

♪ Music Notes ♪

There's a song in the air! By Josiah G. Holland
There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!
There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet Boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!
In the light of that star lie the ages impeared;
And that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!
We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King!

I haven't sung this Christmas Carol in years. It still has such a sweet message. The first verse sets up the picture of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem - angels announcing His birth and the star shining over the manger. A reminder of how the earth rejoiced at our Lord's miracle birth is in the second verse. The third verse pictures the Christ child as a treasure and tells how His Gospel story is spreading around the universe. Then, the last verse of this song points to our worship of Jesus, who chose to leave heaven and live among us. "We rejoice"; "We echo the song"; and "We shout"... every verse exalting the King of heaven and earth.

What a beautiful picture of why we should keep His Song in the Air! ~ Anne Basden



Children and Youth Ministry

November was a special month for our Children and Youth Ministry. On November 19th, we had a "Friendsgiving" celebration. We had many young people and their

families at this event, and it was a time of gratitude, fellowship, and love.



In December, we will have our annual gift-wrapping fundraiser on the 21st from 10a-2p and we will have our Christmas party at the Paschall's the following day.



Something else important happening in December is Noah's departure. With Noah leaving, the youth ministry is in need of regular volunteers on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Children and Youth Ministry. -John DeWitt



This year we will again support the Good Shepherd Ministries in Guatemala with our International Missions Christmas Offering. Our church goal is \$2,000. You may use a special envelope found around the church or mark your offering envelope accordingly.

The post office is open in the church hallway for your cards to members. The children and youth will deliver the cards to the members and you may donate your "postage" to the Good Shepherd Ministry.

Each donation of \$25.00 can be acknowledged by placing a bow on the mission tree during the offertory or at any other time.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"
Matthew 25:40

Jesus said to them again, "peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." John 20:21

Stewardship

2023	October	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$18,035	\$186,421
Budget Need	\$21,700	\$190,969
Difference (short)	(\$ 3,665)	(\$ 4,548)

2023	October	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$18,035	\$186,421
Expenses	\$14,683	\$168,318
Difference	\$ 3,352	\$ 18,103

Property Renovation Fund - \$16,356

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

To provide an opportunity for members to study the 2024 proposed budget, copies are being mailed in the coming days.

An opportunity for discussion will be made available at the **December 10, 2023 Business Meeting** (following the Morning Worship Service). A vote to approve the proposed budget will be taken by secret ballot at a **Called Business Meeting on Sunday, December 31, 2023.**

Please be in prayer as you consider your tithes and offerings for the coming year

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10

DISCIPLESHIP

Mount Hermon family,

Reminder: December is the month for our Missions Offering. Our goal is to raise two thousand dollars as a church. Make sure to *mark* your gift for this offering on the envelope so that it can be properly designated. This offering has been a way for Mount Hermon to offer her resources in support of those in need and to equip ministers of Christ for the work they are called to do. We look forward in expectation for the good God will make from our simple gifts offered in His name.

If you will allow me, I would like to use my article for a personal note. The first Sunday of December will be my last Sunday as a member of Mount Hermon. I leave Mount Hermon with sorrow to be departed from you all physically, although I anticipate our continued friendship in the Holy Spirit. It has been a great joy to serve and worship alongside of you this past year. You have welcomed me as a brother, supported me as a pastoral intern, and you have helped shape me into a better disciple of Jesus. I can only offer my sincere thanks to each of you. I hope that every person who steps through the doors of our church will receive the big family welcome that I received when I first arrived. We never know a person's story, but we can give them a handshake, a hug, a smile, or a prayer. Mount Hermon loves Jesus through the way ya'll love one another and the way ya'll love those outside the walls of our sanctuary. Continue to seek the face of Christ in each person.

The Mount Hermon family has been in a time of *transition* for some time now, and I would like to offer an encouragement as you continue in that season. Continue to undergo this transition *together*. Take the opportunity to know, serve, love one another more deeply. Transition does not mean that a church cannot do longstanding good for the kingdom. Do not let that good work be corrupted by petty divisions or feuds or tensions. Also, do not simply endure this season of transition, but prayerfully embrace the ways the Holy Spirit is changing Mount Hermon. When I was in high school, I winced at growing pains as my bones were stretching and growing. These pains kept me up at night, and they ached throughout the day. But those growing pains made me taller, stronger, and a little more humble. *We don't grow without a little wincing*. There are treasures housed in this church family, but there are also treasures being brought in by the Holy Spirit. Embrace the growing pains, the slow and challenging work of the Holy Spirit. Christ is our Good Shepherd – trust his leading.

Lastly, I commend to you the words of the apostles Peter, James, and John as they sent out Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey: "Remember the poor" (Galatians 2:10).

Thank you for loving me as a brother. With love in Christ, Noah Dellinger

Those Needing Our Prayers...

Georgia Barnette	Lucille King	Peggy Rhodes
Edna Berry	Stacy Lee	Justin Riley
Donna Chamberlain	David Lewis	Ridge Riley
Bill Clayton	Caleb Matte	Robbe Riley
Robbie Davidson	Joan Page	J.R. & Mary Webb
Vic Davis	Peggy Parker	Margie Whitfield
Joyce Dennis	Betty Jane Poole	Bob Winecoff
Joan Dixon	Joseph Albert Revell	Virginia Winecoff
Marlo Jackson		

OUR HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITALIZED

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews
Pruitt Health-Carolina Point Ruby Clements
Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera
Hospice Care - Russell Hoffman
Las Colinas of Westover - Roberta Lopez

Pray For:

Reverend David Morton and our Church
The Pastor Search Committee
The Children and the Children's Ministry
Our Brothers at OCC and the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry
Those in our community with drug and alcohol addiction
The homeless people in our community
Families affected by violence
President Joe Biden & NC Governor Roy Cooper
Unity for our Country

