

BMPC Window

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter



May 2019

Mike's Sabbatical This Summer

After more than twelve years of service to our congregation, Mike Barker is taking a well-deserved sabbatical, starting June 16 and ending August 11, 2019. In the church, sabbatical leaves can be taken by clergy and, as in this case, musicians and other church professionals in the seventh year of ministry (guidelines for clergy in the Western NC Presbytery are based in the seventh year of continuous ministry as well).

This leave is not the same as an academic sabbatical which generally requires that the time away be spent working on a project, such as the writing of a book. Instead we might think of it as a refresher leave, a

time to re-energize physically, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually outside of the context of the high demands of congregational ministry. This is not meant to imply that a sabbatical is an extended vacation, though there are parts of the sabbatical that allow for this sort of recreation and rest. It is best to think of it as a time for spiritual renewal that allows one to return to ministry newly prepared and energized.

After 12 years of service, Mike's sabbatical is long overdue. Mike will not be available during his time away. He will

not be checking emails and will not be playing the organ for any of our worship, including weddings and funerals. It is important for all of us to respect these boundaries so we can allow him to have the time he needs for spiritual renewal. We hope you will give prayerful consideration to how you can help Mike rest and renew this summer.



In his absence we will commit to studying different types of music in our summer worship. **A Theological Landscape of Music** will be our summer theme. From blue grass music to an old fashioned hymn sing, let's get ready to SING!

We can be thankful for the musical leadership of Wayne Smith as our guest organist and church member Andy Gwynn leading the prophets in FirstLight.

I hope you will take time to wish Mike well before he leaves and that you will keep him and his family in your prayers during these eight weeks of sabbatical. We will look forward to his return in August.

Faithfully yours,

MAY

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>There will be one combined service at 11:00 a.m. on Confirmation Sunday, May 19.</p>			<p>1 5:30p Family 'round the Table 7p Chancel Choir 8:30p Men's Prayer Group</p>	<p>2 1:30p Sewing Ministry</p>	<p>3 4p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>4 </p>
<p>5 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 9:45a MS Youth to Craggy Gardens 11a Worship 5p HS Youth 5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>6 7p Earth Care</p>	<p>7 PW Circles (see page 4) 7p APNC 7p Prophets</p>	<p>8 7p Chancel Choir 8:30p Men's Prayer Group</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 The deadline for the June Window newsletter Wednesday, May 15.</p>	<p>11 6p Mens Group 4p Bounty & Soul</p>
<p>12 Communion 8:30a FirstLight 9:40a Church School 9:40a Confirmation Brunch 11a Worship 5p Hand Bells</p>	<p>13 1:30p Lectio Divina 5:30p Evangelism 6:45p Ministry Teams</p>	<p>14 5p PW Spring Gathering 7p APNC 7p Prophets</p>	<p>15 Window Deadline 5:30p Family 'round the Table 7p Chancel Choir 8:30p Men's Prayer Group</p>	<p>16 1:30p Sewing Ministry 1:30p Red Cross Blood Drive </p>	<p>17 4p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>18 2p Earth Care Urban Forest Workshop</p>
<p>19 Confirmation Sunday 9:40a Church School 11a Worship 5p Youth End-of-Year Parties</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7p APNC 7p Prophets</p>	<p>22 1p Stewardship 7p Chancel Choir 8:30p Men's Prayer Group</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 4p Bounty & Soul</p>	<p>25 Wednesday Family 'Round the Table Potluck SUMMER DATES: June 12 July 10 August 14</p>
<p>26 9:15a FirstLight 11a Worship</p>	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day observed</p>	<p>28 1p PW Bible 2:15p PW Coordinating 6:30p Lydia 7p APNC 7p Prophets</p>	<p>29 7p Chancel Choir 8:30p Men's Prayer Group</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 4p Bounty & Soul</p>	

Summer Worship Hours begin Sunday, May 26

Church school breaks for summer and FirstLight begins at 9:15 a.m.

11:00 Worship will remain at 11:00 a.m.

Earth Care Team To Host Urban Forestry Workshop

All winter the Earth Care Team has been exploring what our next big project should be. We considered challenging the Town Council to make the city's buildings and vehicles green by, say, 2030. Or we could find a way to fund another array of solar panels. But we became interested in the severe problem of deforestation of the planet, which began with the coming of agriculture and continues to this day – in rain forests, in modern cities and towns, and in our area. Removing trees warms the planet and destroys habitat, causing massive species loss globally.

