

# **A Disciple's Guide** to **BPC Ministries**





# Introduction and Invitation

This booklet includes descriptions of BPC's many ministries, all of which have the same purpose: to demonstrate the Good News of life together in Christ. Here you will find ministries of hospitality, direct service, education, fellowship, and worship.

As you can see in the graphic on the next page, ministry teams are grouped into Ministry Circles, each of which emphasizes one of BPC's mission statements. The work of each of these Ministry Circles overlaps with all the others in different ways and to different degrees, necessitating good communication and a lively sense of mission. Underlying the Ministry Circles are activities of support and operations, including the work of both program staff and support or office staff, as well as the areas of personnel, property and finances.

Most ministry teams meet regularly to plan and direct their ministries, and would welcome new members. If brain-storming, organizing, planning or administration is one of your gifts, you might want to join such a team. Contact information can be found inside. Many other opportunities are one-time activities or needs offered by a ministry during the year. Activities that are time-limited can be a good way to step in and identify ways to serve.

Let this guide be a gift and a tool as you discern how you will share your time and talents in our family of disciples to support our ministry as a congregation. This booklet is paired with the Engagement Questionnaire form on the homepage of the church website, [blacksburgpres.org](http://blacksburgpres.org), where you can indicate your interests.

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# Our Mission

*To proclaim God's Word in our contemporary world (p.3)*

*To grow with commitment, faith, and understanding (p.5)*

*To welcome all to our community and fellowship (p.13)*

*To extend comfort and grace to those in need (p.14)*

*To work actively for justice and peace in the world (p.9)*

*To actively nurture our relationship with all of creation (p.17)*

*To be generous, responsible stewards of God's gifts (p.16)*

- Adopted by the Session 2014



# Proclaim Ministry Circle

*To proclaim God's Word in our contemporary world*

## Worship

*Praise the Lord all ye nations! Extol God, all ye peoples! For great is God's steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! –Psalm 117*

In partnership with the Pastor and Director of Music, the Worship ministry team designs meaningful congregational worship in keeping with the season of the Church Year, and supports all aspects of worship scheduling and planning. The team:

- supports the Pastor and Director of Music in the **planning of worship services** that are unified throughout in content, expression, and aesthetic.
- supports the Director of Music in planning for **special music in worship**, including activities of the Adult Choir, the Handbell Choir, Children's Music, instrumentalists, and soloists.
- supports the Director of Music in providing maintenance of the church's organ, pianos, and other **musical instruments**.
- supports the Creation Care Team in planning worship for the **Season of Creation**.
- seeks opportunities for a variety of people of **all ages** to take an active part in worship
- secures preachers to **fill the pulpit** in the absence of the pastor.
- ensures smooth operation of the **sound system and livestreaming** every Sunday and at special services as needed.
- sponsors the **Celebration Flowers** program which provides floral arrangements in the sanctuary on selected Sundays throughout the year, and arranges poinsettias in the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas/ Epiphany season and lilies for Easter.
- arranges for the creation and hanging of liturgical banners, paraments, and other **sanctuary visuals** such as the Chrismon tree, according to the Church Year calendar.
- ensures recruitment and training of **ushers** to greet worshipers (in coordination with greeters assigned through Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry), distribute bulletins, and pass offering plates for every worship service, including funerals, holy days and other special services.
- ensures recruitment and training of **liturgists** to lead worship on a rotating basis.
- ensures recruitment and training of **leaders for Sharing Faith with Children** on a rotating basis.
- arranges for preparation of the elements for **Communion**, which is served on the first Sunday of each month, and on special events in the Church Year.
- arranges for members to participate in worship through **liturgical movement** on special occasions in the Church Year.
- supports activities such as exhibits, forums, and workshops for integrating **the arts** into church life.
- supports the staff in planning and encouraging **individual and household devotional/worship practices** in addition to regular corporate worship.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** ushering, serving as liturgist, leading Sharing Faith with Children, helping to prepare communion elements, hanging and caring for sanctuary banners, arranging for flowers or floral displays, participating in liturgical movement in worship, helping with plans for the Season of Creation, assisting with worship live-streaming or other technology as needed, serving as a substitute for operating the sound system, helping with art programs/exhibits/workshops, or serving as a member of the Worship ministry team.

**Contact:** [Worship@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Worship@blacksburgpres.org)

## Music

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! —Psalm 95:1*

Music expresses what cannot be conveyed in words. All who sing or play are invited and encouraged to offer that gift through any of several ensembles.

