



Call and Response

Call is part of the DNA of the Christian church. It is our *raison d'être*. The church exists because Christ called people to come follow him. Christian life and mission is a response to that call. Call has been an especially cherished concept at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. This church was planted in 1908 because a group of people sensed a call to form a Presbyterian congregation in Black Mountain, and minister to the town's growing population.

But what do we mean by "call"? At the heart of it, "call" simply means the voice of God speaking to a people. We read in Isaiah 43:1 of a God saying to the people of ancient Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine." We read in Matthew 4:19 of God calling a people through Jesus Christ, with those famous words spoken to fishermen: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." But we also use words like "call" and "vocation" to speak of what God might be saying to a particular person or congregation at a particular point in time.

"Finding our call" can speak to discerning the right job, the best organization to support,

which activity to undertake, what art to make, what service to render, or what issue of injustice to address. Frederick Buechner famously described call this way: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" (from *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*).

In 2017, we will be intentionally deepening our sense of call at BMPC. With our **Every Disciple has a Call Ministry**, we will be asking the question as individual believers, each with unique gifts, experiences, and passions: "What is God's call in this season of my life and faith?" We will be asking the question of call as a church. Through our **Strategic Planning Team** we will be intentionally hosting *Holy Conversations* as we meet with all of our various ministry teams, reach out to small groups in our church, and facilitate church-wide gatherings.

I pray we all end the year not only with a deeper sense of the world's need, but where our joy and passion might lie in addressing it.

May we hear God's voice anew!

I am grateful that God has called us on this journey together.

Mary Katherine



Our High School Youth and Advisors ended their MLK weekend retreat with worship on the beach. See more on page 9.

Calendar

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

Wednesday, February 1

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School registration
- 3:15 p.m. mā-I
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 5

Youth Sunday & Souper Bowl Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. *FirstLight*
- 9:40 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 12:30 p.m. Called Session meeting
- 3:15 p.m. Confirmation to Heritage Center
- 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir

Monday, February 6

- 7:00 p.m. Earth Care Team

Tuesday, February 7

- 7:00 p.m. Prophets

Wednesday, February 8

- 3:15 p.m. mā-I
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 9

- 1:30 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, February 12

- 8:30 a.m. *FirstLight*
- 9:40 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation lunch at Phil's BBQ
- 2:30 p.m. Stop Hunger Now
- 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir

Tuesday, February 14

- 12:00 p.m. PW Gathering
- 7:00 p.m. Prophets



Wednesday, February 15

- 12:00 p.m. Window deadline
- 3:15 p.m. mā-I
- 5:30 p.m. Strategic Planning
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 16

- 5:30 p.m. Thursday Night Live

Sunday, February 19

- 8:30 a.m. *FirstLight*
- 9:40 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 3:45 p.m. Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. MS Youth Fireside Chat
- 5:00 p.m. HS Youth Senior Night
- 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir

Tuesday, February 21

- 7:00 p.m. Prophets

Wednesday, February 22

- 3:15 p.m. mā-I
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 26

Five Cents A Meal

- 8:30 a.m. *FirstLight*
- 9:40 a.m. Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 2:00 p.m. Child Safety Training
- 4:00 p.m. MS Youth T-Shirt Printing
- 5:00 p.m. HS Youth Real Life Skills
- 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir

Tuesday, February 28

- 1:00 p.m. PW Bible Study
- 2:15 p.m. PW Coordinating Team
- 7:00 p.m. Prophets

Souper Bowl of Caring

Help celebrate Super Bowl

Sunday, February 5,

by bringing at least one of the following to church:
a can of soup, a box of crackers,
a can of pinto or kidney beans,
a can of diced tomatoes,
and/or a financial gift.

Food donations go to the SVCM pantry. All funds raised go to the Ministry's Food Fund.

BMPC Sewing Ministry

We are looking for folks to join our group and the only requirement is that you can operate a pair of scissors and an iron! If you are interested, please just show up at our next meeting. We meet every other Thursday and our meetings in February are February 2 & 16 at 1:00 p.m. We will be finishing up quilts for church members and Weekday School families. We always welcome donations: fabric, sewing machines, notions, batting, etc. If you have questions, call Ruth Duckworth at 828-775-4974.

Thursday Night Live – Bounty & Soul Thursday, February 16

Come and learn about Bounty & Soul and how they provide nutritious food and food education in our community.

