

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

*Loving God with Heart,
Soul and Mind*

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The Pastor's Page By Catherine Taylor

Everything for the glory of God

As the air turns crisp and chilly and the leaves put on their resplendent coats of red, yellow and orange, BPC is nearing the end of Stewardship Season, harvesting the congregation's gifts to support God's ministry in the coming year. We have shared letters and heard sermons and testimonials to God's faithfulness to us. Those who wish to may come forward in worship on Sunday, November 5, to offer themselves and their pledges.

There are two views of giving at work in congregations these days: giving from scarcity and giving from abundance. Giving from scarcity happens when people believe resources are limited, the economy is uncertain, and the mission of the church should operate within these constraints. It can lead to a limited outlook about what the church can and should try to accomplish, turning the church into a very human institution. Giving from abundance takes the opposite approach, boldly believing that a generous God provides all that is needed for our own lives and for the mission of the church. Shifting one's heart from a theology of scarcity to a theology of abundance can take time, but results in a harvest of outreach ministry and inner gladness.

There is a wonderful connection in the Greek Language among the words "grace," "gratitude," and "gladness." These words come from the same root word, *chairo*.

- Grace, (*charis*) is a gift; we acknowledge that all that we have has come to us as a gift from God.
- Gratitude or thanksgiving (*eucharistia*) shapes the way we give and use our financial resources.
A thankful heart generates generosity. Giving is not an obligation or duty, but an opportunity to express thanksgiving for God's abundance.
- Gladness or joy (*chara*) is the spirit with which we give and plan our spending.

Here at BPC we strive to operate from grace, gratitude and gladness, urging everyone to embrace an attitude of abundance and give to the church budget from their trust in God and one another.

Last Sunday the sermon was on Paul's council to the church in Corinth to do everything for the glory of God, the theme of this year's stewardship campaign. May it become the theme of all our lives.

Peace,

Call

Newsletter deadlines!

We look forward to your items for the newsletter. Please have all items submitted to Sherry by **November 13, 2017**. Items may be submitted by email to: sherry@blacksburgpres.org.

Newsletter Schedule:

December 1, 2017 (deadline November 13, 2017)

January 2, 2017 (deadline December 11, 2017)

Don't forget our newsletter is available on our website! Check it out! www.blacksburgpres.org

GRATITUDE AND CELEBRATION

Joyful News!

Lindsay & Jeff Call (and big sister Abigail) announce the birth of their new daughter

Sophie Clara Call

Born:
Sept. 28, 2017
8lbs, 15 oz.



Prayer Concerns

Trusting in God's presence, grace, healing, and care, we also pray for many people...

- ...for Donna Stalcup who is in rehab at Kroontje;
- ...for Barbara Houston who is in rehab;
- ...for Kathleen Wampler who is in rehab;
- ...for Elva Miller, whose sister, Dorothy, passed away;
- ...for Trish Laurrell, Jayna Ratliff, Khara Coburn, and Lloyd Coburn and all their family members on the passing of John Browder;
- ...for Wilmoth O'Dell and her family following Charlie's passing;
- ...for Scott Lau and his family following Eleanor Lau's passing;
- ...for Jeffrey Anthony and his family as they begin a new chapter of their lives together;
- ...for the Leighton family following Fran's passing;
- ...for Larry Wright, husband of Anne Wright and father of Marcia Wright and Allison Kruckow, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer;
- ...for Ted Ake and his family following Bea's passing;
- ...for Juan Espinoza's father who is dealing with health concerns;
- ...for missionaries who serve God's people amid dangerous times;
- ...for Sherry and Randy Ingham's 3-year-old granddaughter, Emily Schroeffer, who was diagnosed with Leukemia and is undergoing chemotherapy;



Continue to be in prayer for Judy McCord, Nancy Leach, Edith Stockton, Rosa Linkous, Bob Stalcup, Mark Rakes, Marcia Cowley, David Doherty, Anne Grover, Joan Munford, Carolyn White, and Margaret Dawson.

