

## Be Like Mary



*<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple (John 20:1-2)*

As the disciples and all the Marys were at the cross witnessing the Son of God being crucified, they could not see past this event. We understand not being able to see past the pain and suffering. We understand not being able to dream or think past this day. For more than one year now, it has been very hard for us to see past Covid-19. Covid-19 has been horrible and too many people have been sick and even died in our own community! Covid-19 forced us to do ministry in a different way. We will forever be impacted by this virus.

Are you like Mary? In the midst of not seeing past today, are you willing to get up early and go to the unknown? Are you bursting forward with new life? Are you ready to come and be the church community again?

Just as we are beginning to see trees bloom, daffodils and tulips open, and even seeing yellow pollen blowing like a dust cloud, we can begin to see past the present. We can begin to see and dream of new possibilities. We can begin to see resurrection.

Perhaps we are close to being able to go see a sunrise at the beach. Maybe we are even able to soon go sit together as a group on the beach and talk and be in creation together. Hopefully someday soon, we will be able to go together as a group for a congregation retreat and spend time away from the places that have confined us for far-too-long.

We enter Holy Week with Palm Sunday, branches and “hosannas” and happiness. Our moods are then halted as we hear of Jesus telling us to love one another as he has loved us. He shares the Last Supper and tells us to “do this in remembrance of me.” We drink of the cup on Thursday, and we receive a nail from the same chalice on Good Friday. We too, will not look past the event of Maundy Thursday until Good Friday. We will not look past Good Friday until Easter morning. We will live in the moments of the days as we join for worship each night.

Come and journey with the community as we enter the Three Days!

Sister in Christ,

*Pastor Gina*

PS. We will then Be Like Mary on Easter Sunday.

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

*Greetings on this hopeful day!*



Please make sure you thank your choir members for their dedication through this past year and a half of very hard work and dedication. I am sure it has been difficult dealing with life in general as well as putting so much time and effort into serving the music program. I will thank them in advance for the upcoming Holy Week and Easter festival as

well as those who will come in to assist us as we choose to give our congregation two services on these most important festivals.

For those choir members interested in rejoining or joining for the first time – look for a notice after Easter concerning your rehearsal times, as they will not be the same as the choir rehearsals already in place. We will need to work on your voices for a few weeks to get them back in shape. You will probably begin singing for services sometime during the summer or early fall. I am so looking forward to reuniting with all of you and our new prospects. I hope that you all have had a blessed year thus far and look ahead to brighter things in our near future.

Please contact me via email or phone to begin getting our choir back together.

**God's blessings,  
Ruthie Brannen**

Please note Ruthie's has a new email address:  
[Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com)



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Congregational Council Mini Minutes February 14, 2021 via Zoom

**ATTENDANCE:** All were present with the exception of Jenny Scott

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Praying for Richard Lindler, Don Freedman, family of Merritt King after his death, Buddy Hydrick's cousin David, and Earl Sease's sister Iris

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Approved with no additions

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Approved with no corrections

### **REPORTS:**

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. Confirmation of seven boys on Palm Sunday March 28, 2021. We will begin praying each Sunday for one of our 12 local churches. Conducted funeral of Ray Prater.
- Treasurer: Written report received for January 2021.
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for January 2021.

### **Team Reports/Recommendations:**

1. Worship: Written report received from February 1, 2021 meeting. Additional volunteers needed to usher on Sundays.
2. Outreach: Written report received from January 18, 2021 meeting. Discussed possibly forming committee for Communication that would report to Outreach Team. This committee would help maintain website, social media presence, etc.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Cross on Sanctuary: Signtech has built our new cross and waiting on installation.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Building Renovation & Repair Task Force: We have \$60,309.20 balance in the bank from air conditioner loan. Our total air conditioner and Building on Holy Ground loan at 3.99% expires in November 2021. We recommend forming this committee to study maintenance needed on our campus such as painting, new carpet, repairing windows, and other deferred maintenance. Earl Sease, Marion Leaphart, Blake Allen, and Ronnie Fulmer agree to serve. They will also ask our sextons and others on Property Board to serve.

**Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary**

## **Treasurer Report March 2021**

	<b><u>Actual Income</u></b>	<b><u>Actual Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
<b>Current &amp; Benevolence</b>	34,548.65	31,981.65	2,567.00
<b>Building Improvement</b>	2,792.44	3,588.36	(795.92)
<b>Building on Holy Ground</b>	10,470.90	10,000.00	470.90

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**Tithe.ly** Online Giving. You may download the Tithely app and select Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church 3011 Leaphart Road Or you may give from our website at [www.mthlc.com](http://www.mthlc.com) and select *Online Giving* <http://www.WeAreMtHermon.com/online-giving.html>



## ***2021 Altar Flowers***

Sign-up board is in the office hallway. You can sign-up when in the church or by calling the church.

Upcoming open dates:

**Apr 18<sup>th</sup>, Apr 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Jun 13<sup>th</sup>, Jun 20<sup>th</sup>**

**July 11<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>**



You may send an email to [office@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:office@WeAreMtHermon.com) to claim your date and also send your dedication information.



<b>Live Stream Check-ins + In-person = Total</b>				
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	92	+	34	<b>126</b>
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	82	+	28	<b>110</b>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	74	+	35	<b>109</b>
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	86	+	28	<b>114</b>

## **Thank You...**

Thank you for your prayers and concerns about me. I had my 3<sup>rd</sup> biopsy on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month and am waiting on the results of those tests. Hopefully, we will find out when and what treatments will be done to combat this cancer. Thank you for your prayers and support.



**Buddy Hydrick**



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Good Friday  
In-Person &  
Live Stream  
7:00 pm



*He is Risen*

8:30 Preservice Concert  
9:00 Resurrection Worship  
In Person & Live Streaming

11:00 am Second Service  
In person (no LiveStream)

Anytime on Sunday  
Place flowers in the cross at  
the steps of the sanctuary

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

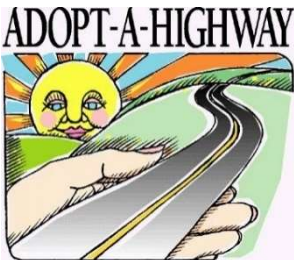


## Outreach happenings . . .



American Red Cross Blood Drive Mt. Hermon is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, April 18 from 11:30 am – 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to donate to save a life. Red Cross is in need of blood to help save lives. Most donors will

make a whole blood donation, but we encourage those with blood types O, A- and B- to consider a Power Red donation. Donors can sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) with Sponsor Code “mthermon,” or go straight to this link: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/driveresults?zipSponsor=mthermon>. There is a special promotion to encourage younger donors the month of April. Youth (ages 16-24) will receive a \$10 gift card via e-mail. 16- year-old donors will need a completed Parental Consent Form to donate.



**Adopt-A- Highway** -Please plan to help clean up Leaphart Road during the next Adopt-a-Hwy. Mt. Hermon adopted most of Leaphart Road many years ago. Our next pickup is scheduled for **Saturday, May 15 at 9:00am**. Please mark your calendars now and plan to help.

**Little Free Library** –There are books for all ages in our Little Free Library. Please come at your leisure to check-out the books available. We change the books in the Library every week or so. People can borrow, donate, exchange or keep the books in the Little Free Library. It is a world-wide book sharing program to promote literacy and community unity. Thank you for the donations of books we have received.





# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



**Food Pantry** – We were able to provide 96 “setups” of food for families in January and 100 in February. Each “setup” contains three bags of groceries/toiletries totaling over \$20. Thank you for your continuing donations which make this ministry possible.

The list of food and toiletries that we normally distribute is on the church website. In addition to those items, we also try to make available items such as: deodorant, laundry detergent, dish soap, diapers, cleaning supplies, shampoo, conditioner, etc. We are always appreciative of any donations that you are able to provide.

