

BMPC Window



Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

January 2020

WISDOM AND WONDER 2020

On Christmas eve we came to the manger and with stars hanging down lighting our way, it was a wonder to behold. The candles were aglow and so were your faces beaming brightly with light. I truly felt like bowing down and paying homage, as a way to say thank you for the affirmation of life and beauty and love and hope that was present here in this gathered body of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. I felt the palpable sense of having arrived and of knowing God's presence close to us.

But there also came a time to return. A time to head home. The lights came up. The church doors opened. You wrapped yourselves up in your coats and headed back out again on your way home. Yet, some of that light, and peace and love of what we had experienced shone just a little more brightly through us.

Over the years, I have come to understand that the spiritual journey is not linear. Instead I see the spiritual journey as this rhythm of going out and returning, where with every encounter and integration of that encounter more and more of God's grace takes up residence within us. At this turn of the year, here on the far side of Christmas I wonder then if our resolve should not be so much that of setting goals and achieving them as much as it ought to be about cultivating this disposition of openness and attentiveness that enables us to hear and respond to the star's lead, the invitations to journey when they come.

And so, as we set out into this New Year and as we follow Jesus through his ministry in the weeks and months to come, let us be a community that practices a disposition of openness and attentiveness. Let us point out the star to each other when we see it and proclaim together "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it"!

Mary Katherine

JANUARY

Many other groups meet here, but mostly BMPC events are reflected on this calendar.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day office closed	2 3:30p Youth Bounty & Soul 4p Bounty & Soul Market	3	4
5 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship	6 130p Lectio Divina 5:30p RETF 7p Facility Task Force	7 10a PW Combined Circles 7p Prophets	8 10a Bible Study 7p Choir 8:30p Men's Leadership	9 6p Men's Group	10 4p Bounty & Soul Market	11 8:30a Men's Pancake Breakfast 5:30p Kids Night In & Parents Night Out
12 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 12:15p Youth Snow Tubing 5p Bells	13 2p Child Protection Team 6:45p Ministry Teams	14 7p Deacons 7p Prophets	15 10a Bible Study 7p Choir 8:30p Men's Leadership	16 1:30p Sewing 1:30p Red Cross Blood Drive	17 HS Youth Tybee retreat through Monday 1/20 4p Bounty & Soul Market	18
19 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 2p Hike 5p Bells	20 MLK Holiday office closed	21 7p Prophets	22 10a Bible Study 7p Choir	23 6p Weekday School Dinner 7p Robert Burns Supper at White Horse	24 4p Bounty & Soul Market	25 6p Guess Who's Coming to Dinner small group dinners
26 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship Congregational Mtg 5p Bells	27 6p Session	28 1p PW Bible Study 2:15p PW Coordinating 7p Prophets	29 10a Bible Study 7p Choir	30	31 4p Bounty & Soul Market	

**Deadline for the
February Window newsletter
Wednesday, January 15**

- ★ RECEIVE YOUR STAR ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY – JANUARY 5
- ★ ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS – JANUARY 12
- ★ ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Are you feeling some letdown after the holidays? Do you like to eat? Would you enjoy getting to know some church members better in a small group setting? Then this BMPC event is a must for you.

Sponsored by your Nurture Ministry Team, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner will take place on **Saturday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m.** These dinners are an effort for adults to get to know one another better in a casual, fellowship environment of six to ten people. You may sign up as either a host or guest. Signup sheets will be found in the Narthex on Sunday, January 5, and Sunday January 12. Alternatively, you can email your reservation to either Gay Ferguson or Trudy Winstead (email addresses are listed below).

Hosts will be responsible for opening their home and providing the main dish and beverages. Signing up as a guest will be for those of you who just like to eat and are willing to provide a side dish.

Hosts will be given the names of their guests and will let their guests know what to bring. Guests will know who their hosts are, what they want you to bring (side dish, salad, dessert), time and address. What guests won't know, are the names of the other guests.

The pleasure of your company is requested!

Questions? email or call Trudy Winstead gswinstead@aol.com / 828-357-5275 or Gay Ferguson gwenflfe@gmail.com / 704-451-3097



Back Porch Christmas

Our church family thoroughly enjoyed the skits, the music, and the sweets! Thanks to all who helped make it happen, especially Franklin Harris and Andy Gwynn. Shown here are Dusty Lindsey, Calvin Barker, Tyler Scouten, Max Cogbill, and Mylo Morgan performing Shepherd's Rap.

