

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

November 2021



Vineyard Workers at #3011LeaphartRoad

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38

I recently sent an email to the church council. Here are some of the items I included in the message:

You need to know this! It's news too good to keep to myself! There is a major event happening each Sunday beginning this Sunday and lasting through the end of the year! Here are the events in November.

November 7: All Saints Sunday (Day Light Savings Ends)

We will remember those saints whom we have laid to rest this year. We have 8 persons whom we light candles for during worship. This is also the Sunday for the congregation to nominate council persons.

November 15: Brandon, Katie, and Paisley Donaldson will join and the youngest, Easton will be baptized. We will ask the community to bring water from home to fill the baptismal font. This would be the day if we need to break a tie from the nominations.

November 21: Watson Murdoch Martin will be baptized. This is the son of Danni and Thomas Martin (and Sophie's little brother). Again, we will fill the font with water from our homes. This is also the day of the Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. This is Christ the King Sunday. Also, on the night of November 21, which is the final Sunday in this church year, we have planned an event around the firepit. We will be gathering around the fire pit for a "**re-kindling of our souls and our fires**" as we kick off our return to worship for the New Church Year. This will begin at 5:00 and everyone will be asked to add a "provided" piece of wood to the bonfire. The scripture and singing will be wrapped around our Thanksgivings as we look forward to Advent.

November 28: the First Sunday in Advent. We will join for worship in the sanctuary at 6:00. This service will be a Service of the Light. It will be like Christmas Candlelight service.

Somewhere in all these events, there are additional families who have not chosen an official joining date. We will add the dates as soon as they confirm with me.

Arron & Elyse Kinard, Quentin and Walker

Blake & Lauren Donaldson, Gunner to be baptized

Sharon Keefe

God is up to some incredible things at Mt. Hermon! As I have met with these 5 new families, I told them about the current group of people who "call Mt. Hermon home" and they too, long to see all of us gathering for worship in the sanctuary, around the firepit, and serving God in the community. I look forward to worshipping with each of you workers in the vineyard really soon.

Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Many thanks to everyone who took part in (or attended) our October events! We said we would move forward and with God's blessings we did.

Our first annual food truck fest, under the guidance of Frank Bouknight was a great time of fellowship and fun. We met many members of the community who came out to the event and spoke with Pastor Gina about our church. People brought folding chairs and sat in the lawn to listen to music. It was just a great time for everyone. Thank you, Teach Team, for the children's boxes, thank you Sheila Starkey for the publicity and most of all **THANK YOU FRANK**, for organizing the participating trucks. We planned this as a fundraiser for the Fund for the Arts. We learned a lot about the event and will schedule another at the beginning of the year in '22!

On Sunday, October 10, we celebrated Homecoming with our annual Gospel Sing service at 9:00 AM. Everyone always enjoyed singing the old hymns and bringing back memories of years past. Many thanks to our guest musicians and choir members for such fun music!

Saturday, October 16, our candlelight concert featuring Regan Anthony and myself, was live streamed. Wonderful singing, as always Regan!

October 17 at 2:30 PM, we began our Youth Handbells. We then introduced the puppets to those who came to the combined event at 3:00. Cherub tonechimes began their first rehearsal and they were awesome!

October 31, at the 9:00 service, we will celebrate with a Reformation Festival service. We will sing the traditional Reformation hymns and experience that meaningful sense of our heritage on this special day! Be sure to wear your brightest RED outfit or shirt!

The first Sunday in November we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. During November, we don't schedule many activities due to the Thanksgiving holidays, but we do schedule rehearsals for the cantata and puppet musical, so just come when you can.

Puppet rehearsals:	Saturday, November 6, 3:00 p.m.
	Sunday, November 7, 3:00 p.m.
	Saturday, November 20, 3:00 p.m.
	Sunday, November 21, 3:00 p.m.
	Saturday, November 27, 3:00 p.m.
	Sunday, November 28, 3:00 p.m.

ALL REHEARSALS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!

Mark your December calendar for:

Choir cantata "Rhapsody in Bluegrass" – Sunday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.
Puppet musical – "Angels Aware" – December 12 at 3:00 p.m.

By the way, where are you on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.? I want all of you to think about something: Have we made it easy to stay at home and watch worship services on phones and TVs? It's time to come back and bring your children. The programs such handbells, choirs and puppets, cannot exist if the children are not at church. We miss them and we miss the fellowship that comes with working in church family groups. Only you can make it happen!

As you can see, we are not slowing down at Mt. Hermon - we are trying to bring people back into the house of the Lord!! It is important for us to provide worship experiences and church activities for our congregation. Please feel free to contact me at Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com if you have any suggestions or ideas for activities/worship. Stay safe and may God shower you with blessings each and every day!!