**Easter Bags** - We plan to distribute 40 Easter meals to people through the Food Pantry. Each family will receive cans of ham, green beans, pineapples, yams, carrots, boxed scalloped potatoes & brownie mix or cookies in addition to the regular “setup” of food they receive. Thank you to Bonnie Bouknight for decorating the bags and to Trudy Bouknight for applying for a Thrivent Action Team Grant to help with this project.



**Fresh Vegetables** - We are hoping to occasionally offer fresh fruit and/or vegetables in the near future. If your gardens have an abundance that you would like to share with those in need, we would be happy to distribute the food through the Food Pantry.

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Devona Price becomes Chief Human Resources Officer



Superintendent Greg Little, ED.D., announced today that the Board of Trustees approved four administrator promotions during their March 16, 2021 Meeting. The board approved the promotion of Devona L. Price to the position of chief human resources officer.

## BC Reunion 1965-75

Venue: Embassy Suites Columbia Greystone

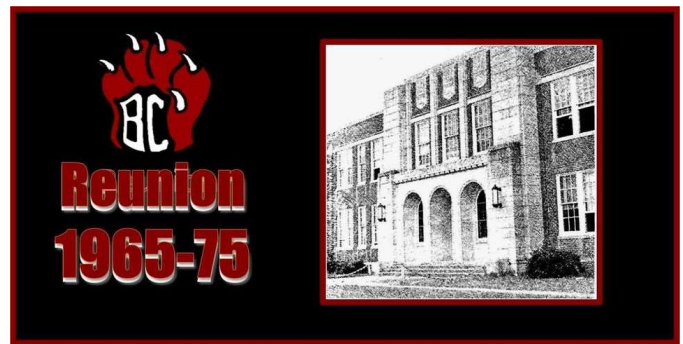
Address: 200 Stoneridge Dr., Columbia, SC

Date: Saturday - October 30, 2021

Ticket Price: \$75 per person

Attire: Dressy Casual

We are expecting a large turnout for this milestone event. To help the planning committee, please purchase your tickets as early as possible.



**Outreach Team Members 2021:** Angie Hydrick, Jenny Scott, Eric Carroll, Mary Koon, Jo Leach, Laura Stevens, Mitch Stevens, Nancy Addison, Allison Swygert, Mike Rawl, Leah Rawl, Lynn Bouknight, Sheila Starkey, Pastor Gina and Diane Boulware, Outreach Team Leader.





## MT HERMON PRAYS ...

### **Continual Prayers**

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*

Alberta Berry, *home*

Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*

Lyle Bockus, *Springdale Home*

Nell Buff, *home*

Margie Hook, *home*

Gennar Kiser, *home*

Rev. Everette Price, *home*

June Roof, *Rapha*

Tom Roof, *home*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

### **Members in Special Need of Prayer**

Shirley Cooper

Jerry Ellisor

Buddy Hydrick

Jo Leach

Jane Sexton

### **Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers**

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*

David Hydrick, *cousin of Buddy Hydrick*

Clara Shultz, *friend of Sheila Starkey*

Debbie Smith & family, *niece of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*

Sarah Hiltz, *granddaughter of Buddy & Angie Hydrick*

Charlotte & Paul Nelson, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Richard Lindler, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Robert Lindler, *father of Cassie Swygert*

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*

Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*

Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*

Floyd Fuller, *uncle of David Marsh*

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

Gary & Linda Hodgin, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Kathy Brown, *friend of congregation*

Donnie Shumpert, *brother-in-law of Andrea Bowers & Jan Schofield*

Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*

Don Cope, *friend of Ricky & Fran Bouknight*

The Logan Sharpe family, *teammate/friend of Skyler Miller*

Don Freeman, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Jessica Drigger's mother, *friend of Denise Thurman*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Dr. Kay Moore, *friend and co-worker of Cyndi Leaphart*