**BPC WORKDAY
NOVEMBER 11
8:30—11:00 A.M.**



We're having a workday on Sat., Nov. 11! We will be working on a variety of things: painting a few small areas such as stairwell railings and hallway trim by the Prayer Room, cleaning up flower beds, repairing hymnal holders, and general cleaning. As time and resources permit we will tackle anything else that looks like it needs to be addressed. Let us know if you see something that needs attention. We will have paint and brushes. The church has a small set of tools, but feel free to bring your favorites. We hope to see you there!

**BPC'S FALL ART
LUCAS CRANACH,
ARTIST OF THE REFORMATION
WITH BOB HENDRICKS**

One of the ways we remember the Reformation from 550 years ago is by the artwork of Lucas Cranach the Elder, considered the most successful German artist of his time. He was a close friend of Martin Luther and he embraced the protestant reformation with enthusiasm. We are privileged to have the excellent photography of Bob Hendricks, who has studied and photographed Cranach's work. Bob will display his photos in September, October, and November. There will be another opportunity to come and listen to Bob talk about this exhibit. Stay tuned for a date and time!



**KNITWITS Next Gathering
Nov. 20, 2017 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.
In Westminster Hall.
All are welcome!**

The Knitwits have been busy this year making prayer shawls and lap robes for our church members who are in need of comfort and an expression of love. We have 17 of them available and need your help in distributing them! If you are planning to visit someone, please consider taking one of the shawls or lap robes with you. They are located in the bin in the Westminster Hall closet, as well as some gift bags, tissue paper and cards to enclose with it. There is a form on top of the bin for you to sign your name and that of the recipient. Thank you for your help, and if you have any questions, please call Christy Savage at [540-239-7735](tel:540-239-7735).

BPC'S YOUTH GROUP

During the school year Middle and High School students (grades 6-12) meet most Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for dinner, games, and discussions about faith in the lives of youth.

For more information, contact Susan Hunter at 552-2504 or susanh@blacksburgpres.org

Upcoming Dates for the Calendar

- Nov. 5** — Dinner & Discussion at BPC 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 12** — Rake leaves after worship.
Bring rakes, gloves, 11:30-2:00 p.m.
- Nov. 19** — Movie & Pizza at BPC **5:00**—7:30 p.m. *note earlier time
- Nov. 26** — No Youth Group—Thanksgiving
- Dec. 3** — Dinner & Discussion at BPC 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10** — Youth Christmas at the Zobel's, 1302 Mockingbird Dr., Blacksburg, VA from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- No Youth Group:**
- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Dec. 17 | BPC Christmas Caroling |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas |
| Dec. 31 | Happy New Year |
- Jan. 7, 2018** Youth Group begins for the new year!

BPC's CENTS-ABILITY COLLECTION
Sunday, November 19, 2017



Eating is something we do several times a day, just an ordinary thing, in a variety of places and a variety of ways; but even how we eat and how we relate to food is an expression of our faith. As Presbyterians at BPC, the primary place we come together around food is the Communion Table, but more often we gather to eat and drink at church dinners and in the gathering space after worship. We practice our faith when it comes to food by helping to make sure that no one is hungry or poorly fed (Cents-Ability is one of the ways), but also in our own practices of mindfulness regarding food and eating. Here are some examples of such mindfulness:

Purchasing: Be mindful of where your groceries come from. How far have they travelled? Have the people who grew it been fairly paid? Express your preferences through your purchases.

Gathering: Be mindful of how we gather to eat. Food is fuel and physical sustenance; meals are also a time to gather for spiritual and emotional nourishment.

Praying: Praying before the meal is how we express our gratitude to God for the food and for other blessings. We also remember those who are hungry and we pray for those who grow and prepare food.

Advocating: Consider issues of food justice. Do the farm workers themselves have enough to eat? Is the food being produced in ways that are humane, safe for people, and sustainable for the land? How can you support food justice efforts?

Gardening: Raising some of your own food is a good way to get close to the rhythms of the earth, witness the miracle of life, work up a sweat and engage the senses of touch, sight, smell, taste.

Reducing waste: Start by reducing surplus food as much as you can. Donate extra food to food banks. Food scraps and food waste can be turned to compost and returned to the soil to nourish gardens for more food to grow.

