaquish will be helping to lead Circle One beginning in January of 2008. Thank you Merna.

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## Circle II

We met in December at Connie Allen's home, enjoyed lots of delicious goodies and revealed our prayer partners for 2007. Many of us were very surprised to find out who had been sending us special gifts and thoughts throughout the year. We drew names for 2008 and the mystery will begin again.

Our January meeting will be at the home of Sylvia Pelley on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. For our mission project we will be collecting items for Full Circle.

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Crafty Fellowship

**Crafty Fellowship** will be back to their regular schedule in January; meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. We meet from 10am to 2pm. Please bring a craft project and your lunch and join us for the fastest four hours of fellowship, fun, and crafting. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## GENERAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

### **Sunday**

- 9:45 a.m.** Sunday school  
\*Classes for children and adults  
**10:45 a.m.** Worship service  
\*Nursery is provided

### **Monday**

- 5:30 p.m.** Webelos  
**7:00 p.m.** Boy Scouts

### **Tuesday**

- 6:00 – 8:00** Girls Scouts

### **Wednesday**

- 6:45** Youth Group  
**7:00** Choral choir  
\*Nursery is provided

### **Thursday**

- 10:30 a.m.** Meals on Wheels  
**Volunteers are needed!**

### **Friday**

- 4:30-6:30** Girl Scouts

**Pastor:** **The Rev. Leslie Rust**  
**Home: 500 Linden Circle**  
**Athens, TN 37303**  
**Home Phone # 1 423 745-0497**  
**Web Site: [www.marshillpres.com](http://www.marshillpres.com)**  
**MPC E-Mail: [mhpc1398@bellsouth.net](mailto:mhpc1398@bellsouth.net)**  
**Church Office 745-1403**

<b>Clerk of Session:</b>	<b>Merna Jaquish</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Don DenUyl</b>
<b>Church School Superintendent:</b>	<b>Jim Harrison</b>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<b>Deborah Bare</b>
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Johnny Coffman</b>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Connie Dalton</b>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Don DenUyl</b>
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	<b>Susan Tullock</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Connie Dalton</b>
<b>Youth Director:</b>	<b>Harrison Hart</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Susan Tullock</b>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<b>John Dyer</b>