

CHURCH EVENTS

January 1

Church Office Closed

January 6

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

January 7

11:00a Combined Service
with Hillsborough
Community Church
Potluck Lunch after the
Service

January 14

2:00p Deacons' Meeting

January 20

Foosball Tournament
Youth Fundraiser

January 21

Business Meeting
Following Worship

January 23

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

Soup & Crackers

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH

Deodorant

January Deacon Assistants
Janice Thompson
and
Shirley Robinson

Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

January 2024

Pastor's Pen

Wow! Where did last year go? And look how fast we are already traveling into the New Year 2024. It is difficult to focus because everything is moving so quickly. At times we are quite intentional, and at other times, we are quite unintentional. And our views are so different that it is as though we have no focus at all. I have met people so overcome that they have no starting point because it is all a jumble. We can easily identify with a child riding a bike for the first time without training wheels. The child is completely frozen because of fear or indecision. And at other times, we can identify with the person waiting anxiously for a fun event, frustrated by the slowness of time. Time seems to stand in our way.

As a church family, we are challenged to evaluate our focus. We must always be mindful and how well we keep our vision and emphasis. We constantly find ourselves moving in a thousand different directions. And we become so fixated in one direction that we fail to see the things happening around us.

A large danger in the church is what the early church referred to as "being curved in on oneself" or "being focused on oneself." It is easy to focus on what we want, on our schedules, on our priorities. The early church described this type of behavior as sin. And they gave a remedy for the sin. The remedy: Having a clear focus on God and being fully engaged and oriented to what God is doing.

Something amazing happens when we find our direction. Our anxiousness and impatience begin to wane and fade when we link with God and what God is doing. Interestingly, we see more clearly, and, as a result, we live more fully. This is all easier spoken than done. By the grace of God, when we step back, become purposeful, directing our time, talents, and energies towards God, incredible things are possible.

This is true for us as a congregation at Mount Hermon. We are called to prayerfully discern God's call to focus. We can step back from our own agendas and schedules, becoming directed by God. We can thaw when we believe we are stuck. We can accept and extend God's grace even when we are anxious, angry, or upset.

God's desire is to use us, individually and as a faith community, to do amazing things. We will see the outcomes in our own life, the lives around us, and our church and potentially throughout God's kingdom. We are currently in a crucial time, and I invite you to join me in prayer, meditation, reflection, and participation as we seek to acknowledge where we have been focusing, our strengths and weaknesses, our energy. In prayer we will discover where God is calling us. As we move forward, may no one say of our church, "But they just wouldn't FOCUS!" Our Lord will bless us as we focus on His loving grace.

We pray all of this in Christ name. David Morton, Interim Pastor

♪ Music Notes ♪

A Fresh Start

Happy New Year everyone! This is the time of year we hear the question: "What is your New Year Resolution?" We see ads for Health Club or Weight Loss Membership. Even some of us are making statements like: "Sure glad 2023 is over and hoping 2024 is better." A New Year: a New ME!!

Most of us want a fresh start. We may look back and think how we could've done some things differently. As creatures of a sinful nature we are going to make mistakes; but there's good news! Christ has come to heal the broken-hearted and to cast off our chains. His power, freedom and healing are in all who call Him, Lord. Isaiah 42 reminds us of this truth.

Isaiah 42:1-12.(NASB) The opening verses describe Christ and how God has anointed him. *"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen One in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations."*

Christ, being God, has the power to "get the job done". God gave Him that power. *"A bent reed He will not break off and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice on the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."* I love this portion because I am sometimes that bent reed or that dimly burning wick yet He will NOT dismiss me. Now that is REAL love! As the saying goes: "I may not be where I need to be but I thank God I am not where I used to be." God will not abandon me to my own vices.

Verses 5-9: God describes all He has done through his creation and in his people. (Showing how we haven't done anything for ourselves - He has done it!) Then He tells Christ, the Messiah of his responsibilities on earth. *"I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison"* This is the exciting news! He is our power through the Triune God for healing and freedom. He gives us the ability for a Fresh Start.