—excerpted and adapted from PHP Post: A Hunger Justice Journal of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Summer 2017

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES**

Presbyterian Women Circles
All women are invited to join one of our Circles!

Lydia Circle meets at 1:30 p.m. on **Monday, Nov. 6 at BPC in Fellowship Hall.** Elva Miller is the study leader and

Linda Waskey is the hostess.

If you have any questions about Lydia Circle contact Elva Miller at 540-951-8407 or elva.miller@comcast.net.



Hildegard Circle meets at 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, Nov. 13** at Jan McGilliard's home, 305 Country Club Drive, SE, Blacksburg, for a shared meal followed by a Bible Study. Newcomers are welcome.

If you have questions about Hildegard Circle please contact Nancy Furr at nancyfurr@gmail.com or 540-951-8219



Faith Circle meets at 6:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6:00 p.m.** at Sarah Woolsey's home, 2015 Hardwick Street, Blacksburg, VA. All are welcome.

For more information on Faith Circle contact Julie Burger at juliaburger@gmail.com or 540-951-2310.

**CHOIR PRACTICE AT BPC**

Adult Choir practice
Wednesdays at BPC at 7:15 p.m.

All are welcome as we kick off this new year at BPC!

Contact Interim choir director, Amy Cowan at amyecowan@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Advent Workshop and Alternative Gift Fair

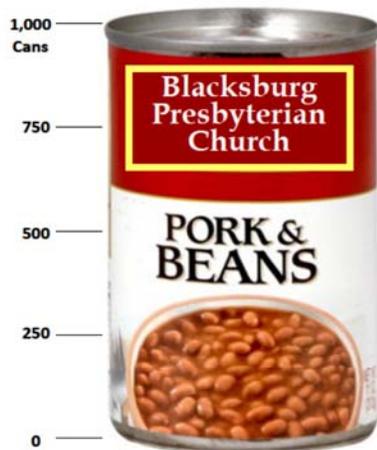
December 3rd at 9am
BPC Fellowship Hall

The workshop will include activities for young and old, including an Advent wreath making station (suggested donation \$10).

The Alternative Gift Fair will include items from Guatemala and Malawi, cards from Presbyterian Women to support multiple local organizations, and hand-crafted items from the Quilters and Knit Wits with proceeds going to the Women's Resource Center.



PORK AND BEAN COLLECTION FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRISTMAS STORE BEGINS NOVEMBER 5TH!



Help us meet our goal of **1,000 cans**
for the Montgomery County Christmas Store

November 5th—26th, 2017

Keep forgetting when you're at the store?

Write a check payable to BPC with 'Pork and Beans'
in the subject line and the cans will be purchased for you!

Checks can be placed in the collection plates
or dropped off at the church office.

Advent wreath greenery needed!

One of the activities for the **All-Church Advent workshop** at 9:00 on Dec. 3 will be wreath-making, for participants to put together Advent wreaths for their households. All supplies (including candles) and instructions will be provided for a suggested donation to cover costs.

The greatest need is for greenery!

If you can help us by bringing in some prunings from your evergreen (cedar, boxwood and holly, etc.), we will be grateful. Nandina and Dusty Miller also looks good, along with other kinds of berries. Hemlock and yew tend to drop needles too fast.

If you are willing to bring in greenery, please inform Sarah Windes at 951-8005 or swindes@vt.edu by Nov. 26, so she will know whether there is enough, and can ensure that we don't end up with too much of one thing. And please bring your greenery to the fellowship hall by 8:45 am on Dec. 3. Thank you.

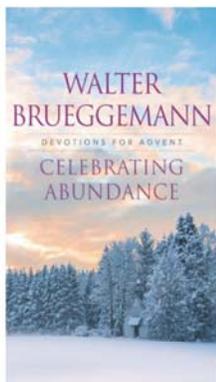


Advent Devotionals 2017

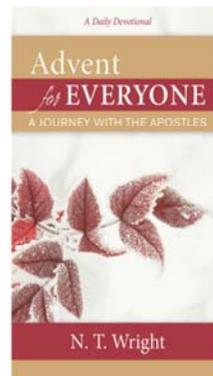


Each year, BPC provides a number of free Advent resources in the Narthex. These will be available starting Sunday, November 26th. There are children's Advent calendars and activity booklets along with Advent reflection booklets for adults.

