From Our Pastor . . .

We marked December 21, 2020 as a date to remember. Having heard the news for weeks about the Christmas Star being visible in the night sky, we paused what we were doing just after sunset, loaded up in our minivan and went to see it. We had to drive to the top of the hill to get a good clear look. Once we spotted it in the night sky, we helped each of the children find it as well. It was incredible to see the look of wonder and amazement on their faces because I knew that was the same look on my face as well. Then, overwhelmed with reverence and reflection, I whispered a prayer of praise to God, the one who made it all possible, and the one who has come to us in human flesh, in Christ Jesus.

But our experience with the Christmas Star did not stop when we loaded back into the minivan and returned home to eat supper. This was just the beginning of an evening filled with conversation and imagination involving the planets, the stars, the solar system, the universe, and the Lord. Annlyn asked how all of this could happen. Eva asked about the stars. Caulder wanted to make sure that we knew Pluto was no longer considered a planet. The majority of the conversation was able to come back to the presence and power of the Lord in it all.

It caused me to think about the question the Lord asks the people of Israel through Isaiah. “To whom will you compare me, that I should be like him?” (40:25). When we consider the stars and the heavens, when we see the work of the fingers of God, when we marvel at the handiwork of the Holy One, who is like our God? Ponder that question. Who is like our God?

It is no secret that the year to which we have said goodbye was one of the most complicated, difficult, and depressing any of us may remember. But through it all I kept hearing the Lord ask this question of my heart: To whom will you, Andrew, compare me?

We must remember that the Lord is the One who put the Christmas star in its place. The One who created Jupiter and Saturn and caused their orbits to align just so. The One who has called us and empowered us by the Holy Spirit. There is nothing the Lord cannot do. Just as the Lord holds the universe in place, so the Lord holds you and me — us — in place.

As we begin the new year, we will do so differently than we had planned. With the rise in COVID cases in our immediate community, we feel it is wisest and most loving to begin the year pausing in-person worship. We are deeply grateful for our ministry on television and YouTube and God will hold us together through these great gifts. We pray this pause is only for a few weeks and then we can, once again, safely re-gather in person. Through this time, we trust the Lord completely and are prayerfully putting forth sound judgment.

It seems like everyone I know is becoming weary. We are all burdened and heavy laden. Everyone around is simply running on empty these days. To that, I have good news. We don’t have to depend on our own strength to see us through. Just after the Lord asks this question of the Israelites, the prophet speaks the reassuring word: “Even youths will faint and be weary and young men will fall exhausted; but they who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (40:30-31).

This is encouraging to me because I know it is not my strength that will pull me through. My strength is never strong enough. As followers of Christ, we draw our strength from the One Who holds all things together. If the Lord can hold the universe in place and keep it going, I feel the Lord can do the same for you, for me…for us.

It is a deep and true joy to be your pastor and your friend…

-Andrew
We need a few volunteers to assist with our Food Pantry. Shopping for the food is each Thursday, 8:30-10:00am. Please consider serving in this great area of ministry. For more information, please contact Carol Bowman @ 828-302-7608.

As You Pray, Remember . . .

The Family of Janice Moore on the recent death of her daughter, Tenita Moore.

The Family of Tommy Kincaid on the recent death of his father, J. T. Kincaid.

The Family of Tim Turner on the recent death of his mother, Lu Turner.

The Family of Dot Rhyme on her recent death.

The Family of Faye Young on the recent death of her sister, Emma Lee Sullivan.

The Family of Nelson Fry on the recent death of his brother, Frank Fry.

Thank You From . . .

Bill & Jeri Barnette
Pregnancy Care Center
Safe Harbor

Missions and Evangelism News

Help Support the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) brings hope and healing to children and families in crisis. For more than 130 years, the nonprofit has offered caring homes to countless boys and girls who come from circumstances ranging from family dysfunction to situation of abuse, neglect and abandonment.

We will be collecting funds for BCH from January through March, but if you would like to make DOUBLE the difference in a child’s life, gifts given through the church until January 17th will be matched dollar for dollar up to $250,000 (by an anonymous donor to BCH). You may place your gift in the offering plate designated to “Missions” or “Baptist Children’s Home.” To learn more about BCH please visit Baptist Children's Homes of NC (bchfamily.org)
# January 2021 Monthly Planner

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Each Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worship Service</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Second Harvest Food Distribution</strong></td>
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<td>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Each Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Minister’s Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Wednesdays Worship &amp; Praise</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Each Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat</strong></td>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>AA, Youth &amp; Activities Building</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monday-Friday</strong></td>
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<td>7:15 am-6:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Weekday Preschool Ministry</strong></td>
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<td>8:30 am-12:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>After School Morning Remote Support Program</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Closings</strong></td>
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<td>Jan 1-4</td>
<td><strong>Preschool/Afterschool Ministries</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Our chief ministry as believers is Prayer!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Pray without ceasing!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Every morning and every evening at 8:00, set a time of dedicated prayer.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Prayer for our world, our nation, our community. Prayer for the Holy Spirit of God to bring both hope and healing to a very troubled time.</strong></td>
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24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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Each Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service

Monday-Friday
7:15 am-6:00 pm
8:30 am-12:30 pm
Weekday Preschool Ministry
After School Morning Remote Support Program

Closings
Jan 1-4

Preschool/Afterschool Ministries

Our chief ministry as believers is Prayer!
Pray without ceasing!
Every morning and every evening at 8:00, set a time of dedicated prayer.
Prayer for our world, our nation, our community. Prayer for the Holy Spirit of God to bring both hope and healing to a very troubled time.
Opportunities for Service

Sunday, January 3
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary

Monday, January 4
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Second Harvest Food Distribution

Tuesday, January 5
6:00 p.m. Property Committee

Wednesday, January 6
9:30 a.m. Minister’s Meeting
11:00 a.m. Full Staff
5:00 p.m. Wednesdays Worship & Praise

Thursday, January 7

Friday, January 8

Saturday, January 9

Monday - Friday
7:15 a.m.-6 p.m. Weekday Preschool Ministry
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. After School Remote Learning

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
5:30 p.m. AA, Youth & Activities Building

January 2021
Deacon of the Week
January 3 ~ Chris Moore
January 10 ~ Sharon Olsen
January 17 ~ Cheryl Ramsey
January 24 ~ Marion Roseman
January 31 ~ Brenda Starnes

Broadcast Ministry
Our worship service is broadcast live each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on:

- WHKY-TV Channel 14
- Alexander CTV Channel 7
- Caldwell CTV Channel 7
- Spectrum TV Channel 7

Also on www.youtube.com
Search: Viewmont Baptist Church Hickory NC

Our Church Staff
828-322-6732
You may contact us at:
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Regiani Pereira, ext 207
regiani@viewmontbaptist.org
Beth Rogers, ext 201
beth@viewmontbaptist.org
Amie Moore, ext 214
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After School Ministry, ext 208
asm@viewmontbaptist.org
Weekday Preschool Ministry, ext 209
preschool@viewmontbaptist.org
828-322-1205

Return Service Requested

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Hickory, NC 28601-2697

Non-Profit Organization