Youth Worship Planning Retreat

On Friday, January 17, our high school youth will embark on a retreat to plan for **Youth Sunday, February 23**. They will spend 3 days on Tybee Island taking time both for fun and for introspection. This planning retreat is a favorite of our youth every year, and an incubator for spiritual growth and social development. The youth team thanks you for your continued support, making programs like this possible!



Presbyterian Women

Combined Circles Tuesday, January 7

Our Winter Gathering on Tuesday, January 7, will be a combined meeting of all Circles and our Mission program. We will have our Bible study on the Sixth word (Commandment) taught by Karen Austin as well as a short Mission program with Mary Carroll Dodd.

PW Bible Study Tuesday, January 28

1:00 p.m. in the
Library

PW Coordinating Team

Tuesday, January 28
2:15 p.m. in CR1



Sunday Hikers conquer Catawba Falls on December 8th!

January Hike with David & Margie Sunday, January 19

Montreat College Trail System

Easy/flat, 2-1/2 miles

Meet us at the church at 2:00 p.m. or in the parking lot of Veteran's Park at 2:15 p.m.

Men's Pancake Breakfast

A small BMPC Men's Prayer Group is hosting a Pancake Breakfast for Men of all ages on **Saturday, January 11, at 8:30 a.m.**

Come and be a part of table fellowship as we converse about God's call

to us at the start of the new year. Pancakes, sausage, fruit, yogurt and coffee will be served. If you'd like to help out, contact David Carter Florence to join in the cooking and preparations. Bring your father, son, or friend!



In Choir Years

A few years ago, before he retired from singing in choir and moved away to be with his wife in her final months, Jim Field, of blessed memory, related to us a summary of his singing career. For 83 years Jim had sung in a choir, first under his own mother's direction, then in a host of school and church ensembles pretty much for the rest of his life. Jim would always be the first to admit his voice was no great shakes. But he took earnestly his calling to lead the people of God in corporate worship through music, practically until the day he died. It was a beautiful tale.

We polled the singers in our chancel choir, the 30 or so folks who lead us in the music for Sunday worship, how long they had sung in any choral group. Many have been singing in an adult church choir for years. But further, many sang in choral ensembles while in college. Too, many sang in a children's choir at church, and even a youth choir. Several sang in high school chorus. Finally, a goodly number have participated in a community chorus at various stages in their music-making careers. A couple of us were accompanying choral ensembles even when we weren't actually singing with that group. We wanted to count all of that. Several of our musicians also have played an instrument in a band of one type or another, but we opted for the purposes of this compilation to stick to singing experience (or accompanying singers as the case may be).

A couple of our singers had around 12-15 years' experience in a choir. But one member has racked up 70 years! Many of our singers are in the 40-50 years range, with a smattering of 20-somethings and 60-somethings. I knew going into the tally that we would be well beyond a number of decades. I also knew we would have more than a few hundred in total. The question in my mind was how near we would be to 1000 years. I was gratified to add up the reported tenures and arrive at 1218 years singing experience! Based on a round number of 30 singers in our choir, that's an average of 40 years on the part of each person! On a regular basis I am reminded of the extraordinary talent represented by the singers in our chancel choir, and their dedication to the choral art in the context of Christian worship. This poll revealed the depth of that experience in a very tangible way. I hope you are as impressed, and perhaps moved to humility and thankfulness, by these statistics. — Mike Barker

New Wednesday Bible Study

Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

**January 8-February 26
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

in the Parlor, led by Lewis Galloway with Mary Katherine Robinson

The gospels were written not to be historical documents or biographies of Jesus, but to be living stories through which we encounter Jesus as our Risen Lord in the personal stories and experiences of our own lives today. As the first gospel, Mark invites us to join in a mysterious and fast-paced journey in which the written word of Mark becomes the living word for us today.

Dr. Lewis Galloway, a creative and dynamic preacher and teacher, is a graduate of Davidson College and Union Presbyterian Seminary (D.Min; Th.M.) who recently retired after serving in Indianapolis for 14 years as the Senior Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church. Lewis has also served churches in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Union Presbyterian Seminary and is currently on the Boards of Montreat and Davidson College.