Here are a few more resources you may wish to purchase for your personal use this Advent Season. You can do so through most online retailers including the PC(USA) Store. (pcusastore.com)

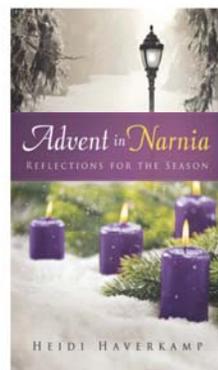


Celebrating Abundance This powerful devotional by best-selling author Walter Brueggemann includes daily reflections on the Scriptures and stories of Advent in order to invite us to see beyond the world's faux extravagance and realize the true feast laid out before us. Twelve prayers are also included for the twelve days of Christmas.

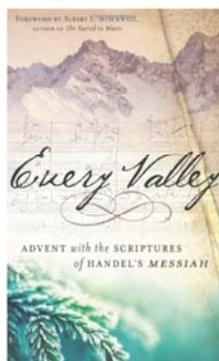
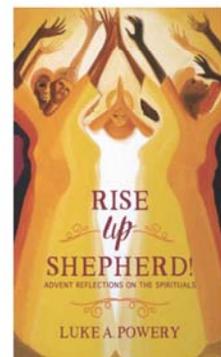


Advent for Everyone: A Journey with the Apostles provides readers with an inspirational guide through the Advent season. Popular biblical scholar and author N. T. Wright provides his own Scripture translation and brief reflection, helping readers understand Advent in the wider context of God's love.

Advent in Narnia, with its enchanting themes of snow and cold, light and darkness, meals and gifts, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope—and even an appearance by Father Christmas—C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* fits naturally into the Advent season.



Rise Up Shepherd! The African American spirituals give us profound insights into the human condition and the Christian life. In these devotions for the season of Advent, Luke Powery leads the reader through the spirituals as they confront the mystery of incarnation and redemption.



Every Valley This gift-worthy book will delight and inspire classical music fans and those for whom *Messiah* is a beloved Christmas tradition with essays exploring the theological, historical, and pastoral implications of the Scriptures that make up Handel's *Messiah*.

Forty reflections journey in order through the oratorio, taking the reader deeper into less-often studied texts like Malachi 3:3 and bringing new light to oft-recited passages like Luke 2:9-14. Each reflection offers the libretto from *Messiah*, the same passage in NRSV, and a brief commentary on the text, written by a respected scholar or pastor.

October 15 , 2017 Session Meeting Highlights

- Received report about the 2018 Stewardship Campaign. Theme is “The Next 500 Years.” Pledges will be received on November 5.
- Approved Dave Snyder to preach on November 12, so that Catherine can attend the Board of Trustees meeting for Johnson C. Smith Seminary.
- Discussed plans for hosting the Presbytery meeting at BPC on November 16.
- Discussed the need for a key volunteer for Community Ministry to replace Janne Mathes.
- Received report from Building and Grounds Ministry.
 - Estimate for work to upgrade kitchen facilities is less than the amount that has been donated (and earmarked) for the project. No structural changes in kitchen are planned. The table in the middle of the kitchen will be re-configured.
 - Possible purchase of mats to cover the sanctuary tile in front of pews is being explored.
 - A White Fringe tree has been planted near the area of the tree that was removed (between the back church entrance and parking lot).
- Community Ministry reported that they were still looking for someone to replace Janne Mathes as Key Volunteer for To Our House this winter. Since the meeting Joan Dickinson has agreed to take on that role.
- The meeting closed with prayer after the sharing of celebrations and concerns.



