



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

*Loving God with Heart, Soul and
Mind*

The Pastor's Page By Catherine Taylor

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

August is both the meat of summer and a time of transition. This month our relaxed mid-summer days begin to give way to preparations for the program year. And it starts with children.

In one sense everything in the Church starts with children. Baptism, which usually takes place when we are small, begins our life in God. The sacrament of baptism is the sign and seal of our belonging to God. Many of us decide to rediscover and renew our faith once we are parents or aunts and uncles, seeking to be good examples for the youngest people in our lives. Much of what the church does is directed at teaching children, and to help parents and grandparents teach and nurture them in faith. Our most beloved bible stories concern the infant Jesus, lying in his manger bed, a tiny king in anything but royal surroundings. The needs of children shape much of our communal life and our program year.

On Sunday August 19 we'll have our Rally Day celebration in the Fellowship Hall, the official kick-off of Sunday School for all ages. There will be stations for fun and crafts and learning for children and adults along with light refreshments for those who skipped breakfast. Then in worship we'll honor our children's milestones as First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Graders begin new phases of discipleship. The bulletin will be printed with the youngest children in mind, using descriptive phrases for each part of worship along with icons and images as well as words. Each year when we print the bulletin this way some adults tell us it helps them better understand why we worship the way we do!

The milestone service has become a tradition now at BPC and is certainly one of my favorites. It is wonderful to see the younger children's faces as they watch the older kids coming forward to receive their own Bibles or other gifts that mark their growth in faith and stature. I trust they are looking forward to moving through the stages themselves, making the journey from being the littlest worshippers to being big kids.

We big kids, meanwhile, have a responsibility to ensure that worship is a joyful, meaningful hour, one that we don't want to miss ourselves. That is the greatest gift we can give our little ones—the example of our own attendance and devotion. I do love summers at BPC because it gives me time to catch my breath. But the return of the program year is welcome as those who have taken time for vacations and leisure return to fill the sanctuary with praise.

No one can say that worship at BPC is light on content—musically or spiritually. Let's make sure the little ones around us see adults making worship a priority in their lives throughout the year.

Peace,

Catherine

Newsletter deadlines!

We look forward to your items for the newsletter. Please have all items submitted to Sherry by **August 15, 2018**. Items may be submitted by email to: sherry@blacksburgpres.org.

Newsletter Schedule:

September 1, 2018 (deadline August 15)

October 1, 2018 (deadline September 14, 2018)

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



Dear BPC,

The family of Neal Boyd would like to thank the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church for the love, care, and outreach you have shown Neal over the past several years, and especially the past several months. Neal's memorial service and reception were exactly what he would have wanted, and exactly what his family needed. We are grateful to the caring volunteers of BPC who made this possible.

Mike Boyd and Karen Torgersen

Prayer Concerns

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



...for Suzanne Ducker, and her family, whose father passed away;
 ...for Lois Price who is healing following a car accident;
 ...for Janice Woodard who is hospitalized and will return to Heritage Hall;
 ...for Bob Stuart who is in hospice care;
 ...for Phyllis Hain who is recovering from a broken hip;
 ...for the family of Margaret Grayson, who passed away;
 ...for the family of Neal Boyd, who passed away;
 ...for the family of Linda Haak, who passed away;
 ...for the family of Kathleen Wampler, who passed away;
 ...for William Ducker's father who is dealing with health issues;
 ...for Larry Wright, husband of Anne Wright and father of Marcia Wright and Allison Kruckow, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer;
 ...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 is undergoing her last chemo treatment!

Continue to be in prayer for Easley Smith, Shirley Larson, John Wilson, Alfred Howery, Jackie Harder, Edith Stockton, Susan Barnard, Laurie Wolf, Barbara Houston, Ted Ake, Wilmoth O'Dell, Rosa Linkous, Mark Rakes, Marcia Cowley, David Doherty, Anne Grover, Joan Munford, Carolyn White, and Margaret Dawson.



To the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church Family,

What a wonderful church family you have been to David, Trish, Samantha and Isaac Haak!

My Sister and I write to thank you for all the time and planning you did to help us celebrate the life our sister, Linda Haak, in her Memorial Service and the lovely reception afterward. The library was so beautiful and comfortable for us. All the yummy refreshments made us feel right at home.

Please know how much we appreciated your time, effort, and love, as you made us feel so very welcome in your house of worship.

