

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

January 2025



THAT “PERFECT GIFT”

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,¹² the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10-12

The most perfect gift was given to us by God, and we seem to keep rushing around to find that “perfect gift.” Or perhaps all the ingredients for that new appetizer or dish we want to make. The Christmas season often creates, finds us, makes us, gives us...anxiety, frustration, aggravation, an overwhelming tiredness, etc.

Perhaps you participated in the Reverse Advent boxes sponsored by the Outreach Team this year. Maybe you practiced a discipline of placing ONE item in the box each day – or maybe you put the items in the box once a week, or even perhaps you went to the store and purchased all the ingredients at one time. Regardless, it might be eye-opening when you realize this: This box of food was someone’s “perfect gift.”

The church council and team leaders will be attending a retreat January 24-26 at the Isle of Palm retreat center. Items for discussion are how can we continue to SHINE brightly on Leaphart Road, in West Columbia, in South Carolina. How can we better share the “perfect gift” of Jesus with those around us.

I remind you of the nativity scene’s completion when the Wise Men come to meet that “perfect gift” on Epiphany. Come and celebrate and worship as we again, intentionally open the doors to the community for an Epiphany worship service on January 6th. This year we will be sing carols and reading scripture for the service. The music will be led by a string quartet. This will be a wonderful way to conclude the twelve days of Christmas.

So, as you read this, take a deep breath. Know that if Amazon doesn’t deliver in time, or the cake falls and looks a hot mess, even if you burn the ham, God still loves you. Long ago He saw to it that we didn’t spend a single day of our lives without the “perfect gift.” Deep breath. Deep breath.

Sister in Christ,

Pastor Gina

#3011LeaphartRoad

#WeAreMtHermon

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CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

December Motions to Council: no motions

Congregational Council Minutes November 2024

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Jennifer Miller, Jerry Price, and Danny Scott. Also in attendance were newly elected Council members Fran Bouknight, Frank Bouknight, Wayne Corley, Al Stevens, and Mackenzie Burns.

CARES AND CONCERNS: Prayers for Melanie Jackson as she recovers from a broken tailbone, PJ Reusch who lost his son in a car accident, Debbie Duvall with a shoulder injury after a fall here at church, Randy Clark for his upcoming hip replacement surgery on December 19, Devona Price and family at the loss of her mother, and Cyndi Thurman who has been moved to Sedgewood Manor.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Minutes for November 2024 and from the Annual Meeting were accepted as presented.

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for December 2024 was submitted.
- Treasurer: Balance Sheet Last Month for November 2024, Monthly Budget Comparison Last Month November 2024, and Designated Funds Last Month November 2024 were submitted. The actual Year to Date figures will be published in the bulletin.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for November 2024 was submitted.
- Executive Committee: No report.

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry:

Care: No report submitted.

Outreach: Written report submitted. Porch visits went well, Jesus and Java will be December 15 at 4:00, and exam care packages for college students are being prepared.

Support: No report submitted.

Finance: Written report submitted.

Teach: No report submitted. Preparations for the children's Christmas program are going well.

Worship: No report submitted. On Sundays when communion is offered at the rail, one of the ushers will be asked to stand near the sound room to direct those exiting the altar area. Other items concerning worship will be discussed at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Welcome 2025 Council
2. Council Installation December 15 – All Council members will be installed during worship.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elect 2025 Council Officers – Elected were: President – Terry Swygert; Vice President – Ronnie Fulmer; Secretary – Sheila Eargle; Treasurer – Frank Bouknight, and Financial Secretary – Karen Nicholson and Annette Price
- Lock Up – Anyone locking up should close the two sets of double doors leading into the Fellowship Hall and the door leading into the Assembly Room. These are fire doors and should remain closed while the building is unoccupied for fire safety reasons.
- Next Meeting: Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Isle of Palms.
- Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Marion Leaphart and Dion Metzger

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

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ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
December 01	100	140	240
December 08	106	137	243
December 15	132	129	261
December 22	104	127	231

TREASURER REPORT

ACTUAL INCOME vs EXPENSES

YTD November 2024	Income	Expense	Over (Short)
Current Mission Plan	\$204,440.37	\$223,815.43	(\$19,375.06)
Building Fund	\$55,594.43	\$51,887.14	\$3,707.29
Bldg Improvement	\$20,527.34	\$12,685.67	\$7,841.67

