



# 2022 BMPC Annual Report

# DEAR BLACK MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

What an amazing year we have shared together at BMPC in 2022! We are growing and blossoming at every corner and turn!

- Over 400 plus visitors were warmly welcomed and invited to connect with opportunities to worship, grow, care, and serve together in community.
- Our Family Worship Service grew from five to seven families during Covid to 15-20 families in 2022. Our narthex is packed every other Sunday with young families and children eager to hear and taste the good news.
- Twenty four Meat & Eat small groups met several times in and around Black Mountain/Swannanoa throughout the calendar year.
- Over 100 people attended our first Lunch & Learn of the year in October to hear and see photos and stories of my first ever sabbatical in 25 years as a Presbyterian pastor! Thank you, BMPC, for this time away to rejuvenate, rest and prepare for my next decade of ministry.
- BMPC held the most successful capital campaign in its history as it looked forward to the next chapter of ministry. Renovation on our Church House continued and we were able to dedicate our beautiful new house for youth, children, families, and small group ministry on September 11!

Each one of you play a vital role in making ministry flourish here at BMPC.

Thank you to our children and youth leaders, small groups, dinner hosts, ushers, greeters, singers, musicians, worship ministry volunteers, church school leaders, deacons, session members, and so many more who give sacrificially of your time, talents, and resources to lead people to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

As you read through the stories of God moving in our church during the past year, we hope that you get a sense of the Holy Spirit working through each of us as members of the body of Christ.

As we reflect on a wonderful 2022, we look ahead to the opportunities we have as a church to worship, care, grow, and serve together this year. In 2023, we look forward to building plans coming together for our Capital Projects. In early March we will start with Phase Two of our capital projects with renovations in the fellowship hall, kitchen, hallways and classrooms. In July, we will begin renovations to the sanctuary and narthex.

How exciting to look to the future and think of what God will continue to do in and through Black Mountain Presbyterian in 2023 and the years ahead.

Hope Abounds!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Katherine".

# HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME

Four Inquirers' Classes (which we changed the name to Discovery Classes) were held for potential new members and clergy affiliates. We had 21 new members join the church. At each gathering, a few session members described what their teams did.

Throughout the year we gave out welcome bags for first time visitors.

The Sunday morning Welcome Table was hosted by church members. The congregation was encouraged to sign up online to be ushers and greeters for both services. These are vital to our welcoming both visitors and members each week. A member of the Hospitality and Welcome Team was in the narthex each Sunday to help welcome visitors, and assist them as needed with finding the nursery, rest rooms, or to answer questions.

We were excited to hold our New Members Cookout. We invited those who joined between 2020 and May 2022 to attend along with all the elders, deacons, and staff. We had it in the lower parking lot on Saturday, May 7, and enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with sides.

On October 30 we held our second Trunk or Treat event. We had 16 decorated cars that gave out candy. We estimated that between 1,000-1,200 children and parents come. This year they were able to walk through and get candy from each vehicle. We also had hot cider and homemade cookies that we gave out. We also had a photo backdrop for photo ops for families.

For the second year during Holly Jolly we gave out hot chocolate and apple cider. This year we decorated the church bus with lights and holly decorations. We were set up in the lower parking lot beside the White Horse. We also handed out candy canes, and cards with information about our Christmas Eve services. We again had the picture booth available for photos.

As we enter 2023, we are excited with the enthusiasm and joy and participation of members and this community for the events provided. Be on the lookout for all the fun events we are planning for this year. Also, watch for opportunities to come help the Hospitality and Welcome team in spreading hope, love, and a true sense of community.

TEAM: Leslie Applewhite, Barbara Brinson, Julie Culpepper, Cherie Lunsford, Joyce Massey, Julie Moore, Deb Mullis, Mary Katherine Robinson (staff), Janine Spiller, Brittany Williams (staff), Cheryl Wilson (chair)





# OUTREACH AND LOCAL MISSION

Finances: 2022 budget of approximately \$85,000

- Denominational support 62%
- Local ministries 24%
- Global ministries 14%
- Various unplanned needs for assistance come from local and global discretionary budgets
- Special Offerings \$41,584

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

Guatemala partnership  
Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry (SVCM)  
Black Mountain Counseling Center  
Bounty & Soul  
Pisgah Legal  
Hope for Tomorrow House  
Tennis shoe/sock drive  
Hand in Hand (school supplies)  
Open Table  
MLK Scholarship Sponsor  
Walk for Your Neighbor  
Refugee support  
Alternative Gifting  
and more.



