

Hope Valley Baptist Church

*Loving, serving and reaching out
in Christ's name—at a safe distance*

2020 in Review

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Durham North Carolina 27707

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INTRODUCTION

We already knew that church was more than a building. The church is a body of Christian believers working together to further God's kingdom.

We may have had limited access to the building at 6900 Garrett Rd, Durham, NC, during most of 2020, but church was NOT cancelled. It continued remotely as we learned new ways to study the Bible and worship together while staying apart. It continued through mission activities to help meet the needs of those in Durham and around the world who were hungry, or thirsty, or strangers, or who needed clothes or were ill or in prison, or who needed to hear the message of God's love. It continued within the church community and beyond as we provided assistance to people with special needs, from rides to medical appointments to help with shopping to staying in touch with phone calls, cards and emails. And it continued as we prayed — Oh! How we prayed!

At Hope Valley Baptist Church, our Vision is to be a Christ-centered community, worshipping in the Spirit, growing in discipleship, and sharing God's Love. This report highlights how the church moved forward toward fulfilling that vision in 2020, and what we expect for 2021.



Church Staff

Dr. Bill Pyle	Interim Minister
Rev. Amy Herring	Minister to Children & Families
Rev. Julio Deleon	Pastor, Iglesia Bautista Valle de Esperanza
Kathryn Bunch	Director of Music Ministries
Barbara Rowley	Organist
Sean Timmons	Youth Ministry Intern
Robin Wimberley	Administrative Assistant

If you have a question about Hope Valley Baptist Church or would like to get more involved, contact the church office at info@hvbc.org or 919-493-1809. The church staff is currently working remotely, but someone will respond to your message as quickly as possible.

About HVBC

Hope Valley Baptist Church was started in 1959 by a group of members of nearby Berea Baptist Church, who felt called to start a church in what was then a rural area of Southwest Durham.

Hope Valley provides opportunities for worship, discipleship and ministry for all ages. The church ministers to children and families, youth, deaf people, senior citizens, immigrants, and, in collaboration with other local religious organizations, to homeless people, people living in poverty, and others with special needs.

Hope Valley Baptist Church is dually affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina and the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

Iglesia Bautista Valle de Esperanza, a Spanish language mission church, also meets for worship in our Family Life Center.

WORSHIPPING IN THE SPIRIT

Hope Valley Baptist Church held regular, face-to-face worship services in the church building at 11 a.m. on Sundays during January, February and the first part of March 2020. Attendance for these in-person worship services ranged from 85 to 110.



To protect church members, visitors, and staff after the prevalence of COVID-19 in the Durham area made

large gatherings undesirable, the worship service was recorded live and the recording made available on the church website and through YouTube. This ministry is possible because of extensive commitment by volunteers David Stoops, Justin Hayes and Helen Bowen, who spent many hours each week recording the worship service, converting it to the appropriate format, and posting to the web.



Video recordings of the worship services since the move to recorded services beginning March 22 are available at

<https://www.hvbc.org/category/watch/>. Audio recordings are available for services prior to March 22.

Interim Minister Dr. Bill Pyle regularly leads in the worship service. Guest speakers in 2020 included Dr. Lydia Hoyle, Associate Professor of Church History and Baptist Heritage, Campbell University Divinity School; Dr. Larry Hovis, Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina; and Miriam Phillips Stephens.

Each Sunday's worship service included a special Children's Message, usually based on one of the scripture passages from the Revised Common Lectionary. During January, February and the first part of March, the message was part of the regular



Sunday worship service. The Children's Message was presented in a format that encouraged the children to respond to questions and share related experience. Following the message, the children received a worship bag that

provided additional activities for them to complete as they listened to the Worship Service.

Beginning March 22, with the first online Hope Valley Baptist Church Worship Service broadcast, the Children's Message moved to an online format. Children's Ministry Resources were shared with parents and family via email each Sunday. This email included information related to the week's Children's Message such as a link to Together@Home resources created to match the scripture reading/emphasis for the week and a short reflection/devotion for parents.

Hope Valley Baptist Church has a tradition of “blended” worship services that include traditional music as well as music of many different styles. Since the quarantine began, the sanctuary choir has been unable to lead the music during the worship service, but numerous members of the choir and instrumental and vocal ensembles have provided special music during the regular and special worship services. Kathryn Bunch, Director of Music Ministries, coordinated the worship music and played the piano, and Barbara Rowley played the organ.



GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP

Mid-Week Bible Study

Interim Minister Dr. Bill Pyle has led HVBC Midweek, a Wednesday night Zoom Bible Study/Prayer Meeting, during the quarantine. Between 25 and 30 people participate each week in HVBC Midweek, which includes a time of sharing and prayer concerns as well as study and discussion of a Bible passage.

