



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

2019 Year In Review

As a church, the body of Christ in this time and place, we live to serve. In this annual report you hold a document of service. All the activity you can read about deals with service: serving people's need to worship God; serving people's need for fellowship; serving educational needs; serving the need we have for individual spiritual growth and support; serving the needs of the wider community and the world; serving those who need healing; serving those who need food and housing; even serving those who need parking in our amazing Black Mountain community!

In looking back at the past year, 2019 was a year of changes. Through all of them, it has been an honor and a joy to serve as your pastor. Each of the following ministry team reports and snapshots of our work will give you an idea of everything you have achieved this year, how hard all of you have worked, and how much fun you have had doing it!

As your Head of Staff, I celebrate the strong and dedicated staff we have here in place at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. After two interim years, we are fully staffed now with such amazing people! We welcomed David Carter Florence, our new associate pastor, in July and what great joy and energy he has brought into the life of our congregation. Brittany Williams and Sam Webber joined our staff in December and are juggling administrative duties as well as rounding out our faith formation team in such abundant life-giving ways. We are a full staff now who truly enjoys working together in partnership with the session and membership of BMPC. I thank God I get to Pastor in a congregation where service, love and joy are present in so many ways and so many places. I look forward to seeing how God leads us to greater service in 2020!

Faithfully – *Mary Katherine*

JANUARY

Chili Cook-off BMPC youth and deacons hosted a Chili Cook-off on January 27. It was fun and delicious and some of us got to know our deacons a little better. Congratulations to Margo Smith who was crowned the Chili Champ! **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** continued their work on finding our next Associate Pastor.



FEBRUARY

Youth Sunday was "powerful and well-conceived... what amazing praise for the youth of our church!" **Hal Bennett** Pastor at Dulatown Presbyterian Church, Lenoir, NC, was our guest preacher on February 24. Hal serves on the General Council, as chairperson for the Mission division and is a member of the African American Advisory Forum for the Presbytery.





MARCH

We hosted a **Rise Against Hunger** inter-generational event to pack 15,000 meals. **The Annual Weekday School Art Show** always brings in folks from our Black Mountain community to enjoy the beautiful artwork of the Weekday School children.



APRIL

New Members Cookout at the home of Scott and Judy Gregory in Montreat



MAY

Evangelism (which is now Hospitality and Welcome) was responsible for our new welcoming sign in front of our church!

RACIAL EQUITY TASK FORCE

Our newly formed **Racial Equity Task Force** sponsored a book study on Bryan Stevenson's book *Just Mercy*. On the second night of the study the group took a field trip to the Thomas AME Little Church.



Evangelism / Hospitality and Welcome

- name change from Evangelism to Hospitality and Welcome
- MK led three inquirers/new member classes – added 23 new members, including six clergy affiliates
- hosted informal lunches for inquirers for fellowship and learning about BMPC
- recruited volunteers to be greeters at 11:00 worship and organized faithful volunteers to man the Welcome Table each Sunday
- reached out to parents of our weekday school children inviting them to join us for special events at the church
- purchased and placed the “Love Thy Neighbor” banner in front of the church
- developed a postcard with church information to be available to Bounty and Soul participants and other groups who use the church facilities
- in September, helped with the Children’s Neighborhood Dance Party held in Town Square Park
- in October, hosted a new member cookout at Scott and Judy Gregory’s home – approximately 55 people attended

Hospitality and Welcome Team: Deb Mullis, chair, Cheryl Wilson, Julie Moore, Beverly Highland, Sarah Hutcheson, Leslie Applewhite, Janine Spiller, April Roy, Rosie Johnson, Mary Katherine Robinson

Worship and Music

Your Worship and Music Ministry Team ushered in 2019 by supporting the creation of visual arts for the Lenten Season through the theme of “Cultivating and Letting Go” and supporting our Earth Care team by using echo-Palms for Palm Sunday. Easter saw the return of the flowering cross and the living Easter Garden full of both green and flowering plants dedicated in honor and memory of loved ones. For Pentecost, the sanctuary was adorned with a flowing display representing the Holy Spirit along with new paraments of red flame created by our own Ruth Duckworth. Fall brought a Town Square Pop Up Party – a community event of music and dancing for young children DJ’d by Jamie Munn as well as a reimagined All Saints Day program of hymn sing, dessert, and storytelling led by Donna Marie Todd. Thanksgiving themes of cornucopias were followed by a Chrismon workshop and the annual greening of the sanctuary accompanied by myriad stars with the addition of dedicated poinsettias. The first ever intergenerational event “Back Porch

Christmas” Music and Drama Revue was held featuring original music by Andy Gwynn and drama by Franklin Harris.

