

Mount Home Baptist Church  
2272 Mount Home Church Rd.  
Morganton, NC 28655

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Morganton, NC  
Permit No. 59

Return Service Requested



### WEEKLY ACTIVITY CALENDAR

#### Sunday:

- Bible Study at 9:15am
- Morning Service at 10:30am
- Youth Praise Team at 5:00pm
- Youth Discipleship Training at 6:00pm
- Children's Choir at 6:00pm
- Evening service at 6:00pm

#### Wednesday:

- Fellowship Meal 5:00pm
- AWANA 6:00pm
- Youth Ministry 6:00pm
- C.A.R.E. at 6:15pm
- Adult Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Adult Choir Practice at 7:30pm

#### Saturday:

- Prayer Time at 9:00pm

Mount Home Baptist Church  
www.mounthomebaptist.org  
Telephone: 828-437-0593  
FAX: 828-437-0598

#### Pastoral Staff

**Jerry Gamble, Senior Pastor**  
**Preston Stainback, Minister of Education and Outreach**  
**Garry Stafford, Minister of Music**  
**Rocky Hartman, Student Minister**  
**Kathy Hartman, Children's Director**

**DEADLINE**

Newsletter Articles Due  
Monday, January 25

# Mount Home Messenger

## January 2016



### It's On My Heart!



I know that December is gone, but I cannot miss this opportunity to express my pleasure and gratitude to all who have served with great diligence and sacrifice to make our month of celebrating the birth of Jesus so beautiful and so ministry centered. Shirley and I have marveled at the quantity and quality of Christmas ministries that have been carried out through our church. Truly, Christ was exalted through the music of our church.

I am looking forward to entering a new year with you, my dear people at Mount Home. The level of spiritual maturity and dedication to Christ that I have observed among many of our church members assures me that we are going to have a tremendous 2016 in the kingdom work of our Lord.

Need I remind you of the great need of evangelizing our area for Jesus Christ. We have much to do while we still have time to do it. Recently, I have felt drawn to an Old Testament passage. II Chronicles 16:9 declares, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and from throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him..." God is looking for a people through whom He can show His power and bestow great blessings. When He finds them, they will be people with hearts that are sincerely loyal to Him. Let's be among those people this year.

One of the many ministries available to you that will help to give spiritual strength to you and our church is our Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study. If the Lord does not already have you involved in one of our other Wednesday evening ministries, and if you can, I encourage you to make this special time a regular part of your life in 2016.

I want to thank you again for your response to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year. Our goal was \$25,500.00. We have now received almost \$31,500.00. To God be given the glory and praise!

Know that I am delighted to be your pastor. I am committed to loving and leading every member and ministry of Mount Home, and I covet your prayers for the guidance and power of God's grace in my life as your pastor.

I look forward to seeing you the first Sunday (January 3, 2016) with Bible in hand and a message from God burning in my heart. Don't forget Sunday will be Building Fund Day and our goal will be \$22,500.00.

Happy New Year! God bless you!

Expectantly yours,

**Bro. Jerry**

Graceful Giving  
Sunday

January 3

Our Goal  
\$22,500.00



# January 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Baptist Men's Day

Newsletter Articles Due

WMMU

Sr. Adult Meeting

New Year's Day

## Education by Preston Stainback



I trust you had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, with your family and friends. I know all of our Christmas celebrations at Mount Home were wonderful and inspiring, and I want to thank all who had a part in any of our celebrations with our children, adults, youth, ensemble, musicians and choirs, because you helped to make Christmas special this year as we worshiped and celebrated together.

A special "Thank You" is in order to Debbie and Freddie Seagle, as well as the many others who contributed so much time, talent, and financial resources to our 25<sup>th</sup> Angel Tree Ministry this year. Many families had needs met that otherwise would have gone unmet, many children had a great Christmas who might not have had much at home, and most importantly, 7 people made professions of faith in Christ during the counseling part of the Angel Tree Ministry! To God Be the Glory!

January 1<sup>st</sup> represents the beginning of a new year, and I encourage you to let it be the beginning of some "new" times in your spiritual life as well. First, if you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your savior, then 2016 is going to be an important year for you because you need to make that all important decision as soon as possible. If you are already a Christian, but your walk with the Lord is not as close as it used to be, then 2016 will provide you with an opportunity to grow closer to Him and make Him the most important person in your life. If you have not been active in your church life, then 2016 can become the year you begin to faithfully serve Him here with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Whatever your need might be spiritually, take advantage of the start of 2016 to begin a new year of life with Jesus!

Our Sunday School had a good, but not outstanding, year in 2015. I hope you will plan to make it a priority to be here regularly for Sunday School during 2016 and let's do all we can to make this year an "outstanding" year in our Bible study time. I trust you will assist me and your Sunday School teachers to do all we can to grow our Sunday School this year by reaching many new people to attend our classes. Begin right away by inviting someone to visit our Sunday School on the first Sunday of 2016!

