

CHURCH EVENTS

September 1

Lord's Supper

September 2

Labor Day
Church Office Closed

September 7

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

September 8

Homecoming

September 10

10:30a Prime Time

September 15

Special Choir Service

September 20

6:30p Music Collaboration

September 21

9:00a - 12:00 VBS at
Durham Rescue Mission

September 22

Business Meeting
Following Worship

September 24

Newsletter Input Due

September 29

Favorite Hymn Sunday

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

September 2024

Pastor's Pen

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)

One of the gifts that made Paul the most effective apostle of the early church was his gift for communicating the gospel message. He was a great evangelist and missionary. He was a teacher of faith. He also watched eagerly over the spiritual welfare of congregations near and far.

In I Corinthians, Paul summarized his core basis in a straightforward sentence: . . . now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13). We are privileged, as Christians, to enjoy the privilege to have a fresh start every day at living out the values of faith, hope and love. Love shows in the way we conduct ourselves with one another and with people we encounter outside our normal circles, outside of our comfort zones. Following Jesus's teaching and Paul's reminder, we can become a loving people.

It may sound easy, but this is no effortless way to live. It requires constant attitude adjustment – from me centered to other-centered, from judgment to forgiveness, from prejudice to open heartedness. The Scripture tells us love starts the process. Remember the greatest of what abides, what lasts, is love.

We, as a church at Mount Hermon Baptist Church, are eager to get the message out about the lasting message of love. That is one of our many missions. And for the church, the mission has changed and remained the same. As a part of sharing the love of Christ we continue to seek out and invite people to become disciples for the transformation of our community and our world. And now our focus is on offering a beacon of light to people here in our community. We can offer hope to those who are feeling restless or gloomy. We can offer encouragement to those feeling isolated or uncertain about tomorrow. We can provide support to those who feel disenfranchised, misunderstood and beaten down. We can remind people that God is with us in the challenging times as well as in the times when things are easy. And we can offer a message that is trustworthy and true rather than confusing or overly optimistic. These words are a part of the message of love. This can be a momentous time to be the church, not just for us but for everyone. It is my prayer that you will be guided by the Lord of life who shows us love. It is a message to share.

I look forward to Homecoming 2024. Our speaker will be Dr. Scott Ryan. Let us welcome him and his family at Homecoming. And many thanks to our team who led Vacation Bible School. Great Job! Let us seek God's guidance as we Sprout, Grow and Bear Fruit. I pray that we all will embrace God's Good News. The Bible provides us examples of God doing new things and inviting people to step out in new ways. And when we do, God provides us guidance and strength. He never leaves us or forsakes us. Blessings to you all ~ David Morton, Interim Pastor

Services Available on CD upon request and on our YouTube Channel

September 8 ~ HOMECOMING
Guest Speaker: Scott Ryan
Former MHBC Youth Pastor
Potluck Lunch

10:30a ~ September 10 ~ PRIME TIME
Guest Speaker: Scott Mason, The Tarheel Traveler
Lunch \$15 / RSVP by 9/5
Sign-up sheet in main hallway



Notes from Anne



How Big is God to you?

I posed this question to you in March, but as I prepare to leave Mount Hermon, I would like to explore it again. It is one we should continue to ponder until we see Christ, face to face.

How BIG is God to us? Do we pray expecting God to answer? Do we trust Him? Is He faithful? Is He gracious/merciful? Most of us would say we are confident in our Triune God, but maybe our actions are not depicting this.

Matt. 22: 34-40 give us the greatest commandments: Love God with everything that you are and love others as yourself. I think I am not alone in getting these things out of order. A recent sermon reminded us that we can't really love others unless we love God with everything we are. When we focus on pleasing God, first, we don't have to even think on how we are loving others. That love will flow naturally. Loving, and our motivation for loving has a more vertical perspective. It isn't dependent on the horizontal response.

