



BMPC window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

November 2023

Hey church staff!! I want to put what we're all grateful for on the cover of the window this month

Jackie

This community of wonderful people called BMPC with whom I have the honor of building relationships with ❤️

MK

For all the people who come together to help after a death

Alice

Wonderful Weekday school staff that love and care for all of our children

DCF

A congregation that steps up and builds community inside our walls, outside our walls and throughout the world

A Price

The breadth of experience we all bring from our worship experiences

Brittany

All the smiles and hugs from children who come through the church each week!

Thanks! I am grateful for such a great team to work with and support - and what a difference we make together 🥰🥰

NOVEMBER

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

Sunday M T W Th F S

Please remember to turn in your pledges for the 2024 Generosity campaign.

Deadline for the December Window newsletter Wednesday, November 15

<p>5 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 12p Discovery Class 2p Handbells 6p Youth</p>	<p>6 1p Earth Care Book Study 2:15p Earth Care Team 5p Fellowship Night at Grange</p>	<p>7 PW Circles meet 1:30a Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>8 11:30a Fellers Lunch 3:30p RAD! 5:30p Spaghetti Dinner 6p Officer Training 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 1:30p Red Cross Blood Drive 6p Mens' Group</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>12 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells 4p Youth 5:30p Fall Potluck</p>	<p>13 1p Earth Care Book Study 4p Worship Team 5p Cong. Life, Strategic 5:30p Property 7p Faith Form., H&W, Mission, Personnel</p>	<p>14 1:30p Staff Mtg 5:30p Girl Scouts 6p Women's AA Mtg 6:30p Lydia Circle 7p Prophets</p>	<p>15 10a Finance Team 11:30a Ol' Fellers Lunch 6p Officer Training 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal 8p Mens' Prayer Group</p>	<p>16 3p Book Group 6:30p Conversations at St. James</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>19 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Faith Formation 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells 2p Youth 4p Route 45</p>	<p>20 1p Earth Care Book Study</p>	<p>21 1:30p Staff Mtg 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Mama's Group 7p Prophets Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 11:30a Ol' Fellers Lunch 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 THANKSGIVING Church office closed</p>	<p>24 Church office closed</p>	<p>25 9:30a Yoga w/ Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>26 8:45a FirstLight 9:45a Adult Faith Formation Classes 10a Family Worship 11a Worship 2p Handbells</p>	<p>27 1p Earth Care Book Study 6p Session</p>	<p>28 1p PW Coordinating Team 1:30p Staff Mtg 2:15p PW Bible Study 6p Women's AA Mtg 7p Prophets</p>	<p>29 11:30a Ol' Fellers Lunch 4p Children's Christmas Play Practice 6:30p Youth 7p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 10a Hanging Christmas Decorations in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>Holly Jolly Friday, December 1 5:30 p.m.</p>	

Alternative Gifting

In Matthew 25, Jesus Christ made a specific point to teach about ministering to others and performing acts of compassion in everyday life. We are inviting you personally to play a role in alleviating hunger, homelessness, health issues, and other critical needs that face those here in our community and abroad. Advent Sunday begins our annual alternative gifting drive to make a difference. Last year, BMPC participants donated over \$17,000 which was distributed to specified ministries that we support. This year, our alternative gifting mission partners include Bounty & Soul for hunger relief, Marion Medical Mission for clean water in Africa, SVCM for community homelessness, Presbyterian Disaster Agency for catastrophe relief, Black Mountain Counseling Center for mental health, Bridges To Life and Ministry Of Hope for prison ministry, our BMPC Weekday School and Iglesias Ebenezer, Guatemala for Christian education, and our undesignated category which is designated to areas of great need by our Mission Team. True faith does not stay locked within the walls of a church building. It reaches out to people who are hurting and facing injustice. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can live the meaning of Matthew 25 by supporting our Alternative Gifting program. Look for our Alternative Gifting table beginning Sunday, December 3. If you are interested in volunteering to hand out materials and accept donations at the alternative gifting table, please contact Tommy Wilkinson (828) 551-2292 or Barbara Gaw.



Fall Harvest Potluck Sunday November 12 5:30 p.m.

Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Turkey and ham will be provided. No special program, just a time for us all to come together in gratitude and thankfulness before Thanksgiving.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS!

Have your BMPC Directory photos updated! You will have the option to purchase a digital copy of the photo for \$20. All non-members are also welcome to have your photo taken for purchase.

Sunday, November 5
appointments available
between 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sign up or just show up.



Fellowship Night at Foothills Grange Monday, November 6

It's also Burger Night! Join us from 5:00-7:00 p.m.