In January, we geared up for a new year with plans from months prior that were ready to set in motion. As always, our goal was and is to make an impact on lives right here in our local community while maintaining an awareness and taking actions on a global/international level. While funding ministries makes a positive difference, there's nothing like hands-on volunteer work to move the needle. Our own Jessi Stitt departed in January for a month long stay to assist the Annunciation House ministry at our southern border in Texas. Later in the year, she departed to support Marion Medical Mission bringing clean water to villages in Malawi.

Work continued to support the Amire family, refugees from Afghanistan, as they integrated into life in our country. Assistance continued as they ultimately transitioned from our area into Canada to continue their journey. The mission team formed the idea of establishing a standby team that would be ready with the knowledge and resource contacts to support refugees in the future. We are still looking for folks who would like to make a difference as part of that team when this need arises again.



Our support of PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Agency) continued with funding to support war relief in Ukraine and the devastating summer flood in Kentucky. PDA is a timely and accountable way to get funding to the right places and agencies for all manner of adverse situations. On a local level, we supported a number of annual community events as well as unanticipated needs. Did you know that our church has an endowment fund? Through endowment, we were able to partially fund a lift gate on the large Bounty & Soul truck. This will enhance the worker safety of this highly successful local food ministry.

In partnership with our Strategic Planning Committee, we began to explore the Presbytery supported Matthew 25 ministry program. This has been adopted by several Presbyterian churches in our area and focuses on truly making a positive difference in lives of the least among us. Stay tuned for details from our Strategic Planning Team on this and be sure to check on-line for more information on Matthew 25.

2022 was a normal year from the standpoint that a lot of people in our local community and beyond need our support. The Mission Team remains focused on what is going on around us and what we can do to help. Sometimes that is providing assistance through funding local or international ministries and other times, such as refurbishing the Hope for Tomorrow House apartment, things are very hands on. It's an honor to serve with a group like our Mission Team and I am constantly amazed at the level of dedication exhibited by our team members.

TEAM: Jane Belsches, David Carter Florence (staff), Anne Drummond, Nancy Ellington, Barbara Gaw, Susan Jumper, Dave McClintock, Betsy Murphy, Margo Smith, Pam McMurray, Grace Stitt, Jessie Stitt, Tommy Wilkinson (chair)



# FINANCE

The ministries of BMPC are exciting and dynamic, actively engaged in Embodying the Love of Christ by Welcoming, Equipping, Inspiring, and Nurturing the congregation in serving the community here and abroad. Finance has a quieter role of providing resources to the front-line ministries and acting as a steward for the money entrusted to BMPC by the congregation.

Finance acts behind the scenes, ‘connecting the dots’ and managing details needed to ensure smooth operations. We manage collections and payments through two primary accounts.

## OPERATING ACCOUNT

The Operating Account pays the church’s routine costs. This account is where your regular pledge goes and is used to pay recurring budget expenses, including utilities, staff salaries, committee expenses, building upkeep and repair, choir sheet music, and many other things. Although we have not closed the books for 2022, it appears that the 2022 Operating Account had Revenue (giving) within spitting distance of our budget of \$952,276.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT

We created the Capital Campaign account to fund long-term building projects for which donors made three-year commitments of \$1,764,000 above and beyond their operating budget pledges. In 2022, BMPC received and spent a third of the Capital Campaign budget on the ‘Stage 1’ renovations to the Church House, which opened in July 2022 and is now a central hub used by ministries and the congregation. The Stage 1 Church House project is fully paid off, and Finance is pleased to have cash on hand to fund the start of Stage 2 renovations in the church and sanctuary.

Thank you for being faithful during these turbulent times; your donations have enabled us to respond to real needs. God has profoundly blessed Black Mountain Presbyterian Church - which means we have work to do. Find a way to serve.

TEAM: Austin Brown (chair), Steve Coward, Kitty Fouche, Steve Riley, Mary Katherine Robinson & Sam Webber (staff)

# PERSONNEL

The BMPC staff continued to grow in ministry to the congregation and beyond with their energy, dedication, and creativity. The staff continued their work on individual and team goals. We are extremely thankful for the multiple search committees (Music Director, Youth Coordinator, and Bookkeeper) that led us through the processes and the hiring of amazing staff. The staff continues to display wonderful teamwork and relationships as evidenced by the seeming ease at which they function, even though we know they are like calm gliding ducks paddling vigorously under water. One of the areas of focus of the Committee was to support Mary Katherine in her sabbatical and resource the staff during her absence.