Remember, God is love. Everything He is and everything He does originates from love. His power; His justice; His expectations of our hearts, souls and minds are because He loves us and wants what is best for us. When we make Him Lord of our lives, we surrender our wants and needs to Him and trust He will do what is best for His children. Sing with me: "He's got the whole world in His hands." He's already proven His love for us on Calvary!

As we walk our faith journey, let's dive into God's Word with fervor and intentionality and we will see Him. (Jer. 29:13) Then we can better understand Paul's prayer from Eph. 3:14-21. Seek God first and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33) so that when we see each other and when the world sees us, they see the BIGness of God.

Thank you for the love you have shown me. I will remember you in my prayers, trusting that God will continue to do great works through you. ~ Anne

Phil. 1:3 "I thank my God every time I remember you"

DISIPLESHIP

A recurring theme in discipleship is exhortation or encouragement. We all need it and we need it more often than we care to admit. Why? We're all going to have a bad day. We're all going to have moments when we're particularly susceptible to temptation. We need affirmation.

The background that led to this discussion is Hebrews 3:12-13. Since the passage comes from Hebrews, it draws heavily on Jewish history and the relationship of the Jewish nation with God. The event called to mind was the disobedience of the Jews in their refusal to enter the promised land. This is what it says, "**12** See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Notice the terms "none of you and encourage one another". Those phrases clearly tell us that we are responsible for one another and to one another. However, those things can't happen without coming together and talking about our victories and difficulties as we walk through life.

Take a little extra time after church or Sunday school to engage your brothers and sisters in conversation. Pray for them. Ask the Lord to show you how to be more supportive of those who need help. Don't be afraid to share your life's troubles and even more so if you're seeing God's hand lead you victoriously through those troubles. You never know if your sharing just might be the exhortation your brother or sister needs from you. ~ Bill Butler

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

Stewardship

2024	July	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$15,975	\$130,183
Budget Need	<u>\$19,880</u>	<u>\$149,100</u>
Difference	(\$ 3,905)	(\$ 18,917)

2024	July	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$15,975	\$130,183
July Expenses	<u>\$12,736</u>	<u>\$113,021</u>
Difference	\$ 3,239	\$ 17,163

Property Renovation Fund - \$19,059

Non Budget Renovation Expenses - \$6,886
(courtyard renovation)

HCC Usage Fee: May: \$1,600 YTD: \$10,000

The budget need continues to grow larger than our income. Please consider increasing your giving to the general budget so the needs of the church can be met as we move forward with a new pianist, Music Minister, Children and Youth Pastor and full time Pastor. Pray for the financial health of the church. - Peggy Mason, Treasurer

Those Needing Our Prayers...

Rhonda Barton	Joyce Dennis	Joan Page
Edna Berry	Joan Dixon	Peggy Parker
Donna Chamberlain	Lucille King	Betty Jane Poole
Bill Clayton	Stacy Lee	Peggy Rhodes
Ruth Crispin	David Lewis	Ridge Riley
Robbie Davidson	Jerry Nowell	Robbe Riley
Joseph Dennard	Mike Ostoyich	J.R. & Mary Webb
		Bob & Virginia Winecuff

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews

Treyburn Rehabilitation Center -Georgia Barnette

Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera

Reverend David Morton and our Church

The Personnel Committee

The Pastor Search Committee

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

AROUND THE WORLD

Peace in Ukraine and Israel

Rev. Gideon Thuam, missionary to Myawaddy Myanmar

Pastor Hammer serving the people of Togo, West Africa

Graham & Debbie Frith, Missionaries to Bolivia

Roger and Vicki Grossmann, missionaries to Guatemala

and the Good Shepherd Ministries

Asael Briones, Missionary to Honduras

OUTREACH

NC Missions Offering

“Relief for Today. Hope for Tomorrow”

Churches across North Carolina are on mission together to give, so that communities around the state, nation and world can be reached with the gospel.

Every September, N.C. Baptists express this spirit of generosity through gifts to the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO). “Together, churches across the state raise millions of dollars for this statewide missions giving effort, making an impact as they give the gift of “relief for today, hope for tomorrow.” (“The North Carolina Missions Offering: What you need to know”) This year's goal is \$2.4 million. Mount Hermon's goal is \$1500.

