

OUR BEGINNINGS

Mount Hermon Baptist Church has a rich and storied past, reaching back beyond those days in 1848 when the church was organized and officially founded.

The first church organized in our area, in 1765, was New Hope Presbyterian. Most of the Presbyterians in this area at the time were from Scotland and were deeply religious and remarkably active in the church. They had immigrated to this area from Scotland, by way of Holland and Ireland in 1738, to escape their country's "continued attempts to suppress conscientious convictions of truth and liberty."

They settled along the Cape Fear, Black, Haw, Little, Flat and Eno Rivers. Their settlements, to a large extent, aided others, including Baptists, to become established and gain a sense of permanency. By 1800, the Baptists had become the largest Protestant group in America and their numbers were increasing in practically all areas of North Carolina.

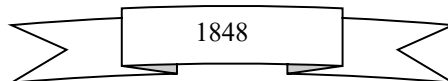
In the early 1800s, churches were far more than simply places of worship. The times then were hard, social gatherings were few and far between, travel was difficult and people took advantage of every opportunity to gather together. Unlike today, neighbors who often lived miles apart checked on the well-being of each other at every opportunity. More often than not the gatherings, neighbor greeting neighbor for whatever reason, took place at the church.

In the interim, friction developed between the Primitive Baptist and Missionary Baptist movements. The Primitive Baptist movement was growing and some missionary churches were going Primitive. Many Missionary Baptists were displeased with the change in affiliation and became active in forming new Missionary Baptist churches. The friction became so intense, according to church records of the time, that Primitive Baptists were excommunicated for communing with Missionary Baptists. By some accounts, the reverse was also true.

It is not known for certain whether the dissension between Missionary and Primitive Baptists played a role in the organization of Mount Hermon. But it is known that Mount Hermon received 24 charter members by letter from Mars Hill Baptist Church and 5 from Mount Moriah Baptist Church. A little-known organization, "Society of Missionary Baptists of Mount Hermon," probably did lead eventually to the organization of Mount Hermon Baptist Church.

It is not known when the Meeting House was organized, but on November 7, 1834, property was purchased from Henry Foust by Nicholas Albright, Eli McDaniel, Alvis Albright, William Holmes and John Stockard, who were trustees for the Mount Hermon Meeting House. The property was obtained to be used by "all denominations of Christian People who could produce satisfactory evidence of being regular members of some Christian church."

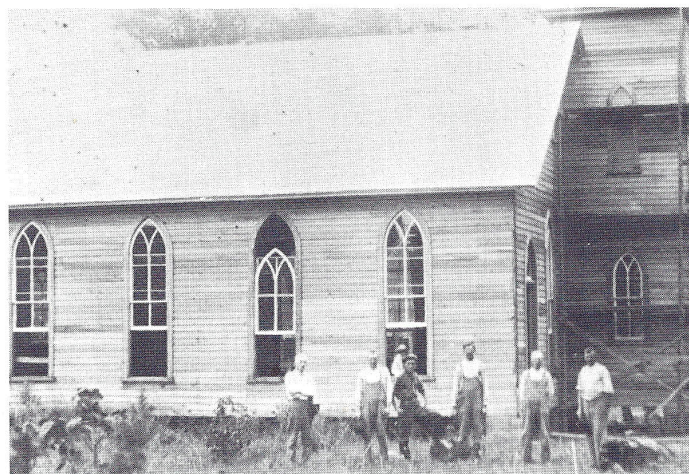
The Rose of Sharon Church in Wake County, later to become known as the First Baptist Church of Durham, chose Mount Hermon as a mission project. This was the beginning of Mount Hermon Baptist Church as we know it today.



PICTORIAL HISTORY — MOUNT HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH



ORIGINAL STRUCTURE & CHARTER MEMBERS - 1848-1911



SECOND STRUCTURE (burned) - 1911-1934



THIRD STRUCTURE - 1939-1961

A FULL HISTORY

On April 1, 1848, James N. Strayhorn, Alvis Durham and Thomas S. Faucett, trustees for the Society of Missionary Baptists of Mount Hermon Meeting House, paid Andrew Borland and Page Scarlett \$5.00 for a 3.9 acre tract, where the cemetery is now located.

Two months later, on June 24, Mount Hermon was organized as a church. The first pastor, the Rev. Jesse Howell, assisted by Elder George W. Purefoy, led in organizing the church. The members agreed unanimously to live together in the church covenant and maintain the church doctrine.

At the first conference, in August 1848, Rev. Howell was chosen as moderator and Alvis Durham clerk. Twenty-seven members were received as charter members --- 14 by letter from Mars Hill Baptist, five from Mount Moriah and eight by baptism.