- The **Adult Choir** welcomes singers from age 14–99. Rehearsals take place weekly on Wednesday from 7-8:30pm and at 9:45am on Sunday mornings. The ability to read music is helpful but not necessary.
- The **Handbell Choir** is open to all youth and adults. Some experience in reading music is necessary. Rehearsals are held regularly at a time to be decided.
- **Children's Music** for K-5th graders is a regular part of their Sunday School classes.
- Those who play a **musical instrument** are encouraged to offer that gift for worship in ensembles or solos.
- Those unable to commit to regular music rehearsals may join one of the choirs for **special seasonal music** at Christmas or Easter. The choir also helps with promoting the annual **Caroling event**, which is arranged by Fellowship and Hospitality and Congregational Care.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** singing in the adult choir and/or playing in the handbell choir on a regular basis or for seasonal music, by playing an instrument, by caroling at Christmas, or by helping with cataloging and maintaining the music library.

**Contact:** [alice@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:alice@blacksburgpres.org)

# Grow in Faith Ministry Circle

*To grow with commitment, faith, and understanding*

## Children

*Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. Matthew 19:13-14*

The Children's ministry helps children and families love God, love one another, and care for one another.

**Love God** – Teachers share God's love through Sunday school activities for preschool through 12th grade. VBS is offered in the summer for preschoolers through rising 6th grade. Worship bags are provided for children in the sanctuary. Curricula is coordinated with the Church Year and is regularly re-evaluated.

**Love One Another** – Being in community enhances our faith. During worship services, the Nursery is available for children ages birth through Kindergarten. The Children's Ministry sponsors intergenerational fellowship events such as pumpkin carving, gingerbread decorating potluck, a game/movie night, and the Easter egg hunt.

**Care for One Another** – BPC children learn and practice caring for others through activities such as: collecting food or other items for BPC mission partners, writing cards for ill or homebound folks, or cleaning and restocking the sanctuary pew racks.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** teaching or assisting with Sunday school or Vacation Bible School, caring for children in the Nursery during worship, re-stocking worship bags, helping organize the resource room, planning or assisting with a fellowship event or service project, or serving on the Children's ministry planning team.

**Contact:** [Children@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Children@blacksburgpres.org)

## Youth

*Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. —Psalm 25:5*

The Youth ministry works with 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to nurture their faith, help them participate in the life of the church, serve the local and wider community and build community among themselves.

**Youth Group** meets on Sunday nights at BPC from 5:30 - 7:30 pm unless otherwise stated.

**Sunday School** - middle and high school meet during the Sunday School hour each week.

**Retreats** - middle and senior high summer conferences occur annually.

**Confirmation** - a class is offered in alternate years.

**We Serve BPC and Others** through such activities as: cleaning up after communion, raising money for Souper Bowl of Caring, sorting Christmas food donations, collecting Baby Shop supplies, and helping at VBS.

**We Build Community** with fellowship activities such as hikes, bowling, movie nights, and other events.

**Volunteers are invited to engage and help guide our youth by** teaching Sunday School, serving as a confirmation mentor or youth advisor, cooking for youth group meetings, chaperoning field trips or conferences, assisting with service projects and anti-racism efforts, or on the Youth ministry planning team.

**Contact:** [Youth@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Youth@blacksburgpres.org)



# University

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. —1 Timothy 4:12*

University Ministry shows Christ's love to all Presbyterian students at Virginia Tech and to our own BPC students who are enrolled in college.

At Virginia Tech, the ministry supports **UKirk**, the PC(USA) campus ministry program through membership and administration of the **UKirk Board of Directors**, in partnership with three other local Presbyterian congregations. BPC provides 3 members for the **UKirk Board** each year. Members serve three-year terms with a limit of two consecutive terms. Ideally at least one of these members could also serve on University Ministry and serve as a liaison between University Ministry and UKirk.

University Ministry coordinates a **Campus Connections** program which pairs students with people from the congregation for one-to-one support and encouragement as they navigate their time at VT. The relationship may take any form that feels right for the partnership--family meals, periodic walks, carpooling to do errands--whatever works best.

Also, BPC volunteers **Feed the Flock**, providing a meal for UKirk students one Tuesday night a month.

In addition, we:

- supply Ukirk with \$5.00 Starbucks cards, 1 per student at the end of each semester
- promote and support fundraisers for UKirk and mission projects and trips.
- financially support attendance at Montreat College Conference in January.

University Ministry also supports **students from our congregation** who are enrolled in college. Starbucks cards or care packages are sent to BPC students around exam time each semester. Birthday cards are sent to each student. Mid-semester Thinking of You cards may also be sent.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** providing food for Feed the Flock, serving on the UKirk Board, preparing cards for BPC college students, participating with the Campus Connections program, helping with fundraisers, or serving on the University Ministry planning team.