As we begin another new church year, let's renew our commitment to outreach by supporting the North Carolina Missions offering. The Lord has promised to guide and strengthen us as we reach out to people in his name. Jesus promises in Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Missions outreach takes many forms. Each of us, as we go about our daily lives are on mission for Jesus. We all cannot travel out of the country to share the good news of Jesus but in our daily living we are presented with opportunities to share our faith. Through our words and deeds the truth proclaimed by Jesus, and claimed by us, is lifted up or diminished. Each of us is the face, hands, and feet of Jesus each day. I invite you to support missions' outreach in our community, state, nation, and world with your prayers, participation, and financial support. Help a lost world come to Jesus! Grace and Peace! Steve Clayton

Balcony Opportunity

The balcony operations are essential to the worship service and to our YouTube viewers. Two people are needed each time we have a worship service and broadcast to YouTube. Our homebound friends and others that are interested in our services look forward each week to listen/view our services. Please consider helping occasionally. Training is available and essential for everything to go smoothly. There are two components: audio and visual. There will be times when the two – three people will be unavailable, so help is welcome for this ministry to continue. Please contact Tim Thompson (audio) or Shirley Robinson (visual) if you are interested in serving. Thank you!

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/03 Beth Brewer 09/27 Tammy Bowling
 09/23 Sherry Stone 09/28 Tim Thompson

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/10 Ivan & Catalina Serrano

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Margie Whitfield 10/15 Eddie Andrews
 10/09 Joyce Dennis 10/24 Fernanda Serrano Gonzalez
 10/10 Lana Morgan 10/25 Todd Riley
 10/14 Jerry Nowell 10/26 Lucille King
 10/15 Susan Walker

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

Children and Youth Ministry

Wow! What a wonderful weekend we had at Vacation Bible School. It was awesome to see the children having fun and learning about Jesus. It was wonderful to have so many adults and youth to step forward to volunteer to help. Thank you so much for your enthusiasm and excitement. It made the experience for the children that much better. You had a big impact on these children’s lives. Alex was so excited about what he made in VBS that he threw his personal items out of his bag so he could show his dad what he made.

We have a lot going on in the Children and Youth Department. Every Wednesday night dinners, fund raisers coming, mission opportunities, Bible Study and having fun. Keep your eyes out for ways that you can participate and help. ~ Cookie

Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 (ASV)

**OCCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH:
 POTATOES**

(Fresh, canned, boxed, etc)

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**OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH:  
 SOAP**

**DEACONS**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Steve Clayton        | A-B   |
| Cookie Frederick     | C-Dem |
| Shaina Riley (chair) | Den-G |
| Shirley Robinson     | H-L   |
| Janice Thompson      | M-O   |
| Bill Butler          | P-R   |
| Peggy Mason          | S-Z   |

***Ladies’ Fellowship News***

Plans are coming together for our September project which will be taking Bible School to the Durham Rescue Mission’s Good Samaritan Inn (Saturday, September 21 from 9 am – noon). We will also be providing lunch for the entire campus on that day (pizza, salad, drinks and desserts). All ladies can be a part of this worthwhile project as follows:

- 1) Attend our planning meeting on Saturday, September 7 at 9:00 am. We will be finalizing everything and organizing the day’s materials.
- 2) Provide monetary assistance or desserts for the lunch. We expect to feed around 150 people.
- 3) Volunteer on 9/21 – Helpers are needed in these areas:
 

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Host/Registration    | Music Leader    |
| Craft Table Monitors | Lunch Crew      |
| Bible Story Teller   | Set Up/Clean Up |



Everyone who attends must be approved in advance, and all volunteer applications must be submitted by September 2.

There are sign-up sheets for volunteers and food in the back hallway. Come and be a part of this exciting ministry. For more information, contact Kathryn Dempsey @ 919.624.7078.