The members of Mount Hermon, in June 1849, agreed unanimously for the church to “attach herself” to the Beulah Baptist Association. Chosen as Mount Hermon’s delegates to the Association were Alvis Durham, A. C. Hunter and Thomas Faucett. At the Association meeting in 1849, a letter from Mount Hermon asking for admission was unanimously received. Durham was named to the Association’s finance committee and Hunter to the committee on Sabbath schools.

In 1849, Durham was named to the Home Mission Board and Durham and Hunter were named delegates to the Baptist State Convention. According to the Association’s statistical report in 1849, Mount Hermon’s pastor, the Rev. Howell, was paid \$20 a month. New members at Mount Hermon included 15 by baptism and 19 by letter. Two were dismissed by letter and the congregation totaled 45.

In August 1851, Mount Hermon held its first camp meeting, at which 37 professed faith in Christ.

In May 1853, an invitation was accepted from the Rose of Sharon Church for Mount Hermon members to attend Rose of Sharon’s union meetings.

The first account of the church’s resolution of condolence was dated June, 1854, and the clerk was authorized to prepare an obituary notice and send it to the family of the deceased and to the editor of the Biblical Recorder for publication.

A great deal of excitement was stirred among Mount Hermon members in April 1855, when the railroad track, only a few feet from the church, was completed. The link connecting Hillsborough to Greensboro and points north and west was completed in January 1856, after a bitterly cold winter and deep snows.

In 1855-56, a nine-mile wagon and coach road was laid out connecting Chapel Hill to a point along the railroad that became known as University Station. This became a thriving community because students and others connected with the university would leave the trains at University Station and proceed from there, by wagon and carriage, to Chapel Hill. Building lots were advertised in anticipation of a town, maybe even a city, developing around University Station. If those dreams had materialized, as similar dreams did indeed come true around the Durham Station, then today University Station might very well be a city, instead of boarded-up buildings long since abandoned. And Mount Hermon could very well have become an urban First Baptist Church of University Station.

In 1870, Mount Hermon was one of the 13 original churches to organize the Mount Zion Baptist Association. The first delegates to be enrolled from Mount Hermon were David Strayhorn, Ilia Coply and Henry Pickett. The congregation was reported to number 141.

In 1872, Pastor Howell was enrolled as a member of the Mount Zion Association. The Sabbath School was organized in April, with S. W. Proctor as superintendent, 10 teachers, 50 scholars and an average attendance of 30.

In November 1874, after serving Mount Hermon for 26 years as pastor, the Rev. Jesse Howell resigned due to ill health. In February 1875, he was succeeded as pastor by the Rev. A. D. Blackwood. He served through 1876 when the Rev. J. H. Freeman was called. Mr. Freeman served through April 1879. By then the pastor's salary was increased to \$70 a month.

In 1879, Rev. Howell was recalled and served for another three and a half years before being succeeded by the Rev. J. P. Mason. In 1889 the Rev. J. F. McDuffie became Mount Hermon's fifth pastor. It was also in 1889 that the women of Mount Hermon were first called upon to assume church responsibilities.

In February 1891, permission was granted to Ella Stroud to teach school for a few months in the church building. Six years later the church agreed and built a school house on the church yard.

Its missionary motive was first experienced when, in 1899, the church helped a neighbor church to pay off an indebtedness.

On October 7-8, 1919, the fiftieth session of the Mount Zion Association was held at Mount Hermon.

Also in 1921, A. Edgar Lynch left the church to prepare himself for evangelistic singing, later becoming associated with the faculty of Campbell College, but eventually devoted himself to full-time to evangelistic singing at churches for special events and revival services.

In 1931, the first Daily Vacation Bible School was held and the first Women's Missionary Society was organized. The first BYPU was organized that year.

1934 was the year that Paul G. Hester was ordained as a minister and faithfully served several churches as pastor.

During the ministry of Charles Hudson, the unified budget system was introduced.

On March 8, 1946, Mount Hermon lost its pastor, Charles Hudson, by death. A homecoming day with recognition of returned veterans and a memorial service for Mr. Hudson was observed on April 21, 1946. Rev. W. G. Hall presided.

1948 was a great year for Mount Hermon. The centennial anniversary was observed on June 6, 1948 in a homecoming service. On October 13, 1948, the Mount Zion Association met at Mount Hermon. Mrs. Herbert Haithcock wrote the history for the Association minutes. Church enrollment at that time was 273.

Once again, Mount Hermon was one of 34 churches to organize yet another association because of the size and territory of Mount Zion. Hence, the Yates Association was born on November 7, 1948, in the First Baptist Church. The name Yates was chosen as a living memorial to Matthew T. Yates, the missionary born and reared in the Mount Pisgah Church community. Motion was made by Rev. C. D. Byrd.

