



Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

January 2021

Pastor's Pen

New Things

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so. (Genesis 1:29-30 NIV)

New things are exciting. Elizabeth and I got a new car last year. I had never owned a new car before. It has been weird and fun to see the odometer grow from a handful of miles to dozens to hundreds, and now over a thousand miles. My old sedan will hit 200,000 miles in 2021. I will have to do something special for him so he does not feel ignored.

God loves to make new things, start new things, and give new things. God simply loves to create and enjoys it when others can share in the joy of new things. At the beginning of Scripture, we find God creating a new heaven and earth, populating it with new and wonderful creatures, and in the end giving it all to Adam and Eve. It is a beautiful picture.

God has not stopped giving us new things. We are on the cusp of a new year. There is hope to return to a more familiar way of life with the distribution of a new vaccine. There is also hope for financial relief from the government. In all these things we can thank God.

The new year is also an opportunity for us to give something new to ourselves! Indeed, we can make a new commitment in our lives. Perhaps we can resolve to learn something new, or add a new habit, or affirm a commitment in a new way.

In all the ways that 2020 was difficult, we have been given an opportunity to assess areas of our lives that would have remained unchallenged. What have these last ten months taught you about yourselves? What do you need? What change would you like to see? What was out of your control? What was in your control? In what ways did you excel in your Christian commitments? In what ways did you falter? Ask yourselves these questions, and then resolve to make 2021 a great year.

In Christ, Pastor Rich

Each Sunday, we gather for worship in the sanctuary maintaining safety guidelines. We also YouTube Live the service for those that want to join at 11:00a from their home. The service is also available on our YouTube channel later in the week.

Small Sunday School groups are meeting at various other times during the week. Contact your teacher for information regarding your class.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study is being held in the Sanctuary at 6:00p and also on YouTube Live. Bible Study is available on our YouTube Channel later in the week.

The church office is open 9-11:30a M-F. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns as we re-gather as a community.

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH

Deodorant

OCIM FOOD OF THE MONTH

Soup and Crackers

Outreach Team

What is important to individuals and/or families when searching for a church home? What is important to the current congregation?

- Sound Biblical doctrine
- Fellowship with other Christians
- Offerings used to build the Kingdom of God
- A quiet place for prayer and mediation
- Children and Youth focus
- Spiritual growth in Christ
- Small study groups
- Opportunity to use gifts in ministry and missions
- Preaching that centers on Christ and application
- Music that stirs our souls and spiritual emotions
- Corporate worship
- A church home where love and family are obvious
- Focused on the needs of church family, surrounding neighbors and world
- Serving with love and kindness

_____ fill in this blank

Check the boxes above that you feel Mount Hermon is exhibiting. It would be great to receive your feedback.

Scripture is always where we should start. A few verses below that should encourage us to come together, whether physically or virtually, with a common purpose.

Hebrews 10:25 "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Acts 20:28 "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Let us "Be the Church" in 2021 that God has called us to be. What a wonderful opportunity during these times to connect with a church, call it home, commit to its cause and serve like you have never imagined.

Do not forget that this all begins each day as we pray, study and spend time with our Creator.

In a recent devotion I received a challenge. Here it is!

If you want a challenge, just try to get through an entire day without uttering one word of complaint. Develop an attitude of thanksgiving in every situation. In fact, just become outrageously thankful-and watch as your intimacy with God increases as He pours out greater blessings than ever before.

What a tough challenge at any time and especially in 2020. In all reality does God want us to complain? Is our complaining contagious? Do we have reasons to complain? Sure, but is there a need to have a negative attitude? How about a gracious attitude as we celebrate Christmas and the New Year?

Let us try very hard as individuals and a church to have a positive, thankful and gracious attitude as we seek to serve the Mount Hermon community. If someone is down, pick them up with an act of kindness and encouragement.

Years ago, I heard someone talking about an individual's responsibility in their local church. This is my own list based on their theme of commitment. **First.** Find a church home. **Second.** Commit to this church 100%. **Third.** Use your gifts and talents to enhance the mission of the church. **Fourth.** Give your major offering(tithe) to this church so the budget can be met and the Kingdom grows. **Fifth.** Grow in your love for Christ and others. **Sixth.** Communicate the love of Christ with your life.

What does church responsibility have to do with not complaining? A lot! That could be number **seven.** Try this challenge of not complaining for a day. Look for the positive in your life and others. Overall Mount Hermon is a very positive church, but it never hurts to reset our focus especially during rough waters. What a blessing it is to have God's love, His promises and our friends and family. Merry Christmas!

♪ Music Notes ♪

As 2021 begins, I write this with mixed emotions. A year ago, none of us would have believed we would be wearing facemasks, holding online services and waiting for a vaccine. We never thought we'd be unable to have a church choir or praise God corporately during worship with our voices.

Because of these things, I have felt sadness and a sense of loss. But in spite of it all, I also have a sense of joy and appreciation. I am joyful that we continue to worship, study God's Word, and connect with one another regularly. And I am appreciative of all who have been unwavering in their commitment to Mount Hermon Baptist Church and its mission.

We will sing again! It's likely that there will be more months of waiting and things may look different from before. But as the lyrics of "Through It All" remind us, we will continue to "trust in Jesus, . . . trust in God," . . . and "depend upon His Word."

Thanks be to God!

Janice

Stewardship Committee: A called business meeting will be held on January 3, 2021 to vote on the new budget.

