



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church newsletter

May 2020

Deacons: Chosen to Serve

What is a deacon? The office of deacon was established early in the New Testament church to make sure food was distributed to widows and others in need (see Acts 6:1-6). In our denomination the ministry of deacon is described as “one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.” (*PCUSA Book of Order, G-2.0201*)

What do they do at BMPC? The congregation is divided up into 24 groups or clusters. Deacons are responsible for maintaining contact with their cluster through cards, email, or phone calls. In normal times, this might be done every other month or so. At all times they are there to provide an extra layer of support, if needed, during times of crisis. They are expected to assist with the distribution of Communion and participate regularly in the ministry and mission of the church.

What are BMPC deacons doing in addition during these strange times? Deacons have been invaluable as a way to quickly reach out to check in on the whole congregation. They use their own personality and strengths to make their deacon ministry uniquely their own! They have been asked to contact every member/family in their cluster to see how they are doing, if they have any needs, and also if they are able to help with any needs that are discovered. One deacon has started a Zoom meeting with their cluster. Other deacons have shared humorous videos to give us something to laugh about. Other deacons have sent links to inspirational music or poems via email. And of course deacons continue to encourage us all to participate in online worship with our BMPC family as we are able.

Who are your deacons?

Deacons are elected to a three year term by the congregation. In their last year of current service are Kristy Beaver, Dee & Bill Cox, Susan Dannenberg, Gay Ferguson, Olivia & John LaMotte, Ginny & Rick Lindsey, Lew Rudisill, and Hannah & Sam Webber. In their second year of service are Yvette Ballard, Carey Jo Elam, Kiersten & Weston Hall, Franklin Harris, Cindy & Ed McDaniel, Cathy & Neil McMillan, Gayle & Peter Mudge, Kay & Mike Salmon, and Margaret Waterstradt. In their first year of service are Susan & Ernie Banzhoff, Kay & Jim Layman, Susan McElrath, Mary & Don McMahill, Martha Jane Petersen, Delores Spielman, and Janine & Russ Spiller.

What if you don't know who your deacon is?

Email me at bob@bmpcnc.org and I'll let you know! Lists are always being updated with contact info so we welcome your inquiry. I'm proud to work with these dedicated folks and will put you in touch with the appropriate deacon who will follow up with you.

*Together in ministry,
Bob Tuttle*

We hope you'll join us in worship Sunday starting at 8:30 a.m. on YouTube.

SUNDAYS

- 9:30 a.m. **Preschool Church on Zoom**
with Pastor David and Brittany
- 9:40 a.m. **From Then to Now: Church History 101**
Email Austin Brown (austin.brown.54@gmail.com)
- 9:45 a.m. **Faith Formation Classes on Zoom**
Email George Thompson (revdr3george@gmail.com)
- 10:00 a.m. **Elementary Church on Zoom**
with Pastor David and Brittany
- 3:30 p.m. **Mental Health Support Group on Zoom**
1st and 3rd Sundays We invite those of you who provide support to family members or friends who struggle with mental health issues to join our support group. We care for each other so that we can care for those whom we love. If you have any questions, please contact Bunny Alexander bunny6alexander@gmail.com or 317-517-0334.
- 5:15 p.m. **Youth on Zoom** with Sam, Pastor David, and Mike Ballard

MONDAYS

- 8:00 a.m. **Sacred Circle on Zoom**
Email Beverly Thompson (drbeverlythompson@gmail.com)
- 1:00 p.m. **Earth Care Series on Zoom** with Pastor David
- 8:30 p.m. **BMPC Parents on Zoom** with Pastor David and Brittany

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

- 11:00 a.m. **Children's Storytime on Facebook**
with our pastors and members

WEDNESDAYS

- 11:00 a.m. **Philippians Bible Study on Zoom** May 6-June 10
Email Lewis Galloway (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)

Our Local Emergency Relief Fund (LERF)

has been replenished and is available to BMPC members who need help with expenses for any reason. Please don't hesitate to reach out to pastors, Mary Katherine (mk@bmpcnc.org) or David (david@bmpcnc.org), if you could use some financial support – or support of any kind.

We want to hear from you!

We will be posting some fun things on our Facebook page and would like our members to help us out! Here is what we are looking for:

- 1) a church memory or memory about your faith journey
- 2) something you think makes BMPC special
- 3) something you are thankful for in your life
- 4) your favorite worship song or hymn
- 5) a picture of you with your best friend
- 6) a special talent you have that is hidden or known

Please send a photo along with your description to Brittany@bmpcnc.org



Can in Each Hand

Even though we aren't meeting at church in our regular fashion, we can continue our ongoing commitment to SVCM's food pantry. We are collecting cans and other non-perishables in the north corner of the front entrance. Each week, our donations will be taken to SVCM to help stock their shelves. While we stay separate, we can still drop off food for the many who are facing financial struggles during this stressful time. If you are unable to get out, you might contact a more mobile friend who could pick up your donation from your front porch to leave at the church. Boxes are provided for the donations which will be delivered to SVCM each Tuesday afternoon. We persist in living our faith through mission and commitment to God's people.

