

Children and Youth Ministry



A theme I have seen in our student ministry over the past few months is the desire to live faithfully. Last month, at Cheerio, we had many students encounter God in fresh ways. God called us to faithfulness.

What does living faithfully mean? I believe it is the prayerful desire to do God's will. In one of my Divinity School classes a couple of weeks ago, we were told a story of a student who was paralyzed by the fear of finding the exact one thing that God wanted her to do in her life. The lecturer for the day told us the importance of people knowing that God will use them wherever they are. Faithful living sometimes means answering the call to a specific vocation, but it always means being the hands and feet of Jesus where you land. God allows us to serve Him and live faithfully in every situation. We all have unique callings and purposes, but we also share one. This joint call is to love our God and our neighbor. That is how we live faithfully.

In November, the students and their families will have a pizza lunch on the 19th after church. This event's purpose is to foster community and to share what we are thankful for. - John DeWitt

OUTREACH: **MISSIONS**

One of the vital disciplines of the Christian life is to remain fixed on the call of Christ to reach the nations. If we as individuals remain fixed on our personal well being, we are of little value in reaching a lost world. Sadly, that focus seems to be normal in the western church. That truth also seems to be a major theme in the demise of the western church. Instead of following Jesus' example of a selfless servant we remain fixed on us and on how we used to do things. We begin to look like an island remotely looking like the neighborhood around us. Thom Rainer, reminds us that to be healthy, we must look like our neighbors.

In his book, "Inside Out", Larry Crab, tells us: "If you want a more vital union with God, a richer relationship with others, and a deeper sense of personal wholeness, learn how to look inside yourself and discover how God works real, liberating change when you live from the inside out."

Our vitality depends on us being liberated from self interest. Being a missional church means we focus on Christ call to GO, not sit and be our traditional selves. How about you, ready to GO?

Your Mission Team.

DISCIPLESHIP:

Church Family,

Advent is coming up soon! During those first weeks of December, we anticipate the birth of our loving King, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time for us to place ourselves in an *imaginative space*; that is, we put ourselves in the place of the Israelites waiting for the birth of the Messiah. Here in 2023, we live in the wake of the resurrection (hallelujah!). We know how the story ends! But for these few weeks in Advent, we choose to dislocate ourselves from where we live here in North Carolina in the year 2023. We put on the mindset of an Israelite at the time leading up to Jesus' birth. The cry of the Israelites we make our own — *O come Emmanuel! Ransom captive Israel!* Christians since ancient times have practiced Advent in this way, as a spiritual exercise. When we put ourselves in the place of the Israelites — longing for the coming of the promised Emmanuel — we realize that we are not so different from them. Here, in the wake of Christ's resurrection, we also await the coming of the promised Emmanuel. We might even groan for Christ's return just as the Israelites groaned for the birth of the Messiah. In this way, Advent is also a time for us to anticipate the return of our King in glory. By looking back — placing ourselves in the longing of the Israelites — we are also looking forward to the coming of Christ, when he will make all things right.

During this month leading up to Advent, we will be creating a devotional booklet as we have in years past. This booklet will help guide us in this spiritual practice of Advent. I invite anyone to contribute to this with whatever gift God has given you — a short reflection, a poem, song lyrics, a story, or even quotes that have impacted you. The subject matter can be about Advent, Christmas, or anything related to our loving God and his wonderful creation. The Holy Spirit has given us all treasures, and this booklet is one place where we can come together and bring those treasures into a unity. So please, I invite you! Contact me if you have anything you would like to share.

With love in Christ, Noah Dellinger
noah.dellinger@duke.edu

Stewardship

| 2023 | September | Year-to-Date |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Budget Income | \$17,431 | \$168,386 |
| Budget Need | \$17,360 | \$169,269 |
| Difference (short) | \$ 71 | (\$ 874) |

| 2023 | September | Year-to-Date |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Budget Income | \$17,431 | \$168,386 |
| Expenses | \$20,032 | \$153,634 |
| Difference | (\$ 2,701) | \$ 14,752 |

Property Renovation Fund - \$14,436

New LED lighting was installed in several areas of the church in September. A new digital sound board was installed in October. Please consider additional offerings to the PRP fund to financially assist with these costs.

Pray for the financial health of the church.

Those Needing Our Prayers...

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Chris Barnette | Lucille King | Peggy Rhodes |
| Donna Chamberlain | Stacy Lee | Justin Riley |
| Bill Clayton | David Lewis | Ridge Riley |
| Robbie Davidson | Joan Page | Robbe Riley |
| Vic Davis | Peggy Parker | J.R. & Mary Webb |
| Joan Dixon | Betty Jane Poole | Bob Winecuff |
| Marlo Jackson | Joseph Albert Revell | Virginia Winecuff |

OUR SHUT-INS AND HOSPITALIZED

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews
Pruitt Health-Carolina Point Ruby Clements
Hillcrest Convalescent Center - Joyce Dennis
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
North Carolina 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

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

♪ *Music Notes* ♪

From my vantage point at home, I have a beautiful view of the changing of leaves in this season. I love basking in the display of God's glory. I have heard that just the right amount of rain, sunlight and temperature will affect the vibrancy of the colors of the leaves. The nurturing of the soil and environment makes those leaves less or more beautiful.

I'm NOT here to say I understand the chemical changes that take place in order for those trees to be adorned in such beauty, (Dan Vogel could tell me the formula, I'm sure) but I'd like to make a (probably) weak analogy to the Christian walk.