TEAM: Andy Banzoff, Ellen Begley (chair), Bill Gilliland, Diane Ginther, Mary Katherine Robinson (staff)

# EARTH CARE

Now entering its tenth year, the Earth Care Team at Black Mountain Presbyterian embodies care for God's creation through education, worship, outreach, and stewardship.

Our book group welcomes folks to join in a weekly discussion which has covered fiction, poetry, essays, political writing, and scientific writing by a wide range of authors. We began 2022 by reading *Our Last Best Act*, which addresses the ways traditional funeral practices impact the environment and options we may choose to reduce or eliminate that impact. We toured a conservation cemetery and hosted a luncheon presentation by the author following Sunday worship.

We also read from the anthology *American Earth*, covering environmental writing from Thoreau to Michael Pollan, and *Saving Us* by Katherine Hayhoe, a noted Christian climate scientist.

We work with staff and the Worship Team to include prayers, music, and liturgy focused on stewardship of creation. We also held a special Earth Care Sunday service.

Our Team also reaches out to the greater community. We promoted the Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) Overture "Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up," endorsing it as a group and presenting it to Session where it was endorsed and forwarded to WNC Presbytery. We maintain a community garden alongside members of First Baptist Church, providing fresh vegetables to hungry neighbors. Several team members engaged members of the Black Mountain Town Council and spoke at Council meetings in support of a Climate Action Plan. We researched the history of our location and, with the cooperation of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation, wrote a land acknowledgement, which was approved by Session. It reads, "To promote cultural understanding and honor our faith's call for truth and reconciliation, we acknowledge that we are gathered to worship, learn, and work on the traditional lands of the Cherokee."

Our congregation is in the midst of an extensive renovation of our facilities; we advocate for thoughtful planning and green building practices as renovations go forward. We encourage the inclusion of flexible spaces for outdoor worship and fellowship and areas of welcoming habitat for native plants and wildlife. We are focused on reducing our carbon footprint with a current emphasis on better weatherproofing and insulation. Meanwhile, we include data on the benefits of our solar panels (both financial and environmental) each month in our newsletter. We count all church members as partners in our work.

TEAM: Karen Austin (chair), Alan & Jane Belsches, Larry Berglund, Scottie & Tom Cannon, David Carter Florence (staff), Carolyn Crowder, Margaret Fouse, Jeannie and Carl Franklin, Katherine Holman, Jim & Kay Layman, Gayle & Peter Mudge, Martha Jane Petersen, Gayle Petty-Johnson, Robin & Tom Stiles





# WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND LITURGICAL ARTS

This was the year that we all worked to come out of the shadow of Covid. Our worship services were well attended and over time the attendance seemed to have picked up. It was wonderful to be back in church and worship together!

First Light continued during this year and was having excellent attendance

Earlier in the year and into the summer there were various other services.

Taize and Take Five at Five were offered as vesper services.

Family worship continued and was very well received.

During the summer, a porch song worship was offered at the Church House.

Ash Wednesday was a time of scripture and drama led by Aaron Price, as well as a cellist and the choir.

For Easter, lilies were ordered and displayed. The cross was placed outside in front of the church for flowers and greenery and the Easter banner was hung in the Sanctuary. The Worship Team had a work day to set everything up for Easter.

The Worship team worked feverishly and completed Pentecost art for the Narthex. The art consisted of mobiles from which hung the words “God be with you” in about 50+ different languages. Early the next week all the mobiles were taken down and we moved into our summer worship. During Mary Katherine’s sabbatical, Lewis Galloway preached mid-July through August. Our church also joined the Montreat PCUSA Church for summer worship.

In the area of music, we were delighted to learn that Aaron Price has joined the staff as full time music director! Ednae Fisher had been the organist for us until April. We appreciated all that she brought to us and commissioned Barbara Brinson to create a stained glass artwork to present to her.

After Ednae, there were a variety of guest musicians.

It was decided that we would be holding Communion services monthly and generally by intinction.

After 35 years of preparing the elements for Communion, the Banzoffs retired from doing a faithful and outstanding job. We presented them with an embroidered bread cloth in appreciation.

