



Blessings of Winter

Even though it is February and life is “filled to the brim” at the moment with delayed and canceled school mornings (church too), icy roads, indoor activities that keep us from having cabin fever, plans and thoughts of warmer days to come, I pause for a moment to give thanks for this season of winter.

I once heard that a home takes on a different persona during the winter – the world is shut out to keep the house warm, silence is contained, family and friends drawn closer. Fires are lit against the gray, cold skies. Spines of books are pressed open, pens lifted to write. It’s a time for interiority, paying attention to the longings for depth, poetry, faith, pondering, and for stillness, longings that go unsatisfied in the busyness of summer days.

I find myself staring outside and shivering with delight at the bare trees and all that is revealed in their nakedness – crooked limbs, rough bark, places where life has gone out of them. I see winter trees as a metaphor for my own life. My crooked ways, the rough places

that need smoothing, the dead things that need to go. How they, like me, were created to stretch toward the heavens.

Outside, the air fills my lungs with what feels like snow. The ground is rigid beneath my feet. I have to watch for icy patches, like everyone, so I don’t slip and fall and break bones that I don’t even know the names of, yet they are part of me, like so many other things that go unnamed. I can see my breath some days, all white. I see the Holy Spirit in it, for a moment visible, moving over the surface of the earth, flowing out of me and into me with every exhale and inhale.

A house has to be lived in, otherwise it will crumble and collapse. So I thank God for winter, forced to live fully in this human house, while I invite God in to do repairs and to remodel, that I might reflect God’s image a little more, even in darkest days of the year.

In this season of Epiphany as we wait for Lent, may we all find light in the darkest days.

Mary Katherine

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Please direct all of your financial questions and concerns to finance@bmpnc.org. Jen Thorstad will continue handling our financial needs while we find her replacement.</p>					<p>8a Weekday School registration 3:30p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>9a Youth Sunday rehearsal</p>
<p>YOUTH SUNDAY 3 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 9:45a New Members Class 11a Worship 5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 PW Circles</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The deadline for the March Window newsletter Friday, February 15.</p>						
<p>T-SHIRT SUNDAY 10 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 9:45a New Members 11a Worship 5p Youth 5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>11 1:30p Lectio Divina 6:45p Ministry Teams</p>	<p>12 7p APNC 7p Prophets</p>	<p>13 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14  1:30p Sewing Ministry</p>	<p>15 Window Deadline 3:30p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 9:45a New Members 11a Worship 5p Youth 5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 12p PW Winter Gathering 7p APNC 7p Prophets</p>	<p>20 5:30p Family 'round the Table 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7a HS Youth Breakfast Club 3:30p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 5p Youth 5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>25 6p Session</p>	<p>26 7p APNC 7p Prophets</p>	<p>27 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28 1:30p Sewing Ministry 5:30p Thursday Night Live</p>	<p>Wednesday 'round the Table potluck will meet on the first and third Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. this month.</p>	



Welcome to our new Music Scholar!

The worship and music committee is pleased to announce a new music scholar for the current semester, Karis Kerr. Karis graduated from Owen High School last spring, attended Furman University last semester, and is now enrolled at AB Tech Community College. She will be singing in the soprano section of our chancel choir this semester. Please welcome her when you see her.

Every season is **Mission Season at BMPC**, but each year we emphasize our commitment to global mission and local outreach by setting aside a period of time to review our work and renew our enthusiasm for serving God's people.

FLAGS! This year, beginning **February 10** you will see the familiar flags of our mission partners flying in the Sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall thanks to Mike Barker and the Worship team.

Visiting Preacher! **February 24**, Hal Bennett, Pastor at Dulatown Presbyterian Church, Lenoir, NC, will be our guest preacher. Hal serves on the General Council, as chairperson for the Mission division. Additionally, he is a member of the African American Advisory Forum for the Presbytery. He was a Commissioner at the 223rd General Assembly and serves on the PWN's leadership team for Malawi.

T-shirts! To kick off our Mission Season, on **February 10**, we encourage everyone to wear T-Shirts representing the many hours of volunteer service of our church members. Don your shirts from SVCM Hunger Walk, Habitat for Humanity, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Bounty and Soul, your Black Mountain Presbyterian "In Service" shirt (we have some extra if you need one. See Margo Smith or Mike Barker), and any other agency you have served at any time. We should have a colorful Sunday morning, February 10, as we are inspired by servants in our midst. If your shirt looks the worse for wear because you wore it to dig ditches, paint houses, or sort vegetables, all the better.