The parsonage was built and occupied by Rev. C. S. Norville, on July 5, 1949.

Electric lights were installed in the church in 1950; the heating plant was installed in November 1950.

In 1952, under the guidance and labor of Rev. C. C. Edinger, a fellowship building was built on a lot adjoining the parsonage.

A group of church members and Rev. Edinger attended Sunday School week at our SBC Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in the mountains of North Carolina. Following this experience, the Sunday School was divided into departments: Nursery, Beginner, Primary, Junior and Adult, with the Junior Department meeting in the Fellowship Building.

In March 1956, the entire board of deacons resigned to start a rotating system.

On Mother's Day 1957, the Wurlitzer Electric Organ was used for the first time. It was presented by the Young Adult Class taught by Clyde Webb.

Also in June 1957, the parsonage and fellowship building were dedicated on Homecoming Day. The Hudson Memorial Class presented a piano for the Beginner Department in 1957. Another piano was purchased for the Primary Department in October, along with a projector for promotion of visual aids.

On April 9, 1958, the first Wednesday Family Night was held with 96 people attending. The W.M. S. divided into two circles at this time.

During a revival, April 13-20, with Rev. Rivers preaching, 22 new members were added to our roll. The total number of members at this time was 302.

On May 14, 1958, the Brotherhood and Royal Ambassadors were organized. Curtis Crosby was elected president of the Brotherhood.

Senior adult involvement has been notable in the life and ministry of Mount Hermon. In 1963, the Women's Missionary Union sponsored a Senior Citizen's Christmas party. It has become an annual affair of beauty and joy to which are invited all retired and confined members of the church and community, and all former church and community members who now live elsewhere.

To minister further to our senior citizens, a group organized in 1976 named themselves "X Y Z" (X-tra Years of Zest). This group met monthly sharing in fellowship with programs and entertainment of interest. During these years, many activities took place, including trips, rhythm band, choir, good eating and a birthday party each September. Many visitors came.

Youth, too, have been important in the life of the church. In 1969, Bill Harrill, a Durham native and student at Gardner-Webb College, became our first summer youth director. Since that time, much emphasis has been given to such things as Youth Council, retreats to Caswell Baptist Assembly, youth choirs, youth week, retreats at Yates Camp Grounds, presentations on the 5th Sunday Family Nights, helping clean up the community, observance of Advent prior to Christmas, and many others areas.

Our first Church Directory was published in 1969.

Music, too, has always been important at Mount Hermon. In 1971, Oscar A. Couch was honored for three decades of service in music by being presented a plaque and named "Music Director Emeritus."

Edgar Lynch returned to Mount Hermon on numerous occasions to sing for us and to help teach new music. Among these was our first Christmas Cantata, "The Chorus in the Skies," which was presented in several other churches as well as Mount Hermon.

In 1970, there were two choirs for children and one for youth, in addition to the adult choir. All of these choirs participated regularly in the worship services.

Special events that have become annual programs are: Men's Day, Women's Day, Senior Citizens Christmas Party, Homecoming Day, Thanksgiving Service [with Ebenezer Baptist, McMannen Methodist and North Durham Baptist Churches], Advent, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas programs, Good Friday (either/or Maundy Thursday) observances, Easter Sunrise Service, Family and Community emphasis in May, July 4th celebration, and summer ice cream suppers.

Mount Hermon, from its beginning, has maintained its own cemetery. In the late 1960s, the church landscaped its cemetery to make it a beautiful, serene, and restful ground. To supplement the upkeep, gifts of money have been made through the Baptist Foundation, a perpetual fund from which we receive interest each year to use as needed for the cemetery.

1971 was another very good year. Regular offerings increased as well as our mission gifts. Deacons began participating with the pastor in leading the worship services each Sunday. This was the first year the season of Advent was observed. On homecoming day of 1971, an organ fund was started and nearly \$3,500 was given by the end of the year.

By the 1972 Homecoming, enough had been given so that a Rodgers electric organ was purchased for approximately \$5,800 and used for the first time on that day. Other significant happenings in 1972 were: participating in the associational World Missions Week, youth attended Caswell for the fourth time, first observed Maundy Thursday Communion Service and Easter Sunrise Service at the cemetery.

Also, our 9-12 year-old-boys' basketball team won the Associational Sportsmanship trophy (even though they did not win a game); another GA Coronation was beautifully carried out; youth pantomimed the Christmas Cantata, "Love Transcending," performed by the adult choir.

A church sign fund was begun by Josephine and Carpenter Mangum on their 25th wedding anniversary. A sound system was installed in our temporary sanctuary. Our third Church Directory was published and dedicated to Rev. Robert Winecoff in recognition of five years of service.