Then God continues to proclaim WHO He is: *"I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they sprout I proclaim them to You."*

Verses 10-12 exhort us to sing His praise. And why shouldn't we...? We've been given the power to make a Fresh Start through Christ, our Messiah! *"Sing to the LORD a new song, Sing His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it; you islands, and those who live on them. Let the wilderness and its cities raise their voices, the settlements which Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing aloud, let them shout for joy from the tops of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD and declare His praise in the coastlands."*

Praise Him for all He has done and will do. Rejoice in His healing; Revel in His freedom and Run in His power knowing He has given us a Fresh Start. Lamentations 3:22-23 ~ Anne Basden

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



Good Shepherd Ministries
Christmas Offering
Church Goal \$2,000
Raised to Date \$2,505

We will continue to collect this offering through January 7th



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*

Stewardship

2023	November	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$15,532	\$201,953
Budget Need	\$17,360	\$203,931
Difference (short)	(\$ 1,828)	(\$ 1,978)

2023	November	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$15,532	\$201,953
Expenses	\$14,332	\$182,650
Difference	\$ 1,200	\$ 19,303

Property Renovation Fund - \$13,170

In December, 2023 new programmable thermostats were installed in the church that will allow programming to be done remotely.

Also in December a new computer set-up was purchased for the church office.

Please be in prayer as you consider your tithes and offerings in 2024

Ladies' Fellowship Project

The women of Mount Hermon are planning an event in February called *A Little Something for the Girls*, and all are welcome to contribute. We will be collecting new bras for the Durham Rescue Mission - around 100. We will have sizes by the first of January. We are also collecting used bras to donate to The Bra Recyclers - they either donate usable bras to needy or recycle what they can. We will set up two bins in the Friendship class - one for new bras, and the other for used. There will also be bra sizes on tags available in the Friendship room for the purchase of new bras.

For further information, please contact Kathryn Dempsey at 919.624.7078

Those Needing Our Prayers...

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

OUR HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITALIZED

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews
UNC Hospital CH - Rhonda Barton
Pruitt Health-Carolina Point - Ruby Clements
Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera

Pray For:

The Family of Joseph Albert Revell
The Family of Russell Hoffman
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



A Memorial Contribution was received in memory of Rachel Clayton by Lauren Gaydon

OUTREACH

Your mission team has some goals for 2024. Let me share some with you.

January 22- February 3 Steve Paschall will be in Armenia on mission to share the love of God in a very particular way. Baptist on mission has been in Partnership with the Armenian Baptist Union for many years. In 2021 The Secretary General, Asatur ask for help with the war trauma Armenia suffered at the hands of Azerbaijan aggression. Thanks to Chris Adsit and his wife Rahnella we have the books "Bridges to Healing: Armenia" and "Women War and Trauma" translated into the Armenian language. We will be training spiritual leaders on how to start and teach biblical based cell groups to help our brothers and sisters heal from Post Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI). You might know that Armenia was the first Christian nation. That happened in 301 AD.

We are praying to start a Good News Bible club at New Hope Elementary School this year. We need training for volunteers and in partnership with Child Evangelism Fellowship to strive toward this end. Thanks for your prayers. It's a big assignment and it puts us in touch with the children of our community.

We are set to send a mission team to serve with the Good Shepherd Children's Home. We expect that to start 22 June. You are invited to see what the Grossmans have done over the decades there.

Please be in prayer that we might be a mission Bible based, Holy Spirit filled body of Christ.

~Your mission team.

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

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

02/05 Tim & Janice Thompson

**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
To Be Named	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.

Nursery/Children/Youth Workers Needed!!

Sundays and Wednesdays.

If you are willing to help please contact John DeWitt

Children and Youth Ministry



I often use my articles to recap events that happened in the previous month and to announce events that are upcoming. This month I want to use my article to share some of the things God is doing in our student ministry.

Every Wednesday, we practice a different spiritual discipline. These are often different ways to pray and read scripture, but sometimes they are ways we can intentionally focus on God and have fellowship with one another. These disciplines have helped our students experience God in fresh ways. These have been well received and the growth of our students have been evident.

In my three and a half years here, the students have not only spiritually matured, but have also grown closer to one another. Our students genuinely care about one another and look after one another. When one student shares their struggles the rest of the students give them their ear, empathize with them, and pray for them.

I am so proud of them and the ways they continue to grow in their love for the Lord and one another.

~Blessings, John DeWitt

January 20 from 10:00-11:30a we will have our 3rd Annual Foosball Tournament as a Student Ministries Fundraiser. This event always promises to be a lot of fun! Come join us and cheer on your favorite Foosball player (or all of them).