



Caswell Springs UMC

# The Watering Can

MARCH 2012

*But the LORD's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken.* Psalm 33:11

My devotion Monday morning was based on this text where the writer talked about the frustrations that come with life's changes and inconsistencies and the hope that comes from God's stability. Life is full of inconsistencies and changes. I am not the same person I was when I was seventeen. I may not be able to do half the things I was physically able to do then, but I am infinitely wiser now than I was then. One thing that has not changed is the fact that I am not perfect. None of us are.

So, as a wonderfully imperfect changing group of people we continue to seek the will of the marvelously unchanging perfect God who has called us here together. Under God's hand, we have changed as we have grown numerically and spiritually together. The community around us has changed numerically and spiritually as well. Unfortunately as it has grown in population, the people have shrunken spiritually to the point that it is almost non-existent.

So what do we do about it? Last Sunday night, the entire church was invited to a time of dreaming and planning with our district superintendent, Rev. Bill McAlilly. We had 65 people show up sitting around tables. After Bro. Bill shared a devotion he led the group in talking about our goals as a church to grow in worshippers, to grow as disciples, to grow in reaching out to the lost, to grow in missions, and to grow in giving.

Each table spent about five minutes a piece on each goal discussing this question, "How can Caswell Springs reach this goal without losing our soul?" Between discussing each question, each table shared with the entire group a few of their suggestions. At the end of the night, the responses were gathered and compiled.

My plan is to take these to the board and committees and say, "These are the suggestions the church has made on how we can move forward in God's will." "How do we turn these into action?" If you missed that opportunity to give your voice, other opportunities will arise, so be looking for them and make them a priority.

Everything we have done in the past three years has been based on conversations with individuals, surveys, and comments from leaders about conversations they have had. All these have been followed with prayerful conversations with committees and boards before any changes were made. If you feel you have not been heard, here is an open invitation to come and be heard. My doors as always are open to anyone. The church cannot act on every person's desires, not even the preacher's. But, everyone can and must be heard. Because of His Extravagant Grace, Brian.



Lori Cupit

# Mission Report

Charity is one of the many blessings we receive (and learn to give) when we seek the will of God for our lives. The red letter words of Jesus are the perfect guide. (Matthew 25: 31-46) No surprise there, right? Jesus said that when we do for others, even the very least of people, we do it for Him. He doesn't ask us to discern who deserves to be helped the most. But, He makes it clear that when we fail to reach out to others we are failing to reach out to Him. Let's be as joyful in our giving as we are in receiving.

With your generous gifts we've helped in a variety of ways. We

helped a young mother secure employment by paying for a specific clearance card required by the company. We helped with power bills. One of which was for a cancer patient who was facing surgery and the fear of returning from the hospital to a home with no power. Our food pantry is a wonderful resource and the one we use most to extend the love of Jesus to our community. We need some specific items for the food pantry.

Sizes and brands do not matter but we need lots of each:

1. Peanut butter
2. Jelly
3. Spaghetti sauce
4. Spaghetti noodles

5. Ravioli (Beefaroni, Spaghettios,, etc.)
6. Fruit cups
7. Vienna sausage (or similar products)
8. Canned soup

Monetary donations are also welcomed and should be designated for home missions. Thanks to all who give and provide the means for us to help others in need.

The Mission Team

*I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the LORD Jeremiah 15:20*

## HIS WAY

For the past several weeks our songs and sermons have centered on the word OVERCOME. This word has brought to mind the obstacles that were faced when His Way Ministry began. Where was the money to come from, would there be enough workers, could we find enough drivers and most importantly did the ministry serve God's purpose? As of January 2012, His Way has been preparing and delivering meals to shut-ins and the needy for five years. At the beginning, Missions funded the His Way Ministry for six months before we could get our feet on the ground. We have been solvent ever since. Approximately 20+ meals were delivered the first time. On an average we have been delivering 100-130 meals per week. Through prayer, tithes and time, His Way has overcome all the obstacles faced five years ago and been successful. Now, however we have another obstacle to OVERCOME. Some of you may not be aware but most of the volunteers in His Way are past middle age! Our volunteers have been faithful in their service, but circumstances have caused a shortage in our drivers. We need to overcome this shortage and we ask each of you to do three things for us - first Pray for His Way, second ask the Lord to send us dependable drivers and third ask the Lord to speak to your heart to see if it is you the Lord will send to us.