In 1977, a Dodge van was purchased and served all groups of the church when transportation was needed. One of these was the annual party given to residents at Murdoch Center. The church also had several Stewardship promotions. One of the first that really increased our budget was the "Forward Program" during Rev. Clell Gibson's ministry. Much emphasis on Foreign Missions and Home Missions increased our gifts to Missions and the Cooperative Program during Rev. Winecoff's pastorate.

Then, in 1979, the "Together We Build" program was presented, but not carried out until 1982, during Rev. Jerry Harper's ministry. During the "Together We Build" program, our pastor, Rev. Jerry Harper, stated: "The building of our sanctuary excites me. For more than 20 years you have dreamed of a beautiful sanctuary... The dream is near to becoming a reality.... Our past speaks of strong partnership with God in accomplishing many things." At the end of this 3-year program, an additional 3-year emphasis was put into action, "Challenge to Grow."

In 1980, a new fellowship building was built behind the present educational unit which began with a generous gift from Gladys and Leamon Couch.

After much planning and praying together, the building committee, with Duncan King as chairman, recommended that the permanent sanctuary be built including a connecting hallway, one classroom, music room, restrooms, and storage room; also a covered walkway at the front connecting the two buildings, and a covered carport which allows worshippers to enter more conveniently during inclement weather and offers the handicapped better access. More land was needed for the church septic disposal. The land was donated by Grover and Joyce Clayton.

After an affirmative vote, we had Groundbreaking Day on January 1, 1984; Entrance Day on November 4, 1984; and Dedication Day on January 6, 1985. Many of the furnishings for the new sanctuary were given in honor or memory of friends and loved ones. The carillon was given by Ann and Cheatam Lee in memory of their son, Joe. The baptismal pool was given in memory of Blanche Couch by her children. In December 1985, a Wurlitzer piano was presented by John and Esther Bayer for use in the choir room.

Since Homecoming 1987, many accomplishments have been made. Although we have lost members by death and by letter, we have had others profess faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized, and others have come by letter. Our total membership in 1987 was 486.

In the summer of 1989, almost 100 years after the first school at Mount Hermon, our church expanded its ministry with the opening of a Day Care Center. After school care was later added to the program; and a summer day camp program began in 1989 with Clay Berry as director. The outreach of these programs were proven to be a blessing to young and old alike, and added a special dimension to our ministry.

Also during the year of 1989, the youth made a Mission Trip to Boston for 10 days, earning their way by serving lunch once a month to many of us and through other various endeavors.

On March 12, 1989 Mount Hermon voted to begin participation in the Adopt a Highway Program, from at Highway 70 to Old NC 10 and Mount Hermon Church Road.

The Dart Ball Team was awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy in the Fellowship Dart Ball League in 1990.

The church participated in the World Missions Conference May 17-24, 1992. A church flag was designed by Kevin Silva for this conference.

Beth Link McConnell was born into our church family, and is the daughter of Boyce and Jo Link. She made her profession of faith at Mount Hermon as a young person and participated in various activities of the church programs. Beth was ordained into the ministry on April 26, 1992 at Greenlawn Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

On September 20, 1993, the church voted to name the music room in memory of Margaret Womble Couch who served as Choir Director for 30 years.

On February 12, 1995, the church called the Reverend Joe Bostic, pastor of First Baptist Church in Haw River, to become the pastor of Mount Hermon. In February of that same year plans began to install a new sound system in the sanctuary at a cost of \$4,662. The sound system was installed in June following special events to raise funds. The year 1995 brought about many needed repairs to church facilities including the parsonage.

One of the most important ministries ever incorporated into our program was the TOUCH Ministry which began in October 1995. Our people meet once a month to visit shut-ins, inactive, prospects, etc. This has been a very successful ministry with an average attendance of 20 persons witnessing for Christ. In addition to those going out, others are praying and/or mailing cards expressing concern to absentees, those in need, grieving, etc.

Homecoming scheduled on September 8, 1996 was cancelled due to Hurricane Fran. The church and most residences in the area were without electricity for 7-10 days.

Mount Hermon participated in a World Mission Conference which was held February 15-23, 1997. The church experienced significant growth during church year 1997-98 by an increase of twenty-three people. The year ended with a total membership of 507.

In March of 1997 the church parking area was paved at a considerable savings due to the generosity of Bunny Blankenship. Later in the year brick columns with light fixtures were installed at both entrances into the church property. The Cemetery Committee recommended that evergreens be planted along the right side and back of the cemetery to provide privacy and beautification. Our Baptist Men assisted in the planting of these trees.