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. – chili and salad with fruit dessert
Program presented by Ali Casparian creator, founder,
and Program Director of Bounty & Soul

***Please sign up on a pew card or in the narthex.
Donations will be accepted to cover cost***

Confirmation in February

February 5 3:15-4:45 pm

Presbyterian Heritage Center (meet @ BMPC to ride bus)

February 12 12:15 pm

Meet at Phil's BBQ for lunch w Confirmation Mentor
Go back to church on church bus to set up for
Stop Hunger Now. Families invited to Stop Hunger Now
service event from 2:30-4:30pm.

February 19 3:45 pm

Group Session: Who is God?

Child Safety Training

Sunday, February 26, 2:00-4:30 p.m. in CR 1

New session members, other church leaders, volunteers, and parents who have not been instructed on the policy are **encouraged to attend child safety training**. Adults need to know the expectations of this church on how adults, children, and youth interact and are kept safe during church activities and programs. Sign up with Berry at berry@bmpcnc.org



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth

During inclement weather – please call the church office to listen to the recorded message so you will know if the church is open or not. The cancellation of Sunday services will also be posted on WLOS.

Going Green with the Earth Care Team

How are your New Year's resolutions holding up? It might seem too late to get in on the annual tradition, but here are some ideas that make sense no matter what the season. Many folks resolve to save money, eat better, or learn a new skill. Meeting those goals can also improve your environmental footprint. Try these simple steps:

- 1 Cut out bottled water.** It isn't safer than tap water. About 50% of bottled water is just municipal tap water in a plastic bottle. Making and recycling those bottles uses a lot of energy, and around 75% of them wind up in landfills. A good quality thermal water bottle will save money, keep you hydrated, and you'll look smart while you're at it.
- 2 Switch from paper to cloth.** Paper towels and napkins are convenient but it takes a lot of resources to make them and they aren't recyclable. Instead, get some absorbent towels or cloths to use as napkins or to soak up spills. The cloths can be added to your usual laundry load so you aren't using any additional energy.
- 3 Bring your own shopping bags.** You may have gotten the hang of taking your own bags to the grocery store – but you can take them anywhere you shop. You can even get collapsible bags that fit easily into your pocket or purse, so you're never caught without one.



Mark your calendar!

ROAN Mountain Women's Retreat April 28-April 30

Cost \$75 - due by March 15

Contact Margie Stansell, margiewboyd@gmail.com, to reserve your spot. Come enjoy great fellowship and hiking and porch sitting in the beautiful Roan Mountain State Park.

- 4 Eat more locally-sourced food.** Californian peaches and Chilean grapes seldom taste as good as those grown near us, and hauling them to Black Mountain uses a lot of energy. Food in the U.S. travels an average of 1,500 miles to get to your plate. Locally sourced food travels much shorter distances – and is usually treated with fewer chemicals that contribute to the pollution of air, water, and land. If the food isn't in season, canned or frozen tastes better and is a better environmental choice than produce shipped from far away.
- 5 Learn something new.** Consider taking up gardening, composting, or refurbishing projects. Try new recipes with less meat and more plants. Yes, there are lots of things you might take on in 2017, but why not take on something that benefits you, your community and your world?

Information taken from advocacy groups Ban the Bottle and National Resources Defense Council, and from the National Expanded Food & Nutritional Educational Program, (EFNEP), U of California.

Adult Church School

Becomers Class

February 5 – II Corinthians, 10

February 12 – II Corinthians, 11

February 19 – II Corinthians, 12

February 26 – II Corinthians, 13

Bible Exploration

Study of the book of Romans, CR2

Biblical Perspectives

February 5 – Richard DuBose, "My Life and Ministry": Montreat Conference Center

February 12 – Catherine McMillan Haueis "Zwingli and the Reformation"

February 19 – To Be Announced

February 26 – Ron Vinson: "The Presbyterian Heritage Center and 16th C. Bible"

Faith Builders

February 5 – Craft Valentines for homebound members

February 12 – Write letters to our Representatives

February 19 – Summer Kirkpatrick shares about the Community School mission and her work there

February 26 – Ina Hughes reads her poetry

Wired Word

contemporary study of newsworthy weekly issues, upstairs in Room 14.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Tuesday, February 7

