



News in Brief

Mint Hill Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God by seeking the lost, making disciples and worshipping the Savior.

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” Matthew 25:21

This past week our world lost a faithful lamp. The Reverend Billy Graham, known as “America’s Pastor,” passed away in his Montreat, North Carolina, home. He was 99-years old.

The famed evangelist appeared on the covers of Time, Newsweek, Life, U.S. News and World Report, Parade. In his lifelong ministry, the son of a dairy farmer preached to more than 210 million people in more than 185 countries and territories. His book “Peace With God” reached millions in 38 different languages. He had personal audiences with many sitting US presidents from Harry S. Truman to Barack Obama. The United States Postal Service has said that Graham was one of the few Americans who could have mail delivered that simply reads his name and the country: “Billy Graham, America.”

Graham seemed to live his entire life with a laser focus on one day hearing the words I’m sure became more than audible last Wednesday:

“Well done, good and faithful servant!”

There is nothing else worth living for. Success, achievement, ambition, fame—even benevolence and altruism; apart from God’s pleasure is a chasing after the wind. Nothing in the entire world can compare with coming to the end of our days and hearing those words of our Master: “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

Living for those words gives us an inviolable peace in our hearts, an indomitable love for our enemies and skeptics, certainty in troubled times, and an unadulterated devotion to the ONE we live and breathe to worship.

Oftentimes when one lamp goes out, the world feels a little darker. But we need to remember that God is faithful in every generation. The Lord is never going to ask you: *Were you as influential as Billy Graham?* He’s not measuring your devotion next to that of anyone else—He’s measuring your devotion by the faithfulness you show in those small things right in front of you (Matthew 25:21). Though you and I may never be mass evangelists, our little lamps matter just as much as Billy’s did—in the way we parent, treat our spouses, love our neighbors, serve the less fortunate, or practice integrity in the workplace. May our labor of love be driven by the anticipation of one day hearing those words of eternal sustenance: *Well done, good and faithful servant!*

Jesus has some encouraging words for those who live from that center: “You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” Well done... Let’s celebrate together!

The Bruecks' new address is:
 332 N. Clifton Avenue
 Wichita KS 67208

The McKinnons' new address is:
 147 Palmetto Green Drive
 Longs SC 29568

St. Patrick's Day Fun!



Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner and Praise Concert!

Saturday, March 17

Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Concert at 7:00 p.m.

We would like to welcome all of you (bring your friends & family!) to our Annual Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner. Funds raised during this time will go to the Joni & Friends Charlotte missions ministry.

In the past, we have had our spaghetti dinner around Valentine's Day. This year, however, we have moved it to March in order to give the praise band more time to prepare. Come share a lot of fun celebrating St. Patrick's Day!

A sign-up sheet is in the foyer of the church for those wishing to make a pot of spaghetti sauce. (That includes the men too!)

We are looking forward to having a great time of Christian fellowship, and some good eatin'!



See you there!



Spring Forward

Don't Forget!

Daylight Saving Time **BEGINS on March 11!** Set your clocks up an hour before you go to sleep Saturday night so you won't miss worship!

What's Coming Up At Mint Hill Presbyterian!

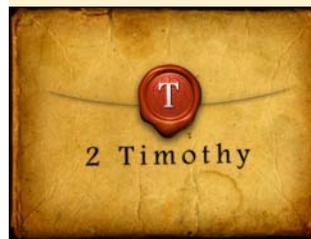
Women's Bible Study, each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the church

The ladies have started the study on 2 Timothy, led by Donni DeHart (see below). This is a very rich study! All women are welcome! Hope to see you there!

March 17 - Annual Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser and Praise Concert (see left) - 6:00 p.m.

Looking ahead to April:

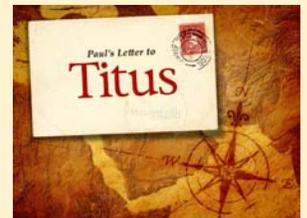
April 1 - Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m., followed by Easter Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service - 9:00 a.m.



The WOC Bible Study has begun 2 Timothy. Our discussions have been full of questions and the answers found in God's Word!

ALL women of the church and visitors are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings at the church, beginning at 7:00. The time is full of the study of God's word, prayer and fellowship. Donni DeHart leads our study.

Please come and join us! You will be so happy you did!



Important Congregational Meeting

On **Sunday, March 18**, there will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship to vote on Diaconate candidates, Treasurer, Congregational Chairman, as well as to vote on Aaron Opgenorth as pastor. Please make plans to be present for this very important election!
Aaron will be preaching for us again on March 11.

Sundays at Mint Hill Presbyterian



Please join us!
8528 Brief Road
Mint Hill, NC

Prayer Circle
(each Sunday morning)
8:50 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday evenings -
WOC Bible Study - Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the church
Start up again on Tuesday, January 9!

Thursday Evenings -
Praise Team Rehearsal - 6:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal - 7:15 p.m.



Come to Sunday School!

The Adult Sunday School Class meets "up on the hill" in the building next to the house. (Anyone will be more than happy to show you the way!)