There has been significant growth in the area in the recent past. A Vision and Growth Committee was appointed to study and evaluate future needs of the church. After consultation with members of the Committee, Trustees, various Deacons and others, the Reverend Joe Bostic brought a motion that the church purchase the Dallas and Ruby Griffin property adjacent to the church property. The church voted on May 25, 1997 to purchase the property consisting of 2.9 acres at a cost of \$82,000, less 4% from the Griffin heirs. The church debt at this time was \$172,500 payable over a period of 20 years @\$1,456/month at an interest rate of 8.125%.

The 1977 Dodge van could no longer meet the needs of the various ministries of the church including Day Care, Senior Citizens, Youth Activities, etc. On July 13, 1997 the church agreed to purchase a new 15-passenger van. The Koinonia Class sponsored a breakfast and yard sale raising approximately \$3,500 toward the purchase. The 1977 Dodge van was sold to the highest bidder for \$800.

On September 13, 1998 we celebrated our **150th Anniversary of Commitment to Christ**. The Reverend Joe Bostic was presiding minister. A special Service of Worship consisted of “Praising God”, “Thanking God”, “Giving to God”, and “Hearing God”. Former pastors participating were the Reverend Dr. Robert Winecoff and the Reverend Dr. Jerry E. Harper, Sr. Guest speaker for the day was the Reverend Crate Jones, a retired pastor who served in the Yates Association for more than 30 years. There were approximately 340 people in attendance. As is the custom for Mount Hermon on Homecoming, a delicious lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall. The tables were beautifully decorated with white, purple, and gold – representing the purity and royalty of our Lord. A commemorative plate was designed depicting the current sanctuary which was available for purchase. In addition a video was produced featuring the earliest available photographs of various groups and individuals through August 1997 accompanied by appropriate selections of music. Following lunch a time capsule was buried at the church sign containing documents, photographs, etc. to be removed in the year 2023.

Due to the generosity of Mrs. W. B. (Mary) Weaver, the church received notice in early 1999 that she had willed her property located at 5215, 5217 & 5219 Old Hillsborough Road to Mount Hermon. The property consisted of her personal home and lot; an additional lot; and half-interest in another house adjacent to her home – the property was appraised at a total value of \$175,000. This property was sold in 2000 for a combined total of approximately \$127,200.

Mount Hermon was among the top ten churches in North Carolina in giving to the Cooperative Program with an average attendance of 0-99; and was recognized at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in November 2000.

Reverend Joe Bostic served as presiding minister of Mount Hermon Baptist Church until December 31, 2001. Reverend Russell Wimmer became interim pastor until the early part of 2003, at which time Dr. Victor Cole served as interim pastor until December 31, 2004. Pastor Lee Harris was called as minister of Mount Hermon Baptist Church on January 1, 2005.

The decade from 1998-2008 was intermingled with many happy occasions as well as difficult times. Due to the deaths of many long-time and faithful members and transfers of membership, as of 1997 the congregation now consisted of 355 members, 225 of which are resident. In spite of declining membership and changes in leadership, however, new life was been breathed into the church through the pastorates of Reverend Lee Harris and interim minister, Reverend Andy Byers. The church music program enjoyed a period of rejuvenation under the direction of Reverend Robert Cook.

A new church logo was designed for use on signage, publicity materials and church stationery, which incorporated the theme “Traditional Church. . . New Vision.” In addition, the purchase of new computers and software, as well as a new copier, made it possible to communicate effectively in the 21st century.

Perhaps the most exciting occurrence of the decade was the retirement of the church debt when the building loan was paid in full on September 30, 2007. The congregation gathered outside on a Sunday morning that fall to burn the note to signify this accomplishment. A new fund was established to allow donations for renovations and improvements to church property. An ad hoc Aesthetics Committee completed several projects to beautify and update the interior of the church.

In April of 2008, renovation was completed, including painting and carpeting the Margaret Couch Music Room, Hudson Ladies Sunday School Class and back hallway. The hallway project was named in memory of Elizabeth Weaver who generously donated money to the church at her death.

Rhonda Rath, church secretary, resigned effective May 30, 2008. Ella Colburn was hired on July 20, 2008 to fill the church secretary position.

The responsibilities of Justin Nalls, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults, were expanded to include preaching on Sunday mornings and pastoral care to church membership until an interim pastor is secured.

On September 21, 2008, Kingsford Aluminum was engaged to cover the wooden surfaces with vinyl on the outside of the church building at the cost of \$44,000.00.

On October 12, 2008, Mary Ellen Godwin, Stewardship Committee Chairperson, presented a recommendation from the Stewardship Committee that the church borrow fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) from South Bank to pay for the completion of this renovation of buildings as well as the repair and painting of the asphalt driveway. The loan would be for a five-year term at \$950.00 per month. The recommendation was approved.