2024 BUDGET vs ACTUAL

YTD November 2024	Actual	Budget	Over (Short)
Current Mission Plan	\$204,440.37	\$234,342.68	(\$29,902.31)
Building Fund	\$55,594.43	\$55,000.00	\$594.43
Bldg Improvement	\$20,527.34	\$16,500.00	\$4,027.34

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COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Community Epiphany Service

7:00pm

Monday, January 6th



Lessons and Carols

String quartet

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Work is progressing on Connor Eargle's Eagle project! The damaged section of concrete has been replaced and painting will begin soon. We welcome any donations that are made as the pickleball court begins to take shape. It is Connor's hope that the court will be a place where both church members and the community can play a sport that's rapidly increasing in popularity. Thank you for your support of this project.



Offerings for 2024. If you would like for your offering to be reflected in your 2024 contribution statement. Please bring those donations to the church office before January 1st. All offering received after January 1 will be considered a 2025 contribution. Thank you for your attention!

*Thank
& you*

We want to thank you all for the many acts of kindness you have shown us during the past year. We have been blessed by your visits, gifts of music and Communion.

Though we are unable to make it in person on Sundays, we always attend the service via the internet. We hope that God will continue to bless you in your community ministries as you have with us here at home.

Love Jean & James

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

CARE TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Care Team meets on the 1st Monday of every month at 5:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Allison Swygert, or any team member and attend the next meeting!



He-Brews Supper Clubs will meet January 11, 2025. This will give our members an opportunity to share a meal together, get to know others in our congregation, and encourage one another in our faith journey.

How do I participate? Sign-up on the sign-up sheet located in the breezeway or with the online link. All participants will be divided randomly into small groups. A contact person will coordinate with their group to set a time and destination to meet for dinner. The groups will change for each date so that each time you meet you are with a different group of people.

Deadline to sign-up is **January 5th**.



If you live alone, join the Care Team's **Care Connection!**

It's as simple as a quick text in the morning to say hi, send an emoji, or whatever you prefer to be sure your "Care Connection Partner" is safe and well. If you are interested in participating in this daily check in, please contact Sheila Starkey at starkey.sheila@gmail.com or text 803-315-2990.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Outreach Team meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:00 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Bonnie Bouknight, Melanie Jackson, or any team member and attend the next meeting.

THANK YOU to everyone who made a difference in the lives of the families through the Free Garage Sale, the Angel Tree, and the Reverse Advent Boxes!



Taking Donations Now!



Outreach Columbia is on ongoing collection of items for the homeless. We will be collecting items for homeless packs. Items that we need are: socks, gloves, hygiene products, tarps, protein, crackers, pop tarts, snack items.

Also, new or used coats, sweaters and blankets.

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

January 2025

	01/05/2025	01/12/2025	01/19/2025	01/26/2025
Ushers	Ricky Bouknight	Aaron Kinard	Frank Bouknight	Joe Koon
	Fran Bouknight	Tom Stahl	Frankie Jackson	Teddy Koon
Crucifer	Cameron Bucknam	Walker Kinard	Mackenzie Burns	Chanler Coppens
Acolyte	Connor Eargle	Quentin Kinard	Jacqueline Hawlik	Dylan Whitaker
Lector	Ricky Bouknight	Elsie Kinard	Frank Bouknight	Joe Koon
Comm Assts	Cameron Bucknam	Walker Kinard	Mackenzie Burns	Chanler Coppens
	Connor Eargle	Quentin Kinard	Jerry Price	Dylan Whitaker
	Ricky Bouknight	Elyse Kinard	Frank Bouknight	Joe Koon
	Fran Bouknight Lynn Bouknight	Aaron Kinard	Denise Thurman	Mary Koon
	Marion Leaphart Cyndi Leaphart	Susan Busby	Daryl Leigh Anthony	Cheri Coppens
Nursery	Charlene Corley	Leah Rawl	Melanie Jackson	Cassie Swygert
	DJ Plummer	Brittany Allen	Katie Donaldson	Laura Carroll
Flowers	Stevens Family	Boulware Family	Wynne & Mary Price	Jackson Famioly

SERVING IN DECEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Lock up: Marion Leaphart, Dion Metze

ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price, Angie Hydrick

TABULATORS: Larry Amick, Angie Hydrick

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Susan Busby, Dennis Thurman

AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM: Leah Rawl, Mike Rawl

* *If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to serve in your absence.
Please also notify the church office of the change.*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Jan 05 | Karly Addy, Alyssa Stevens |
| Jan 06 | Robin Ellisor |
| Jan 08 | Bryan Addy |
| Jan 09 | Danni Martin |
| Jan 10 | Bobby Carver |
| Jan 11 | Rebekah Boatwright |
| Jan 13 | Sheila Starkey |
| Jan 14 | Francis Eargle |
| | ♥ Jan 15 James Hallman & Jean Shealy |
| | ♥ Jan 17 Keith & Emily Morris |
| Jan 21 | Will Plummer, Cindy Price |
| Jan 22 | Andy Jordan, Joel Price, Sr. |
| Jan 23 | Cindy Kleckley |
| Jan 26 | Jordan Thompson |
| Jan 28 | Braydon Johnson |
| Jan 31 | Ruth Card |

Please let the office know if your information is not printed in this listing.
office@WeAreMtHermon.com or 803.794.6430

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MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Georgianna Gray, *home*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*
Gloria Mathias, *home*
Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
Cyndi Thurman, *Sedgewood*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Bonnie Bouknight
Debbie Duval
Jim Whitaker
Chris Carroll
Joye Haygood
Randy Clark
Mary Frances Sease

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper.*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),
friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Mrs. Cruz, *teacher of Abbey Carroll*
Katy Madigan, *friend of Marie Carroll*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson, *aunt of Courtney Bucknam*
Sarah Harmon, *friend of Courtney Bucknam*
Quentin Oswalt, *Angie Hydrick's nephew (Iraq)*
Jaimie Womack, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Cynthia Rabon, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Blase Rhine,
grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight
Cynthia Mallard,
friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*
Tom Shaul, *friend of the Kinard Family*
Debbe Dearman, *neighbor of Kathy Cooper*
Jillian Stover, *friend of Erin Rose*
Bryce McKelvey, *friend of Regan Gross*
Max Schronce,
friend of the David & Scottie Marsh
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Hayes Wingard,
grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*
Mark King, *coworker of Michelle Gantt*
Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*
Will & Summer Satcher,
friend of Courtney Bucknam
Dorothy Collins, *friend of Ryan Price*
Lauren Addy, *friend of Kathy Cooper and Metz*
Jodi Harper, *friend of Erin Rose*
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*
Lutheran Disaster Recovery workers
Hurricane Helene survivors and families
Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	30 PG Vacay Office Closed	31 PG Vacay Office Closed	1 PG Vacay Meals on Wheels: Randy & Becky Wise 9:00am Food Pantry - CLOSED Office Closed	2 PG Vacay Office Closed	3 PG Vacay Office Closed	4 PG Vacay Office Closed 9:00am Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight, Karen Nicholson)
5 He-Brews Supper Clubs Deadline to Sign up PG Vacay 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	6 7:00pm Community Epiphany Worship	7 5:00pm Executive Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	8 Meals on Wheels: Earl & Mary Frances 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe) 12:05pm OneBody Worship 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir Practice	9	10	11 9:00am Food Pantry (Koon Family) 6:00pm Hebrews Dinner
12 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	13 6:30pm Lutheran Men & Women	14 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	15 Meals on Wheels: Jamie & Nancy Addison 9:00am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir Practice	16	17	18 9:00am Food Pantry (Kinard family)
19 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Teach Team 3:00pm Confirmation Class	20 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team	21 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	22 Meals on Wheels: Parker & Diane Boulware 9:00am Food Pantry (Debra Butts, David Butts, Mary Price) 12:05pm OneBody Worship 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir Practice	23	24 Council Retreat IOP	25 9:00am Food Pantry (Al & Laura Stevens) Council Retreat IOP
26 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Worship Team Council Retreat IOP	27	28 6:00pm GR: Grief Support 6:30pm CR: Support Team	29 Meals on Wheels: Debbie & Rick Duval 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price) 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir Practice	30	31	1 9:00am Food Pantry



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

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WeAreMtHermon

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*
 Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music*
 Roberta Smith *Parish Administrator*

803.951.3784

 803.794.6430

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