



MISSION celebrates each of us as we are called to serve

Last year at this time we were planning a month of events to honor the tradition and practice of mission at BMPC. The Thursday Night Live dinner had been ordered and the speaker was prepared to share the work of Pisgah Legal Services with the gathered diners. And then it snowed. Unable to meet on the assigned Thursday, we rescheduled, replanned, reordered, and re-prepared, and then it snowed... and then COVID emerged and we were quarantined. None of us could have guessed we would not only cancel our Mission Emphasis Month events, but also church, school, exercise, and social interaction, not just for a while but for a year.

While we have had to rearrange, rethink, and learn to Zoom for nearly everything we do, members of BMPC have maintained, in one way or another, their commitment to mission then, now, and into the future.

Our regular volunteer opportunities, especially those that require one-on-one contact have changed, but volunteers have adapted and BMPC members can be found at SVCM, Bounty & Soul, Habitat for Humanity and the Habitat ReStore, delivering Meals on Wheels, planning a virtual MLK celebration, and maintaining the Blessing Box for those who might need something when nothing else

is available. The PW has found ways to meet, learn, and serve those who can't get out, members have regularly contributed non-perishables to SVCM's food pantry – most notably some 50 boxes of food collected for the PanTREE



display created by Mike Barker for the Worship and Music and Mission team partnership. Youth packed donated food for Thanksgiving baskets to share the joys of the season with many families, and children who benefit from the eight agency recipients of funds raised by Alternative Gifting will have opportunities as a result of the generous

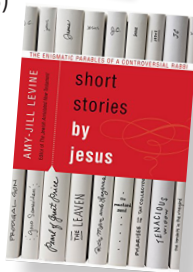
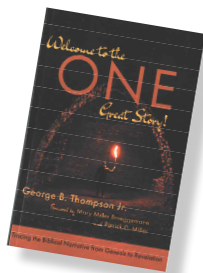
contributions in honor of those on Christmas gift lists.

Many have reached out to those who are safer at home to make sure they have all they need and that they are still connected to the congregation that loves them. Along with members, the staff of BMPC has led the congregation in mission by finding ways to continue mutual Faith Formation through worship, church school, The Weekday School, VBS, youth activities, and support for each of us. Receiving our Epiphany stars, either from Mary Katherine and David at the front of the church or through the cyber magic created by Sam and Brittany, reinforces our faith and hope for the future and our commitment to living and serving in the world God has given us.

We hope you'll join us in worship on Sunday mornings starting at 8:30 on YouTube.

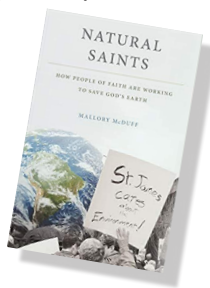
SUNDAYS

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Church on Zoom**
a time to connect and hear a story
- 9:45 a.m. Becomers Class on Zoom**
[George Thompson](mailto:revdr3george@gmail.com) (revdr3george@gmail.com)
Welcome to the One Great Story! book study
- 10:30 a.m. Biblical Explorations on Zoom** (link on page 3)
[Austin Brown](mailto:austin.brown.c54@gmail.com) (austin.brown.c54@gmail.com)
Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy Jill Levine.
- 3:30 p.m. Mental Health Support Group on Zoom**
1st & 3rd Sundays [Bunny Alexander](mailto:bunny6alexander@gmail.com) (bunny6alexander@gmail.com) or 317-517-0334
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group outside**



MONDAYS

- 8:00 a.m. Sacred Circle on Zoom**
[Beverly Thompson](mailto:drbeverlythompson@gmail.com) (drbeverlythompson@gmail.com)
Contact Beverly if you are interested in joining new Sacred Circles for families and caregivers of loved ones with any cognitive impairment.
- 1:00 p.m. Earth Care Book Series** with Pastor David
Natural Saints: How People of Faith are Working to Save God's Earth by Mallory McDuff.
[email [Jackie](mailto:jackie@bmpcnc.org) (jackie@bmpcnc.org) for Zoom link]



WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Matthew Bible Study on Zoom**
[Lewis Galloway](mailto:lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com) (lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com)
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Leadership Group outside**

THURSDAYS

- 7:00 p.m. Men's Group on Zoom**
- 8:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting on Zoom** with Bob Tuttle, February 4 and 18

Due to high levels of Covid-19 in Buncombe County, the BMPC session has cancelled all indoor meetings and activities which include more than two people at the church. Please wear a mask at all times when you are inside the church.

Groups are encouraged to schedule their meetings on Zoom.

If you need to use the church account, please contact Brittany@bmpcnc.org.

If there is any church member needing assistance with grocery or meal delivery, please email Mary Katherine Robinson, mk@bmpcnc.org.



Red Cross Blood Drive
March 11, 1:30-6:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall
Make an appointment
to donate blood.