Note from SVCM: Anyone who has been laid off, had their hours cut, or is in need of food or assistance through this crisis, please come to SVCM. No one in our community should be facing hunger. There are so many options in our community with the Buncombe County School system, Bounty & Soul, Food Connection, and SVCM.

Plans for 2020 Summer Nutrition Program

For the past five years, Black Mountain Presbyterian has helped the Buncombe County Schools serve nutritious lunches to children in the Owen district during the summer months when schools are not in session. During the current Covid-19 season, a plan is being developed by the Buncombe County School Nutrition Director for a procedure that we might use to safely give out hot meals to children this summer. The program is scheduled to begin the week of June 7. Our church will have the opportunity to serve each Tuesday for nine weeks between the hours of 11:15 -12:30. The site for our service will once again be the Ridgeview Mobile Home Park off of Old Highway 70, near Owen Middle School.

You can be a part of this by volunteering to serve once or twice this summer. Three volunteers are needed for each service date.

Rosie Johnson, Diane Ginther, and Susan Jumper will be our site supervisors.

Contact Susan Jumper at susanjumper@charter.net to sign up or for more information.

It's going to be a great summer experience!



Fearless Generosity

As you may have seen in the April Window, our Generosity Team theme for this year is **Fearless Generosity**. I wrote that article in early March before we knew what an impact the corona virus would have on our church and our community. Clearly, there are now many other concerns that take precedence in our lives such as business closings, people losing their jobs, and fears for our families and friends since this virus is so potent and invasive. Some in our church are on the front lines of this fight including nurses, doctors, and all first responders. We are grateful for their sacrifices and pray for their continued safety. With God's help we will all make it through this crisis and in the future be able to once again gather to resume our "normal" activities.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those who have reached out to serve our community's needs. From those who have maintained support for Bounty & Soul to feed our neighbors to those who have helped supply masks to friends, first responders, and members of the church who could benefit, you are making a difference. It's not just our financial contributions that make BMPC the generous place that it is, but also these gifts of our time and talents.

Finally, as an elder for the church, I'm aware from reports of the Financial committee, that we have been continuing to receive your donations to meet our ongoing financial needs. Thank you for that support.

With the virus in our presence, our committee has not been able to meet, but we will be starting again to plan for our fall campaign and will communicate again when we have plans in place. Stay safe and continue to practice **Fearless Generosity**.

— Dave Johnson, *BMPC Generosity Team*

Thursday Night Live... is Alive and Well, Online

an activity of your Nurture Ministry Team



During this challenging time when we cannot get together for good food and fellowship, we can participate in a program from the safety of our homes. For some, who are looking for things to do while being socially distanced, this is a great opportunity. It is a program that leads us through four specific family activities that can be enjoyable and enriching for the several generations.

In past Thursday Night Live programs Perry Sprawls has led us in exploring the fascinating Underwater World and using modern technology to help Find Our Family Roots. Now we have the opportunity for a program helping us in the process of preserving and passing on to future generations our individual family heritages. It is a "stay home" activity for families with guidance and resources provided on the website: <http://www.sprawls.org/heritage/>

Comfort Corner

Now that we are spending more time at home, maybe you are cooking your favorite comfort foods. The Nurture team will highlight a recipe from a member in this **Comfort Corner**. This recipe was submitted by Charlotte Sprawls.

Meat Loaf

1½ pounds ground chuck
2 large eggs
2 or 3 slices of lightly toasted bread
1 cup milk
1 clove garlic, minced
2 or 3 slices onion, chopped finely
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper (I use Lawry's seasoned pepper)
½ teaspoon fennel seed

Break bread slices into small pieces and soak in the milk for a few minutes. Beat two eggs into the milk/bread mixture for a minute or two. (I think this is the secret that makes this recipe so moist and light.) Break up the ground chuck and add the milk/egg mixture, with the onion, garlic, and remainder of seasonings, mixing well. Pour into a loaf pan (9 x 5 x 2.5) sprayed with Pam, add topping, and bake in 350° oven for 1 hour.

TOPPING: Mix together ½ cup light brown sugar, ⅓ cup catsup, and 1 teaspoon mustard. Spread over top of meat loaf in pan before cooking.

“Perhaps one of our family’s favorite comfort foods is a juicy, tender meat loaf. This recipe was given to me by an older friend when I first started “keeping house” as a young graduate student, living in a house near Emory University in Atlanta with three other young professional women. None of us were good cooks at that point, but we were eager to learn from older friends whose cooking we enjoyed.”

For our family of two, this easily makes three meals. I cut it into thirds; we eat one third and freeze two of them for future meals.

Thank you, Charlotte. This sounds delicious!

Thank you to the Nurture team for the idea to add this Comfort Corner. We all enjoy good food and it’s fun to learn more about our members this way! If you have a recipe you’d like to share, please email jackie@bmpcnc.org and include a brief story about why it’s special.