We humans don't always realize the damage we are doing when we cut down trees just to expand a view or make mowing easier. Trees are not inanimate objects. Mature trees are leaders in the fight against climate change, absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. Trees hold the earth, diminish mudslides, mitigate stormwater runoff, and improve water quality. They support pollinators and provide habitat for critters. They cool the Earth and make us happy.

In our region, when we look out the window we see trees, but the fact is the greater Asheville area is now losing 1,000 trees a day, primarily due to development – with the population expected to grow by 39 percent by 2040.

The Earth Care Team has been in conversation with the Black Mountain Urban Forestry Commission since Christmas, exploring ways that area churches can assist the town in increasing the tree canopy. As a result, we are hosting an **Urban Forestry Workshop on Saturday, May 18**, in the Fellowship Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. Ed Macie of Asheville Greenworks will work with participants to come up with an Urban Forestry plan for Black Mountain. Before retiring to Asheville, Ed Macie directed the US Forest Service's urban forestry program for the Southern United States and now serves as chair of the Asheville Tree Commission.

Members of our congregation, the Urban Forestry Commission, and other area churches are invited to attend.

Presbyterian Women

Circles

Tuesday, May 7

Dorcas

10:00 a.m. the home of Carol Cauthen, 6 Wagon Trail

Esther

10:00 a.m. the home of Joan Kline, 7 Wagon Trail, HF

Hannah

10:00 a.m. BMPC

Naomi

4:30 p.m. – BMPC Library

Priscilla

10:00 a.m. the home of Faith Bradley, 31 Wagon Trail

Rebekah

2:30 p.m. the Lodge, HF

Ruth

12:30 p.m. BMPC – CR1

Tuesday, May 28

Lydia

6:30 p.m. BMPC Parlor

All women of the church are invited to the Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering Tuesday, May 14, 5-7 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker • Installation of Officers • Honorary Life Memberships awarded
Catered dinner – Sign up in the narthex or call church for reservations by Friday, May 10

Lovers of Creation, Read

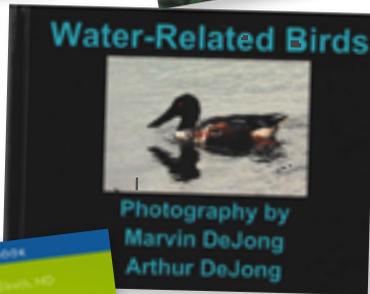
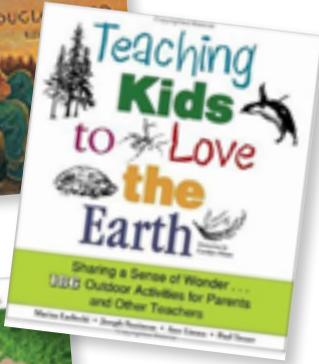
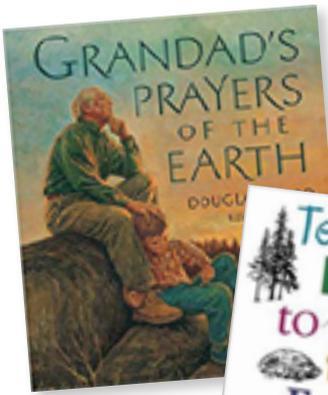
To honor Earth Day, the Creation Care Committee has asked the BMPC Library Committee to put together a rolling display of resources related to the care of our God-given natural world. The display will be in the narthex on April 28 and will

feature over twenty books which the committee has selected. While about half of them are books which have been on the shelves, half will be new additions. They range in content from children's books with marvelous illustrations to stories of individuals or communities who have worked to preserve a safe and flourishing environment to texts that help us to see how Scripture and ecology are related.

Highlighting the children's books are *Glory*, which has enchanting illustrations showing how creatures praise God, and *Grandad's Prayers of the Earth*, which features a grandfather showing his grandson how various elements of nature pray. Of special interest to parents is *Teaching Kids to Love the Earth*, which contains many inventive ideas for helping children understand and participate in caring for God's creation. Along the same lines but intended for all ages is *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth*, by Rebecca Barnes, Associate for Environmental Ministries of the PC(USA), a practical guide to what churches and individuals can do to make a difference. One book which shows how a number of people have made a difference is Mallory McDuff's *Natural Saints*. McDuff is a professor at Warren Wilson.