We give thanks to God for the continued creative leadership of Michael Barker throughout 2019; the gifts of the FirstLight, Chancel and Bell choirs; and the many talented musicians along with the dedication of those who provided technical support behind the scenes like John Walker and Tommy Wilkinson. We are grateful to all the artists that provided both beautiful and thought-provoking rotating displays in the Narthex as well as the choral contract of Karis Kerr.

May we continue to extend our efforts into the community by enacting our vision statement “Inspiring through Worship ... and Welcoming to All”!

Worship and Music Team: Liesl Case, Ruth Duckworth, Keithie Knowles, Jeanie Maidment, Gay Ferguson, Mike Barker

Earth Care

The Earth Care Team began in spring 2013 and has grown to be a significant factor in the life of BMPC. We were certified by the PC (USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency as an Earth Care Congregation in 2015.

Our mission statement reads in part, “The earth and all creation are God’s. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family.”

We focus on four areas: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Here’s how we addressed those focus areas in 2019:

We worked with the worship team to include themes of creation care in music, liturgy, and prayer throughout the year, as well as coordinating as a special Earth Care Sunday program focused on stewardship of creation.

In education, our members led church school classes to explore responsible energy use, and held special events focusing on care for urban forests and reforestation work done by Presbyterian missionaries. We expanded the church’s library of books on environmental topics, and provided environmental messages for the “Window” newsletter. With our help, students in the weekday school are learning about vermiculture and composting.

This year’s facility upgrades included motion-activated lighting in hallways and restrooms. We eliminated non-recyclable Styrofoam in the kitchen and encouraged groups to use washable plates rather than disposables. Our zero-waste proposal, to reduce waste through recycling, composting, and

more conscious consumption, was approved by Session in February 2019.

We organized an Urban Forestry workshop, which was publicized and open to the general public. In our community garden we grew hundreds of pounds of vegetables for distribution to those in need, in cooperation with the First Baptist Church. We supported reforestation missions in the annual Alternative Giving campaign, and participated as members of the Creation Care Alliance and Presbyterians for Earth Care.

We consider the entire congregation as partners in Earth Care; we have an email list of about 30 supporters, and about a dozen active participants attend our monthly meetings.

Earth Care Team: Karen Austin, David Kaylor, Gayle Petty-Johnson, Jeannie Franklin, Jim Layman, Bill Janes, Scottie Cannon, Robin Stiles, Gayle & Peter Mudge, Martha Jane Petersen, David Carter Florence

Personnel

After twelve years of service as our Director of Music and Worship Arts, Mike Barker was granted a two month sabbatical over the summer. Andy Gwynn and Wayne Smith were hired to provide musical leadership for FirstLight and the 11 a.m. worship service. Mary Katherine led us in studying different types of music in our summer worship with the theme, A Theological Landscape of Music, which was very well received by the members of BMPC.

For the first time in five years all vacant staff positions were filled with highly qualified candidates: David Carter Florence, Associate Pastor for Congregational Faith Formation; Sam Webber, Director of Operations and Youth Ministry; Brittany Williams, Director of Congregational Life and Children’s Ministry. We now have the capability under the leadership of Pastor Mary Katherine to minister to the larger needs of Black Mountain and the Swannanoa Valley. We thank the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for their diligent work as well as Mary Katherine and Personnel team members for their good work in filling the other staff positions.

We said goodbye to Spencer Kilgore after almost two decades of diligent work and now receive our cleaning needs from a local company. We will continue to address the personnel policies and procedures necessary for BMPC to be faithful to our staff and congregation.

Personnel Team: Bill Straughan, Chair, Andy Banzhoff, Bill Gilliland, Cathy Evans, Darryl Johnson, Diane Ginther

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women of BMPC continues to grow and expand its ministry both locally and globally.

Approximately 100 women participate in seven circles meeting monthly September through May. Our Bible study entitled God's Promise: I Am with You by Amy Poling Sutherland examined God's presence in all circumstances of our lives. Karen Austin leads a preparation class for each month's Bible study leaders.

