



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

January 2023

Hope blooms...

A new year is upon us once again and as we pause to consider the past year, we also reflect on everything that can be in 2023. It's time to set goals and to dream about the ways in which we can grow spiritually, emotionally, and mentally as a person.

Did you know the church has resolutions too? The staff, along with our session and diaconate all set goals. We set and reset our direction, in light of the times. Considering that our renovations in the fellowship hall and kitchen are starting in February, maybe one simple goal would be to stay sane in the midst of upheaval and construction in 2023.

What changes do you want to see, as our church moves forward in 2023? Here are a few on my mind:

Worship is the center of our life together.

We will employ the best of ancient and modern worship, the liturgical arts, and biblical/ theological study, reverently committing to glorifying God – where mystery and beauty are intertwined and joyful worship leads us!

Everyone belongs. Everyone in the church should feel that there is a place for them, and that they are welcome and well-known, surrounded by friends. Our Small Group Ministry at BMPC sure does align with this resolution! Everyone engaged and everyone counted on. Everyone is a part of the team!

There are expectations for discipleship.

Our church has such a deep commitment to the wellbeing and health of our community and service to the needy in Black Mountain; we are faithfully living into the vision of being the church "in the

heart of Black Mountain." There is a threshold of expectations: for Attendance, for Giving, for Fellowship, for Study, for Service. Let's continue to nurture our identity as we care for our community!

We care for people. Pastors and deacons provide genuine love and support for our members. We welcome people to affiliate/belong with our church as a way of living healthy, joyful, and purposeful lives. Explore life's questions. Live your purpose. Love your neighbor.

Faith Formation is highlighted. Children and adults find the church to be an emotionally safe place to share moral, ethical, and theological perspectives. Let's continue to grow together, as we live into the vision that our spiritual lives are enhanced as we study and grow in community!

Diversity will be embraced. There is a healthy balance of perspectives, and a sharing of perspectives in our church. We do not have to agree in order to learn from each other. Let's witness to forbearance in our community and world!

We are Presbyterian-Reformed yet always reforming... Our emphasis on God's sovereignty is key and the belief that we are created for a purpose greater than our own happiness. God has placed a call upon our life together – to love and to serve!

These reflections on the things we value as a church are important as we start a new year together.

What New Year's resolutions would you add?

In hope and much love,

JANUARY

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

Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1 Happy New Year!	2 Office closed	3 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets	4 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 6:00p Youth & Parent meeting 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal	5 Team leaves for Guatemala 1:30p Blood Drive 5p Karate with Tanner	6	7 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
8 Epiphany 9a FirstLight Worship 10a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship Service 2p Youth	9 1:15p Earth Care Book Study 3:30p Cong. Life 5:30p Worship 7p Hosp & Welcome 7p Mission 7p Personnel	10 PW Circles (see page 4) 12p Book Club 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets	11 11:30a Fellers Lunch 11:30a One River, Many Wells 5:30p One Great Story 6p Youth 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal	12 5p Karate with Tanner	13 6p Girl Scouts	14 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul 9a Youth
15 9a FirstLight Worship 10a Faith Formation 11a Worship Service 4p Finance	16 Office closed for MLK holiday 1:15p Earth Care Book Study	17 1:30p Staff Mtg 7p Prophets 7p Young Mom's Group	18 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 6p Youth 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal	19 3p Book Group with Ina Hughs 5p Karate with Tanner	20	21 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul
22 9a FirstLight Worship 10a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship Service 2p Youth Painting with Stacy	23 1:15p Earth Care Book Study 5p Family Fellowship 6p Session	24 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Security Team 6:30p Lydia Circle 7p Prophets	25 11:30a Old Fellers Lunch 11:30a One River, Many Wells 6p Youth 6:30p Tai Chi w/Karl 7p Choir Rehearsal	26 5p Karate with Tanner 6:30p MS/HS Mom's Group 7p Thursday Night Live	27 6p Girl Scouts	28 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul Session Retreat
29 10a Faith Formation 11a Worship Service 12p Congregational Meeting 12:15p Potato Lunch & Chili Cook-off	30 1:15p Earth Care Book Study	31 1p PW Bible Study 1:30p Staff Mtg 2:15p PW Coordinating Team 7p Prophets	<div data-bbox="951 565 1305 675" data-label="Text" style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Deadline for the February Window newsletter Tuesday, January 17 </div>			
<div data-bbox="790 1312 1157 1377" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2>star words</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="669 1386 1278 1528" data-label="Text"> <p>You can pick up your star word for 2023 on Epiphany Sunday, January 8, and throughout the month of January.</p> </div>						

