

Life at BPC



The Pastor's Page

The program year is upon us, and we have all manner of enriching events ahead.

In October we celebrate World Communion, a day when Christians everywhere come to the Lord's Table. Worship features world music and liturgy, and those who have world clothing often wear it to worship that day. Later that month we'll host John Philip Newell as Smyth Lecturer. A Canadian born pastor in the Kirk (church) of Scotland, Newell is an internationally acclaimed scholar of Celtic Spirituality. He will expound on the Celtic view of grace as a gift that connects us to the image of God deep within ourselves, not outside our being. Celtic Spirituality also sees creation as coming from the very heart of God. Newell will preach that Sunday morning and speak on Sunday and Monday nights.

November brings All Saints, when we remember those who've gone before us into the City of God; Dedication Sunday, when we commit to the stewardship of all of life and our discipleship of money; and Thanksgiving, a time for the journeys many will take to give thanks with family and friends.

December, of course, brings Advent and Christmas, perhaps the most cherished seasons of the Church Year. Once again there will be an Advent festival, the Gingerbread Potluck, special music in worship, and a night of Christmas Caroling in addition to two services on Christmas Eve.

And September? September is the time to set a rhythm of *arrival*. First and foremost, there is attendance at weekly worship, the best way to begin every week of our lives. Then there are Sunday School classes for all ages, Youth gatherings, choir and handbell rehearsals, Circle meetings, weekly Bible study on Tuesday morning, and a new SHIFT group forming. I am especially excited about teaching a class on racism designed for white Christians made anxious by the topic. Add to this the meetings of all our ministry teams. Every day BPC offers a chance to deepen faith through learning, leadership, service, or simple companionship in Christ. Beloved, the Christian life is communal. In fellowship with one another, we learn, encounter challenge, find comfort, and discover new facets of faith. ***The worst thing we can do is try to be Christians alone.*** A very few people in history have accomplished it. The rest of us need each other.

Many times, people tell me they wish they knew the Bible better, had a more ready faith, felt more confident teaching faith to their children or grandchildren, or had a deeper prayer life. September is the month to begin a practice of showing up all year long. Happy September, the month to educate ourselves in saying "Yes!" to life in God.

Peace,

Catherine

Session Highlights

August 19, 2018 Meeting

- Received an update on the kitchen renovation project. Work is scheduled to commence on September 10. It is hoped that construction will take 2-3 weeks.
- Approved Manna Team recommendations to award two 3-year grants, totaling \$42,000 each, to Sojourner Hospice House and the roofs for the Habitat for Humanity construction project (across the street from the church parking lot).
- Approved the examination of Chris Zobel as elder.
- Elected Jack Call clerk of session for a 1-year term.
- Discussed relocation of church dumpsters. A final decision has not yet been made.
- Discussed ways to enhance the Prayer Room experience after Sunday worship.
- Discussed ways to help newcomers feel more welcome.

Prayer Concerns

...for Anne Saacke as she deals with health issues;
 ...for Janice Woodard who is recuperating;
 ...for Bob Stuart's family following his passing;
 ...for Suzanne Ducker and family following her father's passing;
 ...for Phyllis Albritton-Webb's cousin George Nagorny who is recovering from heart valve surgery;
 ...for Larry Wright, husband of Anne Wright and father of Marcia Wright and Allison Kruckow, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer;
 ...for missionaries who serve God's people amid dangerous times;

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

Dear BPC Family,

My family and I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers for our granddaughter Emily who was diagnosed with ALS 3 months before her 2nd birthday. It has been a long journey, one that was greatly improved through all the prayers. **Emily is cancer free and a beautiful healthy 4-year-old.** Your prayers and kindness have been greatly appreciated!

Blessings,

Sherry & Randy Ingham

Lectionary Texts for September

September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30
Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Proverbs 22:1-2,	Proverbs 1:20-33	Proverbs 31:10-31	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10;
Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9	8-9, 22-23	Psalms 19	Psalms 1	9:20-22
James 1:17-27	Psalms 125	James 3:1-12	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Psalms 124
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	James 2:1-17	Mark 8:27-38	Mark 9:30-37	James 5:13-20
	Mark 7:24-37			Mark 9:38-50

Coming Up at BPC

Sundays in September

September 2

No Sunday School
Communion Sunday

September 9

Higher Education Sunday
Fair Trade Items Available

September 16

Cents-Ability Sunday

September 16, 23, 30

Global Mission Focus

Global Mission Luncheon

September 30th

directly after worship
Light lunch provided

Come learn about what is happening in Bangladesh, Guatemala, and Malawi and how we, as a faith community, are partnering with people on the ground through education, disaster relief, and advocacy.