Gatherings in addition to circle meetings

A mission emphasis in February focused on Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth and adults, their program and expansion • Birthday Offerings and installation of officers in May, with Honorary Life Memberships awarded to Mary Katherine Robinson, Olivia LaMotte, Beverly Highland and Cathy McMillan • Thank Offering gathering in October led by Leslie Applewhite

International Mission Support

Our church sponsored missionaries: John McCall in Taiwan; Dan and Elizabeth Turk, Madagascar; Gary and Marlene Van Brocklin, S. Asia; Frank Dimmock, Outreach Foundation; Matt Begley and Jessi Stitt • Global Volunteers We supported: Ministry of Hope in Lesotho, Presbytery partnership with microloans to Guatemalan women and project for mothers, Casa Materna Malawi School in Africa, The Fellowship of the Least Coin, an international ecumenical effort dedicated to improving the lives of women around the world.

Local Ministries Support

Asheville/ Buncombe County Meals on Wheels • Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families • Black Mountain Counseling Center • Bounty and Soul • Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women Chaplaincy Fund • Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries • Swannanoa Valley Transitional Housing for Women, Community Work Crew luncheon • BMPC Weekday School and Youth Mission Trips

Service Opportunities

Missionaries remembered by each circle with prayer and correspondence • Ushers and Reception assistance for memorial services of church family • Dinner prepared and served at the Night Shelter • Food and volunteer assistance to Room at the Inn • Extra letter writing effort to students in Guatemala • Food donations to SVCM • Pillowcases to Puerto Rico for hurricane relief support

Mission and Outreach

The BMPC Mission Team had a busy year planning and implementing programs and projects for the congregation.

FEBRUARY– Mission Season!

MARCH – Hosted a Rise Against Hunger inter-generational event to pack 15,000 meals.

APRIL – Racial Equity Task Force was formed.

MAY – Bread for the World annual letter writing campaign urging legislation to end World Hunger.

JUNE/JULY – Participated in the Summer Nutrition Program, providing lunches for many children.

AUGUST – 1) Volunteers helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity. 2) Annual Backpack collection of school supplies for Hand-in-Hand.

OCTOBER – 1) We hosted 12 women for a week for Room In The Inn. 2) Mission co-worker, Dan Turk, presented a program on his tree project in Madagascar. 3) Annual Hunger Walk for SVCM

NOVEMBER – 1) furnished an Apt for a mother and her children at Hope For Tomorrow House. 2) Provided food for a week at the Shelter housed at the Baptist Church by SVCM.

DECEMBER – Alternative Gifting project raised \$13,000+ for eight of our Mission Partner ministries.

In 2019 we distributed more than \$85,900 to over 36 Denomination, Global and Local Mission partners.

Mission and Outreach Team:

Anne Drummond (Chair), Debbie Bailey, Griffin Dodd, Barbara Gaw, Susan Jumper, Kay Layman, Dave McClintock, Polly Miller, Betsy Murphy, Patti Pyle, Margo Smith, Grace Stitt, Jessi Stitt, and David Carter Florence

Racial Equity Task Force

The Racial Equity Task Force was formed throughout the Lenten season to discern ways to dismantle racism in our church and our local and global communities. This statement is a result of their work and was recently approved by the Session at its March meeting. The task force is an official subcommittee of our Outreach and Global Mission Committee.

Statement from the Racial Equity Task Force

We at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church are a congregation committed to embodying the love of Christ and taking risks to work for justice.

We lament that recent events in our local, national, and global communities continue a historical pattern of violence committed by white individuals against people of color.

We, as a mostly white church, recognize that we are bound up in the systems and culture that perpetuate the sickness of racism. We recognize that our silence is unacceptable and unfaithful.

As people of faith, we wish to repent, to turn away from the comfort of our silence, the denial of our biases, and the ignorance of our privilege.

As individuals, we have implicit, unconscious biases based on stereotypes that lead us to not notice racial inequity and excuse acts of violence and systems of oppression.

As a Church, we have neglected to dismantle racism in our economic and power structures. As followers of Jesus, we are called into uncomfortable spaces, complex conversations, and difficult work. We trust that the Spirit of God is moving in this holy and messy work.

RETF Team: Paul Garrity, Pat Tuttle, Lisle Gwynn-Garrity, Skip Stansell, David Carter Florence, Mary Katherine Robinson

Nurture

2019 was another busy year for the Nurture Ministry Team. Our group manages a variety of events that enliven congregational life. We continue to focus on intergenerational gatherings, collaborating with other ministry teams to bring in high interest speakers, handle special projects and keep important BMPC traditions going strong. Nurture also handles some important behind the scenes activities like management of the kitchen, the confidential prayer chain and the Medical Response Team.