The American Red Cross is in critical need of blood and continues to do COVID-19 antibody testing for anyone who donates.

What A BMPC Volunteer Looks Like

Austin Brown spends a good amount of his week wearing a mask, lifting heavy boxes, setting up tents, driving a 16-foot refrigerated truck, and when he isn't doing that, he's hammering nails, or balancing accounts, and all of this in his spare time.

Austin is neither a trucker, a mover, a construction worker, nor an accountant. Professionally, he continues his "regular" job as a consultant for hospital information systems. However, during his spare time, he is a regular at Bounty & Soul, Habitat for Humanity, and a church volunteer.

Austin and his wife, Donna Drake, moved to the Black Mountain area four years ago, "The day after the 2016 election," and after visiting several churches, they joined Black Mountain Presbyterian.

Austin became a regular in the Biblical Explorations church school class, and his spirited insights led to his becoming a facilitator of the class. During

COVID times, this job has enlisted his computer expertise so that every Sunday at 10:30, the class members join together by Zoom. In addition, with their beautiful voices, Austin and Donna have become part of the choir and, since the COVID shut down, they often lead the music during the online services.

Austin began volunteering at Bounty & Soul after hearing about it through BMPC members, and soon demonstrated his boundless energy and willingness to do anything from schlepping crates of vegetables and fruits to washing kitchen mats in the local do-it-yourself car wash.

It wasn't long before Austin's willingness to volunteer became obvious and he was asked to organize BMPC's annual participation in SVCM's Walk for Hunger Relief.

Since no good deed goes unnoticed, Austin's abilities and servant attitude led to his election as a part of the 2022 Class of Elders where he serves as chair of the finance team.

Those in the Biblical Explorations class recognize Austin's eclectic intellect borne of his voracious reading and his search for meaning. In Sunday morning discussions, Austin can be counted on to tie the scripture under examination to history, philosophy, as well as to everyday life and the choices each individual must

make. He guides his life with seven treasures that can't be taken away: conviction, virtue, sensitivity to the slightest shame, moral duty, generosity, the ability to listen, and discernment.

No doubt, as Austin drives "Big Peppa," the Bounty & Soul truck, from St. James to BiLo's parking lot or directs traffic as clients drive through for boxes of food, or as he lays the foundation for a family's forever home with Habitat, or helps chart the BMPC financial landscape, he is also thinking about how he and all of us fit into God's plan, and that is what this BMPC volunteer looks like.



Library News

Among donations this past year there are three fairly short books and one which has been on the shelves for a while which were of personal interest. Perhaps others might enjoy them during this continued time of pandemic. Three are based on experiences which each author has had or about which each author knows.

One is by someone with deep roots in Montreat whom many of you probably know. Anne Turnage, former Christian educator, founder of CanCare in Charlotte, and herself a cancer survivor, co-wrote with husband Mac *Grace Keeps*



You Going. The book is filled with brief accounts of people who have had cancer diagnoses and their families, interspersed with prayers and commentary. These are faith-filled accounts and contain as the subtitle indicates *Spiritual Wisdom from Cancer Survivors*.

The wisdom shared can apply to anyone facing suffering, no matter what the cause.

“You Have A Beautiful Face,” She Said by Jerry Sisson may sound more like a paperback from the novel rack at a store, but it is actually a poignant recounting of several incidents in the life of Sisson's late wife. The quotation which is the title came from something his wife said to a nurse who was caring for her. Sisson was so struck by the effect it had on the nurse that he began to wonder if when Jesus encountered people it was as if he was saying that. That idea became the basis of a homily, which is in the latter part of the book. There are examples from his wife's life which he recalls in what he subtitles *A Portrait of Grace*.

In Steven Garber's *The Seamless Life* there is a chapter entitled “De Profundis,” which begins with these words, “I was invited to give a lecture at Montreat College in North Carolina.” In this short essay and the others in the book, he addresses in some way the question, “What is life all about?” In doing so, he often references famous people, music, movies, books, events, and mundane subjects which had an impact on him. In addition to his eloquent writing, the reader will enjoy his exquisite photography which graces the beginning of every chapter.

The fourth book may seem a strange choice to recommend along with the foregoing works, but I found it very interesting. It is entitled *Calvin's Ecclesiastic Advice* and was translated



by Mary Beatty of Davidson College and Benjamin J. Farley of Erskine College with a Foreword by John H. Leith. While the credentials of these distinguished scholars may make the average reader think that this is a heavy tome only serious scholars will want to peruse, in truth it is less than 200 pages long and consists primarily of letters Calvin wrote in reply to questions he had been asked. The subjects range from doctrine and polity to domestic issues and some trivialities. “Should a man marry his brother's widow? Can a congregation require celibacy of a minister? What to do when a preacher has called people to arms? What is the rule for wearing black to a funeral?” are among the many categories he addresses. Included also are polemics against certain individuals, commentary on subjects such as “improper” baptism, and settling disputes. Perhaps this might be called “Calvin Lite.” – Sally Woodard

Don't forget the FREE books in the library – a great opportunity to add to your own library.