BMPC team traveling to Guatemala to visit our sister church, Ebenezer Presbyterian – January 5

Ebenezer Church in San Antonio, Guatemala has been our sister church for 27 years. This partnership is valuable to both our congregations. Many of our members have traveled to learn firsthand what it is like to worship and pray, celebrate, and even grieve alongside this faith filled community. As leaders at Ebenezer describe, “To think of our partnership is to think of our family living abroad... of brothers and sisters who laugh and cry with us and encourage us every day with their love, friendship, testimony and dedication in the missionary work of the visible church of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

BMPC supports Ebenezer in many ways. Scholarship money pays for school uniforms, books and fees without which children cannot go to school. We also support health projects and meet immediate medical care needs. Along with our Presbytery, support is also directed to the Microloan Project which allows women to work cooperatively and improve their financial situations.

We continue to emphasize building relationships. A BMPC team will travel to Guatemala in January 2023. The team consists of: Annamarie Arens, Jane Belsches, Mary Carroll Dodd, Xander Dodd, David Carter Florence, Pearl Hall, Weston Hall, Katherine Holman, Aaron Price, and Phin Price. Your support will mean that new Bibles and much needed supplies can be delivered in person! For more information, contact BMPC member Mary Carroll Dodd and follow the Facebook group Eben Ezer Black Mountain Iglesias Hermanas for news and prayer requests. Your support in prayer is important, too. We know they are praying for us!

All this year, **Strategic Planning** has been seeking ways our congregation can continue our mission of welcome. In the fall, we added our name to the **More Light Presbyterian Congregations** in hopes of expressing our openness to all. Being affiliated with other More Light groups means we have access to spiritual, educational, and community building resources. We are looking for one or more volunteers who would be willing to keep up our communication with the More Light groups. This would entail receiving email information and passing it on to the congregation, sending occasional communications about our church as we strive to welcome all, and passing on resources for discussion, classes, book groups and other avenues for congregational faith formation. If you are the right person for this kind of church service (no meetings, no deadlines, just interest in building awareness and helping us care for others), please contact Margo Smith (margoks@charter.net).



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

[SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT](#)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are invited to any circle.

Tuesday, January 10

DORCAS – 10:00 a.m., CR1

PRISCILLA – 10:00 a.m., Church House

ESTHER – 10:30 a.m., Joan Kline, 7 Wagon Trail, HF

NAOMI – 3:00 p.m., Church House

LYDIA – 6:30 p.m., Church House

Tuesday, January 24

LYDIA mission – 6:30 p.m., Church House

Tuesday, January 31

1:00 Bible Study, 2:15 Coordinating Team



Many thanks to all who joined the December Lydia gathering.

Janet presented a wonderful lesson on why Christians celebrate Sabbath on Sunday. We shared delicious holiday snacks and completed four service projects. Dana expressed her appreciation for our efforts by giving us beautiful bouquets of flowers that we each took to share with friends and loved ones. There was a warmth and fellowship among our group as we shared prayer concerns and plans for the holidays.

Potato Lunch and Chili Cook-off

Sunday, January 29, 12:15pm

(following congregational meeting)



This year we are combining a Youth Potato Lunch with the Chili Cook-off.

Please click here to register.

If you are reading this in print, please visit our website: bmpcnc.org to register.



Family Worship Second and fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join us in either the courtyard or narthex for this informal worship service with music, prayers, stories, and fellowship.

Meet & Eat is back!

By February, all of us will have recovered from the hustle and bustle of the holidays and be ready to start the New Year by getting to better know members of our congregation. So, we're resuming our "Meet and Eat" groups.