In Christ's Love,

His Way Ministry Volunteers



Community of Hope continues to be busy, out and about all over Jackson and George counties. Seems like there are a lot of bad roofs in this area, as much of our work has involved fixing leaks and holes in the roofs of homes. That of course often leads to repairing the damage inside the home from the rain water getting into the ceilings and walls of the home. So, even a small roof job can turn into a much bigger process to make it all correct.

We have been blessed with NOMADS teams. Their time here will be ending soon, so we will be looking for more local volunteers to help us out. If you have a skill or talent, we can put you to work! We'd like to say a big thanks to Paul and Shirley Hope; they have been more support and help to this ministry than we can list, serving as on-site leaders for all our construction projects, dealing with both the teams and the clients on a daily basis. In March

we have a youth team coming in to help us for three days. This will be a blessing to us, and we are excited to have a group of young folks working with us in our ministry.

This month we'd like to introduce Sandi Reeves, a 41 year old single mother and COH client who has experienced the kindness, support and construction talents of our ministry. When she was 21, Sandi noticed a continuous numbness in the lower part of her right arm and was seeing a black spot in the middle of her right eye. After several MRIs and a spinal tap, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Multiple sclerosis is an autoimmune disorder that affects the nervous system often resulting in decreased mobility, extreme fatigue, bouts of severe pain, and numbness/weakness in one or more limbs. Sandi has difficulty walking and struggles to maintain her balance. Fortunately, she is pain free at this time which she says is quite a blessing. There is no cure for MS, but Sandi takes medication once a month that helps slow the progress of the disease. As Sandi states, "I have MS, but it doesn't have me. I have nothing to complain about." For Sandi, living with MS for 20 years has become a way of life, and she prides herself on overcoming most of the challenges of the disease. However, despite her best efforts, there were some tasks just too large for her to manage.

Born and raised in Vanclave, Sandi heard about Community of Hope through Vanclave United Methodist Church. *To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or phrase at the start of the story.* Together COH and VUMC teamed up to help Sandi with some much needed repair and maintenance work on her home. There were several roof leaks throughout the house that were difficult to for Sandi to locate because she was unable to climb a ladder because of her balance issues related to MS. Water marks down the walls and on her ceilings indicated that there was resulting water damage in the home in several areas because of the leaks. A new faucet was replaced in one of Sandi's bathrooms and a few minor plumbing issues were corrected. Vanclave UMC completely rebuilt Sandi's rear deck and painted the front deck along with providing her with a much needed new hand rail. According to Marley Walker, the wonderful participation from VUMC has truly made Sandi's home a "Community" endeavor.

Sandi has a great attitude and infectious energy that is truly inspiring. She is currently attending Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College majoring in Human Services and Child Development Technology. Attending classes three days a week, Sandi hopes one day to open a childcare center from her home and serve low income, single moms, dads, and teens. Sandi's life is quite full with studying, and she remains actively involved with her two children, 22 year old Calligan and 16 year old Sydne. Calligan lives in Pascagoula with Sandi's grandchild, and Sydne is a junior at Vanclave High School.

Sandi has been thrilled with Community of Hope and is grateful for the help she has received. She would definitely recommend the ministry to anyone in need. "They are out of this world," were her exact words. Sandi would even like to give back this summer and possibly work alongside Community of Hope on some small projects (Marley may not know it yet, but painting is her specialty!).

Please pray extra hard for our ministry and consider joining us on a project for a few hours when you can. We believe that you will be blessed just as we feel blessed. It just could be the most rewarding thing to happen to you in a long time. As always, we can use more funding as there is much work left to do. We have been working on grant applications, and hope that we will be receiving some of those funds soon. We get e-mails, calls or personal visits daily from folks looking for help. Many of the background stories of the needs and how they got to the point of needing help will bring a tear to most. Even more important is the look on the face of folks when you tell them help is coming or smiles on those when the job is complete and all is well again in the home. We are thankful for your support and we are grateful to God for what you do for us.

God Bless,  
COH

# Affirmations!

This month is going to be all about Affirmations in the children's ministry! It should every month, but we tend to forget that affirmations make the world of difference in anyone's life, but especially a child's. I have really been trying to work on this with my own children, and came across several scriptures that really spoke to me on this topic. There is so much bullying going on everywhere, yes, even at church; it just makes me wonder exactly what type of examples are we setting for our children. Are we teaching our children to cherish their fellow Christian friends? To be respect to everyone, even those we have disagreements with? If we constantly affirm each other, won't our children do the same, instead of bullying? Try to speak affirmations to those around you for just a month or even a week, and see what a difference it makes!