We meet at **9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.**
Steve Smith is currently teaching a character study on David from the books of 1& 2 Samuel. We have a lot to learn from this faith giant!
Please join us!



Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, March 4.



Easter at Mint Hill Presbyterian

Easter is on April 1. After the sadness of walking with Jesus down the Via Dolorosa and up Calvary's hill, we celebrate His resurrection from the dead!

We will have an Easter Sunrise Service, **beginning at 7:00 a.m.**, followed by a wonderful Easter breakfast.

Our **Easter Celebration Service will begin at 9:00 a.m.**, and there will be no Sunday School on that Sunday.

We welcome everyone to come celebrate with us our Risen Lord! Be sure to invite your family and friends, especially those who may not have a saving relationship with our Lord Jesus.

Dr. Ray Craig will be with us on Easter Sunday, giving a message at the Sunrise Service and also delivering the Proclamation of the Word at our Easter Celebration Service at 9:00 a.m.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?"

— John 11:25-26

The Unrivaled Power of Prayer

We do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

—Romans 8:26

We realize that we are energized by the Holy Spirit for prayer; and we know what it is to pray in accordance with the Spirit; but we don't often realize that the Holy Spirit Himself prays prayers in us which we cannot utter ourselves. When we are born again of God and are indwelt by the Spirit of God, He expresses for us the unutterable.

“He,” the Holy Spirit in you, “makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:27). And God searches your heart, not to know what your conscious prayers are, but to find out what the prayer of the Holy Spirit is.

The Spirit of God uses the nature of the believer as a temple in which to offer His prayers of intercession. “...your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...” (1 Corinthians 6:19). When Jesus Christ cleansed the temple, “...He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple” (Mark 11:16). The Spirit of God will not allow you to use your body for your own convenience. Jesus ruthlessly cast out everyone who bought and sold in the temple, and said, “My house shall be called a house of prayer.... But you have made it a ‘den of thieves’” (Mark 11:17).

Have we come to realize that our “body is the temple of the Holy Spirit”? If so, we must be careful to keep it undefiled for Him. We have to remember that our conscious life, even though only a small part of our total person, is to be regarded by us as a “temple of the Holy Spirit.” He will be responsible for the unconscious part which we don't know, but we must pay careful attention to and guard the conscious part for which we are responsible.

© 2017 Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

Our Prayers for Mint Hill Presbyterian

We thank the Lord for all His blessings - for our church family and our freedom to worship God openly in this country. We thank the Lord for the hard times. “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*” (Romans 8:28) Brothers and sisters, He is molding us into the image of His Son.

Pray that Mint Hill Presbyterian will be a godly church and that its leaders will seek the Lord first—in all decisions. Praise God that He has a mighty plan for Mint Hill Presbyterian! **Pray that many in our congregation will desire to serve and that the needs of the church will be met!** May we all strive to be like Jesus in every way. Pray for our church growth (in Spirit and in Truth as well as numbers)!

We praise God for the Bruecks and the ministry God provided for us through them while they were with us. We pray for wisdom, guidance and strength to do the task that God has called them to do at Heartland Community Church where the Lord has called them. Help them to walk in His will. **Help us as part of their forever family to always hold them up in prayer—always encouraging them and each other (Hebrews 10:25).** And pray for the continuing adoption process as Richard, Kate and Caroline await a new little one into their home!

We pray that the Lord will hold us closely together as a church body, keeping us from falling into the schemes of the enemy who would seek to destroy Mint Hill Presbyterian, especially now in this new transition.

We also pray for the Search Committee, that they would be filled with wisdom, guidance and discernment as we seek the man God has already chosen to shepherd us. We pray for Aaron Ogenorth and the exams he is preparing to take.

Please thank the Lord and remember our police officers and emergency technicians and pray for their safety and protection from all the evil they see. Pray for their families to be able to live in the peace of Jesus Christ.

Remember to pray for our missionaries all over the world, putting their lives on the line in many situations to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who don't know. We lift up the Goodmans, the Millers, the missionaries in the Middle East, and Josh Grimm.

Please be sure to read the prayer requests sent out each week! Put them with your Bible, read them daily and pray for these requests! The people on that list will certainly appreciate your prayers, and **God is listening!** Think back on how He has answered so many of our prayers! And He continues to!

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Children are very important to us! Nursery is available to infants and young toddlers during worship services, and is located on the right side of the sanctuary as you enter. **Children's Church** is available for families with young children ages 8 and under. It is available after the offering and Doxology, and is located on the left side of the sanctuary as you enter. Please feel free to keep your children in the sanctuary to participate in the worship service. We place a high value on children participating in the worship of God, and on families being able to worship together.

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

—Matthew 19:14



Nursery Schedule - March

- 4 *Alissa Depaoli, Sue Johnson*
- 11 *Gloria Bigham*
- 18 *Linda Shelden*
- 25 *Kristin Skipper*

Children's Church Schedule - March

- 4 *Donni DeHart*
- 11 *Mary Stokes, Sandra Bigham*
- 18 *Barbara Porter*
- 25 *Sam Hanes*

Members of the choir who have also volunteered to serve in the nursery or children's church will sing in the choir during the anthem and then go to minister with the children. *Thank you* for your willingness to serve in multiple areas of the church!