We have welcomed Jeff Vancini onto our committee. Jeff is willing to take over the job of Communion preparation.



The use of lay readers has been discussed and all agree this is something that is important to us all. At this point, there has not been a decision about how to organize this plan, but frequent lay leaders are desired and appreciated.

In October, the church held a ministry fair and as a result, our team was joined by several new and energetic members.

Liturgical art is art created to enhance the worship service, (as opposed to mere decorating) and this group has been busy and involved with the creation and installation throughout the year.



The large Easter banner was hung during Eastertide. White/red paraments and a fresh cloth for the Table were purchased.

Barbara Brinson created a beautiful Bountiful Harvest cornucopia for the Table.

For the Advent/Christmas season, a “Deck the Church” event was held on the first Advent Sunday afternoon. Many folks attended and helped with the monumental job of setting up and decorating two Christmas trees, hanging lights out on the trees in front of the church, hanging wreaths both inside and outside of the church. Patti Pyle put together a beautiful Advent Wreath for the front of the church and members of the congregation lit it and gave a brief devotional.



We installed two small shelves at the base of old hymn boards on either side of the chancel. Patti Pyle arranged greenery and candles in the new spaces.

Ellen Phillips designed a new 8'x8' Christmas banner. At least a dozen folks joined her at the church to help cut the banner, a fun time was had by all. The banner was hung for Christmas Eve and taken down at Epiphany.

This year we had a special art installation in front of the church. It was a large painting of the Nativity, created by Gloria Gaffney, a Black Mountain artist, who, with her son, helped install the large work and loaned it to us throughout the season.

TEAM: David Carter Florence (staff), Jean Chamberlain, Harriete Fulton, Barbara Gaw, Laurie and Jeff Fur-Vancini, Ginny Lindsey, Gayle Mudge, Ellen Phillips (chair), Aaron Price (staff), Patti Pyle, Mary Katherine Robinson (staff), Marilew Rudisill, Robert Sway, Gayle Shelton, Anne Strough, Beverly Thomas, Anne Wiig, Anne Wilde

# FAITH FORMATION

2022 was a year of growth in many ways and we were so excited to be able to gather in person again! Recognizing the changing dynamics and practices of our different generations, we continue to develop strategies to meet people where they are with faith formation events, practices, music, worship, and curriculum.



## PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Under the direction of Alice Patton, the Weekday School and their talented teachers continued to serve the youngest members of our faith community.

- In addition, the nursery and extended session continue to be offered for our young children during worship.
- There is an area in the fellowship hall during FirstLight and another outside of the sanctuary during the 11:00 service where families are welcome to take their children to give them an activity space if needed, while still being a part of worship.
- Brittany continues to provide regular communication with Weekday School parents regarding activities going on in the larger church
- Children are invited to be seen, heard and welcomed during Faith Sharing with Children at 11 a.m. worship, monthly Pastor Storytime and music with Aaron at the Weekday school.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: GRADES K-5

We continue to have a growing elementary program under the leadership of Brittany and David.

- RAD – Recreation, Arts, and Drama is offered from 3:30-5:30 Wednesdays for 10 weeks in the fall and 10 Weeks in the spring.
- Church Dinner follows the RAD schedule for 10 weeks in the fall and spring from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This is fellowship time with some singing and prayer and sometimes topics for discussion. (intergenerational)
- Preschool – Middle School kids met for 4 weeks in December to prepare and put on the 4:00 p.m. Children and Families Christmas Eve Service
- Family Worship is offered in the courtyard (or in the narthex, weather dependent) on the second and fourth Sundays from 10-10:45 a.m. We learn worship by doing worship. There can be up to 50 people attending these services.
- Picnics were held for families on the playground after worship, VBS, Trunk or Treat, Easter activity, and more!



- Brittany continues to provide regular communication to families through a weekly family email and regular updates provided on the family Facebook page.
- Brittany brought on new volunteers during this time and included parents as volunteers.
- Children and Youth were integrated into the 11 a.m. service several times each semester (fall and spring) with special attention being given to including children and youth on the first Sunday of each month as acolytes, liturgists, and musicians.
- **Stories and Singing** for children K-6 is offered on the first and third Sundays from 10-10:45 a.m. in the Church House, while parents/caregivers participate in The Heart of Christianity class led by Ken Kelly.

### YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

Katie Duvall started as the new part time youth director and we have seen a huge increase in involvement and momentum since she was hired in August, particularly with the middle school youth.

- Our youth leaders are growing in numbers and there are regular opportunities for these leaders to be trained/ mentored in youth ministry
- Middle School and High School youth have youth Fellowship Sundays from 2-4 p.m. Some weeks go longer for larger events of service, fellowship, or recreation.
- Middle School and High School youth have dinner at 5:30 and small group time on Wednesday evenings
- Katie sends out weekly texts, emails, and has a fully planned calendar for the semester.
- Middle and High School youth have service, conference, and fundraising opportunities several times each month, such as: Walk for Hunger, Bounty & Soul, SVCM Feed A Family, home repairs, car washes, potato lunches, Camp Grier, Montreat, Presbytery, PYC, and shared events with St. James Episcopal Church.



### COLLEGE

College Students continue to receive care packages twice a year. Presbyterian women sent care packages in the fall to all college students. College database was updated to reflect addresses of college aged young adults.

### ADULT EDUCATION

Classes continued to have their faithful following of members, and the congregation continues to show a strong commitment to adult education. A growing group of pastors and professors provide effective leadership, and there are currently six adult education offerings with about 80 regular participants!

TEAM: Alison Banzhoff (chair), Susie Burns, David Carter Florence (staff), Weston Hall, Ken Kelly, Emily Munn, Alice Patton (staff), Brittany Williams (staff)

## PROPERTY

With the completion of the renovations to the Church House, the cleaning and maintenance responsibilities of the Property Team expanded. We were able to hire a part-time custodian and end our cleaning agreement with an outside contractor, thus saving money and giving us the flexibility to direct cleaning where and when it is most needed. This flexibility will become even more important in 2023 as we renovate the church building – first the fellowship hall, library, parlor, CR1, and bathrooms and second the narthex, sanctuary, and sacristy. Landscaping around the Church House was a major thrust this fall as well as painting our turquoise picnic tables and resurfacing parts of the driveway behind the educational wing. In 2023 we expect to receive a report from our security consultants that will encourage us to install a more secure locking system on our outside doors. And under the umbrella of the Property Team, our new Renovation Steering Committee has finalized plans for renovation of the church building in 2023.

TEAM: Alan Belsches (chair), Dale Culpepper, John Koon, Wayne Mullis, James Robinson-Long, Hannah Webber, Sam Webber (staff), Tommy Wilkinson



## GENEROSITY

We began our year by selecting the theme for the fall campaign: Choose Generosity: a way of life. The theme was communicated to members through a Windows article in the spring. As part of the campaign, we also brainstormed activities for the fall. These included having the children of the church participate in a rock hunt. The rocks were painted by kids from the Weekday school, then imprinted with a word related to generosity and hidden around the church playground. Between services on one Sunday during the campaign, we held the rock hunt and the children could take the rocks home to remind them and their families of the meaning of generosity.

We also prepared a banner to hang in the narthex of the church and asked members to trace a hand on the banner to illustrate the fact that generosity is more than the financial giving to the church. Both adult members and youth participated and added a word that meant generosity to them.

We were prepared to have a lunch with Highland Farms members and to participate in the church picnic, but Covid interfered with those plans. Finally, we had church members record short videos talking about how they have seen generosity in their lives. Unfortunately, a technical glitch prevented those from being used.

We raised approximately \$787,000 on 192 giving estimates despite not being able to have all the activities we planned. This represents about a 3% increase from the previous year.

TEAM: Sarah Berglund, Dave Johnson (chair), Bob McMurray

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

Our goal for 2022 was to better discern the hopes and dreams of the congregation and to take action which will lead BMPC into the future. We began by developing and administering an all-church survey to elicit feelings and ideas about what our church is doing and what it should be doing. The results of that survey led us to recommend: promptly filling open church staff positions in youth and music; creating an open and loving environment for all to gather for fellowship and study; and continuing/expanding our commitment to mission and service.

## AS A RESULT, WE ENDORSED:

- Hiring Katie Duvall as Youth Coordinator
- Hiring Aaron Price as Director of Music and Worship Arts
- Affiliation with More Light Presbyterians and visible symbolism to make our welcoming known
- Study and open conversation in hopes of becoming a Matthew 25 church
- Work with Property and Faith Formation Teams to determine best practices for the church house use
- Recommendation for standing committee for possible future refugee resettlement

To enhance our awareness of the current work of the church, we elicited information from Session committee chairs and found that highly important activities desired by the congregation, based on survey input, are active, broad, and deep. However, we also recognized an improvement opportunity to adequately publicize this work to the congregation as a whole.

