



# BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

January 2022

## A New Chapter

As we welcome the new year, it remains such a peculiar time in the life of our world, doesn't it? While I cleave as best I can to my faith, I lament that 2021 did not exactly live up to the vision I had for the "beyond" of 2020. I never expected things to return to normal, but I was at least hopeful that we would say "adios", "auf Wiedersehen" to this wild and crazy coronavirus pandemic.

And yet, as I reflect on 2021, I choose to remain hopeful. I have seen the Spirit at work in mighty, creative, powerful ways. In the laughter of our RAD kids, in the strong bond of our staff, in the faithful witness and leadership of our session and in the new avenues of worship and music, I have felt a new chapter open up in our life together. A page has definitely turned.

I often share with my clergy group that while this pandemic has been difficult, it has made our congregation a more resilient body. We have adapted and remained flexible with our ministries. We have grown spiritually and numerically. As your pastor, I feel bolder than ever in guiding the mission and priorities of our congregation. The staff, session and I are determined this new 2022 year will be one of abundant health: body, mind and spirit.

As you reflect on these areas of your own life, where is it that you see yourself stretching and growing?

The staff will be participating in a **health challenge** to encourage strong bodies, minds, and spirits and we want **you** to join us. We hope to take more steps in 2022 — taking daily laps and walks around the church. We will hold more meetings outside and log more hours in nature. We will dig deep into the gospel of John seeking to find depth and meaning for God's will for our church. Overall, we hope to create more healthy systems within the life of our church and in our own lives, honoring the sabbath when we need deep rest.

As we close the chapter on 2021, I am hopeful with "the fullness of things", even as I am aware of all we have lost during this time of pandemic.

I remain ever grateful for the members of our body here at BMPC. I wish all of you a restorative and healthy New Year — and if that is not possible, as much kindness, gentleness and compassion toward yourself as you can possibly muster.

Yours in faith,

Mary Katherine



# JANUARY 2022

1  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
<b>2</b> <b>11a</b> Virtual Worship	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch	<b>6</b> <b>1:30p</b> Blood Drive	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>9:30a</b> Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
<div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Deadline for the February Window newsletter Monday, December 17</b> </div>						
<b>9 EPIPHANY</b> <b>9a</b> FirstLight <b>9:45a</b> Church School <b>10a</b> Family Worship <b>11a</b> Worship <b>12:15p</b> Confirmation <b>1:30p</b> Youth <b>5p</b> Taizé Worship	<b>10</b> <b>8a</b> Sacred Circle <b>1p</b> Earth Care Book Study <b>5:15p</b> HS Girls <b>6:30p</b> Mission <b>7p</b> Earth Care Team	<b>11</b> PW Circles (p.6) <b>12p</b> Book Club <b>1:30p</b> Staff Mtg <b>2p</b> Southern Lit Book Group <b>6p</b> Sacred Circle <b>7p</b> Prophets	<b>12</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch  <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> <b>3p</b> Ina Hughs Book Group	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9:30a</b> Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul  <b>Youth Retreat in Montreat</b>
<b>16</b> <b>9a</b> FirstLight <b>9:45a</b> Church School <b>11a</b> Worship <b>1:30p</b> Youth <b>4p</b> Finance Team <b>Youth Retreat in Montreat</b>	<b>17</b> <b>MLK DAY</b> <b>church office closed</b>	<b>18</b> <b>1:30p</b> Staff Mtg  <b>7p</b> Prophets	<b>19</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch  <b>6:30p</b> Strategic Planning <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> <b>1:30p</b> Sewing Ministry	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9:30a</b> Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
<b>23</b> <b>9a</b> FirstLight <b>9:45a</b> Church School <b>10a</b> Family Worship <b>11a</b> Worship <b>12:15p</b> Confirmation <b>1:30p</b> Hike <b>5p</b> Take 5 at 5	<b>24</b> RAD Wednesdays! registration opens <b>8a</b> Sacred Circle <b>1p</b> Earth Care Book Study <b>5:15p</b> HS Girls <b>6p</b> Session	<b>25</b> <b>1p</b> PW Bible Study <b>1:30p</b> Staff Mtg <b>2:15p</b> PW Coordinating Team <b>6:30p</b> Lydia <b>7p</b> Prophets	<b>26</b> <b>12p</b> Old Fellers Lunch  <b>7p</b> Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>9a</b> FirstLight <b>9:45a</b> Church School <b>11a</b> Worship <b>12p</b> Congregational Mtg <b>12:15p</b> Confirmation <b>1:30p</b> Youth	<b>31</b> <b>8a</b> Sacred Circle <b>1p</b> Earth Care Book Study <b>5:15p</b> HS Girls	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="color: green;">Next month: Sunday, February 13 – Watch for details in weekly emails</h2> </div> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p><b>SOUPER BOWL OF CARING</b><sup>TM</sup> tacklehunger.org</p> </div> </div>				

# two kinds of Worship Services

Sunday Evenings, 5-6 p.m.

