



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

September 2022

Kickoff Sunday!

September 11

Let's fill our **FirstLight** and **Sanctuary Worship** services to welcome **Mary Katherine Robinson** back from her sabbatical!

10:00 AM

Church House Open House

Check out our new house! Take a tour, learn about our Sunday offerings, and enjoy some doughnuts and coffee as we celebrate this space for ministry and fellowship.

PICNIC at Camp Rockmont

2:00 PM

2:00 PM – Waterfront 5:00 PM – Vespers

5:30 PM – Potluck Cookout

Anyone bringing their own tableware (plate, cup, and utensils) to the picnic will have their name entered in a drawing.

Three winning names will be drawn; each winner may choose either a BMPC insulated tumbler or t-shirt.

Shirts and tumblers are available in the church office for \$20 each.

You are invited to wear your BMPC t-shirt to the picnic.



See **page 3** for what's happening at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings beginning September 18.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
<p>Thanks to the following persons who helped with painting the interior of the church house.</p> <p>Alan Belches, Dale Culpepper, Margo Smith, James Robinson Long, Russ Spiller, Margie Stansell, Craig Cooley, Jim Layman, Ken Kelly, Bill Arens, Donna Drake, Austin Brown, Kent Patton, Susan Wilkinson, Wayne Mullis, <i>Chair, Facilities Task Force</i></p>				<p>1</p> <p>5p Karate with Tanner Pickett</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:35p Asheville Tourists Ballgame</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p> <p>1p Dee Cox Memorial Service</p>
<p>4 COMMUNION</p> <p>9a FirstLight Worship</p> <p>11a Worship Service</p>	<p>5 Labor Day church office closed</p>	<p>6 PW Circles (see page 4)</p> <p>1:30p Staff Mtg</p> <p>5:30p Hospitality & Welcome Team</p> <p>7p Prophets</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:30a Old Fellers Lunch</p> <p>7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:30p Blood Drive</p> <p>5p Karate with Tanner Pickett</p> <p>6p Men's Group</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>11 KICKOFF</p> <p>9a FirstLight Worship</p> <p>10a Church House Opening Celebration</p> <p>11a Worship Service</p> <p>2p Picnic @ Camp Rockmont (see front cover for details)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:15p Earth Care Book Study</p> <p>1:30p Worship Team</p> <p>2:30p Earth Care Team</p> <p>6:30p Mission Team</p> <p>7p Personnel Team</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:30p Staff Mtg</p> <p>3:30p Cong. Life</p> <p>6p Strategic Team</p> <p>6:30p Lydia Circle</p> <p>7p Prophets</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:30a Old Fellers Lunch</p> <p>3:30p RAD! Wednesdays</p> <p>5:30p Dinner</p> <p>7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3p Book Group with Ina Hughs</p> <p>5p Karate with Tanner Pickett</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9a FirstLight Worship</p> <p>10a Faith Formation (see page 3 for details)</p> <p>11a Worship Service</p> <p>4p Finance Team</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:30a Words on the Word</p> <p>1:15p Earth Care Book Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:30p Staff Mtg</p> <p>6p Faith Formation Team</p> <p>7p Prophets</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30a One River, Many Wells</p> <p>11:30a Fellers Lunch</p> <p>3:30p RAD! Wednesdays</p> <p>5:30p Dinner</p> <p>7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5p Karate with Tanner Pickett</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9a FirstLight Worship</p> <p>10a Faith Formation</p> <p>10a Family Worship</p> <p>11a Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:30a Words on the Word</p> <p>1:15p Earth Care Book Study</p> <p>6p Session</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1p PW Bible Study</p> <p>1:30p Staff Mtg</p> <p>2:15p PW Coordinating Team</p> <p>6:30p Lydia Circle</p> <p>7p Prophets</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30a One River, Many Wells</p> <p>11:30a Fellers Lunch</p> <p>3:30p RAD! Wednesdays</p> <p>5:30p Dinner</p> <p>7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5p Karate with Tanner Pickett</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Deadline for the OCTOBER WINDOW newsletter is Thursday, September 15.</p>

Faith Formation Adult Programs

SUNDAYS, 10:00 AM – beginning September 18

Biblical Perspectives

Explore how faith interacts with life as we hear guests and members address current issues in church and society together. **CR1**

Koinonia *From Jerusalem to Rome, The Story of the Church*
Study the book of Acts with the newly formed Koinonia class led by Lewis Galloway. **Fellowship Hall**

Living the Questions

The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity

Live the questions and think about the possibilities, instead of forcing the answers. Ellen McClintock and Pat Tuttle lead this series of theological and Biblical explorations.