**Key Verses: Romans 15:1-6 (NIV) We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Every child wants to be valued. So try these awesome affirmation ideas with your kids: *\*Look children in the eye.* Talk to children on their level. Get on the floor if necessary. *\*Reach out and touch.* Nudge an elbow. Shake hands. Give a quick hug around the shoulders. *\*Call children by name.* Children want to hear their names spoken with love and kindness. *\*Listen to every response.* When children give a questionable response, guide them toward a more appropriate answer. *\*Be a learner too.* Share what you're learning with children. They'll respect you for it.

I found this article on [www.childrensministry.com](http://www.childrensministry.com) and just had to share! 50 Affirmation Ideas From the Grocery Store What's something we all have to do at one time or another even though we'd rather not? Grocery shopping. What's something we all should do at one time or another but we often forget? Affirmation. Why not blend the two activities?

We sent our super-sleuth staff to a local grocery store to look for cheap (under \$2) affirmation ideas. The next time you're at the store, buy something for teachers friends or etc. Then use a ribbon to attach a note to each item and let people know how wonderful you think they are.

- Zest soap -- You add zest to our program!
- Quik drink mix -- Thanks for being so QUIK to help out!
- Whoppers candies -- Thanks for your whopper ideas!
- Baby Ruth candy bar -- You're a real slugger! Keep on batting for children.
- Mounds candy bar -- You're making a mound of difference!
- Snickers candy bar -- You don't hear any snickers from your class when you teach the Bible.
- 5th Avenue candy bar -- Your teaching would stand out on Fifth Avenue! You're great!
- BarNone candy bar -- Bar none, you're the best!
- 100 Grand candy bar -- You're worth even more to us.
- PayDay candy bar -- What a payday you'll have in heaven.
- Life Savers candies -- You're a real life saver.
- Potato chips (variety pack) -- You're a chip off the block; you're so much like our father!
- Salt -- You make children thirst for God!
- Equal sweetener -- When it comes to reaching kids, you have no equal.
- Sugar substitute -- There's no substitute for you!
- Slice soft drink -- You're an important slice of our pie; we wouldn't be whole without you!

- Gatorade drink -- You quench kids' thirst for God!
- Kool-Aid packet -- You're a cool aid!
- Mountain Dew soft drink -- You do so much for kids!
- 7UP soft drink -- (List 7 reasons you're up about them or their ministry.)
- Crush soft drink -- In a crush, I can depend on you!
- Peanuts -- We're nuts about you! Thanks for bringing kids out of their shell.
- Seasoning packets -- You add spice to our program!
- Candles -- You share Jesus' light with so many.
- Bugles snacks -- Thanks for proclaiming God's Word!
- Teddy Grahams cookies -- Thanks for being a big teddy bear!
- Animal crackers -- This place would be a zoo without you.
- Fat-Free Newtons cookies -- Thanks for trimming the fat from our program.
- Cracker Jack popcorn -- You're the prize in our program!
- Pretzels -- We'd be in knots without you.
- Party mix -- Thanks for joining our party! You add a new flavor.
- Bottled water -- You haven't bottled up the living water.
- Energizer battery -- Thanks, you keep on going and going!
- Halls cough drops -- You belong in God's halls of fame!
- Small mirror -- You're a reflection of God's love!
- Rubber bands -- Thanks for being flexible!
- Heart-shaped soap -- I appreciate your heart for children.
- Band-Aid adhesive strips -- Thanks for coming to our aid!
- Cotton swabs -- This is just the tip of our thanks!
- Hanger -- You're getting the hang of it; hang on to God's love.
- Light bulbs -- You've got great ideas!
- Glue or tape -- Thanks for sticking with us!
- Recipe cards -- You've got the ingredients of a great teacher.
- Flashlight -- Jesus shines through you!
- Funnel -- God's love funnels through you to kids!
- Ball -- Kids in your class are having a ball! Keep up the good work!
- Ziploc bags -- Teaching is your bag!
- Matches -- Your creative teaching is red hot!
- Dog bones -- No bones about it, you're the best!
- Joy dishwashing liquid -- You bring joy to kids!

As always, if you have something that you would like to share or add to the topic, please contact me, I would love to add it to the website!

