

CHURCH EVENTS

December 1

1:30p Deacons' Meeting

December 4

5:00p Potluck Dinner

December 7

9:00a Baptist Men's Mtg
10:00a-2:00p Gift
Wrapping Youth
Fundraiser

December 11

6:00p Welcome House
Shared Ministry
Presentation

December 15

11:00a Music Service
Preparing for Christmas:
A Service of Carols

December 22

Business Meeting
Following Worship

December 23

Newsletter Input Due

December 24

5:00p Christmas Eve
Service-Lord's Supper

December 25-26

Church Office Closed

December 29

Called Business Meeting
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

December 2024

Pastor's Pen

As I draft this article our brothers and sisters in Western North Carolina and beyond are faced with recovery from the devastating effects of two successive major hurricanes. Wars continue in our world, and our country just completed a national election that could determine who we are as a nation far beyond the next four years. And we have just observed Thanksgiving, a holiday on which, when possible, we gather with family or friends to give thanks for God's blessings in our lives ...but what about those to whom Jesus referred as "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40)? How mindful at such times are we of them, even in our midst, the lonely and ignored, the homebound and the homeless and the poor, the sick and the worried?

We live in times when greed, dishonesty, injustice, prejudice, poverty, and the impact of warfare and natural disasters on human lives are prevalent, publicized, and visible more than ever due to technology and communications. Sadly, however, the same conditions of life existed in the memories and presence of those who lived at the time of Jesus, some 2,000 years ago. In that context Jesus preached the Kingdom of God as His central thesis.

As Jesus taught us to pray, as we often do together, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," let us each silently add in prayer, faced with the major issues of our time, "what would Jesus have me do?" ... even within the modest means of which I am capable ... to hasten the arrival of God's Kingdom here on earth, be it on a global, national, regional, community, or neighborhood basis ... and perhaps right here at Mount Hermon Baptist Church as we seek to serve and reach out in hospitality to any and all of those in our community who seek God's love in a church home. Advent is the perfect time to reach many in our midst with the abundant hope and life found in Christ Jesus.

Advent is a time of anticipating what God can and will do. It is not about what we will do. Advent is a time of making ready, but far from the preparations of gift-giving and event planning. We are to prepare a way for the Lord, not for a feast, but for a place for God to move into our hearts. And the only way to make way for the Lord is to open our hearts and souls to Him.

Advent is calling to you, reminding you that there is no list more important than the one with just two words: "Watch. Wait."

In this season of giving and generosity, let us remember the gift that God has given and the love that is made flesh in Christ. May this Advent and Christmas season be full of God's blessings and grace for you. Come join us for our Christmas Eve Communion Service on December 24. The grace of God will bless us as we gather in fellowship.

Come watch and wait with us this Advent. I will see you in church on Sunday.

David Morton, Interim Pastor

PS - Thank you for recognizing me for Pastor Appreciation during a recent service. You have provided a wonderful opportunity in ministry. Your generous gifts and thoughts are very gracious. You are loving people. Many thanks for the opportunity to serve with you. I am prayerful for our church and community as we serve the Lord together. Best regards to all.

OUTREACH

Commanded to Go!

"Jesus never says to the poor: 'come find the church', but he says to those of us in the church: 'go into the world and find the poor, hungry, homeless, imprisoned.'" -Tony Campolo

We are at that time of year when we are given the opportunity to reflect on all the blessings that God has granted to us. At Thanksgiving we pause to thank God for the bounty that he has provided. We give thanks for our families and friends and for the gifts that God's creation has made possible. We acknowledge that all things come from God.

As we anticipate celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we must stay focused on why Jesus came to dwell among us and what he expects from us as we seek to honor his name and wait for his second coming. Jesus instructs us to go out into the world and share his good news of redemption and love for all people. We must not sit back and wait for people, as Tony Campolo describes it, to "come find the church." Jesus commands us to "go into the world and find the poor, hungry, homeless, imprisoned."

Let us individually and collectively pray for the desire to earnestly seek out the unbelieving, the sick, the poor, the hungry, the homeless and the imprisoned. Make us aware of their needs. May we give thanks to God for each of the blessings he has given us and most of all thank God for sending his son to show us the way to receive redemption from our sin. Serve Jesus with gladness! ~Steve Clayton

DISIPLESHIP

As we move into the season of advent once again, we again reflect on not just Jesus' birth but His reason for assuming the incarnation into humanity and living among us. After all these years and all that's been written, there still aren't enough words to describe the gifts of wisdom He gave while He was here, the liberating experience of His ability to reconcile us to the Father or the confidence of an everlasting eternity with Him.