For sheer beauty of photography the library has *A Letter to Mother Nature, Water-Related Birds* (by BMPC's own Art DeJong), and several books with photography and text featuring flowers, fruits, and landscapes of the Holy Land. As for works to show how the Bible and creation care are related, there are *Serving God, Saving the Planet*, and *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, The Bible, and the Ecological Crisis*. The latter is written by Patricia Tull, whom many of us met and heard speak at the Creation Care Conference held at Montreat a few years ago.

Look for the cart in narthex and "check out" these important resources in the church library.



May Adult Church School

Becomers Class Library
Book of Galatians

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

Biblical Perspectives
Conference Room 1

Faith Builders Parlor
Galatians Bible Study: Rev. Connie Button will lead our class in a three-week study of Galatians. Read the five short chapters in your favorite translation and join us May 5 and May 12. Our last class of the year, May 19, will be a planning session for fall. Come share your ideas for Bible studies, topics that interest you, and leaders and teachers you would like to invite to lead our class or sessions you would like to lead.

Love & Logic Conference Room 2,
Parenting Class

Church School breaks for summer after May 19. We will resume on Sunday, September 8.

It is time to sign up for the **2019 Summer Nutrition Program**

What is the Summer Nutrition Program?

The summer nutrition program is a federally sponsored program that provides a nutritious lunch to children during the summer months when school is not in session.

What can our church do to help?

Last summer BMPC volunteers helped serve 541 meals at Ridgeview Trailer Park. This was an increase of 125 more meals than the previous summer.

You can be a part this summer by signing up to show up two Tuesdays this summer between the dates of June 18 through August 6. Each time you serve, you will go to the Ridgeview Trailer Park near the Owen pool and spend about an hour and a half handing out bag lunches and talking to delightful children who are very glad we are there. Three volunteers are needed for each date.

What's next?

Contact Susan Jumper at susanjumper@charter.net to sign up for a great summer experience. There will also be a signup sheet in the narthex.



SAVE THE DATE – October 14-20

Our Church family will be hosting the homeless ladies from Room in the Inn at the Methodist Church House. We hope you will mark this on your calendar as we will need folks to spend the night, drive the van, cook meals, and come for visits. please contact Barbara Gaw if you would like to help in any way – 775 4463. Thank you!

May is Hunger Awareness Month

What have you done recently to treat or prevent hunger? Many of you have volunteered for community programs such as *Bounty & Soul* and *Manna Foodbank* while faithfully bringing a “can in each hand” on Sundays. You have donated money, food and volunteer hours to SVCM or cooked for the local homeless shelter or *Room in the Inn*. Or you may have participated in the genial chaos of the *Rise Against Hunger* events in our fellowship hall to package nutritious food for people all over the world. These are all good and worthwhile activities to try to reduce hunger in our community.

For the month of May, the Mission Committee will be asking you to write letters to your legislators to advocate for hunger on a wider stage. *Bread for the World* is an organization that lobbies Congress to pass legislation that will improve the lives of people around the world.

Consider the facts of hunger and poverty

- 45% of all preventable child deaths are linked to malnutrition.
- Every dollar spent on nutrition programs for pregnant women and young children produces an average \$16 return from reduced health care costs and increased productivity.
- 1 in 4 of the world’s children suffers from physical and cognitive stunting due to hunger.
- In North Carolina 1 in 7 households struggles to put food on the table.

Last year, because of letters to Congress from *Bread for the World* constituents, the Global Food and Security Act was reauthorized to continue international agriculture, nutrition and food-aid programs for another five years. A proposed cut of \$20 billion from SNAP food assistance was stopped and Congress passed the Farm Bill with no cuts to SNAP. There are many other examples of successful advocacy but it can’t happen without your help!

In May, the Mission Committee will have information available about a number of legislative efforts and position papers on a wide variety of topics related to hunger. We suggest that you write your Senators and Congressman about something that you feel passionate about and make it personal. You can either email or we will provide envelopes and stamps for mailing. Look for information about a wide variety of topics – “How the US supports Global Nutrition”, “Hunger and Poverty in Puerto Rico”, the “African Growth and Opportunity Act”, “Hunger and Climate Change – What’s the Connection?” or “Ending Hunger in NC”, closer to home.

And if you want to write, but just don’t know what to say, we’ll have sample letters available as well for you to use. There are many important issues facing our nation right now affecting many vulnerable people. Our legislators need to hear from YOU!