Upstairs Education Wing

The Heart of Christianity *(first and third Sundays)*

Build relationships and explore the vital elements of Christian faith and life with other parents and young adults. Led by Ken Kelly. While Parents attend, children are invited to **Stories and Singing** with David Carter Florence and Brittany Williams.

Church House

Stories and Singing *(first and third Sundays)*

Learn the stories of our tradition through storytelling, art, recreation, and song. This multi-age gathering will have fun building friendships and community. Led by David Carter Florence, Brittany Williams, and Aaron Price. **Church House**

Family Worship *(second and fourth Sundays)*

Gather for an informal “teaching worship service” for all ages, but especially age-appropriate for children and parents. We usually meet outside and invite participation in all facets of worship! Led by David Carter Florence, Brittany Williams, and Aaron Price. **Courtyard**

MONDAYS

Words on the Word, 11:30-12:30 PM
Reading and musing on the upcoming Sunday sermon text

Enjoy the possibilities of the scripture with thoughtful close and expansive readings of the primary Bible reading for next Sunday’s worship. We will explore exegesis, interpretive reading, and liturgical possibilities. Bring a bag lunch. Led by David Carter Florence and other ministers. **Church House**

Earth Care Book Study, 1:15-2:15 PM

Environmental readings and theology
Read and discuss classic and current environmental writings that guide us in our practices and understanding of eco-theology, economics, activism, and community. Led by David Carter Florence and other members of the Earth Care Team.

Courtyard or Church House

WEDNESDAYS

One River, Many Wells, 8:30-9:30 AM

Seek the common heart of the great spiritual traditions of the world by delving into one another’s spiritual riches. We will explore readings and film from the religions of the world, seeking greater understanding and compassion. Led by David Carter Florence and guests. **Church House**

Fall MEET & EAT

This is a great opportunity to form real relationships with other BMPC members. We had 55 people sign up for the summer months and we hope to see to see more this fall! Each group will consist of eight adult members and they will decide where and when they will meet for a meal three times between September 1 and December 31.

Please sign up by Tuesday, September 6

- [online Google form](#)
- [email Gay Ferguson](#) or call 704-451-3097
- sign up in the narthex or call the church office (828-669-2725)

Be sure to indicate the number in your party and if you prefer a dinner group, lunch group, or would be happy to be part of either one.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CIRCLES in September

Tuesday, September 6

DORCAS – Moderator: Barbara Brinson
10 a.m., Conference Room One (CR1)

PRISCILLA – Moderator: Gayle Shelton
10 a.m., Church House

ESTHER – Moderator: Karen Smith
10:30 a.m., 144 Lake Eden Road

RUTH – Moderator: Andrea DeWitt
1:30 p.m., Highland Farms Poplar Room
(2nd floor of Lodge)

NAOMI – Moderator: Karen Austin
3:00 p.m., Church House

Tuesday, September 13 & 27

LYDIA – Moderator: Patti Pyle
6:30 p.m., Church House

All women are invited to any circle – just show up or call Ginny Soll, 828-777-6970.

Helping To Feed Our Community

The current needs of SVCM include personal hygiene items such as toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap, lip balm, and laundry pods. While many baby items are on hand, size six diapers are still needed. We can help our neighbors in need by substituting these hygiene items for regular **Can in Each Hand** donations.

Please also consider donating individual snack items for the **Blessing Box**. These can include easy to open food such as granola bars, bottled water, sardines, tuna, and crackers, as well as hygiene items listed above.

You can leave your donations in the marked bins in the narthex.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, September 8

1:30-6:00 PM

fellowship hall

Make an appointment online
or call the church office.



Choose Generosity: A Way of Life



As we communicated to you last spring in the Window newsletter, your Generosity team has planned our fall campaign around the theme of **Choose Generosity: A Way of Life**. Our logo above illustrates the full spirit of the theme: a generous heart is only part of the process; we also need to use our hands to put generosity to work. With both working together, generosity can truly be “a way of life.” We always want to include our children in our campaign and this year we will hold a “rock hunt” at the church on Sunday, October 16, between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. The rocks will be hidden on the church grounds and our children will be invited to search for them and take home a couple of painted rocks with a “generosity” word inscribed on each. In this way they will be reminded to be generous in their own lives. More details will be sent to church families prior to the event.