Be watching in the next few weeks for a new listing of Discipleship classes to be offered during the winter quarter, and then be willing to take advantage of the opportunity to grow deeper in your faith by taking these classes. Remember, our Discipleship classes are offered in order that you might grow in your faith and service to the Lord, and become a more dynamic disciple during 2016.

Our Sr. Adult Friendship Group meeting for January will be on Thursday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will have a covered-dish dinner, so bring some of your favorite foods to share with the group and join us for this time of good food, fun, and fellowship.

(Continued on page 6)

## Music Ministry by Garry Stafford



An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended a large church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was. "Well," said the farmer, "It was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns." "Praise choruses," said his wife, "What are those?" "Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like hymns, only different," said the farmer. "Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife. The farmer said, "Well it's like this - If I were to say to you: 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well that would be a hymn. If, on the other hand, I were to say to you: 'Martha Martha, Martha, Oh, Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows, the white cows, the black and white cows, the COWS, COWS, COWS are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, the CORN, CORN, CORN.' Then, if I were to repeat the whole thing two or three times, well that would be a praise chorus."

Coincidentally, the same week, a young businessman from the city who normally attended a church with contemporary-style worship, was in the old farmer's town on business and visited the farmer's small town church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was. "Well," said the young man, "It was good. They did something different, however. They sang hymns instead of regular songs." "Hymns," said his wife, "What are those?" "Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like regular songs, only different," said the young man. "Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife. The young man said, "Well it's like this - If I were to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well that would be a regular song. If, on the other hand, I were to say to you:

*Oh Martha, dear Martha, hear thou my cry.  
Incline thine ear to the words of my mouth.  
Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by  
to the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.*

*For the way of the animals who can explain,  
There in their heads is no shadow of sense.  
Hearkenest they in God's sun or his rain  
Unless from the mild, tempting corn they are fenced.*

*Yea those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight,  
Have broken free their shackles, their warm pens  
eschewed.  
Then goaded by minions of darkness and night,  
They all my mild Chilliwack sweet corn have  
chewed.*

(Continued on page 6)

## Music Ministry (Continued from page 2)

*So look to that bright shining day by and by,  
Where all foul corruptions of earth are reborn.  
Where no vicious animal makes my soul dry.  
And I no longer see those foul cows in the corn.*

Then, if I were to do only verses one, three and four and do a key change on the last verse, well that would be a hymn."

Curiously, a third man who normally attends church was in the same town on business and visited yet another church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was. "Well," said the man, "It was good. They did something different, however. They sang southern gospel music instead of regular songs." "Southern gospel songs," said his wife, "What are they?" "Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like regular songs, only different," said the man. "Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife. The man said, "Well it's like this - If I were to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well that would be a regular song. If, on the other hand, I were to say to you:

*Yonder on that hill to see  
Over valleys by and by  
With rivers flowing full and free  
And the clouds up in the sky.*

*The cows are in the corn, in the corn, in the corn  
The cows are in the corn, I'm here to say.  
Oh Martha, let me tell you, how happy I will be.  
When the cows come home some day, some sweet day.*

Then, if I were to sway, clap my hands and wave a handkerchief in the air, well that would be Southern gospel.

I trust we are all still friends after having shared this with you. While all three scenarios are obviously overstated, there's enough truth in each one to make us think about what we do at Mount Home when we worship through music. A very wise man once said, "Always keep the main thing the main thing." Regardless of how we personally feel about things like song styles and the purpose of our singing, the truth is our worship isn't about us—it's about Him. While we might feel good, receive encouragement, and even prepare our hearts for an encounter with God, I believe these all become secondary to the main reason we sing. Psalm 96:1 says, "O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth." Psalm 104:33 "I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." Revelation 5 depicts a time of praise, the like of which none of us have every seen. <sup>9</sup>And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take  
**(Continued in next column)**

## Music Ministry

the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; <sup>10</sup>And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. <sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. <sup>14</sup>And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

In yesterday's service, Pastor Gamble called us to be a people of prayer and faithfulness in 2016 greater than we have ever known. May we also commit to using ever opportunity afforded us to praise and glorify the name of our Lord Jesus in spirit and truth from this day forward into 2016 and beyond.

*Garry*

## Education (Continued from page 2)

Thank you for the cards, gifts, and other remembrances you shared with me and my family during the Christmas season. We love and appreciate our church family so much, and you are all special to us. My family wishes for you a HAPPY NEW YEAR, and we pray that God will bless you richly in 2016!

*Preston*

## Student News (Continued from page 5)

If you and your family did not attend our Christmas Eve Communion Service you missed a blessing. There is something special about spending that time with your family remembering the sacrifice our Savior made for us. Plan to attend next year and start a new tradition for the holiday.