Senator Richard Burr

217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510
Or to email, just google: “Contact Senator Burr”

Senator Thom Tillis

113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510
Or google, “Contact Senator Tillis”

Congressman Patrick McHenry

2004 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515
Or google, “Email Congressman McHenry”

Actually, Congressman McHenry has an office right here in Black Mountain. If you want to just stroll down to 160 Midland Ave and talk to him, his representative has office hours there Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

There are many other examples of successful advocacy but it can’t happen without your help!

Black Mountain OPEN TABLE

a place for friendship and food for all

**Every Wednesday 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
First United Methodist Fellowship Hall**

MAY birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Gene Witherspoon
Thatcher Hutcheson | 17 Alice Schweitzer
Blair Holladay |
| 2 Mistie Reising-Cogbill
Daniel Cappelli | 18 Mary McMahill |
| 3 Dick Hobson | 19 Anne Moseley |
| 4 Candy Donnell
Cindy McDaniel
Jim Davies | 22 Stratton Peacock
Nancy Murray
Barbara Gaw
Ruth Duckworth
Beth Gunn |
| 5 Brian Parada
Sierra Beaupre
Roan Kirkpatrick | 23 Austin Edwards
Mary Carroll Dodd
Lorris Parker
William Hana |
| 6 Susan Dannenberg | 24 Elizabeth Turk |
| 7 Mike Begley
Leo Cappelli | 25 Bruce Gunn |
| 8 Jim Elam
Beth Farmer
Kara Peterson | 26 Jean Chamberlain
Helen Smith |
| 9 Drew Banzhoff | 27 Davis Campbell |
| 12 Shannon Ingersoll | 28 Beau Van Note
Maggie Decker |
| 14 Tanner Pickett
Lindsey Banks | 30 Judy Williams
Karen Boyd |
| 15 John Walker
Paul Ginther | 31 Jan Donnell
Jennifer Chilton
Ethan Kadau |
| 16 Stan Skeen
Kitty Kelly
Rachel Beaver | |

Financial Update

We are amortizing 2019 prepaid pledges to gain a more accurate picture of our monthly cash flow and budget. So far we have received over \$59,526.62 in prepaid pledges for 2019, and we are grateful. If you have not had an opportunity to give a gift towards your pledge, please consider using our automatic giving options to get caught up. For assistance, please contact Emily Wilder, Finance Director, at 669-2725.

We continue into the second quarter of this year optimistically and grateful for the gifts of those who faithfully and consistently support our Mission. So far this year, these gifts supported missional activity both in our church and in our community. We came together for:

- Our Outreach and Global Ministry Season kicked off in full force this year, from the Souper Bowl Sunday offering to our Sunday afternoon serving the food insecure with Rise Against Hunger.
- BMPC disciples generously respond to the ongoing Presbytery-sponsored Five Cents a Meal offering at the end of each month.
- Our Youth were enriched through activities such as fellowship meals and a beach retreat. They were spiritually inspired and educated on important topics such as anxiety with the showing of the documentary, *Angst*.
- BMPC faithfully supported our General Fund with ministries such as Thursday Night Live, Church School and engaging Worship and Music experiences, staff salaries, and church property stewardship.

This amazing church continues to serve as a living witness to God's missional activity every day!

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

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an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy

providing a safe environment for children & youth



The Racial Equity Task Force formed throughout the Lenten season to discern ways to dismantle racism in our church and our local and global communities. This statement is a result of their work and was recently approved by the Session at its March meeting. The task force is an official subcommittee of our Outreach and Global Mission Committee. To learn more about their work, contact Paul Garrity (828) 242-8618 or Pat Tuttle (828) 777-4054.

Public Statement from the Racial Equity Task Force

We at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church are a congregation committed to embodying the love of Christ and taking risks to work for justice.

We lament that recent events in our local, national, and global communities continue a historical pattern of violence committed by white individuals against people of color.

We, as a mostly white church, recognize that we are bound up in the systems and culture that perpetuate the sickness of racism. We recognize that our silence is unacceptable and unfaithful.

As people of faith, we wish to repent, to turn away from the comfort of our silence, the denial of our biases, and the ignorance of our privilege.

As individuals, we have implicit, unconscious biases based on stereotypes that lead us to not notice racial inequity and excuse acts of violence and systems of oppression.

As a Church, we have neglected to dismantle racism in our economic and power structures.

As followers of Jesus, we are called into uncomfortable spaces, complex conversations, and difficult work. We trust that the Spirit of God is moving in this holy and messy work.

RACIAL EQUITY
TASK FORCE >>>