

CHURCH EVENT

May 2

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

May 3

Lord's Supper
1:30p Deacons' Mtg

May 6

5:00p Potluck Dinner

May 10

Mother's Day

May 16

10:00a Children's
Outing to Burlington Park

May 17

Business Meeting

May 18

6:00p Church Council Meeting

May 21

Newsletter Input Due

May 24

Pentecost Sunday

May 25

Memorial Day
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

Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

May
2026

Pastor's Pen

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." – [Ecclesiastes 3:1](#)

This week, I decided it was finally safe to put the winter coats and flannel away. At this point, I certainly hope we don't see any more of that white or icy stuff for many months (Or years!)! The season has dramatically changed in the last few weeks, and for many of us, it is a most welcome and beautiful change.

The changes in our weather aren't the only seasons that we experience in our life. In fact, King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that "for everything there is a season." I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Ecclesiastes 3 along with this article. Solomon gives many examples of "changing seasons" in that chapter. Here are a few examples: our life in its entirety is but a season in the greater concept of time. There is a planting season and a harvest season, times of sadness and times of laughter, seasons to save and store, and there are times to spend and give.

For many of us, the warmer weather isn't the only change of season happening right now. Some of our MHBC families have graduating seniors in our congregation who are ending this season of life and heading off to college in the fall.

At the end of his list of seasons in Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon says that these are paths for our journeys God has given to mankind and that He has made everything beautiful in its time. You know, these kinds of changes are often wonderful, but there are also changing seasons that are painful and filled with sorrow. Those seasons can last days or weeks, months or even years! One of the main points of the book of Ecclesiastes is that God is in control through all these seasons of life and that He is good to us. It may not always look like it, but God sees things from a different angle, a better and eternal perspective, and He makes everything beautiful in its time!

Because of that, Solomon says in [Ecclesiastes 3:12-13](#) that the best thing for mankind in whatever we do in any season is to be joyful, "do good" as long as we live, and take pleasure in our toil or work, whatever it is. He says that this is God's gift to man. In other words, He's in control so enjoy yourselves! Isn't that kind of a fun and amazing thought?!

Sometimes changes in our life cause fear. By nature, we don't always like change. If that's you, whether you're graduating from high school or college, getting married or having a baby, moving or retiring, remember that God is in control, He's good to you, and He'll take care of you, so enjoy whatever God has in store for your next season of life!

In His grip! Pastor Scott

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH:
SHAMPOO

OCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH:
CANNED MEATS

MAY DEACON MINISTRY:
Peggy Mason/Janice Thompson



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
May 10th

DEACONS

Steve Clayton	A-B
John Frederick	C-Dem
Shaina Riley	Den-G
Steve Couch	H-L
Janice Thompson	M-O
Bill Butler	P-R
Peggy Mason	S-Z

Services available on CD upon request and on our YouTube Channel

OUTREACH

Tell Others About Jesus!

Sharing our faith does not require a theology degree or a perfect life. It starts with a willing heart and a love for others. Faith sharing isn't about winning debates it's about loving people. As opportunities arise to discuss matters of faith and life, listen carefully, and gently share the hope found in Jesus. Listen with an open and compassionate heart, remembering the truth presented in Romans 3: 23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We are all pilgrims on a journey, seeking the truth and salvation. Jesus told his disciples, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

Help someone to begin, or come back to, their journey of faith. We can help someone take their next step without overwhelming them. You might invite them to attend church or small group, read the Bible with you, and ask Jesus into their life when they feel ready.

The gift of faith and salvation is priceless. Reach out to the people you meet and share that gift whenever you can! ~ Steve Clayton

Easter Missions Offering - Alamance Orange Prison Ministry

Church Goal: \$2,000; Raised to Date: \$.