## OUR GOALS FOR 2023

- Utilize various methods, established and new, to effectively and efficiently deliver information to members about the work of the church including an updated and easily navigated church website
- Encourage active participation of each member in at least one activity outside worship
- Study, evaluate, and discern our commitment to becoming a Matthew 25 church
- Support the ongoing renovation of the church building, our mission station
- Look at future needs such as possible replacement of the church van and adjustment in staff positions and duties distribution
- Consider establishing a special fund to use for clergy/staff needs such as housing
- Support our commitment to being a More Light Presbyterian (MLP) congregation

Following the Festival of Gifts, we are pleased that George Thompson has joined the our team; he will serve as Kristy Beaver cycles off.

We look forward to the future of BMPC with joy, enthusiasm, and hope, and invite input from you, members, regular visitors and staff to enable our alignment with your views on the work of the church.

TEAM: Kristy Beaver, Jamie Munn, Mary Katherine Robinson, Margo Smith (chair), Russ Spiller, George Thompson, Tommy Wilkinson



# THE WEEKDAY SCHOOL

The BMPC Weekday School ministers to young families in our community by combining Christian faith with the highest standards in early childhood education. While the Weekday School is Christian oriented, we welcome children from any congregation and from the community at large. We believe that this approach gives us the opportunity to enhance not only our own program of Christian education, but that of other churches in the Swannanoa Valley, and to reach non-churched children and their families. All the Weekday School staff have a strong Christian faith. Through their love and care, we seek to teach the children how the love of Jesus affects their own lives and relationships.

We faced many challenges as we continued to face issues due to Covid. We provided a quality preschool program for one through five-year-olds from September through May. We served 67 children and 54 families during 2022, six of those children belonging to members of this congregation and four children to families visiting our congregation.

Scholarship assistance is available to children whose families have an acute need and is provided through generous donations from both individuals, memorial gifts and Sunday school classes. The need was great last year as we gave out a total of \$14,108. That is double what was used in 2021.

As a mission, the Weekday School program is funded largely through school tuition and special endowments, and partly through the church budget. The financial relationship between the church and the Weekday School was outlined by the church Session in 1987 and was reaffirmed by a task force in 2005. While the school is incorporated into the church budget, its day-to-day operating expenses are not a part of that budget. The church's general budget funds the director's salary, janitorial support, building space and utilities, and the maintenance of the facilities. The Weekday School registration, tuition fees, and Endowment Funds pay for teacher salaries, on-going teacher training, teaching materials and supplies, classroom furniture, equipment, classroom supplies, construction and maintenance of the playground equipment and required surfacing materials. All these supplies and equipment are shared by the Weekday School and other programs of the church.

TEAM: Alison Adams, Sarah Bolick, Linda Caldwell, Mistie Cogbill, Erin Dean, Ken Farmer, Sadie Ginn, Jeannie Maidment, Catherine Menendez, Jeff Muston, Robin Stiles, Linda Stroupe (Chair), Hannah Wells, Kristi Wong-Ward



# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life ministry increased its membership from four to nine members. Our overall goal is to plan events in line with our mission statement: “Provide opportunities within the life of the church for members to connect and form relationships through fellowship, recreation, retreats, church events, and small group activities.”

We continued with quarterly Thursday Night Live programs. This year our programs consisted of a session on depression, music by Aaron Price, and a holiday jazz concert at the White Horse with proceeds going to This Child Here. Repeat events from 2021 included: Bluegrass and BBQ, Ice Cream Social, Fall Picnic, and Soup and Caroling.

We instituted several new events. This year we started an ongoing program called Meet and Eat. People who wanted to participate signed up. Groups were formed consisting of eight adult members. The groups met once a month for three months. This program has had great participation and will be ongoing. One more “eating event” was a Pancake Breakfast/Dinner on Fat Tuesday. This year that event preceded a musical program and raffle at the White Horse. The proceeds from this event were used to help our Afghanistan refugees. We organized groups for two Tourists baseball games in Asheville. All members of BMPC sat together. About 50 members attended these games.