Welcome to Sam & Brittany



In the past we had an ordained Youth Pastor, Berry French, and a Director of Christian Education, Ginny Soll, who directed all aspects of education, congregational life, and mission. Our new model for Faith Formation and Congregational Life, Mission and Operations is a team of leaders working together to imagine, plan, discern, collaborate (with committees, leadership teams, and other staff) and implement ministry that is both traditional and innovative. *Missional and emergent church models strive to create new ways of doing ministry in the community and in our traditional structures.* Alice Patton, Brittany Williams, Sam Webber, and David Carter Florence are working in Faith Formation for all ages. This dovetails with Jackie Kerr, Bob Tuttle, Mike Barker, and Mary Katherine Robinson with whole church communication, worship and church leadership. Thank you to Margie Stansell and Chandler Guess who served through a two-year interim.

Sam Webber

Director of Operations (20 hours)

Works Collaboratively with the Property Committee and Facilities Staff in planning and oversight of:

- ▶ Church Facilities and Operations
- ▶ Information Technology, including phone, alarm, audio-visual, and database
- ▶ Safety and Security
- ▶ Cleaning
- ▶ Set ups
- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Building and site development

Director of Youth Programs (20 hours)

Works Collaboratively with the Faith Formation Team, Youth Leadership Team and Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, David Carter Florence, directing:

- ▶ Middle and High School Youth Group Programs
- ▶ Youth and parent communication and social media
- ▶ Youth advisors by equipping and nurturing them in relational ministry
- ▶ The development of a relational youth culture through regular visits with youth
- ▶ Innovative youth programs in group building, service, and mission
- ▶ Adventure education and transformative experiential ministry
- ▶ Sunday morning activities for Youth

Brittany Williams

Director of Congregational Life (20 hours)

Works collaboratively with the Nurture and Hospitality Committees managing:

- ▶ Volunteer Coordination
- ▶ Membership entry and assimilation
- ▶ Church Directory
- ▶ Child Protection policy
- ▶ Marketing and Social Media
- ▶ Administrative Support, including sign-ups, pantry management, ministry packets
- ▶ Innovative congregational life events to welcome our neighbors and the community

Director of Children's Ministry (20 hours)

Works collaboratively with Faith Formation and Children's Leadership Team and the Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, David Carter Florence, directing:

- ▶ K-5 Elementary programs
- ▶ Parent Communication and social media
- ▶ Teachers for Sunday Morning classes equipping and nurturing them in relational ministry
- ▶ The development of a relational family and intergenerational church community
- ▶ Innovative children's and family programs
- ▶ Intergenerational events that reach out to our community and cultivate new members
- ▶ Recreational and Service events that challenge families and children to grow

Kids Night **IN** & Parents Night **OUT**

We are excited to bring a new program to kids and parents at BMPC! Kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us at the church for a fun night of fellowship, games, dinner and a movie. Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas and bring a blanket and pillow. The menu for the kids dinner will be chicken nuggets, sweet potato tater tots, carrot sticks, and fresh fruit.

After dropping the kids off at the church, parents are invited to join a host couple for a night out at Trailhead Restaurant for their own time of fellowship and dinner.

When: Saturday, January 11, from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Where: BMPC in the Narthex (Sanctuary Lobby)

Who: Brittany Williams, Director of Children's Programs and David Carter Florence will be leading the fellowship programs with the children at the church.

Please RSVP to Brittany at brittany@bmpcnc.org or (828) 275-7419 by Thursday, January 8.

What is the Earth Care Team?

In 1990 the PC(USA) called on our denomination to engage in the task of restoring creation, a task which would impact “theological work, evangelism, education, justice and peacemaking, worship and liturgy, public witness, global mission, and congregational service and action at the local community level.”

How We Became Certified

Congregations become certified as Earth Care Congregations, with session approval, by committing to the Earth Care Pledge, and accomplishing a specific number of actions toward caring for God’s earth.