Circle Meetings

Elizabeth

10 a.m., Joan Kline, 7 Wagon Trail

Esther

10 a.m., Alice Smith, 1 Wagon Trail

Miriam

10 a.m. at the church

Naomi

7 p.m. at the church

Priscilla

10 a.m., Barbara Brinson, 38 Eden Glen Road

Rebekah

2:30 p.m., Highland Farms Lodge

Ruth

1:30 p.m., Margaret Fouse (*carpool from church at 1:00*)

Sarah

10 a.m., Nan Higgins, 22 Wagon Trail

Tuesday, February 14

Winter Gathering – Missions Program

12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Come for lunch and take a photographic visit to the Holy Land with Rev. Esta Jarrett from Canton Presbyterian Church. It will be a fantastic trip!

Tuesday, February 28

Bible Study and Coordinating Team

Bible Study 1:00, Coordinating Team 2:15

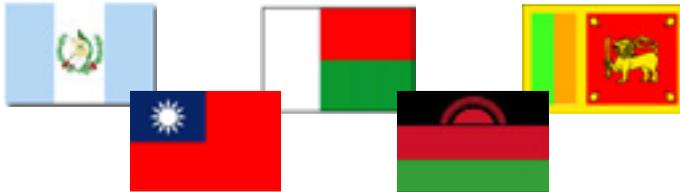
**Save the Date – April 1
Spring Retreat with Margaret Torrence**

Mission Season is Upon Us

Mission is always the focus of BMPC, but early each year, we set aside "Mission Season" to celebrate our mission activities. January 29-February 19, we will highlight various areas of mission in the church as representatives of the full and rich mission involvement and commitment of our worshipping community.

Flags of our Mission Partners

We kick off Mission Season on **January 29**. In the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, you will notice, hanging from the rafters, flags of the countries of BMPC mission partners.



Youth Lead in Worship and Outreach

Celebrating the vital mission role our youth play, **February 5**, the youth-led worship service will coincide with Souper Bowl collection of cans of soup, chili, crackers, and non-perishable soup ingredients. The collection highlights our commitment to a Can-in-Each-Hand weekly donations to SVCM. Beside collecting items for the SVCM pantry, Youth will be at the doors with soup pots



for monetary donations. All will be delivered to SVCM to provide warm meals on cold days.



Stop Hunger Now!

On February 12 we'll don our hairnets and plastic gloves to package 15,000 Stop Hunger Now meals. After church, the youth will set up the Fellowship Hall in preparation for the delivery of rice, soy mix, dried vegetables, and the all-important vitamin packs which will be combined into packages of six meals that can be stored for times of emergency or ongoing hunger relief needs in America and throughout the world. **Church volunteers should arrive at 2:30** and we expect to have all the meals packed, boxed for shipping, the truck loaded and the last grains of rice swept up by 5:00. There is a place for everyone, from preschool to the most mature. Ask someone who has been involved in this great congregational hands-on global mission experience. Then, plan to join us, Sunday, February 12.

Jessi Stitt, who regularly finds time and energy to travel in our name for mission to places most of us will never visit, has recently returned from Malawi where she once again installed

shallow water wells to bring clean water to remote villages. Sunday, **February 12**, she will share some of her experiences from her work this year with Marion Medical Mission. Jessi continues to demonstrate inspiring mission enthusiasm, and



her stories show how we can help extend God's blessings to all God's people.

"The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

John 4:14

Food for the Body, Food for the Soul

February 16, 5:30-7 – Thursday Night Live program will be presented by Ali Casparian creator, founder, and Program Director of Bounty and Soul.

Since 2014, Ali has worked tirelessly to make her dream of bringing healthy food options and education about good life choices to those for whom fresh produce might be cost prohibitive. From the basic idea of collecting and distributing available perishable food from Manna, local grocery stores, farms and gardens through a weekly market, Ali's dream has grown to include three in-place markets and two mobile markets each week in Black Mountain and Swannanoa, as well as demonstrations of healthy cooking, recipes, samples, and supportive encouragement.

Each market has grown into a community of participants and volunteers who share their progress, their recipes, and mutual

interest in living better. In partnership with the Community Garden, fledgling and practiced gardeners receive support and encouragement



through regular monthly education and through the Ugrow garden program. Many BMPC members volunteer regularly and take their sense of service to our neighbors.

Come to hear how one person's vision has grown into a model of mission to the community.