In Memory of Former Members

Over the years, our church has been enriched by the lives of the many members who have passed away, but their legacies live on. A continuing activity of long-time member Perry Sprawls is working with church families creating permanent on-line memorials with the stories of loved one's lives, pictures, and much more. These can be visited on the web at: www.sprawls.org/bmpcmem. If anyone has additional information, pictures, etc. they would like to have added, contact Perry at: spawls@emory.edu.

Discovery Class

November 5 – 12:00 noon

in the church house

Pastor Mary Katherine Robinson will lead this class which is for anyone interested in discovering more about the church. Attendees will hear from ministry team leaders and church members, take a tour, and have questions answered. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Attending this class does not mean you are expected to join as a member of BMPC. All are welcome, no matter what your membership status is.



Presbyterian Women

Circles meet

Tuesday, November 7

Dorcas

10:00 a.m. Church House

Esther

10:30 a.m. Gay Ferguson

9 Rhododendron Rd, Black Mountain

Naomi

3:00 p.m. Church House

Priscilla

10:00 a.m. Church House

Ruth

1:30 p.m. Highland Farms
Cypress Room in the Lodge

Wednesday, November 8

New Circle

6:30 p.m. CR2

Tuesday, November 14

Lydia

6:30 p.m. Church House

For more information, contact:
Barbara Brinson (716) 307-9054
Ann Wilde (713) 851-5418

***Putting faith in action
is what we do!***

www.presbyterianwomen.org

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering Fall Gathering October 22



Cheryl Wilson received the Honorary Life Membership Award.



Only two more Spaghetti Dinners! November 1 and 8, 5:30 p.m.

Suggested donation – \$5/per person or \$20/per family. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available. Please sign up each week online, on the sign-up sheet outside of the fellowship hall, or by calling the church office (669-2725).

Christmas Eve Play Practice

Does your child want to participate in the Children and Family Christmas Eve service? We will be practicing on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Please let Brittany know if your child(ren) ages 4 years old and up would like to participate! This service will take place on Sunday, December 24, at 3:00 p.m.

RAD! Wednesdays children will lead worship on Sunday, November 12, at 11:00 a.m.

Following their study of the Genesis story of Noah, the RAD! children will lead 11:00 worship on Sunday, November 12. The liturgy will focus on the creatures who lived together on the ark and were called to join God and humanity in recreating the world. **We invite the congregation to bring dog and/or cat food for the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry families with pets.**



New monthly program for 4th & 5th graders

Route 45

New monthly pre-youth program for fourth and fifth graders. This group meets on the third Sunday of the month from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Each meeting will have a Bible study followed by an activity like field games, bowling, or making something.

November 19 – Bowling

Drop-off and pick-up will be at the church house. \$30 per person includes transportation, food, and shoe rental. Contact Brittany for more information.

What was that postcard all about?

A few weeks ago, Earth Care folks greeted people coming to Sunday worship, asking for their signatures on a petition and a postcard. Maybe you wondered why we were doing that and if it did any good. Here's your answer.

The petition supported an initiative to reduce single-use plastics like shopping bags and straws in Black Mountain. We hoped to influence our Town Council and ultimately Buncombe County Commissioners to pass a county-wide resolution. We delivered the petitions to Town Council. They supported the initiative and sent it to the County Commissioners, who added it to the agenda for their next meeting. Then legislators from Raleigh stepped in.

Just before the state budget was voted into law, those in power tacked on an amendment prohibiting entities below the state level, like towns or counties, from enacting restrictions on single-use plastics. Armed with a supermajority to override the Governor's veto, they passed it into law. The amendment is being challenged, but for now it stands. In the meantime we're encouraging merchants to take action reducing those single-use plastics, and encouraging individuals to use alternatives to them whenever possible.

The postcard referred to the "Food for Peace" provision in the Farm Bill, up for renewal this year. Food for Peace includes nutrition assistance for the poor in the US and in areas around the world faced with hunger as a result of war, famine, or natural disaster. A resolution to eliminate Food for Peace from the Farm Bill was due for a vote in late September. Our postcards urged our Congressional Representative to support the program by voting against its removal.

In late September the House voted down the resolution for removal thanks in large part to the 130 Representatives who crossed party lines to support Food for Peace. Our Representative, Chuck Edwards, was not one of them. A letter to Rep. Edwards expressing disappointment with his vote is on its way to his office as I write this.

We will continue to encourage legislation that protects our planet and its people. As Christians we're called to care for all God's world and for our neighbors as ourselves. Engaging with political decision makers is a powerful way to put our faith into action.