## Taizé Worship

**January 9** and thereafter on the second Sunday of each month through June *usually in the sanctuary, but sometimes outdoors or in the fellowship hall*

## Take Five at Five

**January 23** and thereafter on the fourth Sunday of each month through June *a time for poetry and innovative scripture and music in the sanctuary*

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# MONTHLY HIKES RETURN

Our monthly hikes, open to all ages and well-mannered dogs, resume on **January 23** and continue on the fourth Sunday of each month. We will usually meet at the trailhead around 1:45 or at the church at 1:30 (when Covid is not a problem we can travel together on the church bus). Stay tuned for details. Margie Stansell and David Carter Florence will coordinate these hikes for intergenerational fellowship and appreciation of God's great sanctuary of nature.



## HOW TO SET-UP YOUR REALM ACCOUNT FOR BMPC

### 1. CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Open your email with the subject line "{Your Name}, Your BMPC Realm Invitation..." to find your invitation link.



### 2. CLICK THE LINK

Each link is unique to each person. Everyone with an email in our system will get a different link to set-up your own account profile in Realm.

### 3. CREATE/UPDATE ACCOUNT

There are a few steps that you will need to follow in-order to set-up your account. We want to make sure only you have access to your account.



### DOWNLOAD THE APP!

Search for "Realm Connect" in the app store on your phone or tablet. Download the app and login with your email and password.

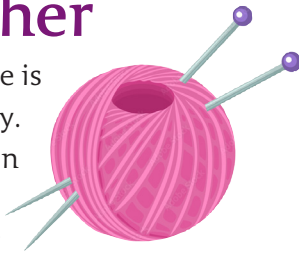
### QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

If you did not receive an invitation email, we may not have your information correct. Please contact the Church Office and we can add you and help with any other issues you are having with Realm.



# Let's Knit Together

The Congregational Life committee is forming a fun new group in January. We know there are lots of people in our congregation who like to knit or crochet, so we are setting a day and time where we can all visit while we work on our projects. **On the third Friday of every month, we will meet in the parlor from 1:00 until 2:30 p.m.** Come whether you are just beginning to knit or are an expert. You can work on your own project or knit for Project Linus. You don't need to sign up for this group. Just show up. This will be a great time to socialize and make new friends. – *Gay Ferguson, Chair of Congregational Life*



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## Adult Church School

### Sunday mornings: 9:45-10:45

**BECOMERS** in the library and on Zoom

Rev. Dr. George Thompson continues to lead a close reading and exploration of the gospel of Mark. We believe that our spiritual growth is dependent on our understanding of the good news of Jesus Christ revealed in the Old and New Testaments. We encourage adults of all ages and levels of knowledge to join us.

**BIBLICAL EXPLORATIONS 2.0** upstairs

Taking a break in January. See next column for February plans.

**BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES** in CR1 and on Zoom

We seek to grow in Christian fellowship, faith, and practice by sharing and hearing stories of life and ministry from members and guests, by addressing current issues in church and society together through the study of the Bible and by discussion of our response as we are led by the Holy Spirit. We warmly invite you to join us! Led by John Van Osdall

**FAITH BUILDERS** upstairs in the education building

We will join Bible Explorations for all classes in December. Led by Ellen McClintock and Susan Jumper

## Biblical Explorations 2.0

How do you feel when someone suggests reading the Bible or, better yet, asks you to reflect on a biblical passage? Do you look for the back pew where you can hide in a particularly thoughtful verse from an open hymnal? Or do you look around for an “expert” to tell you what to think? Have you felt inadequate when you count the number of biblical scholars, seminary professors and ordained ministers in our midst? What if you could feel empowered to study the Bible yourself and with a group of similar amateurs.

