

## CHURCH EVENTS

### February 3

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

### February 4

Lord's Supper  
Reception Lunch for  
John & Abby DeWitt

### February 7

6:00p Guest Missionary  
Speaker

### February 11

Souper Bowl of Caring  
2:00p Deacons' Meeting

### February 13

Shrove Tuesday  
6:00p Pancake Dinner

### February 14

First Day of Lent  
6:00 Ash Wednesday  
Service

### February 18

Business Meeting  
Following Worship

### February 20

Newsletter Input Due

## 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

## OCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH

Fruit and Applesauce

## OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH

Toothpaste

# Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

February 2024

## Pastor's Pen

Followers of Jesus share God's love with others. A follower is a missionary. Both "goers" and "senders" should work together for God's mission. We are not all called or expected to go to faraway places on mission trips. We know that opportunities abound for mission services much closer to our homes.

Disciples of Jesus share Christ's love with others. We are to become a mission church and a mission people. Let us not forget Jesus' Great Commandment: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matt. 28:19-20)

Do we feel that God is with us as we share our spiritual gifts? What are our daily lives like when our spiritual gifts are in full operation, and we are doing the things that the Holy Spirit placed in our hearts, heads, and hands to do? God's people at Mount Hermon Baptist Church utilize willing hands and committed hearts while we continue to strive together for faithful ministry. To reach the potential God offers us, we are to dedicate time and energy, and treasure and talent. We need to extend to others forgiveness and grace and pray for God's will for each of us. God calls us to be faithful.

The Missionary Annie Armstrong's said, and it still inspires: *"The future lies all before us . . . shall it only be a slight advance upon what we usually do? Ought it not to be a bound, a leap forward, to altitudes of endeavor and success undreamed of before?"* Let us pray for God's blessings and direction. We pray for John, Abby, and Elle as they relocate to Rolesville to serve the Lord. We celebrate the time we have had together. We celebrate their presence and ministry here. Their future lies ahead, and we are thankful for how they have blessed our fellowship. Let us pray that God's leadership will continue to bless them in their call and journey. I am thankful for their faithfulness and witness. Let us pray for God's guidance and strength for us too as we enter the Lenten Season. I look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday. We pray and strive for the unity of Christ Jesus in our lives every day together. May you find assurance in the love of Christ in your lives.

David Morton, Interim Pastor

**FEBRUARY DEACON MINISTRY:** Cookie Frederick / Bob Brewer

Services Available on CD upon request and on our YouTube Channel

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. 1 Chronicles 16:24

## ♪ Music Notes ♪

The season of Lent is approaching on Feb. 14. (how appropriate) I've been thinking lately about this season and Epiphany: what they represent; and what all this means to me. "Journey" has been the theme in my head.

The Wise Men went on a journey to **SEE the King of kings, Jesus**. The prophecies told where to find him, so they set out with their animal and probably a servant. Do you think they knew how long it would take to complete their journey? We aren't sure of the time, but it was a bit longer than from here to WalMart. Imagine a journey with NO MAP - only the instructions to "follow the star".

Here are some questions I'd have in preparing my journey: What to pack? Which servant or which animal? Where to get food? Where to get the animal's food? Where to sleep? What if the weather is bad? and more...

We are all on a journey similar to those Wise Men. We've been told of His birth, life and coming again. We've been told how to find Him and spend the rest of our days with Him. The King of kings! We've been told that when we cease to take breath here on earth we will **SEE** Him face to face like the Wise Men did after His birth. Oh, what a glorious thought!

How are you prepared for this journey? Epiphany helps us remember the journey to seek Jesus and Lent encourages us to "pack" what is necessary for this matchless journey. I know Lent actually refers to a time of fasting (denying ourselves) but that activity is necessary in order for us to focus on Jesus so we can "put on" His character. (become more like Him). So, while we "clean out" our baggage, let's consider packing: Humility/ Worship/ Scripture/ Confession/ Repentance/ Forgiveness and Love.

Lamentations 3:25-26 - The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ~ Anne Basden

## Children and Youth Ministry

It is hard to believe that this will be my last children and youth newsletter. The last 3 years and 8 months have been some of the most special and formative years of my life. You, the people of Mount Hermon Baptist Church have taught me to be a better pastor, and more importantly, a better Christian.

In my time here, I have become closer with God, more attentive to His voice, and the voice and struggles of His people. I hope that, in some way, I have returned the favor to you. As a Children and Youth Pastor, it is fitting that some of my most meaningful experiences here have been with the young people at this church. They have taught me so much. I will dearly miss all of them. I will dearly miss all of the adults at Mount Hermon, as well.

Keep in touch, and more importantly, keep your eyes fixed on Christ and his Mission.

Abby, Ellie, and I love you all. Grace and Peace, - John DeWitt

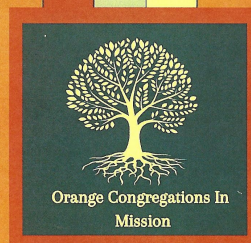
## THINK BEYOND THE BOWL!