Just in case you need a refresher on how these groups work here's how it is organized. Your Congregational Life Team has organized small dinner groups. Each group will consist of eight adult members. Anyone who wants to participate will have three ways to sign up. You can sign up with this link or on our website, where you will indicate whether you want to sign up for a dinner or lunch group or would be happy to be part of either one. You will also be asked for the number in your party. The second way you can sign up is by calling Gay Ferguson (704-451-3097 or emailing her gwenflfe@gmail.com). The final way to sign up is by signing a list that will be in the narthex.

The deadline for signing up is Sunday, February 29. After the deadline, the staff will look at the participants and put them in groups of eight. Each group will meet three times during the months of March, April, and May. For the first dinner, one person in the group will be asked to come up with a date when everyone can meet. At that first get together, the members of the group will determine the dates for the next two dinners.

This is the perfect opportunity to form real relationships with other members of our congregation beyond just saying a brief "hello" at church events.

January **YOUTH** Calendar

TUE 3 High School Dinner
at Ole's, 6:00pm

WED 4 Youth & Parent
meeting, 6:00pm

SUN 8 Youth in Worship
Walmart Game
2:00pm

WED 11 Small Groups
6:00-7:30pm

SAT 14 Youth Sunday
planning and Snow
Tubing, 9:00am

WED 18 Small Groups
6:00-7:30pm

SUN 22 Paint Night
with Stacy Hana

WED 25 Small Groups
6:00-7:30pm

THU 26 MS/HS Mom's Group
6:30p

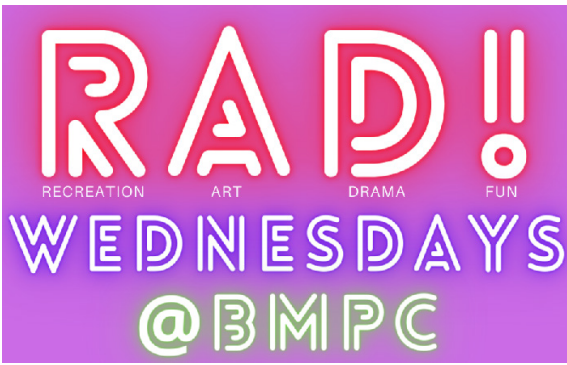
SUN 29 Potato Lunch and
Chili Cook-off



Please help support BMPC youth by providing a meal for Wednesday small groups.

BMPC Youth meet for small groups on Wednesday nights and would like to have help with dinners. Please plan to make food for 20 people and deliver it to the Church House the day of by 6:15 p.m. If you need to drop it off before 6:15 p.m. there will be space in the refrigerator. Use the link below or contact Katie@bmpcnc.org. Thank you so much for supporting our youth!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e44a4ae2ca5f5c70-youth#/>



Want a time for your kids to connect and play? Join us for **RAD! Wednesdays!** February 1 through May 3

We will be learning about the Beatitudes, standing up for what is right and how to use our voices for good, including mission projects. We will be preparing for our **Children's Worship Service on Sunday, May 7**. All children, ages four years old through fifth grade are invited to join us each week as we learn through stories, music, crafts, games, and more! **Registration will open on Sunday, January 8, on our website: bmpcnc.org.** **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Contact Brittany if you would like to help.**

Child Protection Training

become an Approved Adult Sunday, February 5

All those who are in a leadership position, working with children and youth, or would like to work with children and youth in the future, are encouraged to attend. Please contact Pat Tuttle or Brittany Williams to sign-up or for more information. Participants will need to complete Part I (online) before attending this training.



Family Fellowship Night at The Grange

Monday, January 23, 5:00 p.m.

Come have dinner, drinks, and fellowship time with other families. The Grange has a great outdoor space and a play area for kids!



PISGAH
LEGAL SERVICES

Thursday Night Live

January 26, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

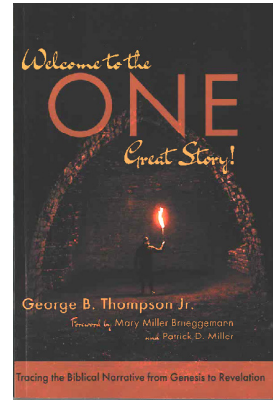
Sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Team and featuring Karen Wallace-Meigs from Pisgah Legal Services.