Words from the Creation Care Team

helping us fulfill our mission:
to actively nurture our relationship with all of creation



An opportunity to combine creation care and helping the hungry

Society of St. Andrew is organizing turnip gleaning at Windy Hills Farm in Riner this fall. The farmer plants turnips, pumpkins, etc. to be gleaned for use in food pantries, after which he plows the plants into the ground for fertilizer. Gleaning will be happening every Saturday from 9:00 am to noon until the ground freezes (likely in early December). Additional gleaning will also be done on Thanksgiving Day from 9:00 to noon (Help out the hungry before you partake of your own turkey dinner!) Families or individuals can do this; even children, especially 2nd graders and up. The only requirements are that you call by the day before, and that you wear closed toe shoes.

Their address: [1540 Creekside Lane, Riner, VA](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1540+Creekside+Lane,+Riner,+VA) The phone number to call ahead with your intent: [1-800-333-4597](tel:1-800-333-4597) - Sarah Ramey at SOSA or vaglean@endhnger.org

Call Sarah Windes for directions or further information. If you go, let us know how it went!

Update on our Creation Care Garden

Two new things to notice in the garden:

--We have a kiosk to hold our garden guides! Sheridan Bell used his creative design and carpentry skills to make us a lovely kiosk mounted on a stone base. In it you can find guides to our garden, with descriptions of the plants. Since the garden is constantly changing, the guide is a bit out of date at the moment, but we will try to keep it as up-to-date as we can, in addition to adding simple plant labels next spring. Thank you, Sheridan!

—There is a new tree planted where the river birch was taken down in August. This tree is a fringe tree, a small native tree that has fleecy white, softly fragrant flowers in the late spring or early summer. Southern Living magazine describes it as “tougher than dogwood, more dependable than saucer magnolia, longer-lived than cherry, and smells better than stinky Bradford. And it’s beautiful.”

Creation Care at the Presbytery meeting

Peaks Presbytery is meeting at our church on Thursday, Nov. 16. Our Creation Care Team has been invited to lead a 1/2-hour education piece for the Presbytery meeting! We are hoping to describe how we organized our team and got our congregation’s Earth Care certification, and we hope to inspire other churches to do their own earth care! If you are interested in supporting us, we invite you to come to the meeting at 11:30 am.

—Dates to Remember—

*-HCR—Hatcher Conference Room
*-FH—Fellowship Hall *WM—Westminster Hall

Check our website for the most up to date calendar

Sunday, November 5– Daylight Saving Time Ends– Fall Back 1 hour

Dedication Sunday– Bring your Pledge Cards

9:00 a.m. Sunday School /SHIFT small groups
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship with communion
5:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Group Dinner & Discussion at BPC

Monday, Nov. 6

1:30 p.m. Lydia Circle—FH
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry meeting– WM

Tuesday, Nov. 7

7:30 a.m. Morningstars meet—HCR
9:30 a.m. Quilters gather –FH
11:00 a.m. Prayer Group —Prayer Room-All are welcome!
1:30 p.m. Staff meets– HCR

Wednesday, Nov. 8

9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community—HCR
10:00 a.m. PJGM meets-WM
1:00 p.m. Adult Ed Ministry meets—HCR
6:00 p.m. SHIFT small groups—Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Saturday, Nov. 11

8:30– 11:00 a.m. BPC Workday
7:00 p.m. Master Chorale Concert at BPC

Sunday, Nov. 12

9:00 a.m. Sunday School /SHIFT Small groups meet
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Youth Group Rake Leaves –bring gloves & rakes

Monday, Nov. 13

7:00 p.m. PW Fall Social—FH

Tuesday, Nov. 14

7:30 a.m. Morningstars meet– HCR
11:00 a.m. Prayer Group —Prayer Room-All are welcome!
11:00 a.m. Staff meets—HCR
12:30 p.m. Children’s Ed meeting—WM

Wednesday, Nov. 15

6:00 p.m. SHIFT small groups—Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Thursday, Nov. 16

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. BPC Hosts Peaks Presbytery Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 19 Cents Ability Collection

9:00 a.m. Sunday School /SHIFT small groups
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Session meets—HCR

Monday, Nov. 20

1:30 p.m. Staff meets—HCR

Tuesday, Nov. 21

7:30 a.m. Morningstars meet—HCR
9:30 a.m. Quilters gather –FH
11:00 a.m. Prayer Group —Prayer Room-All are welcome!