FROM THE BMPC EARTH CARE TEAM

1937

World population: 2.3 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 280 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 66 percent

1954

World population: 2.7 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 310 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 64 percent

1960

World population: 3.0 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 315 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 62 percent

1968

World population: 3.5 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 323 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 59 percent

1971

World population: 3.7 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 326 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 58 percent

1978

World population: 4.3 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 335 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 55 percent

1989

World population: 5.1 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 353 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 49 percent

1997

World population: 5.9 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 360 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 46 percent

2011

World population: 7.0 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 391 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 39 percent

2020

World population: 7.8 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 415 parts per million
Remaining wilderness: 35 percent

Senior citizens have the gift of a long view – the ability to remember the world as it was and foresee the world of the future. Prominent seniors who have closely observed the natural world, our Garden of Eden, throughout their careers, are pleading passionately at the end of their lives on behalf of God’s creation. These include Jane Goodall (primate researcher, age 86), E.O. Wilson (biologist, entomologist, age 91), and David Attenborough (natural history film maker, age 94). Specifically, they warn us about the accelerating destruction of species due to the loss of wilderness; all three urge that greater areas of land and ocean be set aside as wild.

In 2020 Attenborough released a breathtaking film and book titled *A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and A Vision for the Future*. The list (shown in the left column) was taken from his film and tells the story in a nutshell. It shows the increase in population, rise in carbon pollution, and concurrent loss of wilderness during his lifetime. Looking closely, we can locate the date nearest our own births and thus trace what has happened to the Earth during our lives.

This is the situation we are in today. The crisis has mushroomed in a single lifetime. It’s a moral problem of enormous proportions, especially to Christians who see ourselves as entrusted by God to care for Creation. During this fallow time when many church activities are curtailed, we can ponder ways, small and large, that we can help restore wilderness. The March issue of the *BMPC Window* will offer some suggestions.

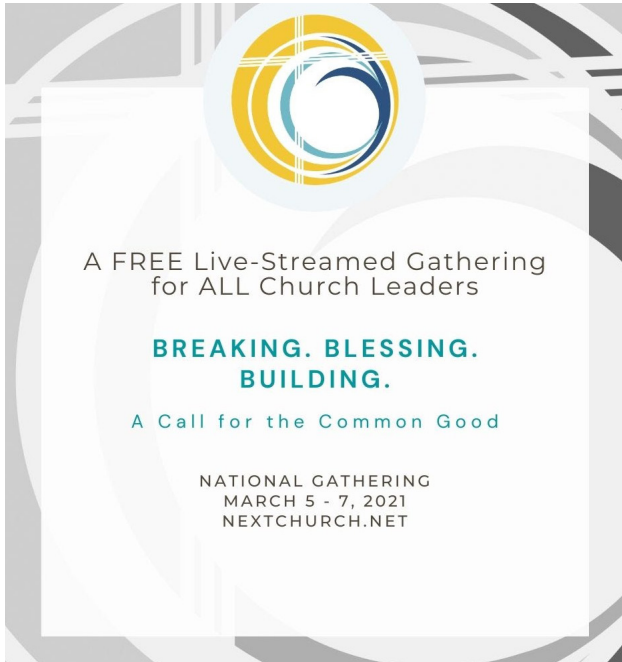
– Jeannie Franklin



Virtual National Gathering – March 5-7

*“When day comes we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it, for there is always light, if only
we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”*

Amanda Gorman – *The Hill We Must Climb*, Inauguration Poem 2021



Our dear friends, with ecstatic hearts we are elated to claim such freedom, light, and bravery – and to do so together! In the spirit of climbing that hill with one another, join us for our 2021 National Gathering: Breaking, Blessing, Building – A Call for the Common Good!

This year, NEXT Church is breaking, blessing, and building with the hope to reach further and connect even more deeply than before – especially as an ecumenical community of faith! We are the church, the broken and raised body of Christ, and the spiritual leaders of our times; and let us be so together!

Click [HERE](#) for more info on this year’s theme

Alternative Gifting Successful Again!

Together we contributed \$10,410 to mission partners. Well done, good and faithful servants!

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Weekday School | \$2,107 |
| Ebenezer Church, Guatemala | \$1,536 |
| Bounty & Soul | \$1,366 |
| Marion Medical | \$1,283 |
| Malawi School..... | \$1,161 |
| Collins Center | \$1,093 |
| CoThinkk | \$913 |
| Outreach Foundation | \$951 |

If you would like to serve on the planning team for Alternative Gifting, please contact Tommy Wilkinson, Outreach & Global Mission Team.



tacklehunger.org

Sunday, February 7
Drive by and drop off
12:00-12:30 p.m.

