

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

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BMPC Window



Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

January 2018

Sharing Epiphany

I've been thinking a lot about Epiphany as we prepare to say goodbye to 2017 and welcome a new year here at BMPC. In one of my daily devotionals, the author reflects upon epiphany as "The Life-light that gets shared beyond." The word beyond is a metaphor for what's next, of course, after the manger and Christmas.

As I write this letter, we are a week out from that magnificent scene of the birth of Jesus and I am now beginning to think about those three wise men that had the courage to follow the star. They didn't know what they were headed into but they knew the star was shining bright and that it meant something. And they went searching for it.

It occurs to me that as we prepare for Epiphany and the 2018 New Year this story bears deep, rich meaning for the church today. The larger Church is experiencing a decline of denominational membership and affiliation is paralleled by an increase in the unaffiliated – the "nones," as we've taken to calling them. The "nones" are those who claim no particular allegiance to any faith system in general or house of worship in particular. And by and far, the church hasn't known how to respond to this disenfranchised population.

Our session, program staff, and members of our Strategic Ministry Team will be focusing our annual retreat this year on how the church is shifting in culture and context and **how, what, where, and when** are the ways in which the body of Christ of BMPC is called to respond to this SHIFT? Even though the future represents uncharted territory, will we have the courage, like the wise men before us, to follow the star of Christ?

When visitors follow the star to find us at BMPC, will they find Jesus here? Will word get out, like that bright star, that our church is the place to come if you want to embrace whatever struggles you have in matters of faith, because we embrace you as you are.

As we enter into the new year of 2018, may we venture together to be "The Life-light that gets shared beyond."

Happy Epiphany BMPC!

Mary Katherine Robinson



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



Thank You Church Family!

Simply Christmas Alternative Gifting was successful again this year. Over \$13,500 was raised!

Locally, this money will help pay for scholarships for our Weekday School, meet students' needs at Community High in Swannanoa, help alleviate hunger through Bounty and Soul, address mental health issues through Black Mountain Counseling Center, and give a boost to Camp Grier. Globally, our gifts will bring good news and good health through Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi, Marion Medical Mission's clean water projects and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Our partner church in Guatemala will have additional funds available for scholarships and supplies thanks to your giving.

These gifts help extend our reach to support ministries not always included in the regular

mission budget. Gifts like these, given with an extra measure of Christian love, in honor of our friends and families, help spotlight the true meaning of Christmas. They may also encourage others to reclaim Christmas this way. The Outreach and Global Mission team is so incredibly grateful for your participation. It is proof that we take seriously Christ's call to love and to serve.

Thanks go out to Jan Griffin and Patti Pyle who co-chaired this year and brought in some new features to the program. Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed the tables and especially to our artists who created the lovely cards, Wren Hall, Ruth Duckworth, Art Dejong, and Lisle Gwynn Garrity. If you would like to be involved in Simply Christmas next year, please contact Anne Drummond or Margo Smith.

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Happy New Year!	1	2 7p Prophets	See page 5 for YOUTH calendar			6
	7 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 5p Bells	8 7p Earth Care Team	9 10a PW Circles combined mtg Fellowship Hall 7p Prophets	10 5:30p Potluck Bible Study 7p Choir	11 1:30p Sewing Ministry	12 13
14 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 5p Bells	15 MLK, jr Day Church office closed	16 Window Deadline 7p Prophets	17 5:30p Potluck Bible Study 7p Choir	The deadline for the February Window newsletter Monday, January 15.		
21 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 5p Bells	22 6p Session	23 7p Prophets	24 5:30p Potluck Bible Study 7p Choir	Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28, 9:40 a.m.		
28 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Annual Congregational Mtg 11a Worship 12p Potato Lunch 5p Bells	29	30 7p Prophets	31 5:30p Potluck Bible Study 7p Choir	February 5 Souper Bowl Sunday		

Sunday, January 28
Child Safety Training
2-4:30 p.m. in the Library

Thursday Night Live – January 25
Catered Asian Dinner followed by program presented by John McCall. Call the church office (669-2725) by Monday, January 22, to make reservations for Dinner at 5:30.

Mission is the church and is integral to all we do.



John McCall was the pastor at BMPC from 1989 through 1996. He now supports pastors of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT) in a country where only 3 percent of the population is Christian. Outreach in Taiwan can be challenging and the possibility of burnout is high. In groups, John and the pastors pray, read Scripture, and dream. They encourage each other to be faithful and visionary leaders. John also works with the native Taiwanese (aboriginals) who have been most open to the gospel, but also the most marginalized people on the island. In addition, John teaches at all three seminaries of the PCT and leads conferences for youth and young adults.

