



*Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
Cumming, Georgia
Established 1881*

January, 2012 Pastor Randy Richards *Sunday School 9:45 ~ Worship Service 11:00*

A Note From Our Pastor:

Happy New Years! It is that time of year again when we all do a lot of remembering and looking back at the events, circumstances, and trials of the year that has just passed. As we start the New Year with new goals and resolutions, let us remember to live today and look toward the New Year with renewed hope. No matter what has happened this past year, good or bad, right or wrong, it is in the past. We are not living life in the “rewind” mode but rather in the forward motion. (Here lately it seems more like “fast forward”) It is vital that we don’t dwell in the past, but rather forgive that which ought to be forgiven including forgiving our own selves for our own mistakes...we’ve all made them. Never hold grudges that will only serve to weigh us down... forgive and move on. God really is in control and it is only through Him that we will reach our ultimate goal. Trust God and rely on His love, hope, mercy and grace which He has given us. May we share the “love” God has shown toward us with others in the New Year ahead. Remember Paul’s reminder to us as we move into the New Year when he said, “I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.”(Philippians 4:13) We can do all things through Christ...think about it and let us press forward and leave the past behind us. Life is too short to dwell in the past or on our problems. In Contrast, as I think ahead to 2012 and also look back in a good sort of way, I wonder where time has gone. In this year ahead, Angie and I will face some changes that a lot of you have already encountered. Some changes that I’m not sure I am ready for and which makes me wonder and hope that I have been the father and example that I needed to be for my children. Jon and Julie will begin high school and Kayla will move away to College. It seems like just yesterday that we had 3 small toddlers running around at our knees and at times “driving us crazy!” Now, today, it seems like I’m running around at Jon’s knees, and before this year is up both Jon and Julie will literally be “driving us crazy” as they get their learner’s license this year. In addition, we will be “driving like crazy” to and from Columbus State University to try to see Kayla and watch her play college basketball. I mention these things to say this: Life doesn’t pause...so don’t ever get too caught up in some unimportant things and miss out on the most important things and people in our lives. In other words, remember to spend time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember to say a kind word to a child who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to someone who needs it, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember, to say, "I love you" to your husband or your wife and other family, but most of all mean it. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love and make time to talk and share the precious thoughts in your mind. I will admit that I have not always been the best at doing all of these things like I should have. However, I will not waste more time on regrets, but will try in 2012 to make sure that I embellish the moments that God and this New year will bring and work to make memories which will forever be cherished and never forgotten. Enjoy the simple things. Someone once said, “Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.” I thank God for all the moments in my life that he has allowed my breath to be taken away. Oh, what an awesome God! I pray that we all will experience many moments in the year ahead that will take our breaths away! Remember our sick and shut-ins! Have a happy and blessed New Year!!

In Christ’s Name,
Randy