David Lewis, Pastor Search Committee Chairperson, recommended that Reverend Brian A. Pape be called as full-time minister. Reverend Pape preached a trial sermon during the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, September 28, 2008. Following the service, a vote to call him as pastor was taken by secret ballot and passed.

Ordination of Lucille King to the Deacon Ministry was conducted on January 18, 2009. Reverend Brian Pape led in a "responsive reading" and a prayer of ordination.

Wendy Truitt, Mount Hermon Daycare Director resigned in January of 2009.

An installation service for our Pastor Reverend Brian Pape was held at the church on April 19, 2009.

On May 3, 2009, Justin Nalls, Minister of Youth resigned to take a position in Chicago.

The current Rogers organ was in need of costly repairs due to age and lack of the availability of parts. The church voted to purchase a newer Allen Organ from Hopper Piano and Organ Company in August, 2009. The organ was paid in full in December 2009 in the amount of \$4200.00.

Reverend Brian Pape resigned as Pastor of Mount Hermon Baptist Church and preached his last sermon on July 26, 2009.

A new pastor search committee was elected on August 30, 2009. Those serving on the committee were as follows: Steve Couch, Bill Dorrity, Mary Ellen Godwin, Lucille King, Judy Hanson and Jamie Yeisley.

The Homecoming speaker for September 13, 2009 was the Reverend Lee Harris former pastor.

Mount Hermon Baptist Church called Scott Ryan as Youth Pastor beginning September 27, 2009 for 20 hours per week. He lived in the parsonage until a new pastor was appointed.

Bill Dorrity and Bill Andrews, Cemetery Committee, informed the church that plans for the east side of the cemetery had been completed and that the corrected plat of the property had been properly recorded. This allows for approximately 400 new grave sites, walkway, driveway and sidewalk. The cemetery sign was repainted and lettered by McCorkle Sign Company in May 2009.

Reverend Anthony Oakley was hired as Interim Minister in September 2009.

On February 14, 2010, Bill Dorrity, Cemetery Chairman, reported that \$680.00 had been paid for markers for new graves. After all graves are marked there will be 360 plots available in the new part of the cemetery. Bill Dorrity submitted a proposal from Seegars Fence Company. Included in this proposal is the additional new fencing along the railroad on both sides of the cemetery, the removal of the old fencing on the west side and the correction of the fence placement which encroaches on the Durham Awning property. This proposal was accepted and the fence was installed August 2, 2010.

The Christian Learning Center was closed August 23, 2010 due to lack of expected enrollment and financial concerns. The space was renovated over the course of the next few years as a toddler nursery on one end and a new youth area on the other end.

The Pastor Search Committee recommended to Mount Hermon Baptist Church to extend a call to Rich Goodier to become our Pastor effective Tuesday, September 7, 2010. The vote was taken by secret ballot and was approved by an overwhelming majority. Soon afterwards, he was ordained at Yates Baptist Church on Sunday, February 20, 2011.

Also in 2011, Scott Ryan left to pursue a PhD in New Testament at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Ella Colborn, church secretary, retired. Phyllis Graham served as secretary until 2013 when Peggy Mason took the position up until the present.

In the February 13, 2011 business meeting, Bill Clayton, Properties Committee Chairman, stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation will be lowering the portion of Old NC 10 in front of the church to make its intersection with Mount Hermon Church Road safer. Over the course of the year, the road was lowered and the brick columns along Old NC 10 were removed. Mount Hermon towers over the road, looking all the more like a “mount.”

For Easter 2011, the sanctuary was renovated with a new coat of paint and an updated audiovisual system. An audiovisual booth was constructed in the balcony to house a new computer, soundboard, and other electronics. The church began using the projector system to guide the congregation through worship and show videos to enhance worship.

Early in the tenure of Pastor Rich Goodier, Mount Hermon went through some organizational changes. A new vision of “Sprout, Grow, and Bear Fruit” was adopted along with a redesigned logo. Committees were consolidated. The Deacon Board refocused on serving the members of the church and handed over strategic responsibilities to the new ministry teams. These teams are as follows: Outreach, Discipleship, Children & Youth, and Music. Pastor Rich also encouraged closer collaboration with other churches, especially Yates Baptist Church whose staff expressed similar enthusiasm for collaboration. The greatest fruit has come from youth collaborations throughout the year, including Passport Camp, Camp Cheerio, and Party in da Parsonage.

During the academic years of 2011-2013, Pastor Rich hosted Duke Divinity students to live in the Parsonage and participate in the life of the church. The following year, he hosted his sister and brother-in-law. Both experiences infused new life and enthusiasm into Mount Hermon.