Stewardship

2020	November	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$16,898.00	\$172,479.94
Budget Need	\$19,790.00	\$189,984.00
Difference (short)	\$ (1,892.00)	\$(17,504.06)

Property Renovation Fund—November 2020

Beginning Balance \$13,292.24
Ending Balance \$14,448.53

Please continue to pray for the financial health of the Church. Peggy Mason, Treasurer



**Good Shepherd Ministries
Christmas Offering**
Church Goal \$1000
Raised to Date: 1,210

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Raised: \$300.00

Those Needing Our Prayers...

Marie Andrews	Jerald Fuller	Joan Page
Dorothy Broadhurst	Lacey Doar Girouard	Peggy Parker
Fred Brooks	Judy Hanson	Betty Jane Poole
Judith Carrig	Buddy Hartsfield	Patricia Rigsbee
Ed Chahine	Bobby Holloway	Hannah Riley
Bill Clayton	Leslie King	Justin Riley
Rachel Clayton	Edith Lee	Ridge Riley
Joseph Dennard	David Lewis	Sheila Seawell
Linda Ferettino	Laurie Loving	Brenda Sorrell
Joan Dixon	Barbara Nowell	Linda Talley
Bob Frederick	Jerry Nowell	Art Ward

OUR SHUT-INS AND HOSPITALIZED

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews
Friends Home Assisted Living Betty Fera
Hospice - Jeff Gallimore
Duke Hospital Jerry Harper
The Oaks of Alamance - Bob Link (Room 108)

Pray For:

Those affected by the Nashville Christmas Explosion
All affected by Covid-19 and Frontline Workers
The Children and the Children's Ministry
The Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry
President Donald Trump
President-Elect Joe Biden
North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper

AROUND THE WORLD

Farik Alenov, missionary to Turkey
Tanya Pivovarova, missionary to Italy
Mandy and Brian Davis, missionaries to Thailand
Rev. Gideon Thuam, missionary to Thailand
Roger and Vicki Grossmann, missionaries to Guatemala



December was a busy month in the life of the Children and Youth Ministry. The Children and Youth continue to meet regularly on Zoom for prayer and Bible study. Robbe and I

have been teaching them about Heaven! Many of the Children and Youth also participated in our Light in the Darkness service that was aired on the 20th. The Children and Youth had a socially distanced meet-up for Louis' 16th birthday on the 19th and we had a joint Christmas party with Yates Baptist Church on the 22nd! We are remaining safe while still trying to maintain some type of community and comradery in the life of our ministry. The Children and Youth have been incredible in the lessons that we learn on Zoom and they seem to have had a lot of fun during the events we have had in December. We look towards the new year with anticipation because we know God is working in the life of Mount Hermon Baptist Church. ~ John

Pastor: Rich Goodier
Secretary: Peggy Mason
Music Leader: Janice Thompson

Church Office

Hours: Monday—Friday 9 am—11:30 am
Phone: 919-383-2982
Email: mounthermondurham@gmail.com
Pastor Rich's Email: pastor.richgoodier@gmail.com

Please keep church office informed of change of address.
Also, if you no longer wish to receive the monthly newsletter,
please contact the office by phone or email.

MOUNT HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH
4511 OLD NC 10
DURHAM, NC 27705

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/19 Dean Dixon 01/21 Steve Paschall
01/20 Edith Lee 01/22 Janice Thompson
01/21 Benita Burton 01/26 Nancy Dillard

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/03 Bob Brewer 02/17 Morgan Sorrell
02/04 Eddie Lee
02/12 Valentina Serrano Gonzalez

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/05 Tim & Janice Thompson

JANUARY DEACON MINISTRY

Assisting the Pastor:
Steve Paschall/Peggy Mason

NO NURSERY COVERAGE

*If we live in the
spirit, let us also
walk in the spirit.
Galatians 5:25*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Memorials received in loving memory

*of Gisela Mayse
by Janice Thompson ~ Irene Godwin*

*of Claiborne (Tip Toe) Ellis
by Margie Whitfield ~ Joyce Ellis
Phillip Young ~ Carolyn Dearing
Janice Thompson ~ Steve Couch*

*of George and Kenneth Clayton
by Frances Clayton*

*of Ronald Mayse
by Joyce Dennis*

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*A donation was received in honor of  
Bill and Rachel Clayton  
by Lauren Gaydon*

*A donation was received for the  
Cemetery Fund: by Frank Gibson*

**Discipleship** It's hard to believe that the year 2021 is here. Since March, we have been hearing "I can't wait for this year to be over". Well here it is, over and done with, behind us and never to be lived again. 2021 is here and what are we going to do about it? The pandemic is still present. People are still getting sick and sadly, many are still dying. A vaccine has been approved but not everyone will take it. We are still living a restricted lifestyle with masks, curfews, limited gatherings and zoom meetings. There is still great discussion over the presidency and turmoil all around. It all feels so hopeless! Or is it?

For so long we have been focused on all the mess going on that we have taken our eyes off what is important. As children of God, we have hope. The stuff of this world is just temporary compared to the eternity we will spend with Jesus in heaven. We can't change what is happening but we can change our attitudes and reactions to it. I catch myself being pessimistic and only looking at the bad. Fortunately for me, I live with someone who always looks at the good in life and helps me to keep my mind on the fact that... God is in control. Nothing happens in this world that He can't use for good. He has won the war, not just the battle. So if the weight of all this "stuff" is getting you down just hum a few bars of one of my favorite hymns. The second verse is perfect for these times.

*When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand. ~ Cookie*

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

*1 Peter 4:10*