Thanks for your support in this vital work!

Submitted by Karen Austin, Earth Care Team Chair

BMPC Solar Panel Report energy captured in September, 2023

Energy captured from the sun: **2,130 kWh**

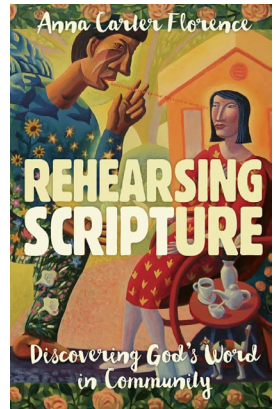
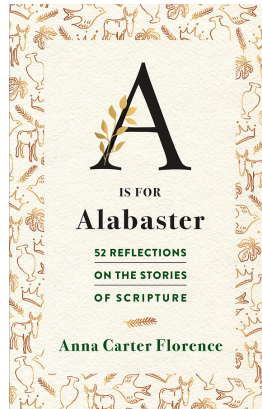
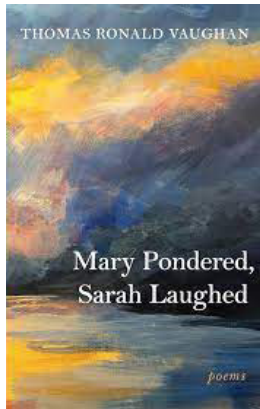
Money saved at 11 cents per kWh: **\$234**

CO2 saved from going into the atmosphere:
1,725 pounds

Duke energy bill 8/9-9/8, 2023: **\$2,313.70**

*(total electric bill for church building, church house,
and parking lot lights)*

Welcome back to the newly renovated library!



If you have not seen it yet, do drop by. All the books are back on the shelves; there is beautiful new and comfortable furniture; and the mail boxes are now located there. There are a few new books, about which I would like to tell you.

In the section of BMPC authors, there are two almost “right off the press” books which I have found very interesting. To add to his other works, Ronald Vaughan has written another book of poetry, *Mary Pondered, Sarah Laughed*. If you are not a fan of poetry, I would challenge you to read some of the ones in this volume. As you might imagine, it does contain Biblical selections. There is not only the one in the title, but there are others, e.g., ones about David and Judas, references to specific verses in Scripture, and perhaps even some theology in unlikely places.

Vaughan pays tribute often to other writers and recounts historic events with his own inimitable view. One of my favorites in the latter category is “Rosa Parks.” The last few lines are stunning. There are personal poems, or so he makes them seem. You may find, as I did, one in particular, which speaks to your life. Check it out and see for yourself.

Another extremely thought-provoking book is by Anna Carter Florence, Columbia Seminary professor and wife of our own pastor David. Anna Carter Florence’s *A Is For Alabaster* is another recent publication. She divides the book into two sections: Old Testament and New Testament. She then proceeds to use the alphabet to examine people or things from each Testament. Both descriptive and provocative, she helps the reader to see the subjects more profoundly, often in a new light. Presbyterian Women will be especially interested in the references which may enlighten Lesson Three and Seven in their Bible study for this year. Many readers often ignore a preface and introduction in a book. Do not ignore the one in this book. Anna gives some unusual insight into the development of her own love of Scripture and how it has impacted her life.

The library has obtained another of Professor Carter Florence’s books, *Rehearsing Scripture*. In it, she describes a way for groups to study the Bible as a drama. I found it fascinating and think that it would be an excellent resource for a class. She entices readers to make Scripture come alive – to use an idiom, “to leap off the page.”

All of these will be found, for now, on the cart immediately to the left as you come into the library. On the top shelf there is a small box in which to put the checkout card and space in which to return the book. Later, they will be shelved with the other BMPC authors.

Happy reading! —Sally Woodard

YOUTH

BMPC Youth is collecting items again for **Feed-A-Family** in partnership with SVCM. We will fill boxes of food for Thanksgiving for 30 families. Drop off times will be during office hours (9:30am-1:30pm) on November 12-19 for non-perishables. Turkeys will be collected on Sunday, November 19, from 10:00-noon. **We cannot accept turkeys early due to limited storage.** Sign up below for as many of the items as you would like. There is no limit! If you have any questions, please contact Katie at 828-669-2725 or email katie@bmpcnc.org.