For all our church members, you will be invited to trace a hand on a banner to be mounted in the narthex and include a word that says “generosity” to you. This will start on **Kickoff Sunday, October 9**, and continue through **Dedication Sunday, October 30**.

During the three weeks of the campaign, we will be sending out short videos through email to make generosity a more personal concept. Thanks to our volunteers who agreed to share a generosity story with us.

Giving options for the campaign will be similar to those we used last year. **Online giving will be encouraged with more details in your packet, which will be available for pickup in the narthex starting on October 9**. If you have questions about online giving, you can contact Sam Webber at the church office. There will be a locked box in the narthex for you to deposit your giving card if you prefer. Please plan to return your giving estimate by Dedication Sunday, October 30.

Let’s all remember to give thanks for what we have been given and share those gifts through generosity in our daily lives.

Dave Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Johnson". The script is cursive and fluid.

Generosity Team Chair

We had a great time at **Won't You Be My Neighbor?** Intergenerational Bible Camp!





We ended this summer's **Intergenerational Bible Camp** with a big celebration! We worked on local mission projects and then celebrated with music from DJ Munn. Afterwards we enjoyed pizza that Brittany's dad cooked in his portable brick oven and popsicles. Many thanks to everyone who joined in to make the camp a big success!

RAD!

RECREATION ART DRAMA FUN

WEDNESDAYS

RAD! Wednesdays
is back!

September 14, 3:30-5:30pm
continuing on Wednesdays
through November 17

Kids 4 years old through 6th Grade

Registration required

**bmpcnc.org for more information
and registration**

Trunk -or- Treat

Saturday, October 30

2:00-4:00pm

BMPC parking lot

If you would like to participate please sign up on the website or contact Brittany Williams.

Join us for **Trunk-or-Treat** in the church parking lot. This is a free community event and all are welcome so come dressed in your Halloween best! This year it will not be a drive-thru event.

Here's how you can help:

CANDY DONATIONS

Last year we had over 400 children receive candy and prizes in our drive-thru event! Please consider dropping off a bag (or two, or three!) in the box in the narthex before Friday, October 28.

VOLUNTEERS

Join us to help with set-up and decorating, traffic control, or come and decorate your car (or table) in the BMPC parking lot and hand out candy and prizes from 2:00-4:00pm.

Earth Care According to Aldo Leopold and Bill McKibben

The Earth Care Book Group has launched a year-long study of *American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau*, edited by Bill McKibben. Featured this month are passages from Aldo Leopold, known as the father of environmental ethics and also the founder of wildlife management in the US; and Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*, the first book to warn the general public about the climate crisis. These authors from two different centuries tell us that our ordinary lives of consumption are ending nature. We need to form a new ethic for living on the planet.

***A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, 1949**

“We all strive for safety, prosperity, comfort, long life, and dullness, the most of us with machines, votes, and dollars, but it all comes to the same thing. Too much safety seems to yield only danger in the long run. Perhaps this is behind Thoreau’s dictum: In wildness is the salvation of the world.”

The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively the land. This sounds simple: do we not already sing our love for and obligation to the land of the free and the home of the brave? Yes, but just what and whom do we love? Certainly not the soil, which we are sending helter-skelter downriver. Certainly not the waters, which we assume have no function except to turn turbines, float barges, and carry off sewage. Certainly not the plants, of which we exterminate whole communities without batting an eye. Certainly not the animals, of which we have already extirpated many of the largest and most beautiful species.

The usual answer to this dilemma is “more conservation education.” As I understand it, the content is substantially this: obey the law, vote right, join some organizations, and practice what conservation is profitable on your own land; the government will do the rest. Is not this formula too easy to accomplish anything worth-while? It defines no right or wrong, assigns no obligation, calls for no sacrifice, implies no change in the current philosophy of values. In respect of land-use, it urges only enlightened self-interest.

***The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon* by Bill McKibben, 2022**

“Think about the carbon-debt in generational terms. If you’re sixty, 82 percent of the world’s fossil fuel emissions have occurred in your lifetime. For three-quarters of your adult life you’ve known about the dangers of the climate crisis, but it hasn’t impinged much if at all on your lifestyle. However, in November of 2020, researchers surveying people aged 26 to 45 found that 96 percent of them were “very or extremely concerned about the wellbeing of their potential future children in a climate-changed world.”