Working together with Youth Ministries and Deacons, a Chili Cook Off fundraiser and Get to Know Your Deacon event was held in January 2019. The crowd meant lunch tables were set up in every nook and cranny of the church. Margo Smith's delicious chili won the winning recipe and money was raised for youth mission trips. In February we heard from Anne Drummond and Bobbi White about our mission partnership in Malawi. October's Thursday Night Live was a collaboration with the Earth Care team. We brought in our PCUSA mission coworker, Dan Turk, to help us understand the transformative work he is leading in Madagascar hybridizing fruit trees.

A major project for 2019 was writing and publishing the ten year addendum to the 100

year history of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. This was a labor of love for our team. It was inspiring to learn more about the faithfulness of this congregation over the last decade. The addendum tracks property improvements, changes in staff, fluctuations in membership, the strong legacy of service by members that are now in the church triumphant. The book proves our church has been consistent in staying focused on God's word, engaged in mission and enjoying fellowship and growth together as a church family for 111 years now!

Traditions like Lenten Lunch, Community Thanksgiving Meal and December Soup and Caroling kept going strong. Our Labor Day Picnic at Camp Rockmont was a big success and we were excited to launch Pastor David off the blob into Lake Eden! Welcoming David Carter Florence was a huge highlight of 2019 for the whole church. We enjoyed working with the APNC on his installation celebration in September.

Collaborating with the Generosity team, Nurture again worked to gather Time and Talent information from members and organize it in the church data base. We look forward to following up on members' interests to launch new programs and continue to help members make connections with each other and with the many opportunities BMPC provides. It is true that here in our church, the welcome never ends.

Nurture Team: Charlotte Sprawls, chair, Patti Pyle, Beverly Highland, Margaret Fouse, Trudy Winstead, Barb Griffin, Debbie Bailey, Katherine Holman, David Carter Florence

Library

In 2019 the library was blessed with many donations, especially a variety of commentaries. Two committees, Creation Care and Gun Safety, asked for our help with displays in the narthex. In that context we ordered a few more books in those categories to supplement the several we had. Before and after the C.S. Lewis Symposium we featured books both by him and about him, as well as his wife Joy Davidman. Since BMPC is blessed with distinguished authors, we have added more of their books. Finally each month the library has had a review in the WINDOW telling of books which may interest members of the congregation.

Library Team: Mary Brueggemann, Priscilla Durkin, Sally Woodard

CE / Faith Formation

The Christian Education committee provided several meaningful experiences for all members of the church! We changed our name to Faith Formation to align ourselves with the direction of our mission statement.

Weekday School – 35th year!

- Served 66 children, 10 of which are members of our congregation; 25 families are members of other congregations and 26 families have no affiliation to any church
- Provided scholarships totaling \$10,000
- Annual Art Show – Over 200 folks attended
- Flowering of the Cross Worship Service
- Two Summer Camps to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund
- Entire Staff Attended the NCAEYC (North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in Raleigh
- Held Thanksgiving Potluck Meals – Enjoyed 160 family members
- Participated in three Service Projects:
- Collected 511 Non-Perishable Food Items for SVCM
- Collected 2 boxes full of children's socks, underwear, hats, gloves and Pajamas for SVCM
- Decorated a Christmas tree for the Deck the Trees Event at the Monte Vista Hotel. Event raised over \$34,000 for the SVCM Heating Assistance Program.
- Giraffe shared the Christmas story with us at our Weekday School

Middle School & High School

- Three potato lunches and chili cook off fundraisers raising over \$3,800 for youth trips.
- Beach Retreat Youth Sunday Planning at Tybee Island with 28 youth and adults
- Youth Sunday for both services
- Angst Documentary and Discussion with MS, HS youth, parents, community members and expert panel.
- HS Young at Heart Intergenerational Dinner
- MS Baked Blessings Valentines and cookies
- Faith and Art with Chandler (HS)
- MS Presbytery Camp Grier Retreat
- Mini Golf and Corn Maze
- Seek and Find Sunday School
- Trick or Treating for Cans and Treat delivery (collected 250+ for SVCCM)
- Feed a Family worship and meal collection
- Youth Christmas Parties with Adopt-A-Child
- Soup and Caroling
- Have three HSY on PYC at presbytery level for fall 19/spring 20

Summer:

- 5 triennium participants
- 3 youth 2 adults went to Massanetta
- 1 youth to Montreat