**Minute
For
Mission**
Each Sunday during
Mission Season we
will find out about
particular mission
projects and
opportunities.

TNL! In concert with Nurture, Thursday Night Live on **February 28** will feature Bobbi White and Anne Drummond who have recently traveled to Malawi. Our partnership with the medical and education missions in Malawi have deep and passionate roots, and Bobbi will give us an update on the work being done there and the ways the Presbytery of Western North Carolina supports them.

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER **March 10** will culminate Mission Season with Rise Against Hunger. Chairs, Bill and Margaret Waterstradt are again organizing this wonderful inter-generational event when we will pack 15,000 meals to respond to both local and global need. We have been fortunate that individuals from our church have felt so strongly about the value of RAH, not just for those who need the food, but also for the unity of our congregation, that they have made donations to add to Mission budget money to allow us hold this event yearly.

Mission never ends. During Mission Season we are able to say, as a church,
Mission is our mission.

Hunger never takes a snow day.

Our faithful donations to SVCM help keep their pantry shelves full from week to week. When church doesn't meet, consider bringing your can-in-each-hand to the church on Tuesday. Another way you can care for our neighbors in need is to fill a box and drop it by SVCM. With careful selection at Ingles, you can fill a milk box for \$10. You might find a friend and make an outing of shopping for SVCM. Any food left at the church will be delivered on Tuesday before 3:00 p.m. If you deliver food yourself, be sure to sign the list at SVCM showing the donation is from BMPC.

Presbyterian Women

All of the PW Circles met January 8 for a Bible Study led by Karen Austin. In this lesson in our series, of **God's Promise**, Jehoshaphat laid down his weapons and trusted in God in Chronicles 2. We know that God promises to be with us when we are powerless, we can lay down our weapons of worry and trust in God. A special part of the program was **Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to Mary Katherine Robinson and Olivia LaMotte**. The women in the Circles brought delicious items to share for brunch.



PW Circles Tuesday, February 5

Dorcas

10:00 a.m. – BMPC Library

Esther

10:00 a.m. the home of Gay Ferguson
9 Rhododendron Road, Black Mountain

Hannah

10:00 a.m. the home of Barbara Brinson
38 Eden Glen Road, Black Mountain

Naomi

4:30 p.m. – BMPC Library

Priscilla

10:00 a.m. the home of Bess Perryman
27 Wagon Trail, Highland Farms

Rebekah

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

Ruth

1:30 p.m. the home of Margaret Fouse
carpool from BMPC 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 26

Lydia

6:30 p.m. BMPC narthex

PW Winter Gathering – February 19, 12:00 noon



tacklehunger.org

Help celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday February 3

Bring 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.

February Adult Church School

Becomers Class Library, **Book of Matthew**

Bible Exploration upstairs Room 12, **Book of Corinthians**

Biblical Perspectives Conference Room 1

3 Ken Scott, *Humanitarian Crises and Our Response*

10 Paul Garrity, *Charlottesville and Racism*

17 Erskine Alvis, *My Faith Journey*

24 Gay Mothershed, *My Life and Ministry*

Faith Builders Parlor

3 Bill Gilliland, *Discipleship: Mission* (rescheduled from Jan. 13)

10 TBA

17 Jeannie & Carl Franklin, *Fighting Climate Change with Trees*

24 Jeannie and Carl Franklin *Part 2 of above*

Love & Logic Conference Room 2, **Parenting Class**

B M P C C H I L I C O O K - O F F



Thank you to all the contestants who cooked and shared their delicious chili with us at the Chili Cook-off on Sunday, January 27. The contestants were: Sarah Berglund, Gayle Shelton, Ginny Lindsey, Tommy Wilkinson, Margo Smith, Bob Tuttle, Melissa Kadau, Hannah Webber, and Mike Salmon (not pictured). Congratulations to Margo Smith who was crowned the Chili Champ and awarded a trophy and a gift certificate for Louise's Kitchen.

BMPC volunteer opportunities

important and meaningful ways to participate in church life

Help with Ushering

The Worship & Music Ministry Team needs a coordinator to keep the usher list updated and line up ushers for the 11:00 worship service on Sunday mornings. You will have office assistance with sending materials to ushers and weekly reminders. Please contact Jackie Kerr in the office if you can help, jackie@bmpcnc.org.