Pisgah Legal Services, an innovative nonprofit founded in 1978:

- provides free civil legal aid to people who live in poverty.
- helps more than 20,000 of the most vulnerable people in our communities annually to meet urgent needs such as: housing, safety from abuse, health care and avoiding eviction which often contributes to homelessness.
- partners with dozens of other agencies to make sustainable change for people in crisis.
- coordinates the services of approximately 300 pro bono attorneys in WNC.
- improves systems and policies that impact the lives of thousands of low-income people.

Pisgah Legal Services provides a broad array of free civil legal aid, anti-poverty advocacy, and access to health care in the 18-county WNC region. Program availability varies by county depending on the availability and scope of funding. Training is provided for volunteers to become navigators who assist clients to sign up for health insurance via the Affordable Care Act which can sometimes be a confusing process.

Pisgah Legal services provided crucial assistance to our Afghan refugee family, the Amirs, in helping them fill out necessary asylum paperwork and ultimately facilitating their travel to Canada where they could settle with family members and a larger Afghan community.



WELCOME TO THE ONE GREAT STORY!
**Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in person
and on Zoom beginning January 11**

A short-term study that follows the biblical storyline for anyone who would like to get a better feel for how the Bible hangs together. This study will be led by George Thompson who wrote the book, *Welcome to the One Great Story!* George wrote this book for a wide audience, with study questions and suggested activities, so older youth are welcome to participate, too.

We will meet upstairs in room 10. Please email George Thompson (revdr3george@gmail.com) if you would like to join us via Zoom.

Copies of *Welcome to the One Great Story!* are available through Amazon and in the church office. Please let David or George know if you would like to be part of this study.

Can you believe that it is 2023? Have you made any New Year's resolutions? Here is one that should be both pleasant and rewarding. Check out a book from the BMPC library. There are many from which to choose. Last month I highlighted memoirs from missionaries associated with BMPC. This month I want to continue to review books that are either by or about more of the numerous authors who have a Black Mountain connection.

One of these is **Martha Jane Petersen**, who has served not only in missions abroad, but also here in the U.S. However, her book, *Imaging My Inner Fire*, which is a memoir, is focused more on the way that creating art is also a calling from God. Martha Jane's speciality, as some of you know, is making quilts. What you may not know is that she felt the desire, even the urge, to do this after retirement. The book not only recounts her journey into this new way of witness to God and beauty, but also has photos of quilts which she has made. This book contains inspiration for both artists and retirees who may feel that they can no longer be productive. [Caveat: The latter hardly applies to BMPC folks, who remain very productive in retirement.]

My Cup Overflows by **Nada Miyat Barnett** is a fascinating memoir of growing up in the thirties and forties and living into the turn of the century. She was a PK, and she describes life in the manse during that time, as well as vacations on a farm where she learned how to milk a cow and the function of an outhouse. In addition, she tells of what it was like to hear the news of Pearl Harbor and to live through the Second World War, with all the stringencies and fear that experience entailed.

The way Nada recorded the events of her life can serve as a good example for all who want to preserve for their family the events of their lives.

Two other books in the Biography section are *Mission to Korea* by **Joe B. Hopper** and *On the Road Home* by **John Russell Frank**, known to his friends in Montreat as Rusty. In the former, Joe Hopper tells of his years growing up in Korea as the child of missionaries and then of his own time in Korea as a missionary himself. In a chapter entitled "Pioneer Evangelism in Wartime" he describes his return to the States and life in Montreat. Although most of the book concerns serious aspects of his life, it is obvious that he had a great sense of humor. Rusty Frank's book is about his family's involvement in the Philippines, where the Frank family spent a half-century, including time in a concentration camp.

Finally, a new addition to the library is **Thomas Ronald Vaughan's** *The Earth Beneath the Lynching Tree*. While not an autobiography, the reader may perceive a few poems as referring to the author. The title of the book comes from poems which describe the wrenching horror of the executions of African-American men. In spite of the discomfort these may give to the reader, it is necessary, I believe, for those of us who follow Christ to try to have some semblance of understanding of this evil inflicted on men of color. There is a great deal of variety in the other poems. BMPC members will identify with "Infant Baptism," and preachers will identify with "Not Taking Myself Too Seriously." Many of them have allusions to famous people or literature or art. As with his other books, this one will also make you think (I quote a BMPC member who has read it).