The Mission of Barbara Nagy

Celebrating 12 years of service. We will be blessed to culminate Mission Season when Barbara Nagy preaches on **February 19**. Many know of Barbara's long service in health care to the people of Malawi. Her stories of faith in action inspire us all to keep mission a top priority in our lives.



(continued on next page)

Mission Season (continued from page 7)

Our Hands Come Together in Service

Throughout Mission Season we will highlight our collections for A Hope and the SVCM Homeless Shelter by collecting items that help ease the plight of Winter homelessness.

Many have supported A Hope since our very successful "Undie Sunday" drive by placing donations in the A Hope Hamper in the narthex. Both men's (medium) and women's (medium and large) underwear, and towels for showers are always needed. For the cold months we are also hoping to collect warm hats, gloves, mufflers, and warm socks. Our dedicated A Hope Team tells us that T-Shirts (think of layering in the winter), and small suitcases on wheels to replace plastic bags would also be appreciated.



The A Hope team led by John and Betsy Murphy, includes Jane Bannerman, Mary Begley, Susie Burns, Scottie Cannon, Susan Dannenberg, Anne Drummond, Ruth Duckworth, Susan Jumper, Dave and Ellen McClintock, Mary Murphy, Margie Stansell, and Grace Stitt. One Sunday a month they go to the Homeward Bound Service Center to support the staff as they serve the homeless. We can be a part of this mission by bringing needed items or by joining the team. Contact John or Betsy: jbmurphy5@gmail.com. Leave your donations at the "Warm Hearts" display in the narthex.

YOUTH in February

Middle School

5 Youth Sunday and Souper Bowl (no evening program)

5 Confirmation Visits
Heritage Center, 3:15-5p

12 Confirmation Lunch
@ Phil's BBQ, 12:15p

12 Stop Hunger Now, 2:30-4:30p

19 Fireside Chat w/Berry&Advisors
@ Rockmont, 5-7p 🍽️

26 Screen Printing T-shirts
4-6p 🍽️

High School

5 YOUTH SUNDAY and Souper Bowl (no evening program)

12 Stop Hunger Now, 2:30-4:30p
MS&HS w/families

19 Senior Night, 5-7p 🍽️

24 Breakfast Club @ Gunns, 7a

26 Real Life Real Skills, 5-7p 🍽️

All events at BMPC unless otherwise indicated

🍽️ meal provided

High School Beach Retreat

Over Martin Luther King weekend, we took 21 high school youth and 8 adult advisors to Folly Beach to play, swim, eat, fellowship, worship, and immerse ourselves in Scripture (Beatitudes from Matthew 5) in small groups to prepare for both Monday morning beach worship, as well as Youth Sunday coming up on Feb 5th. One of the highlights is worshipping the the Mother Emmanuel Community on Sunday morning of MLK weekend.



Our wonderful youth on the steps of our ocean front house!



Beach football before a polar bear plunge in the Atlantic



During our retreat we watched the sunset (required) and sunrise (optional) each day in silence as a spiritual practice.



Our worship "Table" we gathered around for Monday morning worship, created with one item brought by each person.

Thanks
BMPC...
for your
continued
support
of Youth
Ministry!

Library Notes

Five new books have been added to our library collection and are on the display cart.

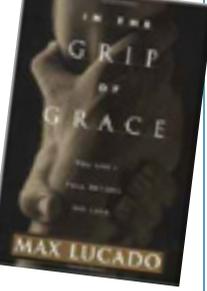
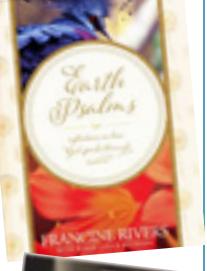
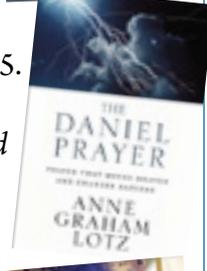
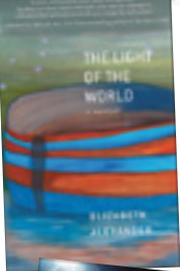
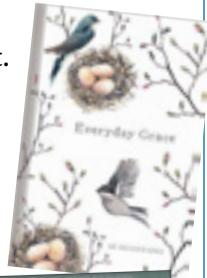
Everyday Grace by Ellie Claire is a beautiful little book with sixty devotions. Each one has a short meditation, a prayer starter, selected words by outstanding writers, and nature illustrations. It is a perfect two-month devotional book.