Other Highlights

- Children's Sabbath worship service – March
- Wednesdays Around the Table - 2 times a month (once a month in the summer)
- Intergenerational Sunday School - experimental program, September
- Sunday School - elementary children all in one class beginning in October
- Confirmation Class with 8th and 9th graders
- Roan Mountain Weekend for Women - April
- Pentecost Pinwheel Parade - June
- Easter Egg Hunt for Children - April
- Monthly Hike with Margie and David -
- Bonfire for Families
- Advent Workshop Dec 19
- Family Christmas Eve service - December

We are thankful for Chandler Guess and Margie Stansell during their interim time at BMPC. We are grateful for Alice Patton and David Carter Florence for their leadership in Faith Formation. We also appreciate the support from our entire church family.

Faith Formation Team: Yvette Ballard, Jane Bannerman, David Carter Florence, Mistie Cogbill, Chandler Guess, Alice Patton, Betsy Ray, Margie Stansell, Bella Van Note.

Stewardship / Generosity

In 2019, the Stewardship Team was transformed into the Generosity Team. This was more than a name change. It was also a change from a once/year financial campaign to a year-round effort to encourage generosity of time/talent/treasurers from our members. To help with this transition, the Generosity team sponsored a series of small group dinner discussions to help us all better understand the full nature of generosity. These discussions included questions to help define generosity, understand how our generosity has been shaped, recognize how our generosity impacts both the church and community, and to reflect on how we might extend our generosity. Through this series of six discussions, we were able to reach a majority of the congregation and plant the seeds for future generosity efforts.

To extend our generosity work to even the youngest of our congregation, the team presented piggy banks to children from 4-7 at a worship service in June. The piggy banks included 4 slots for them to deposit coins: one each for savings, spending, investing

and giving. They were encouraged to put their spare cash (with a little help from their parents!) into the slots and then at a worship service in September, they returned the change from the "giving" slot as their contribution to the work of the church. As a parent of one of the children reflected during that service, this was an excellent learning experience for both the child and the parents helping teach them about generosity.

We continued with the concept of a fall campaign for pledging with a goal of increasing pledges by 3% for 2020. The committee manned the hospitality table during the month of October, and also set up a separate table to hand out pledge packets and a locked box for members to deposit their pledges. Members could also pledge on-line at the church web site. On Dedication Sunday at the end of October, many members brought their pledges forward during the worship service to acknowledge their commitment to BMPC. As in previous years, the team sent out "thank you" cards to those who pledged to let them know that we appreciated their support. Follow up calls and the help of Session members was valuable in contacting some members concerning their pledge. Although we have fallen short of our goal due to several factors, we still hope to reach a level close to the pledging for 2019.

Two of our long serving members will rotate off the Generosity team for 2020 and we will welcome a new member at our January meeting. We hope to recruit one or two additional members early in the year. The challenge to start 2020 will be to identify a theme which will encourage members to get involved and specific events to keep generosity alive throughout the year.

Generosity Team: Dave Johnson, chair, Gay Mothershed, Gayle Shelton, Sarah Berglund, Mary Katherine Robinson

Property

Mission Statement: The Property Committee maintains and repairs all buildings and grounds as efficiently as possible and reports potential future needs to the Session.

Major projects completed in 2019

- The committee drafted, and the Session approved, a resolution recognizing Jim Elam for more than 20 years of service as Custodian of the Columbarium.
- Six new spot lights were added to the chancel area of the Sanctuary.
- A large Hemlock tree was removed from the rear parking lot adjacent to the White Horse.

- Office lighting upgrades were completed with assistance from Lime Energy Consultants and Duke Energy. Grants were secured from the Creation Care Alliance and Duke Energy which reduced the cost by more than half.
- A Knox-Box was installed to allow after hours access by the fire department and fire alarm upgrades were added to include after hours monitoring.
- A new ice machine was purchased for the kitchen and the kitchen was thoroughly cleaned by volunteers.
- Repairs were made to outside lighting and gas piping. New emergency exit lights and new parking lot signs were installed.
- Fiberglass repairs were made to the church bus to fix a large crack on the top of the bus.
- The parking lot on the North side of the Sanctuary was completely rebuilt. Ground water was breaking apart the asphalt. Extensive work was completed that included excavation and removal of the old asphalt and approximately 18-24 inches of existing soil. A drain system was installed along with geotechnical fabric and 12 inches of compacted gravel. New asphalt was then put down to complete the project..