DISCIPLESHIP

Proverbs 17:22 says, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Look around you. How many people can you spot who are having a bad day, a bad month, a bad year or maybe even feel like they haven't and can't catch a break anywhere in life. We see it and we're aware of it but how do we facilitate change from this? First we stop being intimidated by the big picture. There's absolutely no big spread net we can cast and there's not some magic shotgun type blast to universally pepper mankind to universally take away the crushed spirit. Let's look at a verse a little earlier in Proverbs 17. Verse 17 tells us this, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Let's be brutally honest. Each of us has some facet that feels incomplete, insufficient or in some way holds us back. If we choose to focus too much on our flaws or "broken bits" we may begin to let that flaw define who or what we are. It takes a friend to help us realize we all have our personal warts or broken bits that need to be worked around. It's that type of friend that gets you refocused on the whole individual instead of that small broken part.

While we're talking about Proverbs, let's take a look at one more verse. Proverbs 18:24 (KJV) says this, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Many have said that the friend that sticks closer than a brother is Christ. To understand how closely Christ cares and sticks close, we need to look no further than John 3:16-17. Those two verses say this, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

As we look out on the world and see folks with aching, hurting spirits, let's do our best to befriend them and one by one offer them the truth that we possess in our hearts. Certainly, we shouldn't and won't forget the more temporal needs of individuals but the gift of knowledge of a previously unknown Christ has to be the greatest gift we can give. ~ Bill Butler

~ May Update ~



The Ladies' Fellowship will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 2. We'll begin with a light breakfast, followed by prayer and a devotion. This month's gathering will focus on an important conversation about our church—where we are, what we need, and how our group's contributions can meaningfully support its mission.

As we reflect on the church's ministries, we'll share ideas, hopes, and practical steps for strengthening our fellowship and outreach. Everyone's voice matters, and your insight will help shape the direction of our work in the months ahead.

We look forward to a meaningful morning of connection, vision casting, and encouragement. Hope to see you there!

STEWARDSHIP

2026	March	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$26,792	\$57,788
Budget Need	<u>\$24,470</u>	<u>\$63,622</u>
Difference	\$ 2,322	(\$ 5,834)

2026	March	Year-to-Date
General Budget Income	\$26,792	\$57,788
February Expenses	<u>\$16,699</u>	<u>\$51,896</u>
Difference	\$10,093	\$ 5,892

Property Renovation Fund - \$19,391

At the March business meeting we voted to call Mark Simonsen as our new Music Leader at an annual salary of \$23,000. This salary will be achieved by combining the Music Leader salary and the Accompanist salary from the current 2026 budget along with an annual increase of \$1,305. This will increase our weekly budget need from \$4,894 to \$4,919 (\$25. per week).

Please pray for the financial health of the church.

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

Those Needing Our Prayers...

Georgia Barnette	Byram Clayton	Peggy Rhodes
Ronda Barton	Ruth Crispin	Ridge Riley
Edna Berry	Joseph Dennard	Robbe Riley
Donna Chamberlain	Mark King	Anna Stevens
Alice Clayton	Peggy Parker	Crystal Wasdin
Bill Clayton	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)

Harmony House - Lucille King

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

The people of Iran and the Christians in Nigeria

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

From Our Music Leader, Mark Simonsen!

I grew up a shy, left-handed, flat-footed and colorblind child in a German-speaking family. My parents had emigrated separately from northern Europe- my father from rural Denmark and my mother from rural/industrial Germany. They met at NCSU in the early 1960s and fell in love, settling in Raleigh to start a family.

From the moment that I became aware of the the constant underlying soundtrack of classical music that played all waking hours in our household, I knew that music was an important part of life. As I learned about the violin while attending Suzuki classes as a seven year old, I knew that I would be a musician. Around the age of 10, I started playing drums for the early "Folk Service" in the Lutheran church we attended every Sunday (HTELC Raleigh). It was in this environment that I began to understand the interrelationship of spirituality and music and the musical sensitivity required in a sanctuary with the many organizing factors of a "Church Service." Not long thereafter, I found a guitar in the woods, fixed it up, and started to learn to strum. When I eventually announced to my parents that I would like to study music, they said "you will need piano lessons" (best parents ever!).