Most Sincerely,
 Susan Haak Hinson
 & Nancy Jeanne Haak



FAIR TRADE COFFEE AVAILABLE AT BPC Sunday, August 5, 2018

Fair Trade Coffee and items will be available on the first Sunday of each month following worship in the Gathering Space.

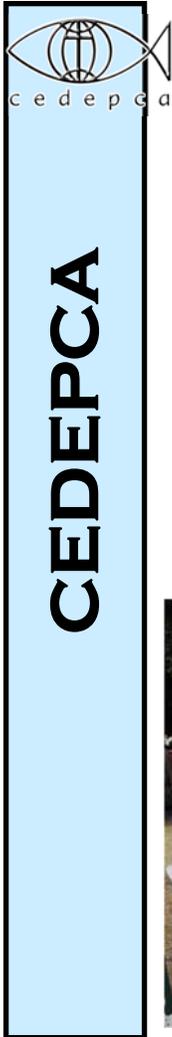
Help us to support small farmers with Fair Trade items.

Cub Pack 44 & Scout Troop 44

With a new school year about to begin, Pack 44 is recruiting girls and boys in grades K through 5 to join its Lion (new this year), Tiger, Wolf, Bear & Webelos dens. Dens meet in the Scout Room from 7 to 8 pm during the school year on the second and fourth Tuesdays, and monthly for a Pack meeting in Fellowship Hall on the third Thursday. On the first Tuesdays the Pack has a field-trip activity. We have a program of events throughout the year including Model-Rocket and Pinewood Derbies, Raingutter Regatta, Christmas Luminaries, Family Camping at a State Park, Placing US Flags for Veterans, Memorial, and Independence Days at the Memorial Gardens of the NRV, Hiking, Cycling, Swimming, Summer Day Camp, and much more. Check out our Facebook page at Pack44Blacksburg to see what we did last year!

Troop 44, the oldest in Blacksburg, has been chartered to BPC for over 77 years, and meets on Sundays from 4 to 5:30 pm for mid- and senior-high boys. The Troop has planned a program that includes service, hiking and camping opportunities to develop Scouting skills. We are excited to announce that the Session has approved the chartering of a Troop for girls that will begin in January 2019 under the new Scouting BSA program.

For more information on joining or volunteering, contact Cubmaster, Jim Dickhans (750-1662), Scoutmaster, Dan Goerlich (418-5768), or BPC's Chartered Organization Representative, Gavin Faulkner (449-6178 gavin@rowanmountain.com).



FUEGO VOLCANO UPDATE

June 3, 2018 the Fuego volcano in Guatemala erupted killing over 100 people and affecting more than 1,700,000 people. Villages were buried in ash. Entire families were wiped out. One of the programs that is part of CEDEPCA is the Disaster Ministry. They immediately went into action. They worked alongside with the emergency commission of the ACT Alliance (actalliance.org) forum in Guatemala to define the intervention strategy that would be needed, especially looking at providing psychosocial care for those impacted by the volcanic eruptions. They also proved tangible supplies such as food and clothing in addition to the psychosocial support and trauma counseling.

CEDEPCA and ACT decided working with people who had relocated to shelters would be a place to start. A team of three psychologists headed for Alotegange to offer counseling to those people. They were warned to be aware of possibly more eruptions, with plumes of ash reaching as high as 16,400 feet. (The ash plume was visible to the astronauts in space). Pyroclastic flows were also a danger (gas, steam, water and rock with mud, water, and pyroclastic material). This is what killed most of the people. The volcano is located 27 miles southwest of Guatemala City where CEDEPCA is located.

Please continue to pray for all affected and consider a donation to support their efforts.



BPC's CENTS-ABILITY COLLECTION Sunday, August 19, 2018

Food for thought as you contribute to Cents-Ability this month: Charity alone can't feed everyone. Our federal nutrition programs deliver more than 19 times the amount of food assistance as private charitable sources such as churches, food banks and soup kitchens. Food bank demand has increased nearly 50 percent since 2006. Yet 34 percent of Americans admit that they've cut back on donations to houses of worship, making the role of federal nutrition programs even more crucial.

Therefore, in addition to increasing your gift to Cents-Ability, the essential complementary actions are:

- to regularly contact your legislators about hunger related issues and
- to give your time, money and votes this fall to candidates who will help end hunger.

Offerings such as Cents-Ability can never work alone!

ONE IN 20

One in 20 bags of food assistance comes from a charitable organization. Federal nutrition programs provide the rest.