AROUND THE WORLD

Peace in Ukraine and Israel
Rev. Gideon Thuam, missionary to Myawaddy Myanmar
Pastor Hammer serving the people of Togo, West Africa
Roger and Vicki Grossmann, missionaries to Guatemala

Pastor: David Morton
Secretary: Peggy Mason
Worship Leader: Anne Basden

Church Office

Hours: Monday—Friday 9 am—11:30 am
 Phone: 919-383-2982
 Email: mounthermondurham@gmail.com
 Pastor David's Email: morton10@centrylink.net

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Mike Fitzgerald	12/21 Louis Tedder
12/02 John Mark Frederick	12/25 Jesus Christ
12/02 Chris Lewis	12/25 Wendy Riley
12/17 Elizabeth Millar	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/14 Emily Lopez	01/21 Steve Paschall
01/19 Dean Dixon	01/22 Janice Thompson
01/21 Benita Burton	01/26 Nancy Dillard

**If we missed your birthday or anniversary,
 please let us know so we can update our records**



Steve Couch	A-B
Cookie Frederick	C-D
Bob Brewer	E-I
Shirley Robinson	J-M
Janice Thompson	N-Q
Steve Lopez	R-S
Kevin Shinn	T-Z

Deacon Chair: Steve Couch

Sponsor a Child through Good Shepherd Ministries.

In addition to our Christmas Offering to support the children of Guatemala there is an opportunity to sponsor a child from the Good Shepherd Children's Home.

See Steve Paschall for more information.



Prayer Room

Our Prayer Room is open and available at all times for those who may need a quiet moment in prayer.

Instructions for the room's use are provided along with prayer materials.

From the Nominating Committee

The following positions are still available.

1 Special Events Position

1 Sanctuary Position

Discipleship Director

Ladies Fellowship Coordinator

Middle School Small Group Leader

Church Historian

Please prayerfully consider one of these positions if you are able.

"EACH ONE MUST DO JUST AS HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS HEART, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."

2 Corinthians 9:7b

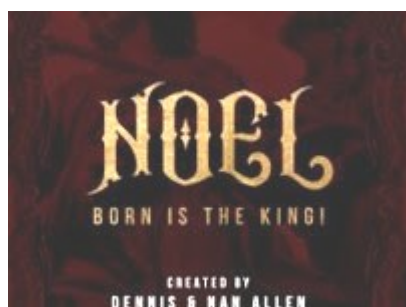
In 2023, the MHBC congregation has given cheerfully and sacrificially. This includes not just gifts of money but also the giving of time and talents. We are a loving and caring community that seeks to share the love of Christ with those around us.

Thank you for giving back to God a portion of what is His so that His Kingdom may continue here on Earth.

Nursery/Children/Youth Workers Needed!!

We are looking for volunteers to assist in the nursery on a rotating bases during Sunday School and Worship. We are also looking for teachers and assistants to work with the Children and Youth on Sundays and Wednesdays.

If you are willing to help please contact John DeWitt or Teah Shinn



Make plans to attend
"Noel! Born is the King"
 On Sunday,
 December 17 at 11:00am.
 This is a great opportunity for all to invite someone to worship with us!



The 2023 Advent Daily Devotional Package is available at the church. We hope you will enjoy reading the stories though the advent season written by many in our congregation.

CHURCH EVENTS

December 2

9:00a Baptist Men
9:00a Ladies' Fellowship

December 3

Hanging of the Greens
2:00p Deacons Meeting

December 6

5:00p Potluck Dinner

December 10

Business Meeting
Following Worship

December 17

Christmas Presentation
Noel! Born is the King!

December 19

Newsletter Input Due

December 21

10:00-2:00 Christmas Gift
Wrapping Youth
Fundraiser

December 24

10:00a Worship Service
5:00p Candlelight Service

December 25-26

Church Office Closed

December 27

No Wednesday Activities

December 31

Called Business Meeting
during Worship Service

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:30a Adult Study Groups
9:30a Children/Youth
11:00a Worship Service

Wednesday

6:00p Adult Bible Study
6:00p Children/Youth
7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

6:30p Amen Class

Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

December 2023

Pastor's Pen

The Season of Advent

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas. The word Advent comes from a Latin word, which means "coming." The season is marked by expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice, and yet carry the hope of deliverance by God. Advent is all about the hope that God, however distant God sometimes seems, will set things right. God will arrive on the scene to rule with truth and justice over all the people and even over creation itself. This hope goes back to the time of the ancient prophets, who longed for a time when "the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places made plain." God's hope lives even to the present day. In Advent, we hear about the coming of the Christ-- not just once long ago in Bethlehem of Judea, but who will also come in final victory at the end of time. The same Christ comes to us now in Word and Spirit. The word "Christ" comes from the Greek for "anointed." The Hebrew word for "anointed" is "Messiah." This year, the season of Advent starts on Sunday December 3 and ends on Christmas eve. During this season, let us prepare for what God has in store for us. As the scripture lessons tell the story first of promise then of birth, we can come to see how God comes to be born in us and among us today.

Here is a prayer that might help shape a holy Advent this year:

Dear Lord, please allow us to embrace Advent in the way the Church intends as we prepare for Your arrival. May everything, we do--every gift we send, every gathering we attend, every meal we share--remind us to prepare space in our hearts for You. Amen.

Grace and Peace to you all, my friends, in Christ Jesus,
David Morton, Interim Pastor

DECEMBER DEACON MINISTRY: Steve Lopez / Kevin Shinn

OCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH
Personal Hygiene Products

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH
Toothpaste

Services Available on CD upon request and on our YouTube Channel