Ruthie Brannen

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Congregational Council Minutes via Zoom September 12, 2021

ATTENDANCE: All were present except Joe Koon and one unfilled position

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for Allison Swygert's daughter-in-law's mom with dementia admitted to hospice house, and Cyndi Thurman recovering at home

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Approved with no additions

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Approved with corrections

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. Homecoming will be October 10th.
- Treasurer: Written report received for August 2021.
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for August 2021.
- Executive Committee: They recommend that council vote to "continue to take advantage of a ministry opportunity" in the parsonage. The tenant would be a pastor at a local church and his wife with no children. He anticipates being in the parsonage for 12-18 months beginning October 1st. The monthly facilities use for this tenant will be \$800. The tenant will be responsible for reimbursing the church for the actual amount of the electricity and water. The only maintenance needed for the parsonage is to clean the carpets at an estimated cost of \$250. **APPROVED** by 11-1 vote.

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Finance Committee: They recommend that if a motion is to be presented to council involving money, the motion must first be presented to the Finance Committee to determine where the funds will come from.

APPROVED They recommend purchasing offering envelopes for 2022 to be direct mailed to members quarterly for a cost of \$340. The line "I communed today" would be removed from envelopes. This would save the church \$300 for 2022. **APPROVED** They recommend that the Office Administrator be paid additional hours as needed, approved by Pastor Gina. These hours will be paid for in an additional check once monthly. The projected additional monies will be included in 2022 budget proposal. **APPROVED**

Outreach: Written report received from August meeting. Fulmer Middle School sent a thank you note for the items received in the school supply drive. Adopt-A-Highway was successfully completed on August 21st. The Red Cross Blood Drive resulted in 29 units of blood donated. The Food Pantry is low on funding but still distributed 78 setups in August.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Building Renovation & Repair Task Force: They recommend moving forward with the noted priority items approved by council. The cost of the projects is not to exceed \$45,000 and to be paid for out of excess loan proceeds. **APPROVED**
2. Cemetery Committee: Previous request rescinded
3. Church activities during Covid: Motion to recommend but not require masks on church property **APPROVED**. Motion to recommend postpone Food Truck Event on October 1st **NOT APPROVED**. Motion to recommend chicken stew event be drive thru/pickup only **APPROVED**. Recommend postpone Sunday School until next council meeting on October 10th **APPROVED**.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Loan Refinance: The Finance Committee recommends accepting the refinancing offer from Security Federal. The existing loan balance of \$306,756.78 would be converted to 68 payments of \$4998.00 at a fixed interest rate of 3.25%. This refinance has no origination fees, no closing costs, no attorney fees, and no appraisal fees. The cost of the refinancing to Mt. Hermon would be \$650. Our current loan expires in December 2021 and has an interest rate of 3.99%. **APPROVED**
2. Council Vacancy: The death of Buddy Hydrick has left an open term with 1 year and 3 months remaining. Our church constitution specifies how a vacancy is to be filled in items C10.04.04, C12.03, and C12.03.01. The member who at the last annual congregational meeting had the highest number of votes not seated on council would be asked to fill the unexpired term. This individual is Sheila Eargle and she has agreed to join council for the remainder of Buddy's term.
3. Council nominees for next month's meeting
4. Next meeting October 10th at 6 pm with devotions by Earl Sease

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Treasurer Report September 2021

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current & Benevolence	162,722.41	165,674.06	(2,951.65)
Building Improvement	22,153.08	13,878.00	8,275.08
Building on Holy Ground	43,786.45	45,000.00	(1,213.55)



Live Stream Check-ins + In-person = Total

October 3 rd	78	+	55	173
October 10 th	83	+	49	132
October 17 th	73	+	66	139
October 24 th	84	+	74	158



Mike Watford
Lila Catt
Ray Prater
Buddy Hydrick

Lois Watson
Virginia Kiser
Margie Hook
*Don Fagg

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ANNUAL MEETING



**Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday
November 21st in the Fellowship Hall –
immediately following worship.**

November 7th, nomination meeting.

November 21, we will elect new council members and also approve the 2022 Ministry Plan.

Baptized into the community of Faith

November 14th

Baptismal Water

needed from your home.

Bring 2-4 oz. of water from your home.

There will be a glass vessel at the entrance of the
sanctuary for you to add your water.

The water will be combined and used in the
baptismal font
and used to baptize

Easton Thomas Donaldson

into the combined community of faith at
Mt Hermon Lutheran Church.