- Worship, (sermons, prayers, liturgy, scriptures, hymns, children’s sermons, minutes for mission);
- Education (classes taught, Thursday Night Live speakers, children’s programs, youth projects, library books, events held outdoors);
- Facilities (solar panels, lighting, insulation, automatic light switches, water use reduction, composting, recycling, non-toxic cleaning supplies, ongoing use of reusable dishes);
- Outreach (newspaper articles, letters to the editor, advocacy for eco-justice, interdenominational activities, community garden, conferences hosted).

Since becoming certified five years ago, BMPC renews certification by filing an updated report each year.

Role of our Earth Care Team

According to the *Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches*, the Earth Care Team serves as a resource to church committees and groups, reminding them to consider stewardship of the Earth in everything we undertake as a church. We are also “urged to encourage and educate members on how to live sustainable lifestyles.”

In Worship, in our first year we worked with the Worship Team on our first Earth Day service. Rev. Cam Murchison, Earth Care Theologian at Montreat Presbyterian, preached the sermon. We wrote liturgies, one of us served as liturgist, and another gave the Minute for Mission.

We have worked with Property on several projects.

When seed money for solar panels was donated, following session’s guidance we contacted prospective donors individually, raising the remaining funds within one month. We helped contact solar companies and wrote the liturgy for a dedication service.

In our first year we purchased a steam cleaner, in consultation with sexton Spencer Kilgore, so that use of toxic chemicals in cleaning the kitchen, bathrooms, and floors, has been drastically reduced. In the kitchen we resurrected using our church’s dishes rather than styrofoam and plastic. We learned to use the dishwasher ourselves, then began washing dishes after Logos suppers. Over time other groups that serve food have become interested and adopted the practice. We remain available to advise and assist.

In Education, we and other people have taught many classes and arranged Thursday Night Live programs. The October visit of missionary Dan Turk, a joint project of the Mission, Nurture, and Earth Care Teams, led to his tree project’s inclusion in this year’s Alternative Giving list. We also provide a small article on Earth Care in most issues of the Window.

In Outreach, our church has joined the First Baptist Church in their community garden, growing food to be donated to groups like Bounty & Soul. Last spring we hosted a workshop on trees, led by Asheville arborist Ed Macie, for ourselves and other area churches. We hosted the Creation Care Alliance, an Asheville-area interdenominational church group, for a meal and monthly meeting.

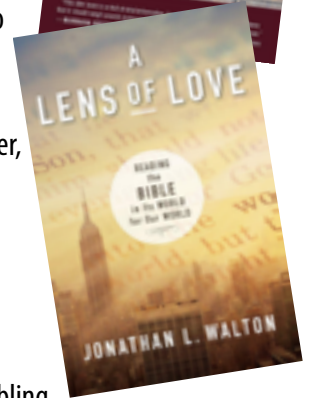
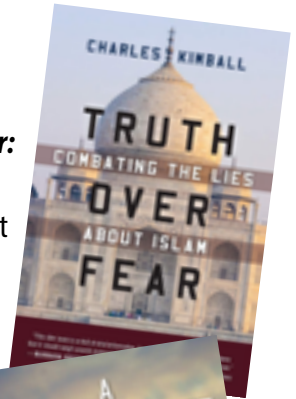
While our job isn’t to wash all the dishes, teach all the classes, plant all the vegetables, lead all the worship services, and so on, we plan to be there, researching, assisting, teaching, and participating, reminding the congregation of our commitment to consider stewardship of the Earth in everything we do.

— from the *Earth Care Team*

Library News

Two books, which have been purchased for the library, concern controversies which inhabit some congregations. One is by Charles Kimball, a professor of religious studies at the University of Oklahoma, and is entitled ***Truth Over Fear: Combating The Lies About Islam***. Since most of probably know very little about the Muslim faith, and what we do know likely comes from the propaganda of one side or the other, this book should give us some insight and provide release from the fears which often overwhelm us when thinking about this sibling

Abrahamic religion. ***A Lens of Love*** by Jonathan L. Walton, a professor of religion at Harvard, is the other work which treats a subject that can provoke strong opinions. Dr. Walton tackles the issue of how to read the Bible authentically for its message to our world when it was written for times and places where life and culture were radically different. Much of the content, Dr. Walton says, comes from his engagement with students who want a relationship with God but who find it difficult in view of some of the Scripture which they read and hear. Neither of these books is long, but both are enlightening.