Our committee instituted a program called Helping Hands. We had signup sheets for people who would be willing to volunteer for a service that another member of the congregation might need. We got a wonderful list of services that members have volunteered to do. Our biggest challenge is to have congregation members utilize these services. We are going to revisit this program in 2023 to figure out how to encourage members to reach out when they have a need.

A future program that is on our radar is the formation of a group which we are calling the JOY group (Just Older Youth). We held a focus group on this idea and had very positive feedback. The JOY group will target members who are 55 and older. We are looking at monthly programs, short excursions and even an international trip. This will be a large undertaking and we will not be able to so institute it until the renovation of Fellowship Hall is completed. We may be able to plan some day trips to local points of interest as well as trips to places within a day’s drive like the Barter Theater.

Another program on the drawing board is organizing some Lunch and Learns. The initiation of these events will also depend on when the church renovations are completed. Mary Katherine Robinson presented a lunch with reflections on her sabbatical and it was a great success.

We have a creative and energetic ministry team and are looking forward to all we can do in 2023.

TEAM: David Carter Florence (staff), Andrea DeWitt, Nancy Ellington, Gay Ferguson (chair), Franklin Harris, Katherine Holman, Cynthia Keever, Janet Martin, Margie Stansel, Brittany Williams (staff), Jack Williams

# DEACONS

**WHAT IS A DEACON AND WHAT DO THEY DO AT BMPC?** The office of deacon was established early in the New Testament church to make sure food was distributed to widows and others in need (see Acts 6:1-6). In our denomination the ministry of deacon is described as “one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.” The congregation is divided up into 24 groups or clusters. Deacons are responsible for maintaining contact with their cluster and providing an extra layer of support, if needed, during times of crisis. They are expected to assist with the distribution of Communion and participate regularly in the ministry and mission of the church.

**THE STAFF OF BMPC RESOURCE THE DEACONS CLOSELY.** At staff meetings each week we review the joys and concerns of the congregation. We determine which updates need to be made on the whiteboard in the church office and published in the weekly Guide to Worship. I send weekly emails to all Deacons to keep them updated. Before Covid, deacons normally met together quarterly, but since we could not meet in person, for much of the spring we held an optional Zoom meeting in order to pray together, communicate, and share information. In the fall, we held our first in-person meeting since January 2020 and celebrated together at the joint officers meeting this past December.

**WHAT HAVE THE BMPC DEACONS BEEN DOING IN 2022?** Deacons encourage their clusters with cards, emails, and phone calls. Deacons use their own personality and strengths to make their deacon ministry uniquely their own! One Deacon shared humorous videos to give us something to laugh about. Some Deacons emailed links to inspirational music, poems, and prayers that they have shared with their clusters. Deacons highlight for their clusters the many creative opportunities that BMPC continues to provide in worship, education, and mission.

**WHO ARE YOUR DEACONS?** Deacons are elected to a three year term by the congregation. We give thanks to God for these deacons who completed their terms of service at the end of 2022: Susan & Ernie Banzhoff, Kay & Jim Layman, Mary & Don McMahill, Delores Spielman, and Martha Jane Petersen. Beginning their terms of service are Ann Carr Adkins, Liesl Case, Katherine Holman, Alice McDowell, Harriette Fulton, Robert Sway, and Debby Vial. Joining these newly active deacons for the class of 2025 are Susan McElrath (renewing her three year term) and Jayne & Ronald Vaughan, who agreed to begin their service earlier this past year. In the deacon class of 2024 are: AnnaMarie & Bill Arens, Christy Carswell, Julie & Dale Culpepper, Melissa Kadau, Ellen McClintock, Anne Straughan, and Ann Wiig. In their last term (class of 2023) are Karen Austin, Alex Carver & Joe Carreiro, Craig Cooley & Margaret Fouse, Diane Ginther, Jeannie Maidment, and Margie Stansell as well as deacons Janine & Russ Spiller who have agreed to add one additional year to their service.

**WHAT IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR DEACON IS?** Email me at [bob@bmpcnc.org](mailto:bob@bmpcnc.org) and I'll let you know! Lists are always being updated with contact info so we welcome your inquiry. I'm proud to work with these dedicated folks and will put you in touch with the appropriate deacon who will follow up with you.

Bob Tuttle, Parish Associate, Staff to the Diaconate



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW continues to be vital by offering opportunities for service, study, and fellowship.