We have set aside **January 21-February 11** to celebrate BMPC's commitment to outreach and global mission. Missionary to Taiwan, **John McCall** will kick off the season by preaching and leading adult church school on **January 21**, and, at **Thursday Night Live, January 25**, will share the work he does among the people of Taiwan. **January 28**, will be a big day in the life of the church including **Jessi Stitt's sharing her stories** of her work with Marion Medical mission as the Moment for Mission, the **annual congregational meeting**, and the youth sponsored **potato lunch** which raises money for youth mission throughout the year. **February 5**, further highlights youth involvement in mission as they collect cans of soup and money for SVCM as a part of **Souper Bowl Sunday**. During Mission Season we will also be working with the congregations of BM United Methodist Church and Christ Community Church to provide a place to stay for currently homeless women who are working their way to permanent housing through **Homeward Bound**. This effort affords many opportunities for hands-on service in the community. Mission Season will culminate on the afternoon of **February 11**, with **Rise Against Hunger** (formerly Stop Hunger Now). This year, as a result of a gift that supports this project, we will pack 20,000 meals.

BMPC members serve in many ways throughout the year, throughout the community and support mission outside our physical reach through those who work in the world.
Mission is the center of our worship life. During Mission Season we celebrate our work and rededicate our efforts to be God's hands and feet.

CareNotes

Display Rack in Narthex
(near the windows)

Provided by your BMPC
Deacons. Take any you find
to be helpful.

information includes
(these and more)

- Health Care
- Spirit Care
- Counseling
- Aging
- Bereavement

Potato Lunch Sunday, Jan. 28

Fund-raiser to help our
youth go on retreats
and conferences



LIBRARY NOTES

2018 – Is THIS the Year?

Is this the year you finally decide to write your life story? Have you thought about it over and over, but never quite gotten started? Have you made lists and notes? You just need inspiration and a pattern.

In our library are many examples of personal biographies. Some are long and elaborate, and others are short and very personal. All are extremely interesting. Examine the examples on display to see how each person organized his or her book. Some are self-published, while others are professionally done. Look over the ones listed below and others on the shelves; get a plan that appeals to you – and START WRITING.

Faith Skepstad Bradley's *With God's Song in My Heart* is a chronological story about her grandparents, her parents, and her own life as missionaries in China and Taiwan. The book covers many years and generations from 1890-2015.

John Russell Frank's *On the Road Home: An American Story: A Memior of Triumph and Tragedy on a Forgotten Frontier* uses diaries, letters, photographs, and interviews for his history.

Jane Elizabeth Frist has written two books of her childhood and her love for MRA: *Montreat, How Love You!* and *Lady, I've Seen Enough*. Both include humorous incidents, photographs, original poems and sketches.

Joseph M. Gettys's book, *My Cup Runs Over: "Life Is Full, Life Is Fun,"* narrates his experiences as a family member, student, pastor, teacher, and professor in an informal and

personal style, as if he were talking to the reader in an interview or letter.

Ursula Neuberg's *Memoirs of Her Youth During the War Years in Germany* was hand written, and friends helped her edit and publish her story. It is spiral-bound and has a picture of the painting she did of our Church.

Martha Jane Petersen's *Imaging My Inner Fire* is a record of her personal journey and "surprising adventure into art through twists and turns, questions and doubts." The book has photos of some of her exquisite "improvisational art quilts."

Mariella Talmage Provost's *I Gave You to the Lord* is written in a different way, as each chapter is a separate incident. Carol Talmage helped her in recording her life of Christian service. Using this practical approach means that each chapter can be written independently and then later put in an appropriate order.

Kenneth M. Scott's *Around the World in Eighty Years* is the story of his amazing life of "Medicine, Missions, Music," which took him completely around the world six times and halfway twenty-two times. This book is written in detail in chronological order.

Mary McPhail Standaert's *The Montreat Gateboys and Their Stories* is a history of the boys who spent their summers giving directions, collecting fees, opening and closing the famous Montreat gates from 1913 to 1969. The book is a collection of interviews and pictures.

PW of WNC Presbytery Scholarships

The Presbyterian Women of Western NC offer 2 scholarships of \$1,500 each. Applicants must be members of a Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of WNC, prove financial need, have graduated from an accredited high school or preparatory school, qualified for admission to an accredited institution of higher learning or are presently enrolled in a four-year program of undergraduate study. Applicants must plan to enroll in a four-year degree program. Technical or graduate schools are excluded from consideration. The application form, school transcript(s), and recommendation letters must be received by the Presbytery Scholarship Committee by February 15, 2018 to be considered for a scholarship for the following school year. Contact Connie Schimpf, gsechota@bellsouth.net or 828-669-1931 for an application or more information.