CREATION CARE TEAM
RECYCLING UPDATE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, with answers to FAQs

Many people have been dismayed by the recent changes in the recycling program in Montgomery County, and have been asking us for information. Below is the most recent publicity graphic coming from the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority, **showing policies that became effective on July 1**. Please read it over and notice any changes between your previous practices and what is listed here. Especially note that:

- ONLY #1 and #2 containers are accepted. (That means if you put any other #s of plastic containers in your recycling bin, they will be pulled out and sent to the landfill.)
- Shredded paper is no longer accepted in curbside recycling. (Shred only what you have to, and then deliver it yourself to MRSWA - address below)
Don't bag anything. It just messes up the sorting process. Dump it all loosely in your bin (dry, with containers emptied out)

Why is shredded paper no longer accepted curbside?

As the recyclables go through the sorting process, bits of shredded paper tend to stick to everything and get mixed in with other types of items. It is THE most common and most irritating contaminant.

What should I do with shredded paper?

You can reduce your shredded paper to include only that which is essential, and you can take your shredded paper in bulk directly to the Waste Authority, where it can be handled separately.

Why are we not recycling plastic containers #3 -#7 anymore?

Throughout the US, most plastics #3-#7 have been sent for collection at US recycling companies that would then export it to China. Chinese recyclers would sort the valuable stuff from the chaff, cleaning it and breaking it down into plastic resin that can be remolded by manufacturers. Anything recyclers couldn't use was heaped onto China's growing trash mountains or sent to smaller processors that often pollute heavily but are hard to regulate. To reduce that pollution, the Chinese government has recently launched a policy that bans the import of all but the cleanest, most tidily organized bales of reusable rubbish. Now, #3-#7 plastic from the U.S. has no place to go, since the U.S. has only developed the infrastructure to sort and process the easier-to-break down #1 and #2 plastics. In other words, we felt good about recycling our containers #3-#7, but the environmental value of doing so has been dubious for years.

Is this connected to the new trade tariffs with China?

No, this all happened much earlier, some of it as far back as 2013.

Why have I not received a mailing about this from the Town of Blacksburg?

At the recycling sorting center, #3-#7 containers are already being sent to the landfill now, but the Town has a year or more to fully implement the policy, update websites, send out mailings, etc. Only ~2% of plastic recycling from households in the town is #3-#7 plastic, so complete compliance is not urgent now.

What can we do now?

All containers #3-#7 must go in the trash now. However, since this is a problem facing the entire country, a more sustainable solution is now more likely. New markets will have to be found and/or new technology developed in the U.S. An even better result COULD be that we begin to evaluate our dependence on single-use and "disposable" plastic. Can your household cut back on the plastic containers you use? Can we encourage companies to use less packaging by buying items with minimal packaging? Can we buy more items in bulk? Can you write letters to the companies who make the products you buy in #3-#7 plastic containers (things like yogurt, sour cream and feta cheese) and ask them to use recyclable plastic, glass, or paper containers, perhaps even pledging to boycott them until they do?

How can we begin to think beyond plastic?

This occasion has given us all an opportunity to start to figure it out! Look for further resources on this from the Creation Care Team.

Sources: <https://qz.com/122003/plastic-recycling-china-green-fence/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/11/world/china-recyclables-ban.html>

Carol Davis, Sustainability Manager, Town of Blacksburg

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS:

Cans	Glass	Paper	Plastic Containers

NO!

			For more information go to MRSWA.com or call 540-381-2820 <small>MRSWA located at 355 Authority Dr. Christiansburg</small>	



MALAWI PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY
MULANJE MISSION SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE
TUTORING PROGRAM:

Friends, following is the letter from Lovemore Monjolo to Charles Good, the Scholarship Chair for our Malawi Partnership, regarding the Science Tutoring Program BPC recently sponsored for graduating seniors at Mulanje Mission Secondary School. It speaks for itself!

Dear Charles

I took some time before reporting on the tutoring activity you initiated at Mulanje Mission CDSS. I was waiting for the last science paper to be written. Frankly speaking the tutoring has done great deal on students. They have confessed that most of the topics they covered during the tutoring, appeared during the national exams.

This activity removed fear and anxiety and instead they were equipped with a lot of knowledge confidence, and self reliance. Please extend our profound gratitude and a lot more thanks from the bottom of our hearts to the Blacksburg Congregation and the entire administration. We are very much sure that most of our students will do better in the national exams because of this tutoring exercise.