Through discipleship, we grow and learn together not so much what the variety of ways are to express what God has done but what it is to live out a life empowered by the kind of confidence that only a relationship with God can give. When equipped with the confidence that God is in control, we have the best launch platform to be able to explain why we can maintain our smile when it's tough. Don't fight the urge, go ahead and let the reason for your confidence burst out. It's likely you and others will be blessed.



In this season, we once again have the opportunity to help spread the Word of God that gives us confidence. This year we continue to participate in a Christmas offering for Good Shepherd Children's Home in Guatemala. Please prayerfully consider your offering for this work and contribute as the Lord leads your heart. Our goal is \$2,025. The mission tree needs to be decorated again and for every \$25 given, please take a ribbon from the basket and place it on the tree.

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.

~ Bill Butler

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!

STEWARDSHIP

2024	October	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$22,655	\$190,806
Budget Need	<u>\$19,880</u>	<u>\$213,710</u>
Difference	\$ 2,775	(\$ 22,904)

2024	October	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$22,655	\$190,806
October Expenses	<u>\$15,156</u>	<u>\$161,379</u>
Difference	\$ 7,499	\$ 29,427

Property Renovation Fund - \$19,976

Non Budget Renovation Expenses - \$11,836
(courtyard renovation)

HCC Usage Fee: September: \$1,600 YTD: \$15,200

Stewardship Update

As we continue our series of articles about stewardship, this month's topic is

"2025 PROPOSED BUDGET TIMELINE AND INFORMATION"

Each year, members of the congregation are part of a process through which the next year's budget is determined, presented and approved. Here is our timeline for the 2025 Proposed Budget:

Early December: Proposed Budget is Mailed to Members

Sunday, December 22: Budget Discussion During Monthly Business Meeting

Sunday, December 29: Called Business Meeting - Secret Ballot Voting by Members

The total budget for 2025 is very similar to 2024 with weekly offering requirements of \$4,935. While we have done well with meeting our expenses in 2024 (mainly due to several staff vacancies), we have fallen short of our yearly budget requirements. It is anticipated that the new year will bring additional staff and, with that, meeting these weekly offering requirements will be even more important.

We ask that, when received, each member review the proposed 2025 budget and be in prayer concerning tithes and offerings for the coming year. It is important that all attend the December 22 business meeting where a budget discussion is planned.

Your Stewardship Committee

Those Needing Our Prayers...

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

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews
Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera

Those lost to and affected by Hurricanes Helen and Milton
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

Victims of 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

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14



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



OCIM

Needs Food items

particularly needed are cereal, jelly, soup, crackers, rice, peanut butter, oatmeal, condiments, pinto beans, pork n' beans, canned meats and vegetables.



Memorial donations made in memory of Dan Vogel by:

Bruce Bonar ~ Wanda Allen
Levirn Shoffner ~ Edna Berry
Joyce Dennis ~ Faye Weeber
Samuel Allen

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.

If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. John 12:26

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 Chris Lewis	12/25 Jesus Christ
12/02 John Mark Frederick	12/25 Wendy Riley
12/17 Elizabeth Millar	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/08 Ivan Serrano	01/21 Steve Paschall
01/19 Dean Dixon	01/22 Janice Thompson

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

Children and Youth Ministry

We are excited to announce our 2025 summer youth mission experience will be held again in Middlesbrough, Kentucky. We will go in July and partner with John Dewitt’s group from Rolesville Baptist Church. Details will be forthcoming in the months ahead and several fundraisers will take place. Our next one is our annual Christmas wrapping fundraiser Saturday, December 7 from 10 AM-2 PM. Bring your presents and make a donation! We appreciate so much your support for our youth ministry at Mount Hermon.



Welcome House shared ministry is all about connections. Connecting with newcomers, connecting with civic partners, connecting with ministry partners, connecting with nonprofits, connecting with volunteers, connecting

with landlords and employers and teachers. Connecting with neighbors. We believe that God has called us to community and so we work each day to strengthen and broaden those connections. We believe that the Holy Spirit compels us to link up and live with a joy that finds its center and heart in love. We believe that when we follow the example of Jesus and welcome the stranger life changes for the better. What a Joy!

I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my father I have made known to you. John 15:15

Wednesday, December 11, Dr. Randy Carter has been invited to speak to our congregation during the Wednesday evening study group at 6:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

Welcome House Raleigh is part of CBF North Carolina’s Welcome Network, a collaborative mission’s program of CBFNC, CBF field personnel, partner churches and individuals that provides hospitality ministry to vulnerable neighbors across the state.

OCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH:
PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH:
TOOTHPASTE



December 7;
10:00a-2:00p
Gift Wrapping
Youth
Fundraiser



138 Shoeboxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child and all the shipping cost was covered. Thank You to everyone who gave!

MUSIC MINISTRY



DECEMBER 15
3rd Sunday of Advent
Preparing for Christmas:
A Service of Carols

Invite Family and Friends
to this Special Music Service.