

CHURCH EVENTS

January 1

Happy New Year
Church Office Closed

January 3

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

January 4

Called Business Mtg
Lord's Supper
1:30p Deacons' Mtg
College Student Lunch

January 7

5:00p Potluck Dinner

January 12

6:00p Church Council Meeting

January 18

Business Meeting
Following Worship

January 22

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

DEACONS

New Deacons 2026-2028

Steve Couch
John Frederick

Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

**January
2026**

Pastor's Pen

A Blessed Epiphany Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all of our MHBC families!!! Yes, we have reached another milestone in January 2026! A new season of the church as well as a new year of the calendar. One is a very concrete one, affecting our daily lives directly, our planning for each day of the next year. The other is a "religious" one, an unseeable concept that few people have heard of, even church attenders.

EPIPHANY - a wonderful word, but not one used often in our regular conversation. In terms of meaning, we can go in two directions: ordinary, every day use - **a moment of sudden revelation or insight** - such as "a few years ago I had an epiphany about how I could change my sermons..."; a Christian view - **the manifestation of Christ to the world** - God come to earth just as God promised in the Old Testament. This child - proclaimed by angels, visited by shepherds, sought out by the wise men, is recognized as the Promised One.

Another image of epiphany is that of light breaking into our world, bringing life-changing actions into the lives of all who believe. God made known the birth of the Son by the light of a star. When life is changed, transformed; when life is turned upside down, we realize that we have received more than a life-improvement plan. We have received the gift of transformation.

This prayer, whose author is unknown, spoke to me as a very good reminder and prayer as we start a new year:

Lord, We are your people, the sheep of your flock. Heal the sheep who are wounded, touch the sheep who are in pain, clean the sheep who are soiled, warm the lambs, who are cold. Help us to know the Father's love through Jesus the shepherd and through the Holy Spirit. Help us to lift up that love, and show it all over the land. Help us to build love on justice and justice on love. Help us to believe mightily, hope joyfully, love divinely, renew us that we may help renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Pastor Scott

"Let all that you do be done in love." I Corinthians 16:14

Services available on CD upon request and on our YouTube Channel

**OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH:
DEODORANT**

**Ocim Item Of The Month:
SOUP & CRACKERS**

JANUARY DEACON MINISTRY:
Bill Butler/Shaina Riley

*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*

DISCIPLESHIP

Certainly, discipleship is rooted in our relationships with one another. Why? It's a matter of sufficient familiarity to be able to confide in brothers and sisters without fear. Lacking a degree of intimacy, each of us instinctively lacks trust in our fellow man. Since sin entered the world at the time of Adam, that would certainly be a reasonable response..

Our acceptance of Christ as savior began our journey toward a new nature. Perhaps Romans 12:2 states this a little better "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" While reading the Bible and praying will take us a long way in that journey, we all hit times when there are tough spots, things we don't understand or we simply fall prey to the carnal mind that continues to live inside us. It's at those times that we need to be able to reveal our weakness to the trusted brothers and sisters with whom we've developed relationships for their prayers and support.

There are times too, when we fall into a sin and just like Adam and Eve who tried to cover themselves with fig leaves, we may make a frail attempt to find another covering to hide behind. For our friends, we have a responsibility which runs contrary to what Cain asked in Genesis. When Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper", he had no idea that God's unspoken response would be "YES!". Then again, Cain was attempting to frailly cover with another "fig leaf". For us, the answer is also yes but we've been given some instruction on how that caring should look.

There are a number of verses that tell us how to proceed in assisting a brother or sister but every one of them involves doing that in a spirit of love. How about this from Galatians 6? "*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*" Hiding behind a figurative fig leaf is a badge of shame. There's no need for us to pile on guilt and shame. Our job is exhortation. It's our responsibility to help our Christian siblings escape guilt and shame and become productive once again.

May this congregation continue to display this kind of love to all in 2026. In Christ may we find a highly enlightening and productive year! ~ Bill Butler

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

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

What a busy year we have had in Youth and Children's Ministry! From fundraisers, to mission opportunities, to games and parties. We have had a lot of fun. But what I have loved best is the spiritual growth I have seen during our Wednesday night suppers and studies among the students both young and old. Just when you think they're not listening, you ask a question and the answer just blows me away.

Thank you to the church for your continued prayers, love and support. Without you, we wouldn't be functioning. Your generosity in support of Youth and Children's Ministry is unequaled and I can't thank you enough.

Also, continuing in January, we will continue to send care packages to our college students so thank you in advance for your donations.

As we look forward to 2026, please pray for the students, but also for us as leaders. We earnestly want them to come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior and then to continue to grow in him.

Cookie, Leah, John and Kevin

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)

STEWARSHIP

2025	November	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$24,996	\$198,508
Budget Need	<u>\$24,675</u>	<u>\$236,880</u>
Difference	\$ 321	(\$ 38,372)

2025	November	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$24,996	\$198,508
November Expenses	<u>\$18,570</u>	<u>\$162,941</u>
Difference	\$ 6,425	\$ 35,567

Property Renovation Fund - \$14,869

STEWARSHIP NEWS

A vote to approve the proposed budget will be taken by secret ballot at a Called Business Meeting on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

At this meeting, the Stewardship Committee will make a recommendation to accept the 2026 proposed budget with one change: Section 6000, Line 3 (Insurance), will be reduced from \$23,000 to \$13,500 due to a change in our insurance provider.