What if every person in your congregation or organization watching the Big Game donated just \$1 or 1 can of food?

**TACKLE HUNGER**  
with the

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

**February 11, 2024**



## February 11 Souper Bowl of Caring

Canned goods and monetary donations will be collected to help OCIM tackle the needs in our community



## Stewardship

2023	December	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$25,099	\$227,053
Budget Need	\$21,700	\$225,631
Difference	\$ 3,399	\$ 1,422

2023	December	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$25,099	\$227,053
Expenses	\$22,314	\$204,975
Difference	\$ 2,785	\$ 22,078

Property Renovation Fund - \$13,930

### **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

Thank you to all who gave so generously in 2023. Your commitment to the church is very much appreciated.

As we look to 2024, our budget has increased significantly and with the hope of a full time pastor we must pray for the continued financial health of the church. Our 2024 budget need has increased by \$630 each week. A yes vote on the budget is a vote to support the budget. Please consider an increase to your offerings accordingly.

~ Peggy Mason, Treasurer

## *Those Needing Our Prayers...*

Georgia Barnette	Joan Dixon	Peggy Parker
Edna Berry	Alex Fitzgerald	Betty Jane Poole
Donna Chamberlain	Marlo Jackson	Peggy Rhodes
Bill Clayton	Lucille King	Justin Riley
Robbie Davidson	Stacy Lee	Ridge Riley
Vic Davis	David Lewis	Robbe Riley
Joseph Dennard	Jerry Nowell	J.R. & Mary Webb
Joyce Dennis	Chuck Olson	Bob Winecoff
Dale Dixon	Joan Page	Virginia Winecoff

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews  
UNC - Hillsborough - Ronda Barton  
Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera

The Family of Ruby Clements  
Frank Shipp and Family  
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  
and the Good Shepherd Ministries

## OUTREACH

### Missions

All successful mission activity is built on a foundation of prayer. As I write this field report from Paris I am reminded that during our commission service on 21 January I asked for prayer on 3 levels.

1. A outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our Armenian team and our ability to hear and act on the unction of the Spirit.
2. To bless the churches of the Armenian Baptist Union with effective instruction on the healing of war trauma. There is a vital partnership between NC Baptist on mission and the Armenian Baptist churches. Our work the next two weeks in Armenia will help equip the church to heal the trauma created by the recent wars with Azerbaijan.
3. Pray we can work with the Armenian Apostolic church (state church) to reach all Armenian people. So, please pray now and ask our Lord to bless our time in Armenia as the people there and their testimony in that part of the world has strategic importance for the cause of Christ in the world.

Grace and Peace in Jesus ~ Steve Paschall

### **Nursery/Children/Youth Workers Needed!!**

Sundays and Wednesdays

If you are willing to help please contact  
Cookie Frederick or Teah Shinn



### **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.

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

**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*

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

02/01 William Clayton	02/14 Kathryn Dempsey
02/03 Bob Brewer	02/16 Georgia Barnette
02/04 Eddie Lee	02/17 Morgan Sorrell
02/07 Jacob Bowling	02/19 Shirley Robinson
02/12 Valentina Serrano Gonzales	02/28 Elizabeth Millar

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

02/05 Tim & Janice Thompson

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

03/03 Maria Butron	03/13 John DeWitt
03/03 Jerald Fuller	03/16 James Warren
03/04 Donnie Riley	03/22 Teah Shinn
03/04 David Morton	03/24 Steve Clayton
03/06 Peggy Mason	03/29 Cookie Frederick
03/11 Shania Riley	03/29 Ted Darby
03/12 Kevin Shinn	03/30 Jody Brady

**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
As Assigned	R-S
Kevin Shinn	T-Z
Deacon Chair: Steve Couch	

**February 13 @ 6:00p**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Youth Fundraiser**



Good Shepherd Ministries in Guatemala International Missions Christmas Offering.

Church Goal \$2,000  
 Amount Raised \$2,750

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

**February 7 @ 6:00p**

**Guest Missionary Speaker**

**Pastor Search**

On behalf of the pastor search committee, we are grateful for your continued prayers as we work diligently to find the right candidate for the church. Our committee began meeting last January and spent our first six months researching, reviewing the congregational survey, and gathering resources for advertising the position. In July, we began accepting resumes and narrowed down a short list of four candidates by October.

It typically takes a church 1 - 2.5 years to find the right candidate. We pursued one candidate and introduced them to current church leadership only. However, they recently withdrew their name. The pastor search committee is now continuing with our weekly meetings to pray and gather resources before reviewing the next group of resumes.

We will soon send a digital questionnaire to the congregation to help guide our process. This questionnaire will help us better understand the congregational profile so we are better equipped in our search process. We ask for your patience and also your discretion. Committee members have asked one another not to disclose personal information about candidates or committee meetings.

We appreciate your support and ask that you continue to pray for the committee and the church during this transitional time as we seek to better understand ourselves as a congregation and our unique ministry calling to the community around us. ~ Grace and peace, Shaina Riley, Pastor Search Committee Chair