In addition, participants can remain online for as long as they wish after the session ends to visit with each other. This is especially meaningful to members who live alone or who are unable to have much interaction with others during this time.

Adult Sunday School

Led by Michael Dossett, the Modern Disciples Sunday School class initiated the development of church-wide adult Sunday School via Zoom. Classes began March 15. Participants include members of the Modern Disciples class, members of the other adult Sunday School classes, and visitors from other churches and other communities. By the end of the year, three dozen or more devices and up to 45 participants were connected each Sunday.

Eight people volunteered as teachers for online class: Jacqueline Allen, Steve Bolton, Toby Bowen, Michael Bunch, Michael Dossett, John Myers, Linda Ward and Rhonda Welfare. Typically, the lesson is divided into thirds and three people teach each Sunday. In honor of these eight teachers, the Modern Disciples gave \$100 to the CBF Global Missions offering and \$100 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (SBC).

In addition to the Zoom class, other adult Sunday School classes meet informally to provide support to their members.

Linda Ward, Phil & Lucy Woodell, Gail Templeton, Mike Dossett, Linda Ellis and Candy Taylor have delivered Sunday School literature to our church family during the past three quarters.

The personal contacts and brief socially distanced visits have helped to keep lines of communication open, even as we care enough for one another to remain apart.

Women's Book Study

In the fall, Linda Ward led a six-week study on *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are* by Ann Voscamp. The study group met virtually on Zoom each Tuesday morning.

Plans have begun for the next book study featuring *The God You May Not Know* by Dr. David Jeremiah, scheduled to begin in January.

Children and Family Ministry

The Children and Family Ministry included in-person activities during the first three months of 2020 and a combination of virtual and face-to-face activities during the rest of the year.

Kids' Club met on the first Saturday during January, February and March 2020, back when things were still operating as usual. Kids' Club provides children an opportunity to learn about God, with scripture and other readings reinforced with games and activities, crafts, and a related mission project. For example, the February session of Kids' Club focused on God's Love



for Us. The children read the book *Adeline's Valentine* together, learned a "Heart Healthy" exercise, made Valentine crafts to take home, painted ceramic hearts, and prepared Valentines to send to shut-ins, including residents at nearby assisted living facilities.

After the church moved to remote sessions, special activities were developed for children and emailed or hand delivered. For example, during Holy Week, April 6-11, daily “Together at Home” resources were sent to families. Each day had a scripture passage to read together, discussion questions, one or more fun activities for the entire family, and a prayer. The scripture passage was also available by video on YouTube and Facebook. An Easter Goodie Bag was delivered during a “porch visit” to each family with children. The bags contained religious and non-religious items including Easter eggs and candies, toys, crafts, etc.



Other ministry kits and goodie bags were delivered for Pentecost, Summer Break, Fall, Halloween and Thanksgiving.

During July and August, the children had a five-week online Bible Study about Daniel. The Bible Study used Google Classroom to provide clickable links to an introduction, video of the Bible story, kid-friendly music, activity sheets and completed crafts.



The Student Prayer Partner Ministry started in September. Students were matched with members of the church family, who promise to pray daily for the student and send encouraging cards and small gifts as reminders throughout the year. Porch visits were also held with each family.

During each week of Advent, worship kits were delivered to each family via porch visits. The first week's package included a



“living Advent” calendar that takes users through the season with snippets of the Christmas story and one or two activities for families to participate in each week, materials for a child-friendly Advent Wreath, a pamphlet that explained how to light

the Advent candle each week, Christmas Blessing Boxes to use to record prayers during each day of Advent, and materials to have a gratitude party as part of the Advent celebration. Each subsequent week, additional activities were provided for children and their families to do together.

AWANA

AWANA, a world-wide nonprofit ministry focused on providing Bible-based evangelism and discipleship for children, has been offered at Hope Valley Baptist Church for more than a decade. AWANA uses Bible study and scripture memorization to give children the opportunity to know, love and serve Jesus. About 30 students were enrolled in the program at Hope Valley in 2020. Students met face-to-face on Sunday evenings during the first three months of 2020, then moved to an at-home format for elementary students and Zoom meetings for middle and high school students.