SVCM needs all sorts of canned beans, crackers, and cash donations earmarked for Souper Bowl.

Thank you to all who filled out a **feasibility study survey** from Tom Norwood, consultant with *Horizons Stewardship*. Session looks forward to an update from Tom on Wednesday, February 3.

February Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Bobbi White | 15 Joe Covert |
| 3 Torey Todd | Sam Webber |
| 4 Ina Hughes | Cole Roy |
| Jean Hood | 16 Ann Wiig |
| David Wheeler | Tanner Kelly |
| 5 Lynn Jostes | 17 Cain McClary |
| Pat Newbold | Chloe Munn |
| Nettie Solomon | 18 Lolly Copeland |
| Rebekah Hewitt | Sylvia Bassett |
| Jillian Munn | Clay Hile |
| 6 Dee Cox | Sarah Akin |
| 7 Robert Turk | 19 Caroline Patton |
| Betty Walker | 20 Calvin Barker |
| Gracyn Farish | 21 Leila Cox |
| Parker Donaldson | Libby Barker |
| 8 Jo Majka | Mark Allen |
| Maureen Ben-Davies | Alexandria Carver |
| Skylar Hollifield | Cody Duckworth |
| 9 Guy Campbell | Charlie Cappelli |
| 10 Rock Ward | 22 Austin Brown |
| Carson Campbell | Jolie Atkins |
| 11 Jack Beaver | 23 Rosa Dougherty |
| 12 Charles Sandy | Mylo Morgan |
| Gay Ferguson | 24 Art De Jong |
| Kay Salmon | Fox Watson |
| Matt Begley | Sue Cauthen |
| 13 Lee Ann Bannerman | Ashley McClary |
| Campbell Cauthen | River Edwards |
| 14 Dan Turk | 25 Wayne Mullis |
| Henry Griffin | Dan Davis |
| Ted Minnick | 26 Peyton Byrd |
| Bebe Watson | 27 Rebecca Askew |
| Michael Ballard | Andy Gwynn |
| Nolan Atkins | Paul Scouten |
| 15 Charles Massey | |
| Ernie Banzhoff | |



MISSION

continued from front page

Thus, once again we begin Mission Emphasis during the month of February. Like everything else we've done this past year, this mission celebration will be a bit different, yet familiar, as we recognize the spirit among us in all the work of the church, which is, after all, the mission of the church.

Soon you will notice the banner reminding all that BMPC is **Always Serving** as you drive by the church. Each week as part of the Sunday service we will see the flags of our mission partners and hear from representatives of the mission efforts we support. On **February 7**, we'll observe "Souper Bowl" Sunday for SVCM, but this year, instead of soup, SVCM needs all sorts of canned beans, crackers, and cash donations earmarked for Souper Bowl. On Sunday, **January 31**, our virtual guest minister will be John McCall, our mission partner in Taiwan and long time friend of BMPC. On Sunday, **February 14**, our children will lead us in worship taking their place in the wider mission of our church and as we have done in the past, we will be collecting items to help our neighbors. This year, Cheryl Wilson director of SVCM, has identified the particular need for personal items for those who come to the ministry for assistance. If you are able to donate, leave the items on the table inside the front door 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or leave them in the "Kindness Corner" box outside marked SVCM Personal items.

Life has changed and we often hear about our "New Normal," but for BMPC our mission normal hasn't changed. In fact, our COVID restrictions have brought mission home. In the "old normal," we regularly recognized the formal mission efforts we are part of, but this year mission celebrates each of us as we are called to serve, to support those who can serve in our stead, and to continue to pray for God's world.

— Margo Smith



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road, PO Box 39
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-669-2725 Fax: 828-669-2727
www.bmpcnc.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
BLACK
MOUNTAIN, NC
Permit No. 36

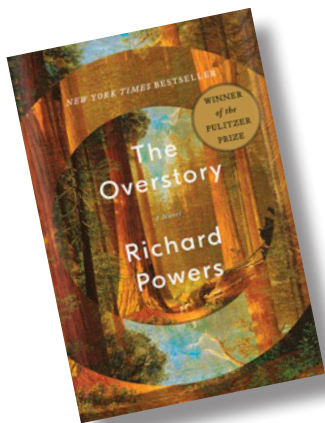
BMPC office hours
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth



Earth Care's New Book Study **beginning Monday, February 22, 1:00 p.m.** *The Overstory* by Richard Powers

All are welcome to join us Monday afternoons
on Zoom or outside (weather permitting) to read
and study this Pulitzer Prize-winning book.

“Monumental ... A gigantic fable of genuine truths.”

– Barbara Kingsolver, *The New York Times Book Review*