We will be closing next week Friday, 20th July 2018 for holidays with all the hope that together we have done a good job.

We are very much impressed with the July Newsletter especially p5 where our students are featured. It is really wonderful and amazing and great honor indeed to the students and the school.

Thanks and may the good Lord bless you all.

Lovemore.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE 24, 2018

- Session examined three of the four new elder candidates, who shared their faith statements: Sarah Woolsey, Karen Watson, and Youth elder Sara Hunter. Catherine invited other members of Session to share as well. The examination of the new elders was unanimously approved.
- Received an update on the kitchen renovation project. A permit for the project is under review by the Health Department, which has identified three minor issues that are being addressed. It is still hoped that the project will be finished before Head Start resumes in the fall.
- Brian Smith gave a report from the Buildings and Grounds Ministry on safety and security issues related to the church that his ministry has been studying. That work will continue.
- Session approved the Manna Team recommendations for 2018 annual endowment awards.
 - \$12,000 to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church's Malawi Committee to support the Mulanje Mission Hospital.
 - \$8,000 to CEDEPCA to support its programs of disaster preparedness, community development, and food and water security in Guatemala.
 - \$7,000 to New River Family Services, that provide safe emergency housing to families and children.
 - \$4,500 to UKirk, the Presbyterian campus ministry at Virginia Tech to support its programs for university students.
 - \$2,500 to To Our House, a thermal shelter for homeless men in the New River Valley.
 - \$1,600 to Micah's Caring Initiative, which provides weekend and summer lunches and clothing for children and nutritional support for the elderly.
 - \$1,600 to Valley Interfaith Child Care for its daycare programs.

Catherine gave an informative report about her experience the previous week as commissioner to the General Assembly of PC-USA.

August Birthdays

- 1 - Meg Laing
- 3- Trish Haak, Joe Ivers, Heidi Swartzwelder
- 4 - Nancy Furr, Heather Polikoff
- 5 - Lois Price
- 7 - Buddy Russell
- 8 - Frances Russell
- 9 - Brenda Long
- 10 - Malcolm Laing
- 12 - Les Myers
- 13 - Samantha Haak
- 17 - Jim Rakes
- 18 - Ed Spencer
- 19 - Deb Call
- 21 - Stewart Laing
- 22 - Bob Pienkowski, Edith Stockton
- 24 - Jennifer Grover, Suzan Mauney, Forrest Thye
- 26 - Russell Drumheller, Henry Evans
- 27 - Wilmoth O'Dell, Lily Rascher
- 28 - Natalie Rascher
- 30 - Chris Bundren, Jonathan Kruckow
- 31 - Rob Kincaid, Tzipora Roberts, Janice Woodard



September Birthdays

- 3 - Sonja Anderson
- 6 - Jeffrey Anthony
- 7 - David Haak, Carly Polikoff
- 9 - Thomas Tillar
- 10 - Carole Jubb, Joni Pienkowski, Sandy Schlaudecker
- 11 - Cat Oliver
- 13 - Jim Echols
- 14 - Vince Cilimberg
- 15 - Nancy Andrews
- 18 - Jessica Furr, Bill Hendricks
- 19 - Kristy McCord, Jim Thompson
- 21 - Larry Cowley, Carole Jubb
- 22 - Mark Rakes
- 23 - Allen Bame, Abbie Knobl, Vivian Bell Lawrence
- 25 - Eric Mesmer
- 26 - Julie Gerard, Martha Thomas, Brittany Stewart
- 29 - Michael Harvey, Mike McGilliard
- 30 - Bill Foy



Join the Choir!



The BPC Chancel Choir is open to high school students and adults. Music reading helpful, but not required. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30, beginning August 15, and the choir leads worship at the 10:30 service on Sundays, beginning August 19. For more information, please contact the Director of Music: steve@blacksburgpres.org.

5 Reasons to join the choir:

- 1. Choir is fun!**
- 2. You get to sing great music!**
- 3. It's good for your health—raises endorphins, helps breathing, relieves stress!**
- 4. You get to sing with wonderful people!**
- 5. Improves musical skills!**

End of Summer Shindig

Sunday, August 26th,
4:30 - 6:30pm

The Furr's Home: 708 Southgate Dr.