January Adult Church School

Becomers Class meets in Library

7 II and III John

14 Matthew background and chap. 1 / *The Messiah*

Bible Exploration meets in CR-2

study of book of James

Biblical Perspectives meets in CR-1

7 David Kaylor / *King Herod*

14 Jeannie Dubose / *Spirituality of Aging*

Faith Builders meets in Parlor

7 Wayne Mullis / *BMPC Strategic Planning*

14 Mike Barker

John McCall leads all adult and youth
classes on **January 21** in Fellowship Hall

No classes on **January 28** due to Annual
Congregational Meeting

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Combined Circle Meeting
Tuesday, January 9
10 a.m.

in Fellowship Hall for
Brunch and Bible Study

JAN. YOUTH

middle school

7 Game Night!

(w/ Dinner) 5-7p

14 No Youth (MLK weekend)

21 Snow Tubing \$

(We will leave right after 11:00 Worship
Service – lunch provided)

28 Scavenger Hunt

(w/ Dinner) 5-7p

high school

7 Pizza Cookoff 5-7p

14 No Youth (MLK weekend)

21 Snow Tubing \$

(We will leave right after 11:00 Worship
Service – lunch provided)

26 Breakfast Club

28 Potato Lunch fundraiser
(no evening program)

In Our Community

Award-winning lecture series comes to Asheville, January 3-23

The January Series of Calvin College is coming to Asheville. First Presbyterian Church will be one of more than 50 remote webcast locations worldwide to broadcast one of the nation's leading lecture and cultural arts series.

The January Series features one of the most influential scientific minds, a New York Times best-selling author and a former technology adviser to the White House. A few of the notable presenters in the 2018 lineup include Katherine Boo, a staff writer for The New Yorker whose work has been honored by a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant and Pulitzer Prize; Jeremy McCarter, co-author of Hamilton: The Revolution who witnessed the Broadway show's journey from concept to cultural phenomenon; and Kevin Olusola, who is best known as the beatboxing member of the Grammy-winning vocal quintet Pentatonix.

The experts will offer informed perspectives on a wide range of today's most relevant topics, including race in America, technology and national security, biowaste and global poverty, among many others. For a full list, visit www.calvin.edu/january-series/speakers.

The January Series lectures will be video streamed live at First Presbyterian Church (40 Church Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801: entrance off of Aston St.) from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. M-F. The lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Pastor Patrick Johnson at pjohnson@fpcasheville.org or at 828-253-1431.

Sunday morning nursery helpers needed

Please call Alice Patton if you can help.

Room In The Inn

We still have opportunities to give to our homeless guests in 2018. Please mark your calendar and our volunteer bulletin board for the week of February 4-11 to help in any way for Room in the Inn. This is for 12 ladies who will have supper and sleep overnight at the Methodist church house. This year we will be staying with them all day on Saturday and Sunday because the A Hope Center in Asheville is closed on weekends. We will need overnight volunteers, drivers for AM and PM, dinners, bagged lunches, and simple breakfast foods. You may also make a donation to RITI and give to Jen in the office and a volunteer will buy the foods needed. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

We all have many talents so think about coming and sharing a song, a story, a picture, a bag of goodies, toiletries, or a visit. Once I gave each a sea shell and they put in in their pocket. Cards are wonderful too. Just say God loves you and sign your name. These are women who have been abused or lost their homes and or jobs and are in recovery hoping for a better life.

Thank you all for your prayers and talents and love gifts! To learn more about the program call Barbara Gaw, 669 4463.

Congratulations to Bridget Leary

2017 Special Olympics NC December Athlete of the Month



Farewell to a music scholar

Justin Lance has been singing with our choir the entire time he has been enrolled at Montreat College, 4.5 years. I heard him audition for scholarships at the school and mentioned to him that if he matriculated, he should consider taking a scholarship with us also. He did, and he did! We have enjoyed him immensely, and have been delighted to share his college tribulations and triumphs. He leaves this month to take a job in Charlotte. He managed to score the big three goals for anyone graduating: full-time, in his field, with benefits. We wish him well. Read more blogs from Mike Barker at <https://bmpcnmuz.blogspot.com>

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 Levi Hall | 17 Nancy Ruppert |
| 5 Carol Tyson | Daisy Buckner |
| Molly Minnick | Sheldon Adams |
| Valorie Speegle-Snell | Cecilia Brandon |
| 6 Becky Peterson | Katherine Stanley |
| Emelyn Gwynn | 20 Caroline McElwee |
| 7 Jeff Ruppert | 22 Alec Hile |
| 8 Susan Banzhoff | 23 Lucas Dodson |
| Kim Fisher | 24 Muriel Hart |
| 9 Frances Turk | Dusty Lindsey |
| Rosy Robson | 25 Rick Lindsey |
| Cammy Holt | 26 Bill Straughan |
| Wyatt Lehman | 28 Maggie Ray |
| 10 Carey Jo Elam | 29 Margie Tyas |
| Sloan Price | Travis Childs |
| Sarah West | Jack Jones |
| 12 Megan Bowman | 30 Florence Shelor |
| Charlie Edwards | Betsy Warren |
| 13 Sara Owen | 31 Nan Higgins |
| 14 Briggs Barker | Porter Reece |

Christmas Eve Nativity



Narthex Gallery
On display in January
watercolor by Jack Williams