

BMPC Window



Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

December 2018



Hanging of the Greens

There will be **one worship service at 11:00am on December 2** to kick off the Advent Season!

The Hanging of the Greens prepares the church

for the first Sunday in Advent. It is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent

and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary and church members for the Advent and Christmas season.

Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for this special season that is upon us!



Thinking Through Advent

Daily readings for the 2018 Advent season written by Ina Hughs.

Pick up your copy in the narthex.

Advent Wreath and Banner Making for Families

Sunday, December 2, 12:15pm in Fellowship Hall

Soup and Bread Lunch provided

Make your own Advent Candle Wreath or Advent Felt Banner to mark this season of anticipation of Christ's birth. We will provide all the materials to make one wreath and/or felt banner for each family. Your \$5 donation will help cover our costs. Please contact Margie to let us know you're coming! margie@bmpcnc.org



BMPC 2018 Advent Calendar (see insert inside)

DECEMBER

Find youth events on the
Youth Calendar, page 4

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>Christmas Alternative Gifting Market</i> Sundays, December 2, 9, and 16, in the narthex</p>						<p>1</p> 
<p>Advent 1 2 9:40a Church School 11a Worship</p> <p>12:15p Wreath and Banner Making 5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7p Earth Care Team</p>	<p>4</p> <p>PW Circles (p.4)</p> <p>7p Prophets</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30p Family 'round the Table 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6p Men's Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9a La Posada Weekday School 3:30p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>8</p> 
<p>Advent 2 9 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship</p> <p>5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9a Finance 6p Officer Meeting and Dinner</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>The deadline for the January Window newsletter Monday, December 17.</p>		<p>13</p> <p>1:30p Sewing</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:30a Weekday School Christmas Program 3:30p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>15</p> 
<p>Advent 3 16 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 5p Caroling 6p Soup and Live Nativity</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11a Hand Bells at Lakeview Window Deadline</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11a Lectio Divina 7p Prophets</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30p Family 'round the Table 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>3:30p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>22</p> 
<p>Advent 4 23 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship</p>	<p>Christmas Eve 24 Office Closes at noon 4p Children & Families' Service 7p Candlelight Service</p>	<p>Merry Christmas 25 Office Closed</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>3:30p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>29</p> 
<p>11a Worship 30</p>	<p>31 New Years Eve</p>	<p>BMPC youth and deacons invite you to the YOUTH CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER on Sunday, January 27, 2019 around noon, following worship and the annual meeting Please pick up a submission form provided in the narthex for more information and to enter your chili dish!</p>				

Merry Christmas! from the Earth Care Team

Atlanta writer Celestine Sibley once wrote a newspaper column titled "Christmas Catalogs Tempt the Thrifty," complaining about Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. In the decades since then, we seldom hear the word thrifty, while pounds of unsolicited catalogs pile up in our mailboxes.

Sibley wrote that the adults in her family had decided to refuse gifts that were new and store-bought. Instead, she wrote, "we will exchange only things we have, things that we make, or things we buy at yard sales. No expenditure of cash, no use of the magic plastic card allowed."

Her ideas remind us that the insidious take-over of our most holy days by consumerism has been going on for a long time. Since this column was written, our culture's celebration of Christmas has exploded into practices that involve the waste of natural resources including fossil fuels. Here is an opportunity for an annual family conversation in which we look closely at what celebrating in our homes costs the Earth. How many lights? How much packaging? What are the best ways to enjoy a feast, family, friends, and giving?

Of course, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church has been addressing these questions for many years, and both the Alternative Gifting Market and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are filled with opportunities for giving and enriching the lives of others.

Shepherds & Angels & Magi, Oh My!

Be a part of our outdoor (weather permitting) live nativity in conjunction with the Soup & Caroling event on December 16. No speaking lines and costumes are provided. Just stand in place for a brief stint and look adorable! Children, youth, and adults can all participate (families may certainly participate together) and the joviality of the undertaking is the best part! Call time will be 6 p.m. **Speak to Mike Barker to participate.**



and eat
soup!

Sunday, December 16, 5:00 p.m.

Come and help spread some cheer!

Everyone is invited to gather in Fellowship Hall to divide into teams and go Christmas Caroling to our homebound members and Highland Farms. After caroling, it's back to church for homemade soup, more singing of your favorite carols, and a live nativity!

Attention! Parents of Elementary School Children!

We will have a rehearsal for the family Christmas Eve Service on Sunday morning, December 23, during Sunday School. Please email margie@bmpcnc.org, to let me know your child is participating! The Family Christmas Eve service is at 4:00 p.m.