Property Team: John Evans, chair and Session liaison, Daniel Wiggs, Rick Bailey, Tommy Wilkinson, and Wayne Mullis. Peter Mudge attends as Earth Care Liaison.

Columbarium

Columbarium is a sub-committee of the Property Committee. All team members have participated in at least one interment. A Subscribers Index is kept in the church office for reference. Supplies for this ministry are stored in the church attic. Keys to the narthex and attic are kept with the custodian. The Records of the Committee are kept at the home of the current custodian. All questions or concerns regarding the columbarium should be addressed to the Custodian.

There was one interment: J. G. McArthur. One voluntary withdrawal (purchase price refunded.) All Subscription accounts are paid & current.

Inventory

As of January 8, 2020

Interment Niches: 324 in 3 units.

Niches available for reservation: Unite A=46

Units B & C=3 (total), Cross = 2

Cremains containers: 107

Blanks for nameplates: 9

"Snake-eye" Screwdrivers: 3 (2 large, 1 small)

Bag sealing machine: 1

Future Needs

The Memorial Cross is almost full as are Units B&C. A decision as to new construction and choice of nameplate supplier should be made soon. The Subscribers should be advised of the escalation in the prices of materials & production and asked to check and update their Columbarium Reservation forms.

Columbarium Team: Jack Williams, custodian, Liesl Case, Terry Soll Jim Elam, Founding Member and Advisor

Finance

- Finance thanks all of you who financially supported our church in 2019.
- Approximately 3% of the Pledges were not received (\$26,000) but unpledged giving was up \$8,800.
- Spending was less than anticipated in other areas, thus the budget ended in the positive of \$6,304.19
- Finance Committee following the recommendation of Session and the Book of Order has been conducting an audit of financial processes and procedures.
- As expected, financial procedures in place are being followed
- There is a need to update several and to "clean house" of out-dated information, procedures, and meeting minutes. Sam Webber will be assisting in cleaning.
- Committee is working with Property in developing a life cycle replacement schedule for the church's larger assets.
- Updates to the church office's computer technology has begun in January. This will allow for improved long term information sharing and storage, faster connectivity and four new computers.
- Finance Committee continues to take the lead in securing Sunday morning's plate offerings. Each member takes two months during the year to organize this activity.
- A BIG thank you to John DeWitt for securing First Light's offering each Sunday throughout the year for the past many years.

Finance Team: Leslie Carreiro, chair, Jerone Herring, Kitty Fouche, Austin Brown, Steve Coward, Katherine Neville (treasurer), Mary Katherine Robinson

The annual report from Endowment will occur later in May. We give thanks for the ways in which the Endowment committee supports the mission and vision of BMPC.

JUNE

Beginning in June and continuing each Tuesday for the rest of the summer, volunteers from our church served lunch and interacted with children as a part of Buncombe County Schools **Summer Nutrition Program**. We are working with other churches in Black Mountain and Asheville to make sure a nutritious meal is available Monday-Friday to any person 18 years old or younger during the summer. The Generosity

team presented piggy banks to children from 4-7 at a worship service in June as a part of **Reimagining Generosity**.

AUGUST

Work continued in the **ecumenical garden** with the Baptist church across the street. We grew hundreds of pounds of vegetables for distribution to those in need in our community.



JULY

David Carter Florence begins as Associate Pastor for Congregational Faith Formation. Our Middle School and High School youth participated in **Massanetta Middle School Conference**, "At the Door." High Schoolers Chloe Stiles, Rachel Beaver, and Lillie Chilton, served in leadership roles as "youth enablers" during both the June and July sessions.

SEPTEMBER

The first in a series of **Hikes with David & Margie** began. **David's Installation** on September 22 marked the official beginning of his ministry at BMPC.





OCTOBER

Cookout and Bonfire at the Reece's included kindergarten and elementary children with their parents. It was a beautiful evening to celebrate the fall season. **SVCM Walk For Hunger Relief** on October 13. Thanks to those who showed up in the rain!



NOVEMBER

The Weekday School collected non-perishable food items for SVCM coinciding with their conversations about sharing. The Giraffe class delivered three wagon loads plus the entire back of Mrs. Patton's car full of food.

DECEMBER

Back Porch Christmas music and drama revue premiered featuring original music by Andy Gwynn and drama by Franklin Harris. The **newest members of our staff** were added in December: Sam Webber, Director of Operations and Youth Ministry; Brittany Williams, Director of Congregational Life and Children's Ministry.