We might react to this heartbreaking concern in three ways. Many among us pretend it doesn’t exist which is easy to do. We might care for our own family and friends, and volunteer to take care of some other people in our community. All this is fine and good but it’s sort of what got us into this mess. Consider this third reaction: recognize that young people have led the way so far on climate change. We don’t want them to be cannon fodder in this fight. It’s time for people who’ve spend their lives pouring carbon into the air to step up too.

Earth Care Book Study, Mondays, 1:15-2:15

Read and discuss classic and current environmental writings that guide us in our practices and understanding of eco-theology, economics, activism, and community.

Led by David Carter Florence and other members of the Earth Care Team.

Church House or Courtyard (*weather permitting*)

September **YOUTH** Calendar

Wed 7, 5:30-7p – **Youth Parent Meeting** @ church house – pizza provided

Wed 14, 5:30-7:30p – **MS & HS Small Groups** @ church house

Sun 18, 2-4p – **Nerf Wars** bring a Nerf gun and a friend!

Tue 20, 7a – **MS & HS Breakfast Club** @ church house

Tue 21, 5:30-7:30p – **MS & HS Small Groups** @ church house

Sat 24, 10-12a – **Youth Fundraiser Car Wash**

Sun 25, 2-5p – **Roller Skating @ Marion Hotwheelz** – bring a friend!

The BMPC youth group is collecting old magazines to use for a collage they are creating of each of the Ten Commandments. You can leave your donation in the basket labeled YOUTH in the narthex. Thank you!



Katie Duvall is our new Youth Coordinator at BMPC. She attended Montreat College where she earned her BA in Human Services with a minor in Physical Education. After graduation she was the afterschool director at Oakley

Elementary before she accepted a position coaching and teaching at TC Roberson. She joined the BMPC Weekday School staff in 2017 and has worked there until her transition to the Youth Coordinator position.

Katie loves spending time with her husband and three children. She also enjoys crafting, baking, and photography. You can email Katie at katie@bmpcnc.org.

Volunteers needed for children and youth programs

Extended Session and Nursery

Sundays 11:00AM

contact Alice Patton, alice@bmpcnc.org

RAD! Wednesdays

Wednesdays 3:30-5:30PM

contact Brittany Williams, brittany@bmpcnc.org

Wednesday Night Dinners

setup • cook team • cleanup

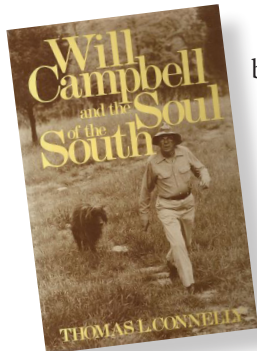
contact Brittany Williams, brittany@bmpcnc.org

Youth Leaders

Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons

contact Katie Duvall, katie@bmpcnc.org

As I write this, I have learned of the death of prominent author, theologian, and preacher, Frederick Buechner, at the age of 96. Buechner was, among many other distinctions, a prolific writer. Since I have reviewed his books before in this column, now I will simply recount the various kinds of writing that he did. He did not restrict his works to one genre. He wrote novels, devotional books, collections of sermons, and a three-volume autobiography, as well as delving into more serious theology. I will put on the display shelf the works the BMPC library has.



Last month I talked about biographies. At the time I didn't realize that the library had been given *Will Campbell and the Soul of the South* by Thomas L. Connelly. For those to whom his name may not be familiar, Will Campbell was a "folksy" preacher who defied the

stereotypes. He was at home in a bar, playing country and gospel songs on his guitar, as well as advocating for the rights of southern blacks, Vietnam protesters, and people on death row. To say that he was a "colorful" figure in his time is an understatement. Educated at Yale Divinity School, he was still comfortable with the poor and the uneducated. This is not a long biography, but it is a very readable one about a man who had a great impact on the lives of many.

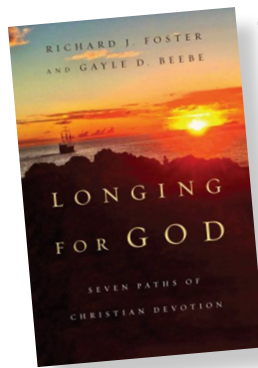
Another recent gift is *Our Last Best Act* by Mallory McDuff, well-known to many here as a professor at Warren Wilson College and an avid environmentalist.

Recently several in the church have read her earlier book, *Natural Saints*. In this one, she explores the various end-of-life choices with which a person is faced. While the topic may appear to be depressing, it is a vital one for those who are concerned about the environment. McDuff emphasizes that our care for our planet and humanity should extend to the ways in which we make decisions about our bodies as we are dying and after death.