As we worshipped our King and celebrated His birth this month the beauty of the sanctuary was breath taking. Our decorating committee does an outstanding job in our church and it does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your attention to details and the many hours you put in to make everything look so beautiful.

I appreciated all of the cards and gifts I received this holiday season. I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family. Happy New Year!

*Rocky*

## Children's Ministry by Kathy Hartman



As I reflect on all of the wonderful programs we have had this Christmas season I must say that our Savior was lifted high. The month was filled with beautiful music from beginning to end. I also get my breath taken away when I walk into our sanctuary on the first Sunday that it is decorated for Christmas. Our decorating committee does an outstanding job all year long but they really show their talents at this time of the year. Thank you for what you do.

I think there had to be a record number of children riding our Christmas float this year! Also about a dozen children and youth walked and gave out candy during both parades. Our float was awarded the Community Spirit Award at the J. Iverson Riddle Parade and received the Best Children's Theme trophy at the Morganton Parade. We were very excited to receive these recognitions and it was great publicity for our church. Two past parade pictures of our church's float were also published in the News Herald the week prior to the parades. This is the first year I can ever remember the Morganton Parade being cancelled because of rain but I'm glad they rescheduled it for the next week when it was clear.

Our children did a fantastic job with their Christmas musical this year. It never ceases to amaze me what they can do. With all of the homework and activities they do every week they still find time to memorize speaking parts and songs. Thank you to the parents who make sure those things get done and also have their children here every Sunday night. I am looking at several musicals for the spring and we will get started on a new one during January. When children get involved at a young age performing in front of people, they don't develop the stage fright that most of us adults suffer from. Many come into choir not wanting to do a speaking or singing part but in just a short time, they are confident enough to ask for one. We never make a child do something they are not comfortable with. If you have a child that would like to participate in our next musical, please join us Sunday nights at 6:00 upstairs.

Our Awana Grand Prix is in the planning stages right now. Once a date has been set I will send home permission forms with the children to see how many are going to participate so that I can order the car kits. It does not cost anything for the kits if they are going to race but if they take a kit and do not race, the cost will be \$5.00 or they will need to return the kit. Car Clinics will be held to help sand and paint the cars to get ready for the race. More details will be coming home with the kids this month.

Thank you for all of the cards and gifts that I received this Christmas season. I am very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family and to have the opportunity to impact children's lives for Christ. I'm excited to see what the Lord has in store for Mount Home this coming year!

*Kathy*

## Student News by Rocky Hartman



What an unbelievably awesome month of ministry we have had here at Mount Home. I thank the Lord for the many church members that participated in all the different opportunities. Thank you Kathy and Lisa for starting off our month with the children's musical. It always puts me in the Christmas spirit to see our children perform. It is always interesting to see what some of the little ones are going to do! They are definitely not bashful when it comes to being in front of people. I can't wait to see what the Lord will do in those young children's lives in the future as they continue to serve Him.

Our youth and college/career students spent the month of December caroling at the nursing homes and various individual's homes in the Morganton area. It was a blessing to see the smiles on the faces of the people as we sang familiar carols and many even joined in and sang with us. Thanks Jesse West, Evan Crawley and Hannah Kistler for providing instrumental accompaniment for us.

The Angel Tree party is always the highlight of my year. This year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this wonderful ministry to the needy children in our community. The video was fantastic and the memorials for those who were committed to this ministry and are now with Jesus in heaven was very moving. For those who gave monetarily, set up the fellowship hall, bought, cooked and served the food, moved all of the presents, shopped and wrapped the gifts, I would like to thank you. This ministry is a huge undertaking and requires much planning, commitment, and help. You have been a blessing to the least of these and have impacted children's lives for the better. I'm sure it is something that they will never forget. The 7 who gave their hearts to Jesus will be forever changed and without this ministry, they may have never heard the gospel. Thank you Freddie and Debbie Seagle for all of the hours you give to this ministry all through the year.

The adult choir presented a beautiful musical for Christmas. Thank you Gary, Betsy and Joy for your hard work. I especially loved the piano quartet and the talent that we have at Mount Home is incredible.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> dinner theater presentation had a great attendance both nights. I appreciate Freddie Seagle for spending many hours working on the sound system to insure that we had the best sound possible. Thank you Evan Crawley, Daniel and Jonathan Womack, and Greg and Sharon Smith for your assistance with the sound, lights, and video-taping. Our kitchen crew served a great meal and I would like to give a big thank you to my son Bo, who cooked some delicious chicken, my wife Kathy, who is always by my side, Barbara Smith, Cynthia Brittain, Kim Ledbetter, Christine Smith, and Doris Beam. I was very proud of how well our youth served the food, got the drinks, and cleaned up after each performance. We were finished in record time both nights and I could not have asked for a better group of volunteers. Thank you everybody!