**Contact:** [university@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:university@blacksburgpres.org)



## Adult

*And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight. –Philippians 1:9*

The Adult ministry offers classes and gatherings that help adults grow in faith and the knowledge of God. Areas of study such as theology, spirituality, social justice and personal enrichment are offered through coordinated activities that include:

- Sunday School classes
- Weekday Bible studies
- Adult classes, seminars or small groups in other formats or times as deemed appropriate
- support for seasonal observances of Advent and Lent
- prayer walks or “field trips” in formats and times deemed appropriate
- Occasional all-church family retreats
- The Smyth Lecture series
- Support of the church library

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** helping with library promotion, upkeep or organization; facilitating or leading adult classes; helping arrange for/organize a Smyth Lecture series; providing ideas for class or program topics; or serving on the Adult ministry planning team.

**Contact:** [AdultEd@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:AdultEd@blacksburgpres.org)

## Presbyterian Women

*Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s Kingdom. (Presbyterian Women, Statement of Purpose).*

Presbyterian Women is open to all women in the church. There are currently three PW Circles that meet for monthly fellowship and study: **Lydia Circle**, in the early afternoon in Fellowship Hall on the first Monday; **Hildegard Circle**, in a home for an evening meal on the second Monday, and **Faith Circle**, after dinner on the fourth Thursday. PW also strives to offer a winter retreat (**Winterlude**) and/or a webinar (**Women-nar**) for all women in the congregation each year.

PW supports a variety of benevolences at the local, Presbytery, Synod, and global level. These include Head Start, Blacksburg Refugee Partnership, VA Cares, Micah’s Backpack, Valley Interfaith Child Care Center, Massanetta, Children’s Home of the Highlands, Mission Co-Workers, and more. Individual Circles often take on projects, such as collecting items for a community ministry need.

PW coordinates and promotes the Presbyterian Church (USA) Christmas Joy offering during Advent/Christmas.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** participating in a Women’s Circle, hosting Circle meetings, or taking a leadership role in a circle or on the PW Coordinating Team, helping with church or community service organization projects, or helping with Winterlude women’s retreat planning.

**Contact:** [PresbyterianWomen@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:PresbyterianWomen@blacksburgpres.org)

## Men of the Church

*I myself feel confident about you, my brothers, that you, yourselves, are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. – Romans 15:14*

This loosely-organized association of church men provides a variety of services to the church and community. Some of their activities have been: preparing **church-wide breakfasts** in the seasons of Advent and Easter, providing **transportation** for medical appointments or other needs, meeting for **bible study** on an occasional basis, and wrangling the **Chrismon Tree** into submission in Advent.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** helping with breakfast preparation, providing transportation to appointments or to Sunday worship, assisting with additional programs for and provided by the men, or serving on the planning team for Men of the Church.

**Contact:** [menofthechurch@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:menofthechurch@blacksburgpres.org)

## Scouting

For many decades, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church has served as a charter organization for Cub Scout Pack 44 and for Troop 44 (Boys and Girls). BPC provides meeting space and regularly promotes the Scouting program, including a Sunday when the Scouts assist with ushering or some aspect of worship. BPC also has a Scouting Liaison Team to work with the Scouting program and better fulfill our responsibilities as the chartering organization, which may include helping with selection of adult volunteers.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** volunteering in leadership in the Scouting program, by serving on the Liaison Team or by providing coaching or instruction for scout merit badges.

**Contact:** [gavin@rowanmountain.com](mailto:gavin@rowanmountain.com)

# Justice and Peace Ministry Circle

*To work actively for justice and peace in the world*

## Advocacy and International Mission

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8*

The Advocacy and International Mission (AIM) ministry mission statement is: “As disciples of Jesus Christ we live out our faith by siding with the world’s less fortunate by participating in global mission and advocating against violence and injustice.” A major goal of the ministry is increasing **congregational awareness** of our international partners and of local, statewide and national advocacy concerns.

### International Partners:

#### ➤ The Malawi Partnership

Our goals and work have evolved during BPC’s 19 years of engagement with Malawi. Currently, we are supporting a very successful tutoring program for 4th-year students at the Mulanje Day Secondary School to prep for the Malawi National Secondary School exams.

#### ➤ CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America) and Mission Co-workers in Guatemala - Betsey and Eric Moe

We work through Peaks Presbytery to participate in a 35+ year partnership with CEDEPCA, based in Guatemala City, which provides women’s ministry, disaster ministry, pastoral and theological education and intercultural encounters. Betsey works with CEDEPCA in coordinating their Intercultural Encounters program; which has brought many of our congregation to Guatemala. In-person trips to Guatemala have now resumed. During COVID restrictions, they adapted to Virtual Journeys, a practice which has continued, engaging those who are unable to travel to Guatemala.

#### ➤ Philippines - Mission Co-workers Cobbie Palma and Dessa Quesada Palm

Cobbie serves as a mission facilitator, developing curriculum and leading seminars for local church pastors to enhance their skills in church development and revitalization. He trains churches in peace and reconciliation for the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform. and works with a clean water program for neighboring villages. Dessa coordinates the UCCP’s Theater for Evangelism and Advocacy, which trains church workers, youth, and other members to creatively communicate the gospel and bear witness to its transformative role.