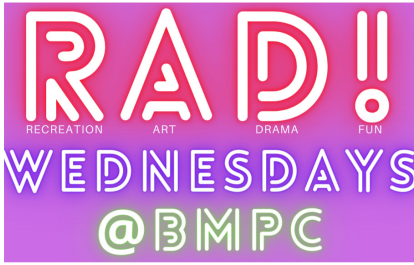
Biblical Explorations is casting off the “teacher” and is handing the power to study the Bible to the “people.” We’ll read scripture and use what we know as natural story tellers to find meaning as we read. No one is expected to come to class with a prepared lesson (including class facilitators). While regular participation is always encouraged, drop-ins and fellow explorers are always welcome.

Some of the stories, mostly from the Gospel of John, will come from the Year 4 Narrative Lectionary used for this year’s sermon topics. Others will be chosen from what we would like to know more about.

Bible Explorations 2.0 is a new, frankly untried, approach that invites you to puzzle out meaning with fellow seekers. We are borrowing unapologetically from Rehearsing Scripture by Anna Carter Florence, but we are also flying like loose balloons as we attempt to find ways to enjoy becoming readers of the Bible.

*We hope you will join us in our adventure.*





# Want a time for your kids to connect and play? Join us for RAD! Wednesdays!

This is a time for recreation, arts, drama, music, and fellowship for children in grades PreK-5. We will meet after school on **Wednesdays February 23 – May 4 (no RAD! on April 13)**. Registration is required. All children attending will need to bring a water bottle and mask.

Parents, grandparents, or guardians are required to volunteer at least one Wednesday – we will reach out if we need more help.

## Schedule

**3:30-4:00** drop-off, snack, play time

**4:00** story, prayer, song

**4:00-5:30** breakout stations – arts & crafts, recreation & movement, drama, music, and mission

*We will spend extra time on the playground or playing games.*

## Questions?

**Brittany** – [brittany@bmpcnc.org](mailto:brittany@bmpcnc.org)

**Pastor David** – [david@bmpcnc.org](mailto:david@bmpcnc.org)

[Register here](#) **beginning Monday, January 24, or visit [bmpcnc.org](http://bmpcnc.org).**

*If you are not a member of BMPC, please contact Brittany or David prior to registering.*



# Presbyterian Women



## Circle Meetings

Tuesday, January 11

### DORCAS

10 a.m. in CR1

### PRISCILLA

10 a.m. in the Parlor

### ESTHER

10:30 a.m.

the home of Carol Cauthen  
6 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

### NAOMI

4:30 p.m. in the Library

### LYDIA

6:30 p.m. in the narthex



## PW Leaders

Tuesday, January 25

Bible Study

1 p.m. in the Library

Coordinating Team

2:15 p.m. in CR1

## PW in Action

Presbyterian Women gather monthly in small groups (circles) to study, pray, and have fun participating in service projects. In December, Naomi circle packed a Welcome Tote for a child to receive at Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families. Esther circle collected many socks for SVCM clients.



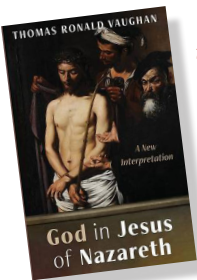
**Naomi Circle**



**Esther Circle**

# Library News

The library has recently received donations of two books of significant importance. Although varying differently in subject matter, they contain both information and interpretation which may be challenging, definitely thought-provoking, and extremely well-documented. In this New Year when many forego some normal activities, it is a good time for reading. Here are two suggestions.



The author of the first book, **God in Jesus of Nazareth**, is BMPC clergy member, Ronald Vaughan. This short work, less than 100 pages, is filled with Vaughan's insights on Incarnation, a word which has been used widely in the season of Advent. It is often used glibly. How many of us really understand Incarnation?

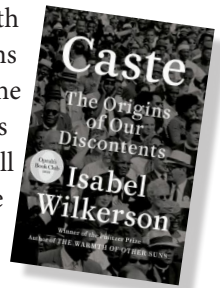
Are we supposed to understand Incarnation, at least the way we understand mathematical problems or grammar usage? Reading this book, which has a subtitle, *A New Interpretation*, we may discover the answer to the foregoing questions.

Initially Vaughan confesses that he left Divinity School with a "large" I for Incomplete as far as Incarnation was concerned. Over the years, however, he has diligently studied the history of the doctrine in the Church, various interpretations which have been espoused, and the implications for us today. He explores the Birth Narrative, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection as seen in the New Testament and in the writings of the Church. He also delves into the meaning for us today.