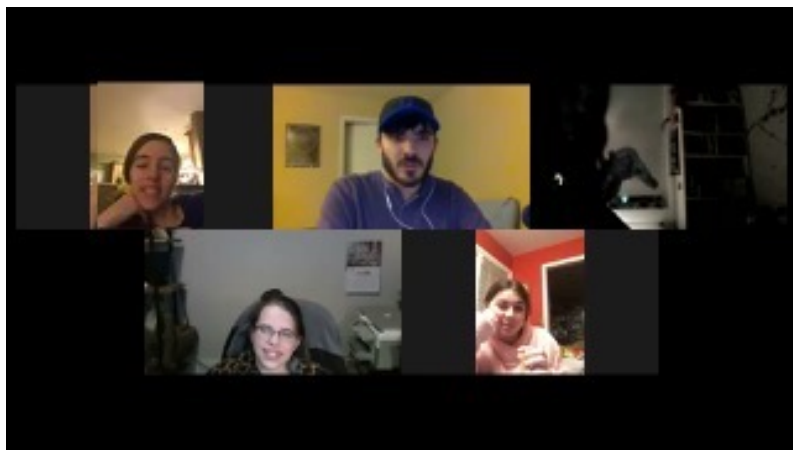
Youth Activities

The main two activities available to youth during quarantine have been Sunday Bible studies and mini-sessions every other Friday.

Participation in Youth Bible Studies ranged from four to eight students each week. The group started an extensive study on Women in the Bible/Women in Ministry in October that is scheduled to finish in February.

The Mini-Sessions have looked different each week. They have included movie nights, cooking tutorial nights, game nights, and discussion nights where we simply select a topic and share our thoughts on it. Participation has varied widely with these depending on the specific activity.

Passport, a summer mission camp for youth, met virtually in 2020. Students could watch videos, join Zoom meetings and webinars, and participate in other activities. Students and their families participated in this activity as individuals rather than as part of a church group.



SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Hope House

Hope House continued its ministry of providing temporary housing to immigrant families in need during 2020. Hope House, located on the church campus, was launched in 2016 as a collaborative project also supported by other area churches, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, and World Relief Durham.

Hope House is part of the Welcome House Community Network, seven locally supported ministries in North Carolina that work with CBF Global Field Personnel [Marc and Kim Wyatt](#) to assist immigrant families.



Changes in immigration policies under the previous administration resulted in a significant decrease in immigrants coming to the area and contributed to a shift in focus from short term transitional housing. The most recent families have been able to stay at Hope House for several months, providing time to more fully transition to permanent housing, employment, and schooling. Volunteers work with the families and connect in ways that continue after the families move into more permanent situations.

The most recent Hope House guests moved to permanent housing in November. Volunteers cleaned the house, did minor repairs, and updated furnishings as needed. The next residents are expected shortly.

In honor of the late Dr. Bill Bigger, former pastor of Hope Valley Baptist Church who was instrumental in the opening of Hope House, the Bigger family planted a ginkgo tree at the facility to serve as a lasting reminder of his vision and ministry.

Families Moving Forward

Hope Valley's long-term work with [Families Moving Forward](#) (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) took on a new look in 2020 due to changes brought on by COVID-19.



Families Moving Forward is a non-profit organization that works with families with children who are experiencing homelessness to provide temporary housing and transitional services that help them break the cycle of poverty. FMF provides emergency shelter to 21 families, case management, adult and children's programming, and support services while they are in residence and up to a year after their transition to permanent housing.

Prior to the spread of COVID-19 and accompanying restrictions, Hope Valley was part of a rotation of area churches that provided meals for the guests and evening activities for children periodically throughout the year.



Starting in April, Hope Valley shifted to a virtual role, largely supporting the effort with individual gifts and a regular monthly contribution through the church budget. In addition, several church members offered to serve as virtual tutors for children and youth involved in remote learning.

The Modern Disciples Sunday School class raised money to purchase linens for families in emergency housing. Families use the linens during their stay and take the linens when they move into permanent housing.

Special Activities

1. **Souper Bowl of Caring**—February 2—Children helped collect canned goods during service; Youth collected loose change at the door at end of service. All food and money collected went to support the YBA Food Pantry
2. **Valentine Banquet** – February 12 – Hope Valley members and friends gathered for the Valentine banquet and to see which of our four “Not So Newlywed Game” contestants knew the most about their spouses. Winners were Robin and Andy Wimberley. This annual event was sponsored by the Family Ministries Committee and the Youth Program. Additional photos are on page 18.



3. **Rise Against Hunger**—
March 7—Members of HVBC and Westminster Presbyterian as well as other churches in the community joined to pack food bags. More than 13,000 bags were packed.

4. **Virtual CROP Walk**—
April 5—The [CROP Walk](#), an annual event that raises money to combat hunger in Durham and around the world,



- switched to a virtual format for 2020. A team of Hope Valley Baptist Church walkers recruited sponsors for their individual walks.