Monthly

September 3rd - Church Office Closed
September 16th - Session Meeting at 7pm
September 24th - KnitWits at 1pm

Presbyterian Women Circles

Lydia Circle

September 10th at 1:30pm
Hatcher Conference Room at BPC

Hildegard Circle

September 10th at 6pm
at Nancy Furr's home
708 Southgate Dr., Blacksburg, VA

Faith Circle

September 12 at 7pm
Jen Stewart's Home
304 Lucas Dr., Blacksburg, VA

Weekly

Tuesdays

Morningstars Bible Study 7:30am
Quilters at 9:30am
Prayer Meeting at 11am

Wednesdays

Staff Meeting at 9:30am
Handbell Rehearsal at 5:45pm
Choir Rehearsal at 7pm

Caring for the Community at 9am
1st and 2nd Wednesday
3rd and 4th Thursdays

Adult Education Opportunities

Anxious to Talk About It

By Carolyn B. Helsel

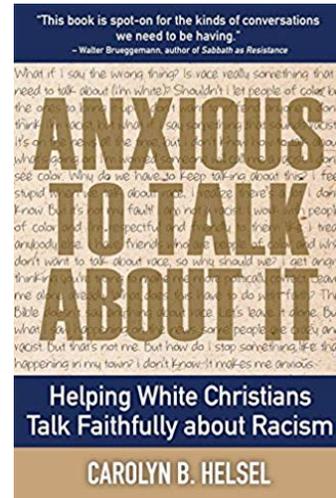
Sunday, August 26th - October 7th

(no class on September 2nd)

9am in Hatcher Conference Room

Facilitated by Catherine Taylor

If talking about racism makes you anxious, afraid, or even angry, you're not alone. In *Anxious to Talk about It*, pastor and professor Carolyn B. Helsel draws on her success with white congregations to offer insight and tools to embrace, explore and work through the anxious feelings that often arise in these hard conversations. You will learn how to join conversations with courage, compassion, and knowledge of self, others, and the important issues at stake.



Small Group

Sundays, Starting August 26th

9am in Westminster Library

A small group for those worshipping at BPC to discover and strengthen their discipleship identity. We'll be using *The Feasting on the Word* curriculum which follows the lectionary. **Come when you can - open to anyone interested!**

Enneagram Workshop

7pm on Mondays in Westminster Library

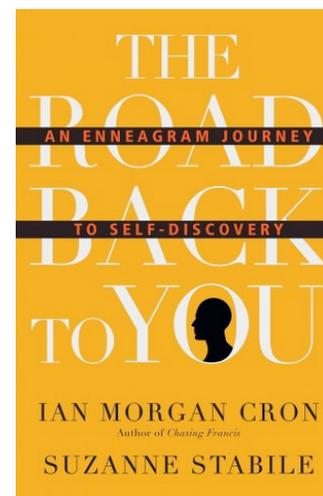
Begins September 10th. Will meet for 5 weeks.

The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery

By Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile

The Enneagram is an ancient tool used to help you connect to yourself, others, and God more fully. It's a process of discovery that takes you on a journey toward self-awareness. Join Kendra Crabtree, Director of Communications and Church Life, this fall as we scratch the surface on this system of discovery.

Email kendra@blacksburgpres.org to participate.



Celtic Spirituality Workshop

This workshop will be offered twice:

Sunday, October 14th at 9am and
Wednesday, October 17th at 7pm.

In anticipation of John Philip Newell being our Smyth speaker, the Adult Education Ministry is hosting a class on the Celtic Christian tradition. The workshop, led by Rev. Dave Snyder, will touch on the history of the Celtic Christian experience, its primary theological claims, and its contemporary contribution to the church and world.

Going Deeper: Smyth Series Follow Up

Sundays at 9am in Hatcher
October 28 – November 18

For four Sundays following the Smyth Series we will dive further into Celtic Spirituality with readings and discussion. Facilitated by Shane and Rachel Parson.

Rally Day 2018



Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success!
Here's to a year of asking questions and growing in our
knowledge and love of God.

Smyth Series Welcomes John Philip Newell



Photo: Caleb Dodson

John Philip is the co-founder of Heartbeat: A Journey Towards Earth's Wellbeing and is an ordained Church of Scotland minister with a passion for peace among the great wisdom traditions of humanity.

His PhD is from the University of Edinburgh and he is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality, having authored over 15 books, including *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, *Praying with the Earth*, and his most recent visionary work, *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings*.

Schedule of Events

All events will take place at
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
Located at 701 Church St. SE, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Sunday, October 21st at 10:30am
Sermon: *Made in the Image of the Divine*

Sunday, October 21st at 7:00pm
Boundless: A Celtic Vision of the Sacred in All Things
Lecture and Reception, including book signing

Monday, October 22nd at 7:00pm
Boundless: A Celtic Vision of the Sacred in All Things
Lecture and Reception, including book signing

Childcare will be provided.