In a chapter entitled "Living Incarnationally" he quotes the philosopher Wittgenstein (a non-believer) as using the phrase, "Theology as Grammar." Vaughan then puts his own interpretation on the idea, hence the title of the chapter. On a personal note, I found this to

be telling. As a former English teacher, I know that grammar refers to the way we speak and write. For me then, theology is the way we live and act. If our theology is sound, it should influence us for the good. What we believe about the Incarnation should make a tremendous difference in our entire lives. That is my interpretation of that section of the book. I challenge you readers to see what your interpretation is.

The other book which I want to highlight is **Caste** by Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson. The library acquired *The Warmth of Other Suns* several months ago, in which she deals with the migration of African Americans from the South to the North and the West. In this work Wilkerson turns to several systems in history, as well as currently, that stigmatize people by caste. The Nazis in Germany with their racial hatred of Jews, the caste system in India, and the slavery of the South are dealt with intensively. However, there are other, often more subtle, ways in which people are stigmatized. One of her basic premises is that the need for people to feel that there is always someone beneath them is usually the reason for caste.



Again I will interject a personal note. While I was aware of some of the more prominent examples of caste, I learned a great deal from Wilkerson, especially about the roots of much of what is under the surface of the problems we see today. Although the book may appear daunting, it is very readable and very accessible.

A reminder that on the display shelves there are handmade bookmarks (bookworms) and a few mask extenders for those who have hearing aids available for anyone. While you are there, be sure to browse the selection of free books. Happy Winter Reading!

– Sally Woodard



“For unto us a child is born.” We welcomed over 150 in attendance at our Children and Families Christmas Eve service. We could not have asked for a better day with such beautiful weather as we celebrated Jesus’ birth.



## Thank you for practicing eco-sustainable living!

### Dish Washing

For all church events involving food and drink, we utilize our reusable kitchen ware – silverware, plastic cups, and ceramic plates and coffee cups. This keeps us from adding to the use of paper and plastic waste. It does necessitate washing dishes! If your group is small and your dishes fill up two dishwasher trays or less, please rinse the dishes and stack them in a tray to the left side of the dishwasher. They will be washed in the next round of washing Monday-Friday. If your group is larger and you create more than two trays to be washed, please go ahead and run the washer, dry and put away your dishes. By not running the dishwasher for smaller runs and combining dishes for larger runs, we save energy.

### Recycling

Whenever you lead an event that involves waste, please set up recycling bins so that they are easily accessed by the attendees.

### Composting

There are five gallon buckets in our kitchens for compostable waste. Please add any plant products, coffee grounds (with filters), and eggshells to these buckets and secure the lid tightly. They will be emptied into the compost bin in the garden on the south end of the building. Our compost is then added to fortify our gardens and reduce landfill waste. Branches and larger plants should go in the brush pile in the southwest corner of the south parking lot.



# "From Conquerors to Stewards"

## words of hope for the new year

Jeannie Franklin, Earth Care Team

Plunging into the New Year, we carry a load of problems to worry about. Chief among them are climate change and species extinction, the enormous problems of modern times. But the same scientists who warn about these crises also offer words of hope.

Biologist E. O. Wilson, who died on December 26, in later life became an advocate for saving the world's wild places. As his study of insects led him to foresee impending mass extinction, he never gave up hoping. "I'm optimistic," he said in 2012. "I think we can pass from conquerors to stewards."

Primatologist Jane Goodall, who gave up research to advocate for failing species, and whose *Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* has just been published, says that her hope springs from four key forces:

- 1) The Amazing Human Intellect,
- 2) The Resilience of Nature,
- 3) The Power of Young People, and
- 4) The Indomitable Human Spirit.

She writes, "It is mostly because people are so overwhelmed by the magnitude of our folly that they feel helpless. They need to hear stories of people who succeed because they won't give up."

Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe writes, "Real hope doesn't usually come knocking on the door of our brains uninvited. If we want to find it, we have to roll up our sleeves and search for it. And then we have to practice it." Hope is a practice, not an emotion. Rather than acting only when we feel hopeful, we focus on our goal and let it guide us. Hayhoe, an evangelical Christian, quotes the apostle Paul in Romans: "We know that troubles help us learn not to give up. When

we have learned not to give up, it shows we have stood the test. When we have stood the test, it gives us hope." Her climate talks include stories and good news about people who are making a difference.