### Local, State, and National Partnerships:

We work with and have contributed to the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), an organization that works to change prejudicial state laws and regulations. Some members participate in the local chapter of the NAACP and attend local gatherings in the community to advocate for Peace and Justice issues. Opportunities for advocacy for anti-racism, gender equity issues, prison reform and other areas of injustice are identified and shared. We also donate funds to the national Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

### Promotion of Offerings:

**Two PC(USA) special offerings** each year - One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter, and Peace and Global Witness on World Communion Sunday from which we keep 25% for local needs. We also coordinate the monthly **Cents-Ability** anti-hunger offering through Peaks Presbytery, and regular **Offerings of Letters** through Bread for the World.

**Volunteers are invited to engage by** serving on CEDEPCA or Philippines Partnership teams, organizing one or more of the special offering promotions, helping coordinate Missions Emphases in worship, coordinating Cents-Ability promotion and collection, organizing the Offering of Letters, serving as a liaison with a peace and justice organization, or serving on the Advocacy and International Mission team.

**Contact:** [AIM@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:AIM@blacksburgpres.org)

## Community

*Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. – Matthew 25:40*

The Community Ministry serves the mission of BPC through service and budgeted financial support to many of our neighbors beyond the walls of the building. Our goal is to share our financial and volunteer gifts with community outreach organizations that aid the most vulnerable populations in the New River Valley. In this way, we hope to better serve those who are oppressed, poor, hungry, unhoused, unsafe or abused, as well as those struggling to reenter society post-incarceration.

We have been regularly distributing aid to the following local organizations:

- **To Our House (TOH)** Cold weather homeless shelter hosted at area churches. BPC hosts one week each winter by providing meals, laundry service and overnight housing in our building. We provide financial and program support to this program of the New River Community Action.
- **Blacksburg Refugee Partnership** Volunteer-run organization working to fully resettle migrant families displaced by war or political unrest in their home countries into the Blacksburg community - we provide financial assistance and volunteers to this effort.
- **Interfaith Food Pantry** A joint ministry of over twenty-five churches in Blacksburg providing food assistance to income-qualified individuals and families. This is a program of New River Community Action, to which we provide monthly financial support as well as food donations and volunteers.
- **The Baby Shop** We work cooperatively with St. Paul Methodist Church in Christiansburg to operate the Baby Shop, which is located in a small building behind St. Paul. This shop provides supplies and clothes free of charge to children up to the age of five who are in need of community assistance. BPC provides financial support, donations of supplies, and volunteers.
- **Montgomery County Christmas Store** An all-volunteer, community-wide, non-profit organization assisting low-income families in Montgomery County during the Christmas season by providing a shopping experience characterized by choice and dignity. We provide food donations each year.
- **Manna House** Housing provided in the New River Valley for ex-offenders. BPC offers financial support and volunteers for this program.
- **Future Economy Collective** A volunteer group that focuses on meeting food-insecurity issues, supporting gender diversity, and providing support systems for transgender individuals in our community. BPC has provided funding and donations of food to the Community Fridge.
- **Music for Mission** Financial support for a BPC musical concert series that helps to fund raise for worthy non-profits in the NRV. (Examples include: NAACP, Interfaith Food Pantry, Women's Resource Center)
- **Additional projects** Each year the committee sends contributions to other community groups beyond the regularly listed organizations. Opportunities for volunteerism can arise from these wider contacts. The committee pledges to keep the congregation informed of any and all service opportunities.

In addition, this committee coordinates and promotes one of the **PC(USA) Special Offerings** - the Pentecost Offering, choosing an organization to receive our local share.

**Volunteers are invited to participate by** volunteering to drive, cook, do laundry, host or spend the night for To Our House; volunteer with the Baby Shop; volunteer with the Interfaith Food Pantry; volunteer to assist with services provided for refugees with the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership; give assistance to the Music for Mission Program by offering help with advertising of events; help organize a community service project or gathering; help promote the Pentecost Offering, including selecting a recipient.

**Contact:** [Community@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Community@blacksburgpres.org)

## Woodchucks (interfaith effort)

*Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with others. - 2 Corinthians 9: 13*

We cut donated wood, transfer it to a woodlot, split it, and deliver it to the needy in Montgomery County – for free. We deliver nearly 200 loads every winter.

We feel our firewood ministry fills a great void in our community, and can be a lot of fun, fellowship, and exercise. We are an interfaith effort, working cooperatively with Hearts and Hammers, who are from Blacksburg Baptist Church and Blacksburg United Methodist Church, and other faith groups.

We use MCEAP – Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program - and Montgomery County Social Services to vet some of the first-time requesters of our service. We also receive referrals from community ministry groups of local churches.