## CIRCLES

Six circles meet September through May • 94 women (nine new women joined in the fall)

## BIBLE STUDY

Fall 2021–Spring 2022 – What My Grandmothers Taught Me, Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus • Fall 2022–Spring 2023 – Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight, Karen Austin, Bible leader facilitator, presented each monthly lesson on YouTube through the church’s website. • Some circles met by Zoom in

the early part of the year due to Covid pandemic, but all circles resumed in person in the fall. The videos were a connection for those unable to join in person. Three circles now meet in the church house.

## GATHERINGS

May – Birthday Offering Program in the sanctuary with installation of officers and lifetime memberships awarded to Martha Jane Petersen and Kay Salmon; PW Cookbooks were distributed. October – Thank Offering Program was a Sabbath Tea. Letters written to 30 college students

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Missionaries remembered by each circle with prayer and correspondence • Gathering of items for SVCM
- Bounty & Soul kits for children • Support for Hope for Tomorrow families • Collection of items for refugee family • Packing of welcome totes for Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families

## INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL MINISTRIES WE SUPPORTED

- Ministry of Hope in Lesotho • Presbytery partnership with microloans to Guatemalan women Ebenezer School, Malawi • The Fellowship of the Least Coin, an international ecumenical effort dedicated to improving the lives of women around the world • Asheville/Buncombe County Meals on Wheels • Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families • Black Mountain Counseling Center
- Bounty and Soul • Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women Chaplaincy Fund • Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries • Swannanoa Valley Transitional Housing for Women • BMPC Weekday School

COORDINATING TEAM: Karen Austin, Jane Belsches, Barbara Brinson, Andrea DeWitt, Nancy Ellington, Margaret Fouse, Diane Ginther, Katherine Holman, Deb Mullis, Patti Pyle, Lew Rudisill, Kay Salmon, Connie Schimpf, Gayle Shelton, Ginny Soll (moderator), Karen Smith, Becky Jo Sumner, Ann Wiig





# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## SOWING THE SEEDS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS AT WORK

Phase one of our Capital Campaign projects, the Church House renovation, was completed in July 2022. We dedicated this beautiful new space on September 11 when Pastor Mary Katherine returned from her three-month sabbatical. On that day, we recognized all the work that Wayne Mullis and several others had contributed to this important project getting finished!

For several years we had dreamed about renovating the Church House so it could be a welcoming and nurturing spot for our children, youth, families, and small groups. With the Sowing the Seeds campaign, we obtained commitments for over 1.8 million dollars and separated our projects into two different phases. Phase one was the renovation of the Church House.

Improvements included reconfiguring the entry and main level to be fully ADA accessible, creating two new bathrooms on level one, a beautiful kitchen, a large gathering room in the front and a conference room in the back. The crowning projects are the youth suite on the second level and the porches that wrap around the front and the back of the house, as well as AV/IT upgrades. The fabulous new furniture was the final touch that made the space bright, fun, and welcoming for everyone entering this warm and inviting space.

We will begin work on phase two in late February which will provide renovations to the fellowship hall, kitchen, hallways, and meeting rooms. We will also make the two bathrooms closest to the office area ADA compliant. The second part of Phase Two will begin in July with renovations to the sanctuary and narthex.



All of this rebuilding, renewing, and renovating is being made possible by the incredible generosity of those who gave and continue to give to the Sowing Seeds Capital Campaign. As of December 31, 2022, 140 households have made a commitment or gift to the Capital Campaign. If you have not had a chance to give to Sowing the Seeds, contact Pastor Mary Katherine at [mk@bmpcnc.org](mailto:mk@bmpcnc.org). Every gift matters!





## STAFF

Mary Katherine Robinson .....	Pastor/ Head of Staff
David Carter Florence .....	Associate Pastor for Congregational Faith Formation
Bob Tuttle .....	Parish Associate
Aaron Price .....	Director of Music and Worship Arts
Alice Patton .....	Director of Preschool Ministry
Brittany Williams .....	Director of Congregational Life and Children’s Ministry
Sam Webber .....	Director of Operations
Jackie Kerr .....	Director of Communications
Katie Duvall .....	Youth Coordinator
Suzane Churchman .....	Bookkeeper
Steve Kint .....	Custodian



**BLACK MOUNTAIN**  
Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road | Black Mountain, NC 28711 | 828-669-2725 | [bmpcnc.org](http://bmpcnc.org)



Earth Care Congregation



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