I began performing music professionally while I was still in high school and continued to do so while studying composition and percussion performance at UNC-CH. I also took classes in Religious Studies, Folklore, Psychology and Philosophy at UNC. I studied New Testament under Bart Ehrman who eventually became a well known expert in the Gnostic Gospels. Because I had studied ancient Greek, I ended up having some good old-fashioned theological discourse with Professor Ehrman. I was a life-long Christian in the midst of a spiritual awakening.

I graduated from UNC with the intention of going to Divinity school to follow in the footsteps of my parents who were academics that remained faithful to their Christian beliefs. However, when I got my degree from UNC, I was already gainfully employed as a touring musician (which I enjoyed thoroughly) so the continued study was put off till a "TBD" future date (which has yet to be realized). I was involved with musical projects of all sorts and eventually was hired as a theater musician and music director for all manner of productions. The theater gigs helped to introduce me to a beautiful young actress, musician and, I would eventually realize, Christian(!). We nurtured a friendship that eventually led to us becoming very close, getting married and adopting our son William.

During the past 20+ years, I have continued to be a Church musician taking worship-leadership roles bouncing between several churches in the triangle area. Having had experience in building music studios, I have also been a music producer/arranger, composer, conductor and studio engineer in addition to teaching music in the public schools and elsewhere. I have also been a festival coordinator having spent several years as the Master Carpenter and Site Coordinator for the Eno River Festival among other seasonal events. I have composed and recorded music for documentary and feature films and theater.

I am honored to be considered for the position of Music/Choir Director at Mount Hermon and look forward to working with the choir, congregation and staff- thank you!

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/13 Caleb Clayton 05/27 Scott Wasdin
05/13 Josh Wasdin 05/29 Glenn Lilly

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/18 Gary & Katrina Paschall
05/18 Steve & Alice Clayton

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/01 Piper Clayton 06/25 Morgan Mayse
06/07 Steve Couch 06/27 Ronda Barton
06/08 Paulina Serrano Gonzalez 06/30 Xander Wasdin

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

0/02 Todd & Wendy Riley
06/22 Dean & Diane Bidgood

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



Class of 2026
Graduate Recognition Sunday
June 14

Please let the church office know if you or
your child/grandchild is graduating this year from high
school or a higher learning institution.

ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS

Soups / Cereal / Crackers	Canned Vegetables
Pasta Sauce / Beef Stew	Canned Pasta / Pinto Beans
Mayonnaise / Deodorant	Macaroni & Cheese
Toothbrushes / Toothpaste	Fruit Bars / Canned Fruit
Toilet Paper / Baby Wipes	Applesauce / Oatmeal / Jelly
Laundry Detergent	Canned Chicken / Rice

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



As I'm writing this, we are preparing for DNow, a discipleship weekend for the youth. This is such a fun weekend of service and learning and growing together as a group. Our group is growing and I want to give shout outs to the youth that are inviting their friends and siblings and classmates and neighbors. The adult leadership is taking no credit for this. This is all on the youth and this gives me pause. If the youth membership has doubled because they are inviting others, what does that say about us as adult members. If our church is to grow it has to be because we intentionally are inviting others to come. Do

you have family, friends, neighbors that are unchurched? Invite them to come to church on Sunday morning. We have wonderful small groups where they would feel the love of Jesus and the right hand of fellowship. We have Wednesday night Bible Study lead by Pastor Scott to dig deeper into the Word. If you're not attending you should. We have a wonderful, loving church and it would be a shame to keep it a secret. Tell others about it. What are you waiting for?

PS we are not forgetting our younger children. **On Saturday, May 16th 10 am-2 pm** all the children, 2 years through 5th grade and their families are invited to the **Burlington City Park Amusement Area** where we will ride rides and play and have a picnic and finish up with ice cream!!!! Cost:FREE!!!! Please let Cookie know if you are coming!