Our general practice is to cut and gather wood in the spring and summer, split the wood in the fall, and make deliveries all winter. This varies based primarily on weather, wood supply, demand, and targets of opportunity. We have mechanical splitters and dump trucks. We work year-round on Thursday and Saturday mornings, as weather allows and according to demand.

Each year, we collect donations to provide a holiday basket for each of the Woodchucks' clients.

**Volunteers are invited to participate by** donating wood, donating equipment; cutting, splitting, loading or delivering wood. In addition, there are a few jobs that don't require physical labor, including recordkeeping, and collecting or organizing donations for the holiday baskets.

**Contact:** [woodchucks@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:woodchucks@blacksburgpres.org)

## Helping Neighbors

*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. - Hebrews 13:1-2*

Helping Neighbors volunteers participate with other community agencies and churches to provide emergency and temporary financial assistance for people in the New River Valley. Community members often call the church office requesting emergency assistance, most often for rent or utility bills. Callers are directed to contact Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, because it is the clearinghouse for financial emergencies in the county. If, after the caller has contacted MCEAP, they are still in need of assistance, a Helping Neighbors volunteer, using background information collected by church office staff, returns the call the following Wednesday morning.

A community resource list of food banks, hot meals, clothing banks, diaper giveaways, domestic violence assistance, etc. is kept up-to-date to help volunteers refer callers to more appropriate assistance. After discussion with those asking for help, additional calls might be placed to landlords or rental offices, MCEAP, or the Oxford Houses administrator to verify information and see if BPC can be of assistance.

When assistance is deemed appropriate, vouchers are filled out, emailed/given to the church office, and checks are sent, mainly to rental offices or utility companies; no money is distributed directly to callers. The volunteer enters the information on a spreadsheet, so we know who, when, and how much we expended. Expending more than \$100 per family need is discussed with other volunteers or the pastor.

Funds for this ministry come from the church budget, Community Ministry, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and church member donations restricted to the Helping Neighbors ministry.

**Volunteers are invited to participate** by being a part of the team of folks who return calls weekly. Each volunteer usually returns calls once or twice a month to people in need.

**Contact:** [helpingneighbors@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:helpingneighbors@blacksburgpres.org)

## Matthew 25 Advisory Team

The Matthew 25 Advisory Team exists to facilitate and advise the congregation in following the vision of Matthew 25 to act boldly and compassionately in following Jesus to serve others - showing love, justice and mercy. Our congregation's primary Matthew 25 focus is dismantling structural racism. The purpose of this team is to keep our Matthew 25 vision before us.

This team:

- manages a Matthew 25 shared Google calendar to which the congregation has access through our web page, and a Matthew 25 shared folder, where we post articles of interest and news.
- encourages regular reporting of Matthew 25-related activities at Session meetings bi-monthly through ministry team reports, and in BPC publications such as the Midweek update, the Newsletter and the bulletin.
- provides inspiration and education through the various channels of communication mentioned above, including spoken announcements and reports in worship services.
- assists Ministry teams with event planning as needed, such as classes, joint gatherings, advocacy, etc.

**Volunteers are invited to participate** by serving on the team and helping with any of the tasks listed above.

**Contact:** [sarah@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:sarah@blacksburgpres.org)

# Comfort & Grace Ministry Circle

*To extend comfort and grace to those in need*

## Congregational Care

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. —John 13:34-35*

The Congregational Care ministry serves all of the people of the congregation, with a special emphasis on those members who are coping with illness, bereavement, difficult life transitions, and other special needs, sometimes providing educational events and trainings related to issues such as grief, loss, elder care, end of life preparations, hospice, dementia, addiction, trauma, and mental health. This ministry seeks opportunities to make connections among members while ensuring that all voices are heard in the congregation.

This team facilitates several congregational activities each year, including things like meals, hikes, and bonfires. The emphasis is on building relationships in intergenerational settings.

Some specific tasks this team takes on are:

- **Casserole Care** – Making a meal for those who need temporary help. Some cook while others pick up something at the grocery store. An on-line sign-up usually facilitates this.
- **Memorial service receptions** – Teams coordinate food from volunteers and arrange receptions where grieving families can greet friends after a funeral or memorial service.
- **Prayer care** – Join others to offer corporate and individual prayer, or pray privately at home.
- **Caroling arrangements** - This ministry team works with the deacons to draw up a list of people for the carolers to visit during the annual Caroling event, and handles the logistics of scheduling and organizing volunteers.

**Volunteers are invited to become engaged by** signing up to be called on when needed to provide a meal; signing up to be contacted to provide and prepare food, serve, and organize logistics for memorial service receptions; providing transportation to worship or for other reasons, or serving on the Congregational Care team in organizing focused congregational outreach programs.