5. **Summer Snack Bags for McDougald Terrace**—June-August (multiple deliveries)—collected specific food items (canned pasta, instant macaroni and cheese, crackers, granola bars, Jell-O, etc.); collected money for purchase of specific food items; helped pack snack bags; helped with delivery of snack bags to McDougald Terrace. Total delivered: 282 snack bags.
6. **Operation Christmas Child**—November 15— Thanks to your generosity, we collected 30 shoeboxes, which have been given to Samaritan's Purse to be distributed around the world through Operation Christmas Child. We appreciate your support and pray that these gifts will bless the children who receive them and help them experience God's love. Thanks also to Linda Ward who led this effort.
7. **Yates Baptist Association Toy Store**—November 16-20, 23-25—Gifts and contributions for the YBA Toy Store were dropped off at the church.

8. **Christmas Card Missions Mailbox**—Members were encouraged to “mail” cards to other members via the Missions Mailbox and donate money for each card mailed to the Christmas Missions Offering. “Touch free” delivery was provided by deacons beginning the week of December 13. Members were also encouraged to include cards for residents at a nearby Assisted Living facility.
9. **Angel Tree**— Approximately 90 wrapped gifts—and 20 gift cards!—were taken to a local family of six – a mother, father and four children.

Ongoing Activities

1. Greeting Cards for Carolina Reserve Residents and Staff— encouraged members to send cards of love and support to 46 residents plus staff.
2. YBA Food Pantry—collected non-perishable food items (January-early March) and money (especially during HVBC’s “months” of October-December)
3. Member Support—On a formal and informal basis, church members and others provided meals and other contacts in times of need due to death or illness. A group of volunteers sent cards to people, both members and friends and family, who were on the prayer list. The deacons contacted members of the church family regularly to check on needs. Members sponsored activities to welcome new members and to wish people well departing for new endeavors.

Missions Offering

Offering	Goal	Received
Easter Offering	\$2,000	\$1,800
Christmas Offering	\$4,000	\$5,149

FINANCIAL

As 2020 winds to a close, we'd like to thank you for the way you pitched in this year with your gifts of time and money to Hope Valley Baptist Church.

Many churches and other non-profit organizations have struggled financially during the quarantine, and Hope Valley Baptist Church was no exception. We ended the year with revenue exceeding expenses. While much of that is due to cancellation of activities due to COVID-19 restrictions, additional cuts to programs, and voluntary cuts in pay by staff members during the Pandemic, it is also due to your continued sacrificial giving during this time.

We encourage each of you to remember Hope Valley Baptist Church as you make your financial plans for the coming year. Every gift makes a difference, no matter how great or how small. You can use a credit or check card to donate by clicking on the link at the bottom of our website (hvbc.org); mail a check to the church at 6900 Garrett Rd., Durham NC 27707; or put your envelope into the secure drop box to the right of the entrance to the church office.

2020 Operating Fund

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	
Income			\$276,696.85
Expenses	\$322,707.00		\$236,522.55
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$25,173.00</i>	<i>\$24,870.89</i>	
<i>Personnel</i>	<i>\$171,454.00</i>	<i>\$135,139.73</i>	
<i>Training/Education</i>	<i>\$19,400.00</i>	<i>\$6,413.19</i>	
<i>Worship & Music</i>	<i>\$6,125.00</i>	<i>\$3,800.56</i>	
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$17,785.00</i>	<i>\$9,927.02</i>	
<i>Property/Maintenance</i>	<i>\$46,550.00</i>	<i>\$34,586.57</i>	
<i>Service Contracts</i>	<i>\$36,220.00</i>	<i>\$21,784.59</i>	
Net Income			\$40,174.30

WHAT WILL 2021 BRING?

We anticipate being able at some point during 2021 to reopen our facility and resume activities that were not held this year, including face-to-face worship, Bible studies, and Vacation Bible School, which annually reaches more than 100 area children and their families. However, it is likely that some members, because of age, underlying medical conditions, or an inability to be vaccinated, will continue to want to worship remotely for the foreseeable future.

The first step will be hiring a permanent Senior Pastor, who can lead us as we return as a stronger and more effective church, loving, serving, and reaching out in Christ's name. The Pastoral Search Committee is continuing discussions with several candidates and we expect movement on this project early in 2021.

The greatest gift you can give is your prayers. Remember the church as we face special challenges in 2021, including hiring a new minister and resuming regular activities safely, while continuing to provide virtual support where needed. Remember our members in illness and grief, as they look for new employment, and as they face critical medical, employment, and other decisions about the future.

We face many challenges, but we look forward with God's help to making a difference in Durham and around the world for many years to come.

MORE PICTURES







Thanks to Jacqueline Allen, Jennifer Bowen, Toby Bowen, Kathryn Bunch, Mike Dossett, Amy Herring, John Myers, Anne Pokorny, Bill Pyle, David Stoops, Julie Stoops, Candy Taylor, Sean Timmons, Rhonda Welfare and Robin Wimberley.



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