Blessings, Amy French

# Birthdays

01 Richard C Pierce  
01 Staci Shirley  
01 Savannah Travis  
04 Tina Goldman  
4 Claire Balcer  
05 Matthew Hadley  
06 Avery Jackson  
07 Allison Sims  
07 Jared Fagan  
07 McKenzie Johnson  
08 Brianna Smith  
09 Alan Sward  
09 Ryan Davis  
10 Edwin Makamson  
11 Jacob Levi Sims  
11 Lindsey Howard  
11 Martha French  
12 Alex Sward  
12 Lindsey Huff  
12 Leslie Goff

12 Cheryl Ann Allgood  
12 Brian McGhee  
12 Robbie Taylor  
13 Lauren Parker  
13 Eual Adkison  
13 Joseph White  
14 Manly Barton  
14 Ron Bowerman  
14 Ally Stephenson  
15 Kennon Barton  
16 Wes Goff  
17 Latisha Goff  
17 Cathy White  
17 Michael Hall  
19 Amber Cumbest  
19 Wayne Goff  
19 Jill Parker  
20 Anna Lee Scarbrough  
20 Kenneth Parker  
20 Lou Havard

21 Johnny Goff  
21 Jody Goff  
21 Lori Cupit  
22 John Thomas  
23 Tim Hall  
23 Carolyn Davis  
25 Bobby Goff  
25 Patricia Bowerman  
25 Cindy Stewart  
27 Eli French  
27 Madge Fisher  
27 Susie Buckhalter  
28 Bob Pearson  
28 Patty Howell  
30 Barbara Hutchens  
30 Grant Cumbest  
31 Olivia Wachsmann  
31 Robin Blackledge

# Anniversaries

4 Andy & Dina Hawkins  
12 Brent & Patti Cumbest  
15 J. R. & Brandy Hoffman  
16 Jesse & Tammy Lacy  
21 Harold & Elaine Morris  
30 Robin & Sonya Blackledge

## Opportunities for Service



Morning Worship  
8:30 & 10:50 am  
Sunday School  
9:45 am  
Evening Worship  
6:00 pm  
Wednesday Service  
5:30 pm Supper  
6:30 pm Activities

**Ladies Lenten Prayer Time:**  
**Fridays in Sanctuary 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Come - and - go.**  
**And / Or Devotion @ 7:45 a.m.**

# March 2012

**Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat**

				1	2	3
4	5	6 His Way  Child Care Board 6:30 pm	7 5:30 pm Supper 6:30 Activities	8 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 am  Trustees Mtg. 6:00 pm	9	10
11 Administrative Board 4:30 pm  Day Light Savings	12	13 His Way	14 5:30 pm Supper 6:30 Activities	15 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 am	16	17
18 Youth Luncheon Fund raiser  Easter Egg Hunt 4:30-7pm Greenough's	19	20 His Way  Spring Begins	21 5:30 pm Supper 6:30 Activities	22 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 am	23	24
25	26	27 His Way	28 5:30 pm Supper 6:30 Activities	29 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 am	30	31



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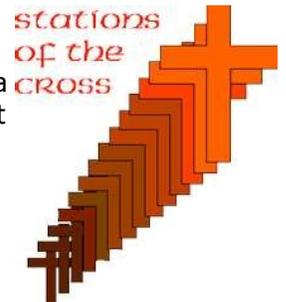
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Filling up and overflowing  
with Christ's Love.

## Calendar Events for Our children



**March 18, Easter Egg Hunt at Mark and Susan Greenough's home, 4:30 - 7pm.** We will have music, devotion, food, and as always a very exciting egg hunt! This year we are asking everyone to bring a finger food, such as sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit and so on. The church will provide drinks. Please bring your Easter egg baskets and lawn chairs. Mark and Susan live in Park Ridge in Hurley, if you are at the 4-way stop in Hurley, go south on HWY 613; about 2 miles you will see a sign for Park Ridge subdivision on your right; turn there and stay on Park Ridge Dr. until you come to 7501 Park Ridge. If you see Lum Cumbest Park, you have gone too far south on HWY 613.



**Stations of the Cross-April 1, 5-7pm,** This year we will have it in the gym. It will be a come-and-go type of event, so that you may visit each station with your family as you reflect on what Jesus went through in His last days.



**Camp Wesley Pines, June 4-8,** Older Elementary Camp is for children entering into grades 4-7. If you your child is interested in going, please see Amy French asap. **If we register before March 31, it will save 10%.**

**Adventures on Promise Island VBS** will be the week of June 18-22. Please make plans now to participate in this Adventure! If you have any questions, please see Amy French or Wendy Hadley.