Many in the congregation are likely familiar with Richard Foster, author of *Celebration of Discipline*. In *Longing For God*, he has teamed with Gayle D. Beebe to explore "Seven Paths Of Christian Devotion." The authors name seven ways in which they believe Christian devotion is exemplified, and then proceed to

examine how various spiritual leaders have treated one specific aspect of those paths. Among the twenty-six noted figures, they include Origen, Augustine, Francis of Assisi, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Luther, Wesley, George Herbert, and John Bunyan, and many more who are familiar to church history. *Longing For God* is one of those books into which one can dip and find inspiration without reading it "cover to cover."



Please come by and "check out" the library.

September birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Ron Botsford | 16 Lyn Nygren |
| 2 Betty Lou Jeffrey | Claudia Gatewood |
| 3 Rita Cruse | 18 Carly Campbell |
| Ava Banzhoff | 22 Wilma Leary |
| 4 Scottie Lindsay | 23 Helen Davies |
| Samuel Edwards | Luke Hewitt |
| Marian Bradley | River Goins |
| 8 Yvette Ballard | 25 Holly Childs |
| Billy Robinson | Nancy Ellington |
| Tania Griffin | 26 Gracie Corn |
| 9 Nancy Poling | Jeremiah Donaldson |
| Lucas Adams | Rick Spielman |
| 10 Johnnie Wood | 27 Jerone Herring |
| Betsy Ray | Steve Coward |
| 11 Karen Austin | Elizabeth Hunnicutt |
| Maddie Pomeroy | Mark Rose |
| Tommy Wilkinson | 28 Sue Smith |
| 12 Jane Bannerman | 30 Cindy Hile |
| Wink Ingersoll | Bill Cox |
| 14 Rosie Johnson | Julie Culpepper |
| Anthony Lee | Laura Robinson-Long |
| Larry Berglund | |
| 15 Erin Campbell | |
| Deb Mullis | |
| Anne Drummond | |

Happy
Birthday

You can add information to your profile in our database, *Realm*, at any time. You can also find phone numbers and addresses of your BMPC friends. Contact Brittany or Sam for help with this. If you prefer a paper copy of the directory, stop by the church office and we will print one for you.

Dear BMPC friends,

I am in Malawi once again with Marion Medical Mission. For the past two years, because of Covid, the MMM African staff has continued to install wells without the “help” of American volunteers – in fact they completed more than 6,000 wells! This year I will rekindle friendships and help bring clean water to villages where that has been just a dream.

I thank you all for your past support and ask again for your prayers while I am away. The Mission Committee has given me money for some of my expenses; if you would also like to help, tax deductible contributions can be sent to Marion Medical Mission with “Jessi Stitt trip expenses” in the memo line (1412 Shawnee Dr. Marion, IL 62959), otherwise you can send a check to me at 203 Tomahawk Ave, Blk Mtn. I will update my blog (www.travelcontinued.blogspot.com) while I am there so that you can follow along.

Know that whatever form your support takes, I am very grateful. – Peace, Jessi Stitt

An Invitation to Sacred Circles

As a pastor, gerontologist, hospice chaplain, and spiritual director, I invite any of you who are seeking spiritual nurture in the midst of this troubling, exhausting liminal space in which we find ourselves, to become part of a Sacred Circle.

Sacred Circles are not counseling sessions, but a sacred space for spiritual nurture and discernment – seeking God in the midst of the ordinary and not so ordinary days. Confidentiality is a vital part of the covenant we share.

This ministry has been endorsed by the Christian Education Committee of the Presbytery. If you are interested in being part of one of these Sacred Circles (which gather virtually), feel free to contact me via email: drbeverlythompson@gmail.com



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road, PO Box 39
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-669-2725 Fax: 828-669-2727
www.bmpcnc.org

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 36

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



Help support **The Weekday School** with your Ingles card



Each year Ingles Markets offers schools assistance with their supplies through their Tools for Schools program. The Weekday School had a great response this year to our Ingles Tools For School sign ups. We received over \$1,900 in supplies and equipment. Each year we have to connect our Advantage Cards beginning in August and they stay connected until the end of May. Therefore, it is time to sign up once again. In order to sign up,

you can go online to <https://www.ingles-markets.com/> and connect your Ingles Advantage Card to our account. Our school number is 10820. If you are unable to do this online, there will be a sign up sheet at the welcome table in the church narthex. This is an easy way to support our Weekday School. Thank you all so much for your continued love and support.