Adult Church School December

Becomers Class

Book of Matthew in the Library

Biblical Perspectives

Conference Room 1

2 SVCM, Cheryl Wilson

9 Humanitarian Crises and Our Response, Ken Scott

16 This Thing That Has Happened, John Rogers

23 Christmas Sing, Neil and Cathy McMillan

30 No Class

Faith Builders

Parlor

2 People of the Nativity Bible Study

9 People of the Nativity Bible Study

16 People of the Nativity Bible Study

23 No Class

30 No Class

Bible Exploration

Book of Corinthians, upstairs Room 12

A call for ushers. Just the job for YOU.

The Worship & Music Ministry Team needs help in updating and growing the list of volunteers willing to take a turn ushering at 11:00 worship service on Sunday mornings. It is an important and meaningful way to participate in church life. Reminders are sent each week and clear instructions are emailed beforehand and are available in the narthex as well, though there is nothing difficult or complicated involved.

Please consider helping out with this responsibility. Just email [Ina Hughs inamackie@yahoo.com](mailto:inamackie@yahoo.com) or give her a call 828-669-5919, or call the church office 828-669-2725.

December YOUTH events

middle school

2 Christmas Party, 5-7p

9 No Youth

16 Soup & Caroling, 5-7p

high school

2 Christmas Party, 5-7p

7 Breakfast Club, 7-7:45a

9 No Youth

16 Soup & Caroling, 5-7p



Middle School Youth led worship and packaged meals for Feed A Family. It was a wonderful experience to worship with and get to know our neighbors! We are so thankful for the opportunity to provide Thanksgiving meals and partner with SVCM!

Presbyterian Women



Circles meet Tuesday, December 4

Dorcas

10:00 a.m. at Carol Cauthen's home
6 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

Esther

10:00 a.m. at Alice Smith's home
1 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

Hannah

10:00 a.m. in the BMPC Library

Lydia

(times and dates to be announced)

Naomi

4:30 p.m. in the BMPC Library

Priscilla

10:00 a.m. at Faith Bradley's home
31 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

Rebekah

2:30 p.m. in the Lodge, Highland Farms

Ruth

12:30 p.m. at BMPC in CR1

The Church's Electronic Carillon which was installed in 2008 as part of our centennial celebrations, has gone kaput. The system can actually still play "on demand," but the components that regulate its internal timer have ceased operating. The system is no longer maintained by the manufacturer; indeed the manufacturer no longer is in the electronic carillon business. If you wish to know more about this speak to Mike Barker. We all do certainly miss hearing the bells at church on Sundays, and around town during the week.

Shelter News

Many THANKs to all who brought food or prepared meals for our homeless guests at the SVCM shelter. Since the weather was so warm during our assigned week of giving, we also provided meals on two additional days. A record number of our members brought in breakfast and lunch foods. This support is so valuable! Kudos to Scottie Cannon, Glenda McDaniel, Betsy and John Murphy, Ellen and Dave McClintock, Laurel Broadhurst, Bill Bale for cooking, serving, or staying overnight. Susan Dannenburg is now an official early night volunteer staying from 5:15 to midnight on a regular basis. Bill Bale is an early morning volunteer when folks stay til 9AM in bitter cold weather. There is much need for even more volunteers and items such as: laundry detergent, tissues, coffee creamer, fruit, water bottles, and notes of love and support. Call Barbara 775-4463 or Sonnie 669-9404 for more info or to help out. REMEMBER: the nights when it is 39° or above these folks are on the streets or in tents or sleeping in their cars. Show God's love to people in need. Help at the shelter!

Poinsettias!

If you would you like to purchase a poinsettia for our chancel during the Christmas season, provide the information below. Please make your \$10 check payable to BMPC, adding "poinsettia" on the memo line. You may take your poinsettia to keep after December 24.



Your name _____ In honor of *or* In memory of _____
(circle one)

Christmas Eve Open House

The Ken Kelly family will host their annual evening of fun, food, and fellowship following the BMPC 7:00 p.m. service and lasting until the lights go out.

All are welcome, especially college students.

49 Last Resort Road 669-4761
(off Old Lakey Gap)



Beginning on January 22, an AmeriCorps person will be working with B&S during 2019. This will be a wonderful help to them in their programming, mostly in sourcing food.

If you know of someone in the Black Mountain/Montreat/Swannanoa area with a "mother-in-law apartment" or a room with kitchen privileges or some other suitable living arrangement for the calendar year 2019, please contact Bruce Ganger at B&S 828-419-0533. They will pay up to \$400 per month to help subsidize housing.

WNC Presbytery is looking for 10 to 12 people to participate in the annual mission trip to Malawi, Africa – May 12-28, 2019.

Applications are due by December 31, 2018. It would be great to have BMPC participation.

The goals of the trip:

- Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in another part of the world and bring us closer to each other;
- Learn their stories and share ours;
- Take Christ's love there and bring it back;
- Provide opportunity for the Malawians and for us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture, and to help us come more into balance, moving closer to the abundant life;
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between local congregations, Presbytery, the denomination and our international church partners;
- Create awareness of larger issues in the world;
- Raise support for the ministries related to our denomination in Malawi.