WED 1 Rake & Run 4-7pm

SUN 5 Gelly Ball 2-4pm

WED 8 Small Groups 6:30-8pm

SUN 12 Monkey Bottom 4-6pm

WED 15 Small Groups 5:30-7:30pm

SUN 19 Feed A Family 2-4pm

WED 29 Small Groups 6:00-8pm

No Youth Group – November 22-26

The youth were busy in October. We helped rebuild the Candace Pickens Park playground as a service project, hosted a kids' night fundraiser, and held our regular recreation and small group meet-ups.



All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join us for any and all activities.

Youth wish list

As our youth program grows, these items can help to enrich the lives of all who attend.



B M P C T I M E C A P S U L E

A decrepit tin can, mauve with earthen patina; an ancient brown outlet cover made from Bakelite plastic – mildewed and sooty; the top of a glass Pepsi bottle, shorn off and hastily discarded by some tired laborer a lifetime ago, lying in wait as if it yearned to become seaglass. These are the goods I stole from the dirt under the old chancel platform.

The framers of the new platform told me churches often have fancy steel canisters for time capsules that they'll lay in their chancel or stage foundations. This is Black Mountain, so I rustled up an old plastic container and we committed the following:

From Mary Katherine and David: a letter describing the handprints in the new concrete under the platform, and a photo

From our clerk of session: statistical reports and minutes

From our interim treasurer: a letter to a future church treasurer

From Aaron: a copy of his CD, Offerings, and the church newsletter from when he was hired

From Brittany: art from the children of the church

From Sam: a letter to the future director of operations or property committee

From Jackie: copies of some of her favorite bulletin covers

From the church: an old Bible with the church's name embossed into the cover, a centennial celebration commemorative plaque and 75th anniversary commemorative plate, a photo of the old chancel area, a printed email from one of the original builders of our organ pipe housing in 1978

So where will the church be in 70 years? What are we doing right now to lay that foundation? Let us lay only a few cheap memories away under the chancel platform, and focus on what is happening on and around it. I think our church is at a crossroads, a crucial juncture in time. What an opportunity we have, to build this future together. What a legacy we can leave.



Where are you connected to the ministries, to the programming our church is hosting right now? What can each of us contribute to support them? When I think of the future of our world, my thoughts turn to RAD! Wednesdays and how many kids are in the building every week: laughing, learning, singing, playing. I am reminded of how our facility is used by Bounty & Soul every week to teach and to empower, by AA every week to change lives, by the Girl Scouts to build a generation of leaders. I see the children of the Weekday School walking past my office window every day, mouths open in awe and smiling wonder. What a future we are building together already. This is our collective time capsule.

–Sam Webber, *Director of Operations*

November birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 Alison Banzhoff
Dan Stitt | 18 Parker Fisher
Laurel Broadhurst |
| 4 Carolyn Crowder | 19 Kevin Griffin |
| 5 Kiersten Hall
Ann Wilde | 20 Avery Van Note
Carolyn Johnson
Junith Koon
Betsy Hay |
| 6 Robin Stiles
Chet Alexander | 21 Colton West
Daniel Wiggs
Sharon Welker
Maria Schlegelmilch |
| 7 Susan Wilkinson
Judy Rozzell | 22 Caleb Holladay
Wilson Jumper |
| 8 Virginie Pomeroy
Vivian Pickett | 23 Judy Hollins |
| 10 Eli Banks
Isaac Dannenberg
Evie Wiggs | 25 Matt Coward
Tom Maynard |
| 11 Aram Baker | 26 Kay Layman
Jennifer Holt |
| 12 Isaac Baraki
Vanessa Pickett | 27 Jonathan Kadau |
| 14 Ross Verbrugge | 29 Vivian Rachman
Connor Mailander |
| 15 Jane Blount | |
| 16 Bess Perryman
Cherie Lunsford | |
| 17 Ella Davis | |

BMPC had roughly 40 supporters in the SVCM Walk For Your Neighbor event, including 12-15 walkers.



Extended Communion

If you have been unable to get to church lately and would like Communion brought to you or a family member – just let your deacon or a pastor know! BMPC is bringing back a program of extending the sacrament on Sundays that we celebrate Communion. When requested, deacons will make an appointment for that day (or another day if more convenient) and you will be served by intinction in your home. We understand if you have been unable to gather with us in person, but we miss you! Contact your deacon or a pastor if you would like the Lord's Supper and it will be a privilege to bring it to you.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
co-sponsored by Black Mountain Counseling Center

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16
ALCOHOL, VAPING, & DRUG USE & ABUSE

6:30-7:30 p.m.
in the nave
at St. James



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.
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



MATTHEW 25

RAD! Wednesdays ends on November 8.

We will be back for a winter session after Christmas beginning January 10.
Stay tuned for more information.