**(Continued on page 6)**

**The Record Speaks, December 2015**

Avg. Sunday School Attendance	341
Total Tithes and Offerings	\$134,046.07
Average Per Week	\$ 33,511.52
Total Given to Graceful Giving	\$ 24,888.00
Total Given to Lottie Moon	\$ 31,630.00

**Loan Balance, December 2015**

Total amount of Loan	\$3,250,000.00
Balance as of 12-28-15	\$1,720,714.21
Payment	\$ 22,500.00
YTD Interest	\$ 63,580.15

**Members in Nursing Facilities**

Grace Heights

Bill Branch  
JoAnn May

Autumn Care

Edna Williams  
Joyce Crawley

Black Mtn. VA Care

Bud Walker



**Homebound Members**

Delores Ewell  
Ruby Laughridge  
Gene Lawing  
Danny Mitchell  
Florence Robinson  
Geraldine Sparks



**Thank you notes for acts of kindness, prayer, visits, etc. during an illness or other special event were received from:**

Brent Mull      Mull Elementary School      Sandy Whisnant      Pregnancy Care Center

**Thank you notes for expressions of sympathy, prayers, visits, etc. during the loss of loved ones were received from:**

Family of Bonnie Lowman

**Our Known Hospitalized:**

Karen Robinson—Grace



**We Express Christian Sympathy to:**

Family of Viola Mull in the passing of Viola  
Kathryn Baker and her family in the passing of her brother  
Betty Hoglen and her family in the passing of her sister  
Paul Hoglen and his family in the passing of his brother  
Dian Ramsey and all her family in the passing of her husband, Johnny



**Welcome New Members**

Betty Bridges  
308 Inglewood Dr.  
Morganton, NC 28655

Dr. David & Rhonda Abernathy  
102 Hunting Lane  
Morganton, NC 28655



**Resolve to Revitalize**

Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life too. Consider the following tips:

- Have a clear vision. It's easy to go along day to day without considering what you're moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year take specific steps toward living that out.
- Ask questions. What gets you excited—even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.
- Balance history with innovation. Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5). The best way to revitalize a church might be to revitalize the lives of its individual members!



**January 1**  
Doris Beam  
Tyler Goins

**January 3**  
Judy Mull

**January 4**  
Walter Abernathy  
Larry West

**January 5**  
Levi Kreigh  
Kendra York

**January 7**  
Scott Randall

**January 8**  
Ella Griffin

**January 9**  
Doug Gantt  
Garry Stafford

**January 10**  
Anna Marie Pritchard  
Phillip Smith

**January 11**  
Jeremiah Buff  
Olivia Greene  
Carole Mull

**January 13**  
Leah Cline  
Dell Evans  
Helen Hennessee

**January 14**  
Ray Duckworth  
Samantha Fortune  
Cody Saunders

**January 15**  
James Carswell  
Gary Watson

**January 16**  
Susanne Saunders  
Nancy Smith-Brittain

**January 17**  
Norman Burgess  
Susan Smith

**January 18**  
Shelly Lail

**January 19**  
Ethel Hudson  
Lynnsey Johnson  
Janice McMahon  
Judy St. Clair

**January 20**  
Jim Anton

**January 21**  
Rick Mull  
Mary Frances Suttles

**January 23**  
Delores Gettys  
Tyler Hart

**January 24**  
David Evans

**January 26**  
Candace Harwood  
Lucas Oliver

**January 27**  
Audrey Carswell

**January 28**  
Julia Cline  
Judy Crain  
Madyson Grainger  
Drake McLaughlin  
Linda Pritchard

**January 29**  
April Lackey  
Ron Puckett

**January 30**  
Betty Hoglen

**January 31**  
Tony Cox  
Phyllis Powell  
Dustin Webb



The WMU general meeting will be January 27 at 6:15 pm in the second floor conference room. Gail Lawing's group will be in charge of the program.

The WMU mission project for January is to collect items for the Pregnancy Care Center, in connection with Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. A list of requested items can be found at the Welcome Center, outside the church offices and in the Senior Adult department. Please leave all donations in the designated area in the Senior Adult department. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Lawing.

WMU Care List

The following lady is having a birthday in January. Please send her a card or make a visit to cheer her up.

Phyllis Powell—January 31  
405 Old NC 18, Apartment 112  
Morganton, NC 28655



**Attention all Baptist Men!**

Baptist Men will have a breakfast on Sunday, January 24, 8:00 am, before Sunday School.



Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to come so we can prepare the correct amount of food. All men in the church are invited to join our group of Baptist Men.



*Thank you for all the cards and gifts you gave us during December. We appreciate all of you! Your church secretaries, Linda Cannon & Connie Berry*