Blessings for the New Year from the library.

Nine things you can do about climate change in 2023

1. Make your voice heard by those in power.
2. Eat less meat and dairy.
3. Cut back on flying.
4. Leave the car at home.
5. Reduce your energy use, and bills.
6. Respect and protect green spaces.
7. Invest your money responsibly.
8. Cut consumption – and waste.
9. Talk about the changes you make.

This month the Earth Care Book Group has been reading *Saving Us* by climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe. Here is an excerpt:

“As a Christian myself, I find it particularly striking how the Bible talks about fear and action. In the apostle Paul’s letter to Timothy, he states simply that God has not given us a spirit of fear. So if we feel fear and respond to climate change out of fear – fear of either the solutions or the overwhelming nature of the impacts – that fear is not coming from God. Instead, Paul continues, God has given us a spirit of power, which enables us to act, instead of being frozen or paralyzed. We have been given a spirit of love, to have compassion for others, which means caring for others, putting their needs first as we act. And finally, we have been gifted with a sound mind that we can use to make good decisions based on facts and data that God has given us and made evident to his creation.

So how do we move beyond fear or shame? By acting from love. Love starts with speaking truth: making people fully aware of the risks and the choices they make in a manner that is relevant and practical to them. But it also offers compassion, understanding, and acceptance: the opposite of guilt and shame. Love bolsters our courage, too: what will we not do for those that we love? And finally, it opens the door to that most ephemeral and sought after of emotions: hope.”

Solar Panel Report – Energy Captured in November, 2022

- Energy captured from the sun – 1510 kWh • Money saved at 11 cents per kWh – \$166
- CO2 saved from going into the atmosphere – 1,208 pounds

January birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4 Levi Hall | 13 Sara Owens |
| 5 Carol Tyson
Valorie Speegle-Snell | 16 Michelle Ferguson |
| 6 Becky Peterson
Nancy Thomas
Ayla Maidment | 17 Katherine Stanley |
| 7 Kate Nelson
Jeff Ruppert | 23 Lucas Dodson |
| 8 Kim Fisher
Susan Banzhoff | 24 Dusty Lindsey |
| 9 Rosy Robson
Cammy Holt
Wyatt Lehman | 25 Rick Lindsey |
| 10 Carey Jo Elam
Sarah West
Sloan Price
Nell Summerlin | 26 Jane Frist
Bill Straughan |
| 12 Charlie Edwards
Becky Hughes | 28 Maggie Ray
Judy Gregory
Joyce Massey
Ann White |
| | 29 Travis Childs
Sam Maynard |
| | 30 Betsy Warren |
| | 31 Nan Higgins
Suzanne Money
Porter Reece |



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.**

Thank you for the Christmas caroling!

We knew they would be coming, but weren't quite prepared when the doorbell rang the afternoon of Sunday, December 11. So it was a beautiful surprise to welcome about a dozen or so appropriately dressed Christmas choristers to lead us in carol singing outside our front door here at Givens Highland Farms. We loved seeing old friends in the group and some choir members we don't know but certainly recognize since we follow worship services via YouTube every Sunday. We really enjoyed their harmonic versions of the carols and especially loved the sign language version of Silent Night! Thank you so much, BMPC Choristers. You made our day! You made our season!!!

Barb and Henry Griffin

PS: We have heard from other GHF residents (and even some non-BMPC members) that they, too, appreciated and enjoyed the joyous contact.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2022 Alternative Gifting program. Over \$17,000 was collected for our mission partners!

Thank you for all the delicious treats and gifts that we received for Christmas! – BMPC staff



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BLACK
MOUNTAIN, NC
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



Swannanoa Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Gathering to feature Dr. Jill Hamilton Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m.

The 2023 program will be presented via the internet
due to Covid concerns with the option of attending in person
at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Tickets can be purchased at svmlk.org for the in-person event.
adults, \$15 • children 12 and under, \$10