Blessing Box

A Blessing Box will be installed soon in our lower parking lot thanks to the inspiration of BMPC member Debbie Bailey. Similar to little libraries you see around town, the Blessing Box will be a place to donate canned food, toiletries, water, and other useful items for those in need. Watch for details on this new effort to show Christ’s love to our community. If you have questions or want to get involved, contact Debbie Bailey or any member of the Outreach Ministry Team.

**Have you seen
our new
BMPC website?
Check it out –
bmpcnc.org**

Mission Mini Trip and the Beauty of Spanglish Psalms

I traveled to Mexico in early March to continue short term mission work at Ministerio de Vida, a church and community center in a poor area of the Yucatan outside Cancun. This year marked my seventeenth visit and it proved to be a surprisingly different kind of trip.

I arrived as planned a week ahead of the mission team from my former church, Crossroads Pres,



Mequon, Wisconsin to help get things ready for the big construction project, learn about all the logistics and be ready to roll when that team of seventeen folks arrived the following week.

What happened instead was the arrival of Covid 19. The Wisconsin team cancelled at the last minute so my plans had to change too. Though there was no feeling of emergency in Mexico yet, I started to get nervous that I might actually become a burden to my hosts. I decided to cut my stay short and head for home. Hurried goodbyes included plans for next year. I was truly sad to leave so much work undone but the beauty of doing mission in partnership is that you're in it for the long haul. I knew my hosts would find a way to finish our projects. Their ingenuity amazes me, as does the depth of their faith. My Mexican family always recites Psalm 121 before they travel so we did that together on the airport sidewalk in a group hug (we knew nothing of social distancing on that day). The blend of those familiar words in Spanish and English would stick with me and carry me back safely to the mountains, 'from whence cometh my help?'



Once home, the challenges of reentry were real. The shock of self isolation in our new normal was softened by the beautiful new green of spring, and by a new gratitude to our God who keeps 'your going out and your coming in'. I am grateful for my safe return and that my people in Mexico are still healthy.

I want to thank our Mission Committee for their support, my deacon Margaret Waterstradt for checking on me, friends Trudy and Powell Winstead for tirelessly keeping that basket at the bottom of my driveway full during quarantine and to Jessi Stitt for her expert care of my canine family. There are so many lessons to be learned in this time. My hope is that we can witness to the world, as my church family in Mexico is doing and as we at BMPC are doing, in myriad new ways, just as Psalm 121 says, that the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, truly is our help 'from this time forth and forevermore.'

– Patti Pyle



MAY birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Gene Witherspoon
Thatcher Hutcheson | 22 Stratton Peacock
Nancy Murray
Barbara Gaw
Ruth Duckworth
Beth Gunn |
| 2 Mistie Reising-Cogbill
Daniel Cappelli | 23 Austin Edwards
Mary Carroll Dodd
Lorris Parker
William Hana
Attie McClary |
| 3 Dick Hobson | 24 Elizabeth Turk |
| 4 Candy Donnell
Jim Davies
Cindy McDaniel | 25 Bruce Gunn |
| 6 Susan Dannenberg | 26 Helen Smith
Jean Chamberlain |
| 7 Anne Campbell
Mike Begley
Leo Cappelli | 27 Davis Campbell |
| 8 Jim Elam
Beth Farmer
Kara Peterson | 28 Beau Van Note
Maggie Decker |
| 9 Drew Banzhoff | 30 Judy Williams
Karen Boyd |
| 12 Shannon Ingersoll | 31 Jan Donnell
Jennifer Chilton
Ethan Kadau
Lillie Chilton |
| 14 Tanner Pickett
Lindsey Banks | |
| 15 John Walker
Paul Ginther | |
| 16 Stan Skeen
Kitty Kelly
Rachel Beaver | |
| 17 Alice Schweitzer
Blair Holladay
Chaley Munn | |
| 18 Mary McMahill | |
| 19 Anne Moseley | |
| 21 Ann Carr Adkins | |



Thank you for all your kindness throughout this challenging time of separation and isolation. We miss you and hope we will be able to see you soon!



We encourage your feedback. If you have questions, concerns, or want to add something to our next newsletter, please email jackie@bmpcnc.org. The deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is May 15.



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Presbyterian Church

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Joy For A Weary World

Philippians **Sermon Series** with Pastor Mary Katherine Robinson

Sundays in May, 8:30 a.m. on the BMPC YouTube Channel

May 3 – A Weary World **May 10 – Light Shines**

May 17 – Love Grows **May 24 – Hope Blooms** **May 31 – Pentecost**

Philippians **Bible Study** with Lewis Galloway

Wednesdays, May 6 through June 10, 11:00 a.m. on Zoom

If you would like to be on the link, please contact: lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com.

Our Christian witness in a weary and lost world is one of the apostle Paul's main themes in Philippians. He wants followers of Christ to rejoice in every situation, not just so that they will be happy people, but so that they will be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ (see Phil. 2:14-18). In this sermon series and Bible study, we will explore not only how Paul encouraged the church at Philippi to experience the true peace of God, but also how Paul speaks to us today in the midst of Pandemic and in the trials and tribulations of our lives.