Thank you to all who have stepped up to serve our Lord in this role. This is such an *important* part of a child's life!

If you are scheduled for Children's Church and there are no children that day, please assist with nursery needs. We need two people! Thank you for serving!

Officers of the Month - March
Donn DeHart, Tom Vehue

The Diaconate will meet on Monday,
March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
The Session will meet on Monday,
March 19 at 6:45 p.m.

March Birthdays

- 2 *Phyllis Tarrant*
- 13 *Kate Brueck*
- 14 *Emmaline Decker*
- 16 *Cherish McKinnon*
- 27 *Charity Decker*
- 30 *Joan Kracke*



March Anniversaries

- 7 *Steve & Phyllis Tarrant*



Items for Homeless

Eleanor Kracke will collect items for the homeless again this year. The basket is located in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have questions about what to donate, just ask! She'll be glad to help you! Eleanor delivers these boxes in December each year. **This year she says she will need help getting the items to the Crittenton Home in December.** This is a real blessing to those who receive these items! Ask Eleanor if you have any questions about what to donate and thank you for your donations!



How We Can Help in Other Ways

For about 8 years or more we have participated in Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Program. It has been absolutely thrilling and I feel very blessed by all of you who donated the "Item of the Month," which came together in October to put in shoeboxes for children all over the world. We've even received a letter from one of the groups who received our shoeboxes! For a while I have felt a tug from the Lord to go on to something else while still helping Samaritan's Purse.

Samaritan's Purse has a catalog full of opportunities to help those in need in all sorts of ways. So after praying about it a lot, I've decided to stop the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry and replace it with this one.

A chart has been made showing what we can get for a person, family, or entire village, and how much money it takes to achieve that goal. We will be able to see how the fund grows.

If you would like to give cash, a locked box will be in the back of the church (where the OCC basket used to be).

I am very excited to see what God will do! Please pray that He will lead you and help you to discern if you should give money or choose to pray for the ministry. I know I would appreciate your prayers in this new endeavor!

Thank you for your participation and your prayers!
To God be the glory!

— Patti Smith

Example of gifts we can give:

- Help Persecuted Christians
- Loving Care for An Orphan
- Children with Disabilities
- Feed a Family
- Chickens
- Clean Water Projects
- And the list goes on...



Again, thank you again for whatever you do, decide to give or to pray, or both! More details are on the table in the back of the church. Check out the "growth chart!" Already the funds are growing!

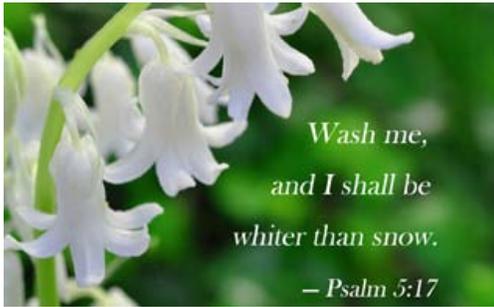
Showered with Love!

A baby shower for Jessica Wallin and little Avery Grace was hosted by Lorin Melton at her home on Sunday, February 25. As you can see, it was a great time and lots of wonderful gifts were given to this little one we will meet very soon!



We had a special prayer time for Jessica, Chad, and their little miracle coming soon!





March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	2	3
 4 Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am Communion	5	6 Women's Bible Study on 2 Timothy 7 pm at the church	7	8 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	9	10  Set your clocks ahead one hour!
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am	12 Diaconate Mtg 7:00 p.m.	13 Women's Bible Study on 2 Timothy 7 pm at the church	14	15 Extended Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	16	17  St. Patrick's Day Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner 6 pm & Praise Concert 7 pm
18 Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am Important Congregational Meeting!	19 Session Mtg 6:45 p.m.	20 Women's Bible Study on 2 Timothy 7 pm at the church	21	22 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	23	24
 25 Palm Sunday Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am	26	27 Women's Bible Study on 2 Timothy 7 pm at the church	28	29 Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	30  Good Friday	31



News in Brief

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Chairman Steve Tarrant
Treasurer Barbara Porter

Session

Moderator Dick Shaw
Class of 2019, Education Chair Donn DeHart
Class of 2020, Fellowship & Outreach Butch Bigham
Class of 2022, Worship Chair Steve Smith

Diaconate

Chair Tom Vehue
Class of 2018 Helen Scheffel
Class of 2019 Aaron Melton, Chad McKinnon
Class of 2020 Tom Vehue

Women of the Church

President Gloria Bigham
Vice-President Linda Shelden
Secretary Carrie Ann Hanes
Historian Helen Scheffel
Treasurer Mary Stokes



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**Deadline for the April 2018 issue of *News in Brief*
is March 21, 2018**

Please send articles and information for the next issue to Patti Smith at:
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