Nature Walk in Stadium Woods at 4:30pm

Led by retired VT forestry professor, Jeff Kirwan, Co-author of the book *Remarkable Trees of Virginia* and pioneer of new ways to engage people of all ages in the care and appreciation of trees.

Picnic at the Furr's 5:30pm

Enjoy outdoor lawn games and fellowship with your church family!

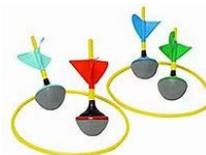
Bring Your Own D.I.G.S.

Dinnerware (reusable plates, cups, napkins and utensils)

Icky bug repellent

Games for outdoor play

Something to sit on (lawn chairs or blankets)



—Dates to Remember—

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

Check our website for the most up to date calendar

Wednesday, August 1

9:30 a.m. Staff meets - WM
9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community-HCR



Sunday, August 5

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

Monday, Aug. 6

7:00 p.m. Summer book Study—WM
7:00 p.m. Faith Circle meets at Jama Green's home

Tuesday, Aug. 7

7:30 a.m. Summer Morningstars at Panera-
715 University City Blvd., Blacksburg, VA
9:30 a.m. Quilters gather -FH
11:00 a.m. Prayer Group —Prayer Room-All are welcome!

Wednesday, August 8

9:30 a.m. Staff meets - WM
9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community— HCR
7:00 p.m. PJGM meets—HCR

Sunday, August 12

9:00 a.m. Teacher Training— HCR
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. BPC Connects

Tuesday, Aug. 14

7:30 a.m. Summer Morningstars at Panera-
715 University City Blvd., Blacksburg, VA
9:30 a.m. Quilters gather -FH
11:00 a.m. Prayer Group —Prayer Room-All are welcome!

Wednesday, August 15— Montgomery County Schools Begin!

9:30 a.m. Staff meets - HCR

Thursday, August 16

9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community— HCR

Sunday, Aug. 19 Milestone Sunday

9:00 a.m. RALLY DAY!!
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
7:00 p.m. Session meets—HCR

Monday, August 20

3:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team—WM

Tuesday, August 21

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

Wednesday, August 22

9:30 a.m. Staff meets—WM

Thursday, August 23

9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community— HCR

Sunday, August 26

9:00 a.m. Sunday School begins today for all ages!
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

...continued

...Continued

Monday, August 27

1:00 p.m. KnitWits gather—WM

Tuesday, August 28

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

Wednesday, August 29

9:30 a.m. Staff meets - WM
9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community-HCR



Sunday, September 2

9:00 a.m. No Sunday School today
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, September 3 –

Church Office Closed for Labor Day



Tuesday, September 4

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

Wednesday, September 5

9:30 a.m. Staff meets - WM
9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community-HCR

Sunday, September 9

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages!
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, September 10

1:30 p.m. Lydia Circle meets— FH
7:00 p.m. Faith Circle meets-TBD

Tuesday, September 11

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

Wednesday, September 12

9:30 a.m. Staff meets - WM
9:30 a.m. Caring for the Community-HCR

SAVE THE DATES:

Global Mission Focus: Sept. 16, 23, and 30

BPC's Smyth Lecture Series presents:

John Philip Newell

Oct. 21 & 22



KNITWITS Next Gathering
August 27, 2018 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.
In Westminster Hall.

All are welcome!

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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www.blacksburgpres.org
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FALL ADULT ED OPPORTUNITIES

Anxious to Talk About It By Carolyn B. Hessel
Sunday, Aug. 26-Oct. 7 (No class on Sept. 2)
9:00 a.m.—Hatcher Conference Room
Facilitated by Catherine Taylor

Shift Small Group

9:15-10:15 a.m. Sundays in Westminster Library-
Begins Aug. 26

Fall Book Study Workshop

7:00 p.m. on Mondays in Westminster Library
Begins Sept. 10 —will meet for 5 weeks.

The Road Back to You:

An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery
By Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile
Facilitated by Kendra Crabtree

Smyth Lecture Series Welcomes

John Philip Newell Oct. 21 & 22

Oct. 21- Preaching at BPC at 10:30 a.m.
Lecture and Reception at 7:00 p.m.-
Childcare will be provided.

Oct.22- Lecture & Reception at 7:00 p.m.-
Childcare will be provided.

Ministry Leaders Luncheon- Oct. 22 at 12:00 noon-
\$9.50 pay at the door— RSVP by Oct. 12 at
blacksburgpres.org/smyth-lunch

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

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