We will also welcome Brandon,
Katie, and Paisley Donaldson into
the Mt. Hermon family.

November 21st

Baptismal Water

needed from your home.

Bring 2-4 oz. of water from your home.

There will be a glass vessel at the entrance of the
sanctuary for you to add your water.

The water will be combined and used in the
baptismal font
and used to baptize

Watson Murdoch Martin

into the combined community of faith at
Mt Hermon Lutheran Church.

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We will be gathering around the fire pit for a "re-kindling of our souls and our fires" as we kick off our return to worship for the New Church Year. This will begin at 5:00 and everyone will be asked to add a "provided" piece of wood to the bonfire. The scripture and singing will be wrapped around our Thanksgivings as we look forward to Advent.

Exercise Classes

For almost 20 years, Dot Mathias has been leading people to become healthier through exercise. She is a certified instructor, and the classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the church Assembly Room. The 2:00 class is the exercise class with exercises that can be done either standing or seated in a chair. The 3:00 class is on Tuesdays only and is a mat class using mainly Pilates. All are welcome to come and participate. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes. If you have questions, give Dot a call. Masks and hand sanitizer are available and there is room for social distancing.



Food pantry - November Needs

This month we are again collecting Canned Hams and Sweet Potato for our Thanksgiving and Christmas food bags. Items can be placed in the container outside the office anytime! Thanks to all who have already donated. Our Food Pantry numbers have increased, and we want to be sure our food pantry patrons receive a holiday meal.

Adopt-A-Highway - November 13

The next Adopt-A-Highway pick up starts at 9 a.m. in the church parking lot Please join us if you can on November 13.



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Free Garage Sale - Now Accepting Donations

Each year Mt. Hermon sponsors a **Free Garage Sale** for families in the community in need of assistance. We work through the local schools and our food pantry to get the word out to the community. These families are invited to “shop” for whatever they need. All items have been donated, so there is no charge for the items the families select. It is a way that we can care for those in need and show them that God loves them.



We need your help to provide this ministry:

- **Donating Items** - We are collecting items for the Free Garage sale **now** through **Wednesday, December 1**. All items in good condition are needed: Linens, Toys, Bikes, Lamps, Dishes, Pots & Pans, Jewelry, Christmas Decorations, Tools, Furniture, etc. The **only clothes** we are accepting are **Coats, Jackets, Baby Clothes**. Clothes already donated will be given to other charities such as: Local Schools' Clothes Closets, Mission Lexington and the Salvation Army. Donations should be placed along the Methodist Park side wall of the **Assembly Room**. We need them in that area so that they do not interfere with the weekly Exercise Classes.
- **Sorting Donations** - We will set up and label the tables in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Nov. 28 to begin organizing the donations. Once the tables are in place, you can come any time during the week, day or evening, to help sort. If you bring your donations once the tables are set up, it would help if you sort them onto the appropriate tables. All help is greatly appreciated.
- **Volunteering at the Event** - We will need lots of volunteers on the day of the event, **Friday, December 3**. It will be open from **9:00 am – 1:00 pm**.

Please let Diane Boulware know if you have any questions or can help.



Each year we help children in the community have a brighter Christmas by buying gifts for them. The children are identified by the local schools and we gather a list of their needs and wants and place them on ornaments. We will have the tree up and the ornaments on it by Sunday, Nov. 21. Please make plans to sponsor a child this Christmas. We will also include parents of the children on the tree with some of their needs.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Nov 01

Frank Bouknight

Nov 05

Tom Roof

Nov 08

Mary Koon

Nov 11

Alberta Berry

Lyle Bockus

Ruthie Brannen

Karl Dugan

Jerry Ellisor

Becky Koon

Nov 12

Joshua Koon

Nov 16

Kathy Whitaker

Nov 19

Marie Kleckley

Nov 20

Lynn Bouknight

Nov 21

Angie Hydrick

Jon Kaylor

Jackson Price

Nov 23

Faye Sox

Nov 28

Mary Price



Nov 28

Preston and Kay Bryant

Nov 30

Ryan and Jennifer Price

We want to keep our calendar up to date with your special occasions, but we need your help. If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please give us a call or email us at office@wearethermon.com

MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Continual Prayers

Patricia Bachman, *Generations*
Alberta Berry, *home*
Hazel Bockus, *Springdale Home*
Lyle Bockus, *Springdale Home*
Nell Buff, *NHC*

Gennar Kiser, *home*
Rev. Everette Price, *home*
June Roof, *Rapha*
Tom Roof, *home*
Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Clifton Addy	*Angie Hydrick	James Hallman	Frankie Jackson
Jimmy Maddox	Jerry Price III	Jane Sexton	Jean Shealy
Cyndi Thurman	Linda Waters-Hamilton		