Middle School Youth Christmas Party

Ever festive and energetic, our middle school youth met for their annual Christmas party at Camp Rockmont. They made gingerbread houses (pictured above), played games, and gathered to wrap the presents that they brought for the children of a local family that the youth group 'adopted' this year.

Feed A Family Worship on November 24



Over **80** children, parents, youth, and congregation members gathered for worship. **25** families were sponsored.



ROBERT BURNS SUPPER: music, poetry, food

January 23, 2020 @ 7:00-9:00 p.m.

\$25/\$28 with meal

\$15/\$18 without meal

at White Horse Black Mountain

A traditional Burns supper. The great Scots bard's poetry (and more), music of his time, and more current songs as well. Toasts galore. And yes, as part of the supper, haggis will be served! Kilts and other traditional Scottish dress welcome.

BMPC Sewing Ministry

We always welcome folks to join our group and the only requirement is that you can operate a pair of scissors and an iron! If you are interested, please just show up at our next meeting. We meet every other Thursday. We will be working on quilts for church members and Weekday School families. If you have questions, call Ruth Duckworth at 828-775-4974.



JANUARY birthdays

- 3 Brad Holmes
- 4 Levi Hall
- 5 Carol Tyson
Valorie Speegle-Snell
- 6 Becky Peterson
- 7 Jeff Ruppert
Kate James Nelson
- 8 Susan Banzhoff
Kim Fisher
- 9 Frances Turk
Rosy Robson
Cammy Holt
Wyatt Lehman
- 10 Carey Jo Elam
Ann Sloan Price
Sarah McMurray
- 12 Rebecca Hughes
Megan Bowman
Charlie Edwards
- 13 Sara Owen
- 14 Briggs Barker
- 17 Daisy Buckner
Sheldon Adams
Cecilia Brandon
Katherine Stanley
- 19 Susan Alvis
- 20 Caroline McElwee
- 22 Alec Hile
- 23 Lucas Dodson
- 24 Amanda Wheeler
Dusty Lindsey
- 25 Rick Lindsey
- 26 Bill Straughan
- 28 Maggie Ray
- 29 Margie Tyas
Travis Childs
Jack Jones
- 30 Elizabeth Warren
- 31 Nan Higgins
Porter Reece

Sincere thanks from your Mission Team!

Our Culture of Generosity has proven true once again as Christmas Alternative Gifting was successful with over \$11,000 donated to our mission partners. The Outreach and Global Mission Team sends our most sincere thanks for your participation. What a wonderful way to keep Christ in Christmas and show the designated recipients that the work they are doing matters! Extra thanks to our artists who created original artwork for the cards: Chandler Guess, Jeannie Maidment, Lindsay Higgins, Mary Carroll Dodd, Lisle Gwynn Garrity and little Lucy Dowd. If you are interested in a leadership role with Alternative Gifting next year, please contact Patti Pyle.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Elementary grades 1-5 meet in upstairs classrooms. Margie Stansell and Brittany Williams, lead teachers.

Middle School meets in the Youth Room upstairs. Kent Patton, lead teacher.

High School class meets in the church narthex (lobby) and goes off-site for coffee/tea and conversation. Chandler Guess, lead teacher.

Parent Discernment Group meets upstairs in room 10 in the Education wing. David Carter Florence, facilitator; Mary Carroll Dodd, communications.

Becomers Looking for an in depth Bible study? Becomers Class is digging into the book of Ruth. Taught by George Thompson, retired pastor and professor, we are taking a fresh look at this beautiful story of love and devotion. No homework required. Join us in the library and bring a friend!

Biblical Perspectives Conference Room 1

JAN 5 Scott Roy

JAN 12 Truth Biblical – John LaMotte

JAN 19 Truth Scientific – Henry Griffin

JAN 26 Youth Ministry at Montreat – Carol Steele

Faith Builders Parlor

We focus on topics chosen by the group itself. Sessions are taught by class members who volunteer, or outside invited speakers. We gladly welcome visitors to share in our fellowship in the Parlor.

Bible Exploration CR2

We welcome anyone wishing to join a small group for Bible Study in Conference Room 2 in the education wing.



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm
Friday, 9am-noon



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



**Thanksgiving Dinner
at BMPC has become
a treasured tradition!**