Help with Middle School and High School Youth

Youth advisors needed! Looking for volunteers to help with youth fellowship on Sunday evenings, 5-7, and occasional outings. Please contact Chandler Guess, chandler@bmpcnc.org.

Help with Sunday Church School

The elementary class is in need of an assistant leader on Sunday mornings! You will be assisting Jane Bannerman or Margie Stansell. Contact Margie if you can help through the Spring term, margie@bmpcnc.org.

Help with Red Cross Blood Drives

We need a volunteer to schedule two hosts for each blood drive which occurs five times a year at BMPC. We will provide a list of folks who are interested in this ministry and have helped in previous drives. Please contact Lisa in the office if you can help, lisa@bmpcnc.org.

Thank you!

In Our Community

You are cordially invited
**29th Martin Luther King
Prayer Breakfast**

February 9, 8:00 a.m.
Camp Dorothy Wells

Tickets available

Call Barbara Gaw or purchase from
Chamber of Commerce

See svmlk.org for more information

All money received helps with scholarships for
Owen students and pays for your breakfast

"Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it?" Isaiah 43:19

Presbytery of WNC workshops and travel opportunities

March 8-9

Spirituality Retreat, Praying with the Celtic Saints
Bonclarken Center, Flat Rock

April 1

deadline for signing up for trip to Guatemala with
Presbytery November 7-14

April 28-May 4

Hurricane relief work trip to Wilmington, NC

April 29-30

Discipleship Workshop, Montreat, with Rev. Dr. Ray Jones
Presbyterian Mission Agency

May 5-11

Hurricane relief work trip to Lumberton, NC

Find more information on the WNC Presbytery website or
call the Presbytery, (828) 438-4217. Feel free to share this
information with others who may be interested.

FEBRUARY birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 Bobbi White | 16 Tanner Kelly |
| 3 Torey Todd | 17 Cain McClary
Chloe Munn |
| 4 Ina Hughs | 18 Lolly Copeland
Sylvia Bassett
Clay Hile
Sarah Akin |
| 5 Pat Newbold
Nettie Solomon
Jillian Munn | 19 Caroline Patton |
| 6 Dee Cox | 20 Calvin Barker |
| 7 Evelyn Bannerman
Betty Walker
Gracyn Farish
Parker Donaldson | 21 Leila Cox
Libby Barker
Mark Allen
Alexandria Carver
Cody Duckworth |
| 8 Jo Majka
Maureen Ben-Davies
Skylar Hollifield | 22 Austin Brown
Jolie Atkins |
| 9 Bill Hollins
Guy Campbell | 23 Rosa Dougherty
Mylo Morgan |
| 10 Rock Ward
Carson Campbell | 24 Art De Jong
Sue Cauthen
Case McClary
River Edwards |
| 11 Jack Beaver | 25 Wayne Mullis
Dan Davis |
| 12 Charles Sandy
Gay Ferguson
Kay Salmon
Matt Begley | 27 Andy Gwynn
Paul Scouten |
| 13 Campbell Cauthen | |
| 14 Dan Turk
Henry Griffin
Michael Ballard | |
| 15 Charles Massey
Ernie Banzhoff
Joe Covert
Sam Webber
Cole Roy | |

Happy
Birthday!

Thank you!

*Dear Church Family,
How blessed I am to have had you during the first weeks following my husband Art's unexpected death. Your prayers, cards, flowers, food, phone calls, donations to Habitat for Humanity, hugs, tender smiles and waves to me across the pews on Sunday mornings, and all your other acts of love and compassion have been a great comfort.*

Christ's love shines brightly in this congregation. Thank you and God bless you.

*Love,
Katherine Holman*

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, well wishes, and prayers as I continue healing from knee surgery. A special thank you to the wonderful and talented women of the BMPC Sewing Ministry for the beautiful quilt. The quilt is greatly appreciated and needed.

*God bless!
Helen Davies*

Thanks to our church family for all of the cards, prayers, emails, meals (which have allowed me to avoid social hour at Ingles for awhile!) and most of all – the support and love. I hope to reply to each card soon – I read them daily.

Ann Bell

If you have an inexpensive car you would like to sell, Carrie and Steve Coward have a friend in need. Her budget is \$1,500. Call Steve at 828-230-7067.

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

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BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



The Deacons were hard at work caring for their flocks at their last quarterly meeting. They spent special time giving thanks for deacons that have fulfilled their three year terms and welcomed the new deacons that have now taken over!