Farmer and conservationist Wendell Berry wrote in 1991: "We know from history that massive human failure is possible. . . . On the other hand, we want to be hopeful, and hope is one of our duties. A part of our obligation to our descendants is to study our condition, searching always for the authentic underpinnings of hope. And these underpinnings can still be found."

"For one thing, though we have caused the earth to be seriously diseased, it is not yet without health. The earth we have before us now is still abounding and beautiful . . . the health of nature is the primary ground of hope. But we have not only the example of nature; we have still, though few and widely scattered, sufficient examples of competent and loving human stewardship of the earth. We have, too, our own desire

to be healthy in a healthy world. And we are, in spite of much evidence to the contrary, somewhat sapient. We can think, if we will.

"These assets are not the gigantic, technical, and costly equipment that we think we need, but they are enough. They are, in fact, God's plenty. Because we have these assets, which support our legitimate hope, we can start from where we are, with what we have, and imagine and work for the healings that are necessary."

Therefore, joining the millions of people, towns, and countries across the globe who are working as we are, let's practice our hope!

*A part of our obligation to our descendants is to study our condition, searching always for the authentic underpinnings of hope. And these underpinnings can still be found.*

Wendell Berry



# Church House progress continues



# star words

You can pick up your star word for 2022 on Epiphany Sunday, January 9. Stars will be available in the narthex throughout the month of January.

## December birthdays

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Vestal Caldwell  | <b>13</b> Sara Owen                                    |
| <b>3</b> Brad Holmes  | <b>16</b> Michelle Ferguson                            |
| <b>4</b> Levi Hall  | <b>17</b> Sheldon Adams<br>Katherine Stanley           |
| <b>5</b> Carol Tyson<br>Valorie Speegle-Snell                           | <b>20</b> Caroline McElwee                             |
| <b>6</b> Becky Peterson<br>Nancy Thomas<br>Ayla Maidment                | <b>23</b> Lucas Dodson                                 |
| <b>7</b> Kate Nelson<br>Jeff Ruppert                                    | <b>24</b> Dusty Lindsey                                |
| <b>8</b> Kim Fisher<br>Susan Banzhoff                                   | <b>25</b> Rick Lindsey                                 |
| <b>9</b> Rosy Robson<br>Cammy Holt<br>Wyatt Lehman                      | <b>26</b> Jane Frist<br>Bill Straughan                 |
| <b>10</b> Carey Jo Elam<br>Sarah West<br>Sloan Price<br>Helen Summerlin | <b>28</b> Maggie Ray<br>Judy Gregory<br>Joyce Massey   |
| <b>12</b> Charlie Edwards<br>Becky Hughes                               | <b>29</b> Travis Childs                                |
|   | <b>30</b> Betsy Warren                                 |
|   | <b>31</b> Nan Higgins<br>Suzanne Money<br>Porter Reece |

Happy  
Birthday

## Earth Care Book Study

continues each Monday 1:00-2:00 p.m. under the courtyard canopy with the study of Black Mountain College writings. The group will meet in CR1 when it is too cold or wet outside.

## Mental Health Support Group

As people have been vaccinated and been able to return to some normal activities, participation in the Mental Health Support Group has decreased. Therefore the group will take a break from meeting during the winter months. In the Spring we will re-evaluate the future of this group. Please be assured that our congregation remains committed to supporting those who struggle emotionally themselves or with loved ones. If you need support, please contact Bunny Alexander (317-517-0334), one of the BMPC pastors, or Black Mountain Counseling Center.

## THE BLESSING BOX

If you would like to sign up for a week to keep the Blessing Box stocked, contact Patti Pyle (pyle.patti@gmail.com). You can also add food items any time. Next time you see the supply running low, feel free to add cans of soup, water, protein bars, etc.

## name tags

If you ever need a name tag, simply email jackie@bmpcnc.org with your name the way you want it on your tag. Thank you!





# BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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828-669-2725 Fax: 828-669-2727  
[www.bmpcnc.org](http://www.bmpcnc.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BLACK  
MOUNTAIN, NC  
Permit No. 36

*return service requested*

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**



an Earth Care Congregation



**BMPC Child Protection Policy**

*providing a safe environment for children & youth*



**American  
Red Cross**

**Blood Drive at BMPC**  
**January 6, 1:30-6:00 p.m.**

Click [here](#) or call the church office  
to make an appointment.