In 2014 Robert Cook resigned as Music Minister. Janice Thompson took the position at an interim basis and later permanently. Under her leadership, the choir continues to grow in numbers and diversity of music. Also during her tenure, a praise band was formed, which regularly helps to lead worship on Sunday. Terri Anne Darby was hired as pianist in 2015.

Since 2012, Mount Hermon has focused on two main missions: Good Shepherd Ministries in Guatemala and Alamanc-Orange Prison Ministry. In addition to supporting Roger and Vicki Grossmann with their Good Shepherd Ministries, the church has sent groups to Guatemala to assist directly (2012, 2015, 2018). The church also further invested in their relationship with Orange Correctional Center (OCC), bringing inmates on Sundays and Wednesdays, helping to lead worship at OCC, and hosting their Ready Singers choir. More recent plans have been made to help inmates transition back into society along with preliminary steps to begin a Celebrate Recovery group at the church.

In 2016 the church voted to direct the Easter and Christmas Offerings to the previously described two ministries to further synergize our resources. The Easter Offering would go to Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry which helps to finance Christian programming at OCC, including the chaplain position. The Christmas Offering would go to the Good Shepherd Ministries in Guatemala.

Mount Hermon continues to be active in the surrounding community. Throughout its 170 years of ministry, Mount Hermon has served as a witness to the Kingdom of God. May we pray that this blessed church continue to be faithful to its calling until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BUILDING OF MOUNT HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH

1848 - PRESENT

Mount Hermon has occupied several buildings of worship. The original structure served until 1911 when the second structure was built across the road from the original site. In 1929, the foundation and sub-floor for a brick structure was laid, but the Depression caused it to remain uncompleted. Fire destroyed the second building in the 1930s. Services were held at the Murphy School until the third building of brick veneer was dedicated on August 31, 1941. It stood on the original site. In 1960, the congregation accepted the recommendation of the expansion committee's study to relocate the church building on Highway 10 adjacent to the pastor's home and fellowship building. The first of several units was built, and in November 1961, services were held in the new educational facility that is used today for Sunday School classes and offices. Land for these endeavors was given by Mrs. Nettie Crabtree, Dorothy and Curtis Bane, W. H. Clayton, and Effie Clayton.

First Structure	1848-1911
Second Structure	1911-1934 (burned)
Worshipped at Murphy School	1934-1939
Third Structure	1939-1961
First Fellowship Building	1952-1980
Education Building & Temporary Sanctuary	1961-present
Fellowship Hall	1980-present
New Sanctuary	1984-present

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED

Listed below are pastors and interim pastors who have served Mount Hermon. Four served the church as pastor two or more times. The average length of pastorates has been five years. The longest ministry was that of the first pastor, the Reverend Jesse Howell, who served a total of 30 years.

1848-1874	Rev. Jesse Howell	
1875-1876	Rev. A. D. Blackwood	
1876-1879	Rev. J. H. Freeman	
1879-1883	Rev. Jesse Howell	recalled
1883-1889	Rev. J. P. Mason	
1889-1902	Rev. J. F. McDuffie	
1902-1903	Rev. C. A. Upchurch	
1903-1906	Rev. A. C. Hamby	
1906-1906	Rev. J. D. Brewer	part of year
1906-1906	Rev. Duncan McLeod	part of year
1906-1906	Rev. J. S. Thomas	part of year
1906-1913	Rev. R. P. Ellington	
1913-1919	Rev. J. F. McDuffie	recalled
1920-1920	Rev. W. G. Dorsett	9 months
1920-1922	Rev. Wallace Hartsell	
1922-1923	Rev. W. R. Beach	
1923-1928	Rev. Charles Norville	
1929-1934	Rev. A. C. Hamby	recalled
1934-1941	Rev. Charles Norville	recalled
1941-1946	Rev. Charles Hudson	
1946-1946	Rev. W. G. Hall	interim
1946-1948	Rev. W. H. Rittenhouse	
1948-1948	Rev. Elbert Wethington	interim (6 months)
1948-1949	Rev. W. G. Hall	interim (recalled)
1949-1951	Rev. Charles Norville	recalled
1951-1951	Rev. Trela Collins	interim
1951-1952	Rev. M. W. Stallings	interim
1952-1957	Rev. Clyde C. Edinger	
1957-1958	Rev. Dr. R. C. Briggs	interim
1958-1963	Rev. R. Hayne Rivers	
1963-1963	Rev. Dr. W. D. White	interim
1963-1966	Rev. Clell E. Gibson	
1966-1966	Rev. Henry B. Anderson	interim (5 months)
1966-1979	Rev. Dr. Robert W. Winecoff	
1979-1980	Rev. Aubrey Quakenbush	interim
1980-1993	Rev. Dr. Jerry E. Harper, Sr.	
1993-1995	Rev. Eric Porterfield	interim
1995-2001	Rev. Joe Bostic	
2002-2003	Rev. Russell Wimmer	Intentional Interim
2003-2004	Dr. Victor Cole	interim
2005-2006	Rev. Lee Harris	
2006-2008	Rev. Andy Byers	interim
2008-2009	Rev. Brian Pape	
2009-2010	Rev. Anthony Oakley	interim
2010-present	Rev. Rich Goodier, II	