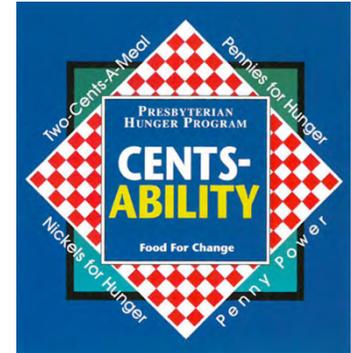
Ministry Leaders Luncheon
Monday, October 22nd
At 12pm, cost \$9.50

Homemade lunch catered
by Gillies includes soup,
salad, bread, and dessert.

You must pre-order your lunch by
Friday, October 12th at
Blacksburgpres.org/smyth-lunch

CENTS-ABILITY

As you make your contribution to Cents-Ability this month, think about what you can do to support public policies to reinforce the work of organizations supported by Cents-Ability, policies that work toward ending hunger in the US and around the world. Bread for the World has published a 2018 election platform for voters to use as they give time, money and votes to candidates. You can view the platform at bread.org. Under “Get Involved” click, ”Vote to End Hunger.”



Here are some of the recommended strategies from the platform:

1. **Create jobs that pay.** The best way to end hunger is to ensure that people can get good, family-sustaining jobs. Ex. Raise the minimum wage and expand access to job benefits.
2. **Invest in people.** There is no higher calling for government than helping people reach their potential. Ex. Ensure that everyone has access to good nutrition, health care, education and housing.
3. **Remove obstacles to earning a decent living.** Ex. Reform our broken criminal justice system, including measures to help people who have been incarcerated return to society and get jobs.
4. **Strengthen the safety net.** Most people need help at some point in their lives. Ex. Strengthen our national nutrition programs, such as school meals, SNAP, WIC, and home-based meals for senior citizens.
5. **Provide U.S. leadership for international systems that reduce hunger and poverty.** Ex. Deepen efforts to promote peace and security and address the root causes of forced migration.
6. **Expand and improve development assistance focused on poverty.** Ex. Use U.S. assistance and diplomacy to promote equality for women.
7. **Invest in global food security and nutrition.** Every dollar invested in nutrition for mothers and children yields a return of \$16. Ex. Invest in sustainable agriculture among smallholder farmers - more than 40 percent are women.

breadfortheworld

HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Offering of Letters, Oct 7th

On Sunday, **October 7**, in Hatcher Conference room, you have an opportunity to participate in BPC's annual Bread for the World Offering of Letters. An Offering of Letters is a tool that enables citizens and residents of our country to make their voices heard and that helps shape our government's response to hunger. We will write letters or sign postcards in favor of legislation that makes sure that no one is forced to go to bed hungry in the United States or around the world.

RECYCLING UPDATE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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)
- Don't bag anything. It just messes up the sorting process. Dump it all loosely in your bin (dry, with containers emptied out)

 **RECYCLE THESE ITEMS:**

Cans	Glass	Paper	Plastic Containers
			
Aluminum Beverage Cans, Steel and Tin Cans <small>empty</small>	Bottles and Jars <small>empty</small>	Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Pizza Boxes and Cardboard	Plastic Bottles, Jugs and Food Containers #1 (PET) & #2 (HDPE) only

NO!

			
Do Not Bag Recyclables No Garbage	No Plastic Bags (return to retailer)	No Food or Liquid (empty all containers)	No Tangles (no hoses, wires, chains, or cords)
			
No Clothing or Toys (use donation programs)	No Electronics (take to MRSWA)	No Shredded Paper (take to MRSWA)	No Styrofoam

For more information go to
MRSWA.com
or call **540-381-2820**
MRSWA located at 555 Authority Dr. Christiansburg

Look for further resources on this from the Creation Care Team

The Plastic Bag Challenge



We have collected

500 pounds

of polyethylene film for Trex in just nine months!

Our first bench goes to Head Start.

Keep bringing us your plastic!

GLOBAL MISSION MONTH 2018

EDUCATION, DISASTER RELIEF, AND ADVOCACY

During the month of September, we will give focus to the global mission partners we support as a church. Over the course of the last three Sundays in September we will focus on how each partnership empowers the people of these countries through education, disaster relief, and advocacy.

We hope you will join us on **Sunday, September 30th, after worship** for an overview and update of what is going on in the countries where our partners serve. Light lunch will be served.

Guatemala

Guatemalans are still recovering from a brutal 36-year civil war. Combating high illiteracy and poverty rates, a seemingly unbreakable cycle of corruption on all government and corporate levels, a universally contaminated water supply and susceptibility to major natural disasters.

CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America) is an educational non-profit that strives to make a difference and works to transform lives through four main programs:



Biblical and Theological Seminary - Prepares pastors to practice transforming theology that includes subjects on gender, intercultural-ism and the environment.

Women's Ministry - Faith-based educational activities that empower women to understand their personal and legal rights, take leadership roles in their communities and continue or begin their formal education.

Disaster Ministry - Prevention and preparation training reduces the impact of natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides and volcanic eruptions) and when disasters do happen, CEDPECA responds with supplies and psycho-social and spiritual support.

Intercultural Encounters - Facilitates travel experiences that bring people from the US and Canada to Guatemala to learn and connect with locals. BPC sends members on these "listen and learn" trips annually.

Bangladesh

The Morgans' help churches plan and implement congregation-based ministries of healing as well as broader community health programs integrated with other social development activities. They also advise mission hospitals on patient care and support the work of church-related nursing schools. They have a special interest in helping churches deepen their understanding of the ministry of healing and its role in the proclamation of the gospel.



Injured garment workers of Rana Plaza are being interviewed at CRP Savar, Dhaka; 8 August, 2013

The PC(USA) currently supports education ministries in the Rajshahi and Meherpur Districts in western Bangladesh, including fourteen Santal village-level student tutoring centers, two hostels for women college students, and two primary schools.

The CoB (Church of Bangladesh) plans to establish a Patient Advocacy Network involving the Christian Mission Hospital in Rajshahi, Bangladesh, Shalom (a Christian social development program) and the 27 Rajshahi-area congregations.

Malawi

The Malawi Partnership began in 2004 when Josiah Tlou, a professor at VT, received a large USAID grant to bring students from Malawi to VT for Masters and PhD degrees. Since David Livingston "discovered" Malawi for the Europeans, and sent to his native Scotland for missionaries, many of those students came to BPC. From there, four members of BPC traveled to Malawi to see where we as a church could most effectively partner with our friends in Malawi.

BPC currently works at MULANJE MISSION in the following ways:

- Financial Support of the Hospital for medications and their new Sustainable Livelihoods Program which brings agriculture and animal projects to many villages.
- Scholarships: We currently support four students at the College of Nursing, five secondary school students and are supporting a student in the second year of a 3-year OB/GYN program on Endowment funds.
- We also stay in contact with many former VT students who have returned to Malawi to work.



BPC Malawi Partnership is also a member of TEAM Malawi which is a group of professors and grad students from many departments at VT and Radford and we meet monthly.

BPC'S OB/GYN STUDENT IN MALAWI!



Did you know that BPC supports Griffin Samboni who is about to begin his second year of a 3-year program to become an OB/GYN doctor in Malawi? This funding comes from the BPC Endowment over 3 years. Griffin worked again at Malawi Mission Hospital this summer, between courses, and will return there full time when he completes the 3rd year. This is especially significant as we have heard that there are perhaps 3 OB/GYN doctors in the entire country! Recently, he wrote to all of us at BPC:

“I am Griffin Samboni, aged thirty-two. I was born in a family of six children, one brother and four sisters. I happen to be the second born. I am a Christian by religion. I did my primary education in several schools because my father is a teacher by profession so he moved from school to school due to transfers.”
(Griffin then went to secondary school and later received a diploma in clinical medicine at the Malamulo College of Health Sciences.) “I have worked for five years as a clinical officer at Mulanje Mission Hospital and found I loved OB/GYN.



In 2017 I applied for bachelor's degree in obstetrics and gynecology at Malawi College of Medicine and I was successful. Now I have trained for one year, passed all my exams, remaining with two years. I shall be updating you on how I am performing here at school. Thanks a lot for your support.”

Griffin Sombani (Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi College of Medicine Student)

We hope for continued correspondence and that we can get a picture of Griffin.

September Birthdays

3 – Sonja Anderson
 6 – Jeffrey Anthony
 7 – David Haak, Carly Polikoff
 9 – Thomas Tillar
 10 – Joni Pienkowski, Sandy Schlaudecker
 11 – Cathy McCullough, Cat Oliver
 13 – Jim Echols
 14 – Lindsay Call, Vince Cilimberg
 15 – Nancy Andrews
 18 – Jessica Furr, Bill Hendricks
 19 – Jim Thompson

20 – Tripp Showalter
 21 – Larry Cowley, Stephanie Dunstan, Carole Jubb
 22 – Mark Rakes
 23 – Allen Bame, Abbie Knobl, Vivian Bell Lawrence
 25 – Eric Mesmer
 26 – Julie Gerard, Martha Thomas, Brittany Stewart
 28 – Sophie Call
 29 – Michael Harvey, Mike McGilliard
 30 – Matthew Drumheller, Bill Foy

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outreach.*

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