**Contact:** [Congregationalcare@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Congregationalcare@blacksburgpres.org)

## Deacons

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer....Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.  
- Romans 12: 12, 15*

People who feel a particular calling to the ministry of visitation and congregational support are elected and ordained by the congregation. Deacons make both short term and long term support commitments to members who are homebound, in nursing or assisted living circumstances, are hospitalized or who are experiencing illness or other situations leading to a need for compassionate care. Training in visitation, prayer, confidentiality, and maintaining good boundaries is provided. The Deacons meet monthly to share with one another, to pray, and to study ways in which to better serve those with special needs.

Deacons are selected by the congregation. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact a member of the church staff.



Contact: [deaconcontact@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:deaconcontact@blacksburgpres.org)

## Welcome All Ministry Circle

*To welcome all to our community and fellowship*

### Membership

*For just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ  
–Corinthians 12:12*

The Membership Ministry welcomes newcomers and helps them make connections at BPC. The Membership Ministry at BPC is active in several ways to welcome and include people into the BPC family:

- 1) Visitors are asked to provide information on the Friendship Pads each Sunday. This information is collected, recorded and distributed to the team and to University Ministry. The Membership Ministry maintains visitors' contact information.
- 2) If a local address is provided, then a loaf of bread is taken to their home after a third visit with a note or visit to welcome them to BPC. A note of welcome may be sent to first-time visitors via email or a hand-written note, or our pastor may contact the visitors by phone.
- 3) Visitors who have been routinely coming to BPC are asked if they are interested in joining or if they want to be considered Friends of BPC.
- 4) New Member classes are held periodically, facilitated by the staff. Elders are present to help welcome the new members and provide different perspectives on the life of the church.
- 5) New members are presented to Session to answer questions of faith and be officially accepted as members.
- 6) New members are introduced to the congregation, and welcomed during the worship service.

**Newcomer gatherings** may be held to build connections. These gatherings are a relaxed time of fellowship and learning that include long-time members who offer friendship and answer questions about the work of the church. New member information is provided to the staff for inclusion in the church directory and other formats.

Membership makes sure that consistent visitors and new members have name tags, in addition to encouraging all members to wear their name tags every time they come to worship, to help people learn and remember each other's names. Membership also initiates the production of pictorial church directories when deemed necessary.

Membership assists church staff with planning the Season of Engagement, focusing on inspiring the congregation to offer gifts of engagement (i.e., time and talents) as an aspect of their stewardship to support and sustain the programs and activities BPC Ministries. In doing so, Membership works closely with Ministry leaders in helping to gather information for the Engagement Questionnaire each year as an accurate list of ways that members can engage in ministry. Membership then provides oversight and record-keeping of the process for implementing the information provided by the questionnaire, monitoring it throughout the year.

**Volunteers are invited to participate by** collecting Friendship Pad information; helping keep attendance records; delivering bread; writing welcome notes; helping with new member classes, gatherings or receptions; helping to gather or record time and talent information and implementing the use of this information; assisting with bulletin boards and /or video displays; or serving on the Membership Ministry planning team.

Contact: [Membership@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Membership@blacksburgpres.org)

## Fellowship and Hospitality

*Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. - Acts 2: 46-47*

The Fellowship and Hospitality ministry team helps with various events throughout the year to ensure that all receive Christ's welcome.

They partner with other ministries to host meals and organize stand-alone events, including congregational dinners and gatherings.

The Fellowship and Hospitality team monitors and supplies coffee and other kitchen staples and equipment, monitors and supplies cookies and lemonade for after-church fellowship, oversees the scheduling of a weekly hospitality host or cookies and lemonade, and ensures that the kitchen and kitchen supplies are clean.

**Volunteers are invited to participate by** arranging welcoming spaces; helping with set-up, serving, clean-up, purchasing, and cooking for events; monitoring coffee supplies, fellowship refreshment supplies, or other kitchen supplies; helping maintain and clean the kitchen; and serving on the Fellowship and Hospitality ministry planning team.

**Contact:** [Fellowship@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Fellowship@blacksburgpres.org)

# Generous Stewards Ministry Circle

*To be generous, responsible stewards of God's gifts*

## Stewardship

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. – 1 Peter 4:10*

The Stewardship ministry helps all the adherents of BPC to grow as faithful stewards by challenging the congregation to contemplate their financial resources and prayerfully consider what they can give to support the church and its many programs, and by helping disciples reflect on individual gifts and talents and how to share them with others.

Each fall the team plans and executes the **annual stewardship campaign**, the goal of which is to foster cheerful financial giving from the congregation. We choose a different slogan or emphasis each year, sending out letters to the congregation, and following up with all members to encourage financial pledges. We strive to make stewardship more than an annual fundraising event. We believe stewardship is a ministry in the sense that all of us are responsible to do what God wants with our resources, gifts, and talents, remembering it is only through God's grace we have these gifts.