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Grayson Dykes, *friend of Angie Hydrick*
Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*
David Hydrick, *family of 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*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
Gary & Linda Hodgin, *friends of Herb Bucknam*
Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*
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*
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*
Carter Miller, *great-grandson of Mary and Wynne Price*
Lewis Turner, *friend of Jo Leach*
Sarah Geddings, *mother of Allison Swygert*
Emma Hunt, *grandmother of Laura Carroll*
Beth Ellsworth, *friend of Kenny Bouknight*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Charlie & Henry King, grandsons of Francis & Joanne Eargle
David Gosnell, friend of Allison Swygert

Serving in the Community

November 2021

COUNCIL REP: Mike Rawl

ALTAR GUILD: Diane Boulware and Mary Frances Sease

TABULATORS: Ann Addy and Mary Frances Sease

USHERS: *call the church office

Altar Flowers		Greeter	
7	Ronnie, Debbie, Marie Fulmer	7	*
14	Ronnie Wilbourne	14	*
21	Price Family	21	*
28	Jennifer and Ryan Price	28	*
Acolyte		Crucifer	
7	Walker Kinard	7	Quentin Kinard
14	Mackenzie Burns	14	Lawson Morris
21	Gable Jolly	21	Kim Jolly
28	Sydney Bucknam	28	Tanner Addy
Lector		Communion Assistants	
7	Ronnie Fulmer	7	Terry Swygert, Wynne Price
14	Jamie Addison	14	Frankie Jackson, Danny Scott
21	Scottie Marsh	21	Susan Busby, Ronnie Fulmer
28	Diane Boulware	28	Jennifer Miller, Marion Leaphart

** If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to cover for you and notify the church office of the change. If you are serving during worship, please arrive no later than 8:30am for sound check or updates to responsibilities during worship.*

November 2021

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm CF: Worship Team	2 Election Day 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:00 pm CR: Michelle Gantt	3 9:00 am Food Pantry (Sharon Keefe, Bonnie & Frank Bouknight) 10:00 am Meals on Wheels	4 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm Choir	5	6 9:00 am Food Pantry (Terry and Allison Swygert, Laura Carroll) 3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal
7 Daylight Saving Time ends 9:00 am Worship: All Saints Sunday 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 am Sunday school 2:30 pm Youth Handbells 3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal	8 10:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm CR: Dot Mathias 6:30 pm Lutheran Men meeting	9 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm CR: Michelle Gantt 6:00 pm Executive committee	10 9:00 am Food Pantry (Ann and Fran Bouknight) 10:00 am Meals on Wheels	11 Veterans Day 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal	12	13 9:00 am Adopt-A-Highway 9:00 am Food Pantry (Mike Rawl, Melanie and Frankie Jackson)
14 FH: Kelli Mills 9:00 am Worship (Baptism) 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 am Sunday school 3:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Council Meets	15 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Outreach Team (conf room)	16 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm CR: Michelle Gantt	17 9:00 am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease) 10:00 am Meals on Wheels 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal	18 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm Choir	19	20 9:00 am Food Pantry (Parker & Diane Boulware) 3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal
21 9:00 am Worship (Baptism) 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am Sunday school 2:30 pm Youth Handbells 3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Rekindle your spirit	22 10:00 am Staff Meeting	23 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal 6:00 pm CR: Michelle Gantt	24 9:00 am Food Pantry (Annette Price, Andrea Bowers, Herb Buckman) 10:00 am Meals on Wheels	25 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	26 Office Closed	27 FH: Free Garage Sale 3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal
28 FH: Free Garage Sale FH: Puppet Rehearsals 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am Sunday school 3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 6:00 pm Advent Worship	29 FH: Free Garage Sale FH: Puppet Rehearsals 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Team for Ministry	30 FH: Free Garage Sale FH: Puppet Rehearsals 2:00 pm Exercise class 6:00 pm CR: Michelle Gantt 6:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal				

Please see “calendar of events” at WeAreMtHermon .com for updates.



Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC. 29169

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US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 958
COLUMBIA, SC

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784
Ruthie Brannen, *Director of Music*
Parish Administrator 803.794.6430
Laura Henrickson, *Seminarian*

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com
Laura.Henrickson@my.lr.edu

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Ronnie Fulmer, *President*
Robin Ellisor, *Secretary*
Annette Price, *Financial Secretary*

Marion Leaphart, *Vice President*
Parker Boulware, *Treasurer*
Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, *Sextons*

www.WeAreMtHermon.com
3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
803.794.6430
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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