Another outstanding book is *The Light of the World* by Elizabeth Alexander. As a poet, she has written a lyrical memoir that traces the unexpected death of her husband at fifty and her traumatic struggle to endure the pain, to raise their two boys, and to move on with her life. Michelle Obama chose this book as her favorite book for 2015.

Anne Graham Lotz's latest book is *The Daniel Prayer: Prayer That Moves Heaven and Changes Nations*, published in 2016. She teaches the steps in how to craft passionate prayers "to move mountains."

Earth Psalms: Reflections on How God Speaks Through Nature by Francine Rivers is also a book published in 2016. It has 52 observations she has gleaned over her lifetime with splendid photographs and meaningful words, a year's worth of Sunday devotions or perhaps daily reading.

The fifth book is *In the Grip of Grace*, written by Max Lucado, a very familiar author. He stresses the mercy and grace of the God who deals with us as imperfect people. This book has been labeled as Lucado's "most theologically challenging book to date."



Flowers for the Glory of God

Our 2017 flower calendar is in need of volunteers to donate beautiful flowers for the glory of God. If you would like to honor God and a special person or person in your life, please sign up on the calendar or call the church office, 669-2725. The calendar and the information form are posted on the bulletin board. Thank you!

Weekday School Registration for 2017-18

Registration for currently enrolled children is Wednesday, February 1, at 8 a.m. We will then move on to children and grandchildren of current active members of BMPC followed by the registering of siblings of our currently enrolled. If you have a child or grandchild that you are interested in having as a part of our program, please call Alice Patton, 669-2725. Registration forms are available in the Weekday School office.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Bobbi White | 15 Charles Massey |
| 3 Torey Todd | Ernie Banzhoff |
| 4 Ina Hughs | Sam Webber |
| Jean Hood | Cole Roy |
| David Wheeler | 16 Tanner Kelly |
| 5 Pat Newbold | 17 Cain McClary |
| Netsanet Solomon | Chloe Munn |
| Rebekah Hewitt | 18 Lolly Copeland |
| 6 Dee Cox | Pat Botsford |
| 7 Robert Turk | Sylvia Bassett |
| Evelyn Bannerman | Clay Hile |
| Betty Walker | 19 Doris Brown |
| Gracyn Farish | Caroline Patton |
| Parker Donaldson | 20 Calvin Barker |
| 8 Jo Majka | 21 Leila Cox |
| Maureen Ben-Davies | Libby Barker |
| Skylar Hollifield | Mark Allen |
| 9 Virginia White | Alexandria Carreiro |
| Bill Hollins | Cody Duckworth |
| Guy Campbell | 23 Rosa Dougherty |
| 10 Carson Campbell | Mylo Morgan |
| 11 Jack Beaver | 24 Art De Jong |
| 12 Charles Sandy | Fox Watson |
| Kay Salmon | Sue Cauthen |
| Matt Begley | Berry French |
| 13 Campbell Cauthen | Ashley McClary |
| 14 Dan Turk | River Edwards |
| Henry Griffin | 25 Wayne Mullis |
| Ted Minnick | Dan Davis |
| Bebe Watson | 26 Peyton Byrd |
| Mike Ballard | 27 Pete Petersen |
| | Andy Gwynn |
| | Paul Scouten |

Our apologies for leaving out the birthday of Margie Tyas On January 29. Happy belated birthday, Margie!

Hospital Visits and Stays

Please call the church office to let us know if you or another member are in the hospital so that our pastoral staff may visit. Due to HIPAA regulations, hospitals do not inform us when a member is hospitalized (even though a request for your church affiliation may appear on the admissions form.) When given permission, we print members' names in our bulletin and on our Care board at church so we may pray for them. Please contact Mary Katherine Robinson for any pastoral updates.

Red Cross Blood Drive at BMPC

Thursday, February 9
1:30-6:00 p.m.
Sign up in the narthex or call the church office

BMPC Window

BMPC staff, along with Session, have concluded that the Window newsletter will be more efficient and economical when published on a monthly basis. Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will cover a full month of news and events.

The deadline for all submissions will be on the 15th of the prior month. **The next issue covers the month of March. The deadline will be on Wednesday, February 15, at noon.**