Scripture tells us that all the earth displays God's glory. The angels called out in Is. 6:3, "Holy, holy, holy! The whole earth is full of His glory." and Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." God's glory is everywhere!

Once you confess you believe Jesus as the Son of God and ask Him to be the Lord of your life, the glory of God lives in you as well. The fruit of His Spirit is on display. But I can tell you from experience that left unattended, (not nurtured) His glory won't be as vibrant as when I spend time "fertilizing" my relationship with Almighty God.

Jesus tells us in John 15 that He is the vine, and we are the branches. Jesus is our "gardener", and He prunes or cleans us so that we can produce more fruit. While pruning can be painful it brings about more beauty. HIS beauty. Those trees endured drought; floods; intense heat; freezing temperatures; lightning strikes; harsh winds; and maybe insects or animals to bring about the glorious array of color. Our journey will not be an easy one either but it will be worth it in order to display His glory.

I want to be a vibrant display of God's splendor and glory and I'm sure you do too. Our Heavenly Father is already doing a work in us, and He is faithful to complete it. With a contrite heart – we confess and repent (Ps. 51:10 & Romans 7:18-25) and as Titus teaches that we are saved only by God's mercy through Jesus' blood AND that He is continually renewing our spirit and our minds (pruning). He loves us so much that He continues to nurture us toward sanctification.

So let's celebrate in 2 Cor. 5:17 that we are a new creation and celebrate Rom. 8:6 that if we set our minds on the Spirit of God we have life and peace. Serving Him Together, Anne

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 11/03 Wendy Dixon | 11/10 Candy Brady |
| 11/05 Jamie Riley | 11/20 Daniel Poma Butron |
| 11/09 Bill Clayton | 11/21 Kate Butler |
| | 11/30 Joan Page |

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/16 Bob & Beth Brewer
11/17 Jody & Candy Brady
11/20 Dean & Wendy Dixon

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 | |

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



State Goal:
2.5 Million

Church Goal:
\$1,500

Final Amount
Raised: \$3,840

Thank you to all
who gave!!

From the Nominating Committee
The following positions are still available.

- 1 Properties Position**
- 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.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Shoebox Packing Party
and Ladies Fellowship
November 11 @ 9:00a

Bring your shoebox items and join us.
Everyone is invited!

Shoebox shipping is \$10.00 per box
Donations are appreciated.

"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



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



Time Change
Sunday November 5th
@ 2:00am



Veterans Day
November 11
Thank you!
To all who served

CHURCH EVENTS

November 1

All Saints Day
5:00p Potluck Dinner

November 4

9:00a Baptist Men's Mtg

November 5

2:00a Daylight Saving
Time Ends
2:00p Deacons Meeting

November 11

9:00a Ladies Fellowship/
Shoebox Packing Party

November 13

9:30a Church Council Mtg

November 19

Business Meeting
Following Worship

November 21

Newsletter Input Due

November 22

No Wednesday Evening
Activities

November 23-24

Happy Thanksgiving
Church Office Closed

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

Looking Ahead

December 17

Noel Born is the King
Special Worship Service

December 21st

10:00a-2:00p
Youth Gift Wrapping
Fundraiser

Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

November 2023

Pastor's Pen

What is a hero? We will observe Veteran's Day on November 11th. We honor those who have and continue to serve our country. Many occupy our pews every Sunday morning. We have heroes in our midst on a regular basis. Do they talk about being heroes or would they just say that they were doing their duties and jobs? So, when we reflect about them, is it necessary for these folks to do some wildly extraordinary feat that has never been done before? Does it take something that defies earlier advanced expectations? Is it enough to simply perform what we are trained to do, what we are commissioned to do, day after day after day?

We must consider this when it comes to Christian discipleship. As followers of Christ, we are called to become increasingly like Jesus every day. We are to love God and love one another. The Bible says to visit the sick and the prisoner, aid the widow and orphan, feed the hungry, bear one another's burdens, and care for the least of these. Ironically, these opportunities for service turn into instances of dramatic and heroic discipleship. Heroes show encouragement to people in need, through acts of kindness and caring for people. May not seem like much, but it shapes them into a special kind of people.

You are my heroes when I hear about folks going to feed and care for people who have lost most everything in a storm. You are my heroes when I hear stories about the people in faraway lands that you have carried the love and Gospel of Christ. I have heroes who served others at our recent medical mission. People who gathered and supplied clothes and food to the needy. You are my heroes as you have listened and responded through backpack missions, Farmers Markets, and reconstruction projects. Heroes leading and teaching Bible studies. Heroes who have embraced the Yokefellow Ministry with offenders and returning citizens. You are a hero when you give to the Baptist on Mission offerings. The list goes on and on. We have a fellowship full of heroes. We have heroes who sacrificially give their monies in tithes and offerings. And our surrounding community and world take notice! They notice that you serve in the Name of Christ the Lord. Thank you for your service. You are a blessing. You are heroes becoming more like Christ every day. Continue to serve with gladness and thanksgiving. We have a great amount to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving Season. Thank you for being my brothers and sisters in Christ.

In Christ, David Morton, Interim Pastor

Services Available on CD upon request and on our YouTube Channel

OCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH

Canned Chicken and Tuna

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH

Deodorant

NOVEMBER DEACON MINISTRY: Cookie Frederick / Bob Brewer