YOUTH DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT MINISTERS

William B. Harrill, III	1969-1970
Clyde Buckner	1971-1972
Anna Frances Johnson	1973
Margaret Couch	1973
Jefferson Norris	1973-1974
Rick Moser	1975
Mary Beth Lindquist	1976
Ernest Hall	1977
Wanda Tingen	1978
Don Harvey	1978
Debbie Wheeler	1979
Dennis Sartain	1980
Richard Vinson	1980-1983
Tom Noyes	1984
Michael Boza	1985
Clay Berry	1986-1989
Tim Manarin	1990-1991
Eric Porterfield	1992-1994
Matthew Harding	1996
Phillip Bishop	1997-2000
Donald Meeks	2001
Brian Harrington	2002-2004
Robert Brewer	2004-2005
Justin Nalls	2008-2009
Scott Ryan	2009-2011

MINISTERS OF MUSIC

Jim Crabtree
Oscar A. Couch
Margaret W. Couch
Cindy McLamb
Jatana Willette
David Snider
Chuck Cooley
Eddie Johnson
Margaret Clayton Griffin (interim)
Robert W. Cook
Janice Couch Thompson

ACCOMPANISTS

Pianists

Bessie Lee Crabtree	Began in the old church before it burned; also in the School House and some in the Third Structure – Brick Church. Served until 1939.
Mozelle Clayton Alford	1940 – 1941
Mary Ellen Willett Godwin	1941 – 1948
Ruth Weisner King	1949 – 1951
Frances Couch Dorrity	1952 – 1992
Janice Couch Thompson	1992 – 2015
Terri Anne Darby	2015 – present

Organists

Margaret Womble Couch	1956 – 1992
Frances Couch Dorrity	1992 – 2014

The first organ, a Wurlitzer, was purchased in 1956 and used in the brick church building across from the cemetery. The second organ, a Rodgers, was purchased in 1972 and was first used in the temporary sanctuary. It was moved in 1985 upon completion of the new sanctuary but was replaced with a newer Allen organ when costly repairs were needed.

CHURCH CLERKS

Floyd Harris (served in the old church when the men and women were separated)
Willie Harris
Shirley Webster
Carolyn Shelton
Margaret Couch
Joyce Dennis
Mary Cash
Janice Couch Thompson
Mary Cash
Janice Couch Thompson

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Mary Ellen Godwin	1963-1986
Lynne Sizemore	1986-1988
Carolyn Haning	1988
Nan Schmeiser	1988-1989
Kathy Wallace	1989-1990
Helen Archambault	1990-1999
Barbara Waters	1999
Kimberly Thorne	2000
Jill Gabel	2000-2001
Janice Elrod	2001-2004
Regina Sullivan	2004
Janice Elrod	2004-2005
Linda Bivins	2005-2006
Rhonda Rath	2006-2008
Ella Colborn	2008-2011
LeAnne Ryan	2011
Phyllis Graham	2011-2013
Peggy Mason	2013-present

2018 OPPORTUNITIES AND MINISTRIES

Ongoing Opportunities:

- Sunday Morning Worship
- Sunday School for All Ages
- Children & Youth Team
- Discipleship Team
- Outreach Team
- Nursery (ages 0-3)
- Children's Church
- Mid-Week Bible Study
- TOUCH Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Ladies' Bible Studies/Retreats
- Music Ministry
- OCIM Food Pantry
- Yates Association Food Pantry
- Yates Association Toy Store
- Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship
- Orange County Correctional Ministry
- Celebrate Recovery Group
- Mission Trips
- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

Missions Offerings:

- Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry (Easter)
- NC Baptists on Mission (September)
- Good Shepherd Ministries in Guatemala (Christmas)

Special Worship Services:

- Men's Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
- Easter Sunrise Service
- Christmas Eve

Periodic Special Events:

- July 4th Celebration
- Joy Group
- Easter Celebration
- Community Block Party
- Vacation Bible School
- Veterans' Recognition
- Wednesday Night Potluck Dinners
- Country Christmas Gathering
- Christmas Caroling

Financial Support For These Ministries:

- OCIM (Orange Congregations in Mission)
- Yates Baptist Association
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- SBC Cooperative Program