**Volunteers are invited to participate** by helping to keep financial records, counting the offering on Sunday mornings, or serving on the Stewardship planning team.

**Contact:** [Stewardship@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Stewardship@blacksburgpres.org)

## Endowment & Manna

*If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest. - Matthew 25:26-27 (The Message)*

The BPC Endowment Committee is responsible for managing Blacksburg Presbyterian Church's endowment by overseeing the investments and establishing policies about how the resulting interest income should be spent each year.

In conjunction with the Endowment Committee, a separate **Manna Team** is convened each spring to represent the congregation in discerning how to distribute the current year's available endowment income. The Manna Team allocates some funds to existing ministry partners on an annual basis, providing support for initiatives that have traditionally been important to BPC, as well as longer-term efforts or new initiatives that seek to share Christ's love with the broader community around us. Groups of congregational members and organizations may submit proposals.

**Volunteers are invited to participate** by serving on the Endowment Committee or on the Manna Team for a one-year appointment.

**Contact:** [Endowment@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Endowment@blacksburgpres.org)

## Creation Care

*To actively nurture our relationship with all of creation*

*The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Psalm 24:1-2*

Creation Care is divided into the 4 main areas of the congregational PC (USA) Earth Care Certification:  
Worship, Education, Facilities, Outreach Beyond Our Own Church

Paying attention to these 4 areas ensures a balance across BPC's congregational life, helping all our ministries together be mindful of the need to nurture and protect the Earth, as God's good creation.

Each year, we form a team to plan and lead an annual **Season of Creation**. It is usually 3 weeks determined by the best days on the church calendar.

We maintain and update the **Creation Care Garden** by the back parking lot, in coordination with other people who work on the grounds. This includes weeding, planting, pruning, watering, mulching, and promoting the enjoyment of the garden.

We make sure the **Trex plastic film recycling team** is adequately staffed and functioning well, in addition to promoting the film recycling in the congregation and community, and helping to decide where the Trex benches will go.

We monitor any other **recycling projects** sponsored by the congregation.

We encourage **additional** energy-saving, office recycling, product purchasing and gardening **practices consistent with earth care and reduction of waste**, in addition to noting such practices for the annual certification audit.

We organize and/or promote additional **projects and events**, such as the End-of-Summer Shindig in late August, outdoor fellowship gatherings, educational walks, outdoor worship services, gleaning projects, international partnerships, etc., in coordination with other ministry teams of the church.

Our congregation is a Water of Life partner with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, through which we collaborate with other people of faith and conscience in Virginia to grow healthy communities by advancing climate and environmental justice.

In addition, we are connected with and share resources with other congregations in Peaks Presbytery through the Earth Care Congregation work group.

Between Dec. and Feb. 15 of each year, we conduct an **annual certification audit** for renewal of our Certified Earth Care Congregation status, which includes both gathering information about all the things our congregation does, but also visioning steps for the upcoming year.

**Volunteers are invited to participate** by helping to maintain the Creation Care Garden, helping with plastic film recycling, serving on the Season of Creation planning team, serving as a liaison with the NAACP environmental justice committee or with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, or serving as a member of the Presbytery Earth Care Congregation Work Group or BPC's Creation Care Team.

# Operations Ministry Circle

## Building and Grounds

*Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock. The rains fell, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. –Matthew 7:24-25*

The Building and Grounds ministry maintains a safe, functional, and efficient building from which to serve Christ, surrounded by safe, child- and wildlife-friendly grounds that evoke the peace of Christ.

A **Building Team** addresses issues concerning the BPC building and develops long-term facilities planning. In coordination with the day-to-day operations of the BPC Office Manager, activities include timely response to unplanned maintenance needs, scheduling and oversight of routine maintenance.

Volunteers **open the church** on Sundays. Typically, a ministry member or other volunteer will agree to open the church for one month during the calendar year.

**Phone, IT, and Security:** The Ministry has continued to get more involved in the technology aspects of the church as it continues to become a more integrated part of the way we operate. This includes internet, Wi-Fi, laptops and other equipment, VoIP phones, and the security system.

**Kitchen:** Given the degree of usage, the kitchen is mentioned separately. The Building Team is responsible for repairs and maintenance issues in the kitchen, in conjunction with Fellowship and Hospitality, which handles monitoring and maintaining coffee and other kitchen supplies.

Outside, a **Grounds Team** oversees the maintenance of the church grounds, including lawn care, landscaping, playground and parking lot maintenance and snow removal. Many of these activities are contracted to local service providers, with the contracts issued and overseen by the ministry.

**Playground:** Similar to the kitchen, there is a playground committee. Their charter was to update and rebuild the playground area. With the completion of the newly installed playground area, the committee will concentrate on future updates and upkeep.