Wednesday, Nov. 22

7:15 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Thursday, Nov. 23 Happy Thanksgiving– Church Office Closed

Friday, Nov. 24 Church Office Closed

Sunday, Nov. 26

9:00 a.m. NO Sunday School/SHIFT Groups
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, Nov. 27

1:00 p.m. KnitWits gather—WM
1:30 p.m. Staff meets—HCR

Tuesday, Nov. 28

7:30 a.m. Morningstars meet—HCR
9:30 a.m. Quilters gather –FH
11:00 a.m. Prayer Group —Prayer Room-All are welcome!
4:00 p.m. Creation Care Team meets-HCR

Wednesday, Nov. 29

10:00 a. m. PJGM meets—HCR
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Thursday, Nov. 30

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Caring for the Community– HCR

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - John Dillard, Shane Parson
- 2 - Eden Elizabeth Phillips
- 6 - Robert Gibson
- 8 – Linda Smith, Charles Taylor
- 9 – Arlice Banks, Bob Stalcup
- 11- Rachael Byron, Ben Johnson
- 13 – Sylvia Echols, Frank Thompson
- 14 – Marilyn Hardell, Bill Sanderson
- 15 – Chris Zobel
- 17 - Dick Frahm, Miranda Mauldon
- 21 - Sarah Woolsey
- 24 - Ian Davis
- 27 - Mike Giles
- 28 – Claire Sanderson
- 29 - Matthew Drumheller, Melanie Spencer
- 30 – Jack Barnard



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Gail Anthony, Carter Eschenmann, Payton Kruckow
- 3 - Anna Deater-Deckard, Dave Hayes
- 5 – Ella Lawrence, Shelly Threlkeld
- 6 – Nancy Artis, Matthew Green, Martha Snyder
- 7 - Judy Davis, Rosa Linkous
- 8 - Marilyn Hutchins, John Hunter
- 9 – William Ducker, Charles Good
- 10 – Tate Pospichal
- 11 - Mary Harder
- 17 - Mary Frances Taylor
- 18 –Carla Bundren, Peggy Cain, Laurie Good, Paul McFall
- 20 - Neal Boyd, Sophia Warren
- 21- Nancy Ann Williams
- 22 – Chris Byron, Judy Pospichal
- 25 – Susan Barnard
- 26 – Jack Call, Anne Grover, B’easy Thompson
- 29 - Emily King
- 31- Sheridan Bell

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
701 CHURCH ST SE
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060-5213
www.blacksburgpres.org
*change service requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BLACKSBURG, VA
PERMIT NO. 38

Upcoming November Highlights:

Daylight Saving Time ends! **Fall back 1 hour!**
November 5th
(set your clocks back before bed on Saturday, Nov. 4th)



**BPC's Pork & Bean Collection for
Montgomery County Christmas Store
Nov. 5—Nov. 26**

Monetary donations gladly accepted— make
checks out to BPC with Pork & Beans in the memo
line.

BPC Workday— Nov. 11
8:30—11:00 a.m.

Master Chorale Concert at BPC—Nov. 11
at 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary

BPC Hosting Peaks Presbytery Meeting—Nov. 16
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
(Volunteers needed)



Happy Thanksgiving—Nov. 23
Church Office Closed Nov. 23 & Nov. 24

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
*A Vibrant Congregation of
Welcome, Worship and Outreach*

701 CHURCH ST SE
Blacksburg, VA 24060-5213
540-552-2504 FAX 540-961-5691
www.blacksburgpres.org
Email: bpc@blacksburgpres.org

Catherine Taylor, Pastor: catherine@blacksburgpres.org

Amy Cowan, Interim Music Director: amyecowan@yahoo.com
Kendra Crabtree, Director of Communication and Church Life
...kendra@blacksburgpres.org

Susan Hunter, Director of Children and Youth Ministries...
susanh@blacksburgpres.org

Sherry Ingham, Office Manager: sherry@blacksburgpres.org

Viola Howery, Custodian

Ginny Taylor-Troutman, UKirk, Presbyterian Campus Ministry:
campusminister@pcusa-vt.org