For more information

<https://presbyterywnc.org/uploads/media/pdfs/2017/malawi-application-2018-20171129.pdf>

For more insight on the trip, talk to Anne Drummond (participated in 2018) 828-234-9711.

If you have questions about your 2018 pledges or financials in general, feel free to email Jen Thorstad at jen@bmpcnc.org

DECEMBER birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Stacie Jones
Erin Van Note | 20 Joe Geiger
Joseph Matthews |
| 3 Martha Jane Petersen
Faith Davison
Mike Salmon
Elizabeth Mailander
Emily Carter | 21 Chris Evans
22 A.T. Brown
Martha Jean Alvis |
| 5 Nancy Sprinkle
Skip Stansell
Teresa Owen | 24 Micah Davis
25 Glenda McDaniel
Mike Barker |
| 6 Annie Hall
Frank Cappelli | 26 Gayle Mudge
Susan McElrath
Adeline West
Ben Swanson |
| 7 Carolyn Konnert
Carrie Coward | 27 Marcy Buchan |
| 8 Savannah Lindsey | 28 Gene Schimpf
Debbie Dunn |
| 11 Melissa Royer
Barbara Brinson
Charlie Wilson
Cayden Bemis | 29 John McCall
Kevin Brandon
Chris Mailander
Wesley Owen |
| 14 Jim Poling | 30 Ken Kelly
Trudy Winstead
David Bell
Wren Hall |
| 15 Barbara Witherspoon | 31 Anna Banzhoff
Russ Spiller |
| 16 Jordan Kelly
Sydney Adams | |
| 18 Sally Pollard
Virginia Rainey
Lisle Garrity | |
| 19 Jack Williams
Sheila Ellington
Stacy Hana
Scott Burns | |

Happy
Birthday!

Thank you!

...for your Faithful Generosity

The end of the year is quickly approaching and we celebrate the many ways our congregation has stepped up in our stewardship efforts! We have received 193 pledges for 2019 in the amount of \$746,000, accounting for about 94% of our goal. **We are thrilled to see that 79 members have increased their pledges by \$49,000 and we have received \$40,000 in new pledges.** However, due to some challenging health issues for some of our members, there have also been decreases this year. We still need almost \$50K to reach our goal. If you have not had the time or the opportunity to commit yet to the ministry and work of BMPC, you can pledge on our website at <http://bmpcnc.org/pledge-form>. If you would like more information, feel free to reach out to our Stewardship Team chair, Dave Johnson at dwjohnson1@charter.net or to Mary Katherine Robinson at mk@bmpcnc.org.

Can you help with blood drives?

We need a volunteer to recruit hosts who represent BMPC at Red Cross blood drives. We will provide a list of contacts for this recruiter to gather hosts who work about two hours greeting and signing in donors at the blood drives which occur five times a year at BMPC. Please call Lisa in the office if you are interested, 669-2725.

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

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an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



The Property Ministry Team thanks everyone who helped with the the landscaping project on November 17 Margaret Fouse, Peter Mudge, Gayle Mudge, Barbara Gaw, Dave McClintock, Eli Barker, Tommy Wilkinson, Rick Bailey, John Evans, Tom Stiles, Skip Stansell, Margie Stansell, Jack Williams, Craig Cooley, Rosie Johnson, Mary Katherine Robinson, and Wayne Mullis. Special thanks to Tyler Smith and Daniel Wiggs for providing equipment and tools. Property appreciates the time and leadership that Margaret Fouse provides to maintain all of the planted areas around the church.

Prepare the Way 2018 BMPC Advent Calendar

December 2 *First Sunday in Advent* *Hanging of the Greens*

11:00a Communion Worship Service (no FirstLight Service) | **12:15p** Wreath & Banner making
Alternative Christmas Gifting Market

December 9 *Second Sunday in Advent*

8:30a FirstLight Worship Service | **11:00a** Worship Service
Alternative Christmas Gifting Market

Friday, December 14 11:30a Weekday School Christmas Program

December 16 *Third Sunday in Advent*

8:30a FirstLight | **11:00a** Worship Service | **5:00p** Caroling | **6:00p** Soup and Live Nativity
Alternative Christmas Gifting Market

December 23 *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

8:30a FirstLight Worship Service | **11:00a** Worship Service

December 24 *Christmas Eve* Church office closes at noon

4:00p Children and Families' Worship Service  Bring a bell

7:00p Communion and Candlelight Service

Please bring canned foods for SVCM to all Christmas Eve services

December 30 *First Sunday after Christmas*

11:00a Worship Service (no FirstLight Service or Church School)

Church office closed Monday, December 31 and Tuesday January 1

January 6

8:30a FirstLight Worship Service | **11:00a** Worship Service