As an **Earth Care Congregation** (PCUSA), we work with the Creation Care Team to ensure that BPC is a good steward of the environment. Examples include efforts to reduce the church's use of water and energy, to limit the use of chemicals on the grounds, and to make the grounds more hospitable to native wildlife.

The B&G ministry also coordinates on issues related to the **columbarium**, particularly in areas such as upkeep and new construction.

**Work Days** for inside and outside cleaning, simple maintenance, spreading mulch and other tasks may be scheduled as needed.

**Volunteers are invited to participate** by assisting with minor maintenance, including weeding flower beds, pruning shrubs and trees, as well as larger projects, such as mulching or painting; being on the schedule for opening the building on Sundays; helping with IT and other electronic equipment issues; helping with maintenance of the remodeled playground; or serving on the Building Team or the Grounds Team.

**Contact:** [Buildingsandgrounds@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Buildingsandgrounds@blacksburgpres.org)

## Personnel

*Pay to all what is due them--taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. — Romans 13:7*

BPC seeks to be a workplace that is conducive to personal and professional growth, where employees thrive as they seek to do well the work to which they have been called. The Personnel ministry supports the staff in accomplishing this vision, offering regular **evaluation** and **financial support** for professional seminars, conferences and workshops. The ministry also oversees the submission of required forms to the denomination and the Board of Pensions.

**Contact:** [Personnel@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Personnel@blacksburgpres.org)

## Office

**Volunteers are invited to participate** by helping in the office in the following ways: filling in for the office manager by answering phones, etc., assisting with assembly of bulletins and other mailings or handouts, data entry, or providing technological advice or assistance.

## Staff Contacts

Pastor—Sarah Wiles

[PastorSarah@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:PastorSarah@blacksburgpres.org)

Director of Music and Organist—Alice Brooks Sanders

[alice@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:alice@blacksburgpres.org)

Coordinator of Church Life – Sarah Windes

[Sarah@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Sarah@blacksburgpres.org)

Director of Children and Youth Ministries—Susan Hunter

[SusanH@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:SusanH@blacksburgpres.org)

Office Administrator—Rhonda Waller

[Rhonda@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Rhonda@blacksburgpres.org)

## Ministry Team Leaders

### **Proclaim Ministry Circle:**

Worship Ministry - Elizabeth Day (elder liaison and chair)

### **Grow in Faith Ministry Circle:**

Children's Ministry - Susan Bailey (elder liaison), Susan Hunter (Dir. of Children's Ed and Youth)

Youth Ministry - Mary Lee Hendricks (elder liaison), Susan Hunter

Adult Ministry - Russell Gregory (elder liaison and chair)

Presbyterian Women - Natasha Lowe (coordinator)

Men of the Church - Craig Woolsey (coordinator)

University Ministry - Paula Stith (elder liaison and chair)

### **Justice and Peace Ministry Circle:**

Advocacy and International Mission - Rachel Parson (chair, elder liaison)

Community Ministry - Deb Call (elder liaison, chair)

Helping Neighbors - no coordinator

Matthew 25 Advisory Team - Sarah Windes (convener)

Woodchucks - Mike Harvey (coordinator)

### **Comfort and Grace Ministry Circle:**

Congregational Care Ministry - Todd Lowe (chair, elder liaison), Emily Rhodes Hunter (BPC Parish Associate)

Deacons - Sarah Wiles (moderator)

### **Welcome All Ministry Circle:**

Membership Ministry - coordinator TBD

Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry - Gabe Minnich (elder liaison, chair)

### **Generous Stewards Ministry Circle:**

Stewardship Ministry - Judy Pospichal (elder liaison, chair)

Endowment and Manna Ministry - Tom Tillar (elder liaison, chair)

Creation Care Team - Sarah Windes (chair)

### **Operations/Support Ministry Circle:**

Buildings and Grounds Ministry – Jim Rakes (elder liaison, convenor) Kyle White (elder liaison)

Personnel Ministry - co-chairs: Marilyn Hutchins, Judy Pospichal (elder liaison)

General Media Support – Jonathan Anderson, Gavin Faulkner

## Elders

CLASS OF 2024

**Deb Call**

**Mary Lee Hendricks**

**Judy Pospichal**

**Jim Rakes**

**Paula Stith**

CLASS OF 2025

**Elizabeth Day**

**Todd Lowe**

**Rachel Parson**

**Kyle White**

CLASS OF 2026

**Gabe Minnich**

**Russell Gregory**

**Susan Bailey**

**Tom Tillar**

**Clerk of Session - Jack Call**

**Deacons** - Anne Campbell, Suzanne Ducker, Bill Hendricks, Linda Smith, Elva Miller, Christy Savage



FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,  
*Blacksburg Presbyterian Church*  
THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO.  
MATTHEW 6:21

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