This will reduce the total budget by \$9,500 (Total Budget - \$254,459) and adjust the weekly offering requirement to \$4,894. Thank you to our Treasurer and Trustees for locating ways to reduce our yearly expenses.

Please be in prayer as you consider your tithes and offerings for the coming year.

Those Needing Our Prayers...

Georgia Barnette	Joseph Dennard	Brenda Redman
Ronda Barton	Wendy Dixon	Peggy Rhodes
Edna Berry	Judy Hanson	Ridge Riley
Donna Chamberlain	Brittany Harper	Robbe Riley
Bill Clayton	Lucille King	Rosa Shambley
Byram Clayton	Peggy Parker	Crystal Wasdin
Ruth Crispin	Betty Jane Poole	Bob & Virginia Winecoff

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews
 TerraBella - Joyce Dennis
 Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera
 Home Hospice Care - Sue Johnson (David Morton's MIL)

Pray for

Reverend Scott Wasdin and our Church
 The Personnel 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 and victims of violence

AROUND THE WORLD

Peace in Ukraine and Israel and an end to all wars
 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

Louis Tedder, recipient of our November College Student Care Package would like to thank the church family for their love and generosity. He very much appreciated the love that went into his box along with the food, cards, money, etc.

Happy New Year!! January Gathering Info



We'll begin our new year by having a joint meeting with the Baptist Men on Saturday, January 3, 2026. During our time together, we will share a light breakfast, pray and listen as Kathryn Dempsey brings us highlights from her recent trip to Armenia.

Make plans to join us at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL MISSION OFFERING:

We continue to participate in a Christmas offering for Good Shepherd Children's Home in Guatemala.



**Our goal is \$2,100
 Raised to Date: \$3,638**

Sunday, January 4th is our last day to collect for this offering.

Pastor:
Secretary:

Scott Wasdin
Peggy Mason

Church Office

Hours: Monday—Friday 9 am—11:30 am
Phone: 919-383-2982
Email: mounthermondurham@gmail.com
Website: mounthermondurham.org
Pastor Scott's Email: swasdin@gmail.com
Pastor Scott's Phone: 423-637-5813

Please keep church office informed of change of address.

MOUNT HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH
4511 OLD NC 10
DURHAM, NC 27705

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/08 Ivan Serrano	01/20 Dean Bidgood
01/17 James Compton	01/22 Janice Thompson
01/19 Dean Dixon	01/31 Crystal Wasdin

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/01 William Clayton	02/12 Valentina Serrano Gonzalez
02/04 Eddie Lee	02/14 Kathryn Dempsey
	02/19 Shirley Robinson

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/05 Tim & Janice Thompson
02/14 Glenn & Evelyn Lilly

All rotating committees will meet on Saturday, January 10th to address committee duties and name a committee chair person. If you are on a committee please plan to attend at the following times.

Schedule:

9:00a	Sanctuary Committee
9:30a	Properties Committee
10:00a	Special Events Committee
10:30a	Personnel Committee
11:00a	Stewardship Committee
11:30a	Nominating Committee

All committee members should attend.

OUTREACH

"Seek And Save"

The beginning of a new year is a good time to reflect on the priorities we embrace in our life. The prophet Haggai challenged the Jews returning from exile to examine their priorities when he declared "Now this is what the Lord Almighty says 'Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted seed but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough....You put on clothes, but you are not warm. You earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes in it.'"

When I read those words, I felt like Haggai was talking to me! Life gets so busy; we are pulled in so many directions and it is easy to lose sight of what is important. God requires that we serve him and keep him at the center of our life. God is showing us the way to a fulfilling life through the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Some questions to consider:

I hope we will all be intentional about improving our walk with the Lord and with those that we meet each day. How can we be encouragers? Let's try our very best to really "hear and see" those we come in contact with.

All that we have is a gift from God. How can we best use the resources God has provided for us? What are our goals for financial stewardship? Does our giving honor God and his church?

How can we best use the spiritual gifts that God has given us? We are called to give our best in all that we do. Our families, fellow church members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers are relying on us.

How can we best support our pastor, church leadership and fellow church members? Let us resolve to continue to be a church where members encourage each other and offer constructive, Holy Spirit led direction when needed for the spiritual health of each member and for the church as the body of Christ.

What can we do to enrich our family's spiritual health? Our children and grandchildren are always watching. Let's help them to thrive as they grow in their faith.

In the conversation that Jesus had with Zaccheus the tax collector, recorded in Luke 19:10, the central reason for Jesus coming to live among men was described as "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Jesus has commanded us to follow his example. We must also live to seek and save what was lost. We can do no less and still remain true to his Gospel message and our Christian calling. Let's join together and fulfill his command. ~ Steve