Thomas McDonald, *son-in-law of Joel and Cindy Price*

Cindy Maples, *mother of Jennifer Miller*

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**Apr 04**

Jake Dugan  
Georgiana Gray  
Tom Stahl

**Apr 06**

Virginia Ellisor

**Apr 07**

Easton Kaylor

**Apr 09**

Becky Wise

**Apr 10**

Jamie Addison  
Jane Sexton  
Amanda Smith

**Apr 11**

Samantha Bucknam



**Apr 12**

June Roof

**Apr 17**

Alyson Price

**Apr 19**

Becky Ellisor

Marvin Mathias

**Apr 22**

Linda Waters-Hamilton

**Apr 25**

Laura Stevens

**Apr 29**

Jennifer Miller

**Apr 30**

Susan Busby



**Apr 03**

Dan & Shirley Cooper

**Apr 04**

Bryan & Missy Addy

**Apr 06**

Al & Laura Stevens

**Apr 14**

Blake & Brittany Allen

**Apr 22**

Jamie & Nancy Addison

**Apr 25**

Jerry & Becky Ellisor

**FYI**

*Birthdays and  
Anniversaries can  
also be found on  
pages 58-62 of the  
Annual Report.*

*If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, please contact the church office at 803.794.6430 or send an email to [Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com)*

*We are sorry we did not have the information in time of printing!*

# April 2021

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> Easter Sunday Worship Live Stream 11:00 am 11:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>5</b> Easter Monday Pastor Gina Vacation 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Worship Team 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>6</b> Pastor Gina Vacation 6:35 pm	<b>7</b> Pastor Gina Vacation 9:00 am Food Pantry (Frank & Bonnie Bouknight, Andrea Bowers) 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>8</b> Pastor Gina Vacation 6:35 pm	<b>9</b> Pastor Gina Vacation 6:35 pm	<b>10</b> Pastor Gina Vacation 9:00 am Food Pantry (Terry & Allison Swygert) 6:35 pm Devotions
<b>11</b> Pastor Gina Vacation Worship Live Stream Zoom: Sunday School 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>12</b> Staff Meeting 10:00 am Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>13</b> Executive committee 6:00 pm Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>14</b> Food Pantry (Diane Boulware & Mary Frances Sease) 9:00 am 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>15</b> Tax Day 6:35 pm	<b>16</b> Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>17</b> Food Pantry (Mike Rawl & Laura Stevens) 9:00 am 6:35 pm Devotions
<b>18</b> Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Drive In Communion 6:00 pm Council Meets 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>19</b> Staff Meeting 10:00 am Zoom: Outreach Team 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>20</b> Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>21</b> Food Pantry (Ann Bouknight, Annette Price, Sharon Keefe) 9:00 am 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>22</b> Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>23</b> Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>24</b> Food Pantry (Parker & Diane Boulware) 9:00 am 6:35 pm Devotions
<b>25</b> Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Sunday School ZOOM 9:00 am 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>26</b> Staff Meeting 10:00 am Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>27</b> Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>28</b> Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick, Doris Maddox, Fran Bouknight) 9:00 am 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>29</b> Devotions 6:35 pm	<b>30</b> Devotions 6:35 pm	

\*\*\*Please see "calendar of events" at WeAreMtHermon.com for updates.\*\*\*





*Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church*  
 3011 LEAPHART ROAD  
 WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. 29169

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**In Person Worshippers  
 Please call the office**

As we begin to come back for in-person worship, please call the church office by Thursday at noon to add your name to the in-person list. We will continue to wear masks and socially distance ourselves during in-person worship.

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784 [PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com)  
 Ruthie Brannen, *Director of Music* [Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com)  
 Lisa Crouch, *Parish Administrator* [office@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:office@WeAreMtHermon.com)  
 Matt Hansen, *Seminarian* [Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu](mailto:Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu)

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 West Columbia, SC 29169  
 803.794.6430  
 Monday – Friday  
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
 Pastor Gina 803.951.3784

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