

# Life at BPC



What a great week of VBS!



## Session Highlights

May 19, 2019 Session Meeting

- The self-study working group committee will begin their work in the next month and session agreed to start the study this summer.
- Session agreed to add a 7<sup>th</sup> deacon.
- An agenda item to discuss recycling policies for church events was moved to the June meeting.
- Session approved new procedures for submitting motions and reports for session meetings to provide more time for elders to examine motions prior to a session meeting. Future agendas will also include a time for elders to ask questions about ministry reports.
- The date of the June session meeting was moved to June 23. It is not anticipated that there will be a July session meeting.

## Prayer Concerns

...for Dave Smith who had eye surgery last month;  
 ...for Luke Phillips who is being deployed to Afghanistan for 9 months;  
 ...for Shalini Perumpra, whose mother passed away. John and Shalini were with her mother in India;  
 ...for Sarah Windes who is recovering well from surgery;  
 ...for Doug Grathjen, Linda Dickerson's husband, who is home recovering from a vascular event;  
 ...for Renee Jacobsen and her family, whose mother passed away;  
 ...for Carolyn White, who is on hospice care;  
 ...for David Doherty as he deals with pneumonia and other health issues;  
 ...for Beth and Rodger Mattson's grandson, Oliver Gillispie (age 6) who is being treated for Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis;  
 ...for Margaret Dawson's family following her passing;  
 ...for Bill Henika who is dealing with medical issues;  
 ...for Sharon Watkins and her extended family upon the death of Shirley Cromer Brown, their mother and grandmother at age 99;  
 ...for Karen Watson's sister and brother-in-law who have been given temporary custody of their 10-week old granddaughter and one-and-a-half-year-old grandson;  
 ...for Ranae Lahn who is dealing with difficult health issues;  
 ...for missionaries who serve God's people amid dangerous times;

**Continue to be in prayer for** Larry Wright, Alfred Howery, Ted Ake, Marcia Cowley, Mark Rakes, Anne Grover, Joan Munford.

## Lectionary Texts for June

### July 7

2 Kings 5:1-14  
 Psalm 30  
 Galatians 6:1-16  
 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### July 14

Amos 7:7-17  
 Psalm 82  
 Colossians 1:1-14  
 Luke 10:25-37

### July 21

Amos 8:1-12  
 Psalm 52  
 Colossians 1:15-28  
 Luke 10:38-42

### July 28

Hosea 1:2-10  
 Psalm 85  
 Colossians 2:6-19  
 Luke 11:1-13

# Coming Up at BPC

## July

- July 14-20**      **Montreat Youth Conference**
- July 17**        **PJGM meeting, 6pm in Hatcher**
- July 21**        **Art Forum at 11:30am**  
w/Quin Spencer and Garrett Knobl  
in Westminster
- Aug 1-3**        **PC(USA) Big Tent in Baltimore**
- Aug 4**          **Presentation on South Sudan**  
**Hatcher after worship**  
Scott Smith was asked to represent the  
Peaks Presbytery in a vision trip to  
South Sudan. He will speak about his  
experience.



## Congratulations

to Bill and Mimi on their June wedding and new life together!

### Weekly

#### Tuesdays

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

#### Wednesdays

Handbell and Choir Rehearsals will  
resume in the Fall.

### Monthly

July 7

Communion Sunday

July 21

Cents-ability Offering

June 22

KnitWits, 1-3pm in Westminster

There is no Session Meeting  
in July.

#### Presbyterian Women Circles

Take a break for the summer. They  
will resume in September.

## Elders who were elected at the May 26th Called Congregational Meeting

### Elders being Elected for Class 2022: 3 yr. Term

#### **Debra Call**



Deb Call is a native Virginian and resides in Laurel Ridge with her husband, Jack, and a menagerie of pets. She has two sons, Jeff and Scott. Jeff and his wife, Lindsay, and daughters Abigail and Sophie, are members of BPC. Scott lives in Cincinnati. Deb is a graduate of William and Mary and received her DVM from the University of Georgia. Deb has been a local small animal veterinarian in private practice for over thirty years, enjoying the world of animals and people. Special interests include visiting friends, music, and advocating for positive change and a kinder, gentler world.

#### **Susan Barnard**



Susan Barnard is a retired professor of interior design at Radford University. Formerly a church organist and Director of Christian Education at the Radford church, she and her husband, Jack, have been members of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church since 1986. A long-time member of the BPC choir and the arts committee, Susan has also served as a Sunday School teacher, a member of the building committee, and an Elder in the Class of 2010. The Barnards have two daughters, Anne and Amy, and seven grandsons.

#### **Garland McKenzie**



Garland McKenzie and his wife, Barbara, relocated to Blacksburg from Midlothian, VA and joined BPC in January 2018 along with their daughter and son-in-law, Claire and Kyle White, who are the proud parents of Lillian. Their son, Mac and his wife, Courtney, have three children and live in Chesterfield, VA. Garland is a Virginia Tech graduate and continues to be an active supporter of the university. While in Midlothian, he was involved in a variety of church, public school, and Little League activities. Since moving to Blacksburg, he has enjoyed volunteering at the Interfaith Food Pantry and partnering with Kyle to prepare coffee for the BPC Men's breakfast events. Having recently retired, he is looking forward to becoming more involved with activities at BPC and the surrounding community.

#### **Beth Mattson**



Elizabeth (Beth) Mattson was baptized at La Canada Presbyterian Church in Southern California as a child. She grew up in that church until her family moved to Northern New Jersey where they joined a Congregational church. She was very active in the church, acting as the youth representative to the church board and participating in the worship service regularly. She moved back to Calif. for college and remained active in the Presbyterian Church ever since. She has been an Elder and a deacon. Her career was in Computer Science. Currently she is adjunct faculty for Cameron University and teaches an online course in Computer Science.

Beth is married to Dr. Rodger Mattson who was a Presbyterian pastor for almost 20 years and is now the Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Lewis-Gale Montgomery. They have two children, both married, and four grandchildren. Their daughter's family is in the process of moving back from Zambia, Africa with their two little boys. Their son and his family live in Tulsa, OK with their daughter and son. Beth joined BPC last summer and has participated in several mission related committees.

### Elders being Elected for Class 2021 (vacancies): 2 yr. Term

#### **Jama Green**



A life-long Presbyterian, Jama Green joined BPC in 2013 when the Green family moved to Blacksburg from metro-Detroit. She has served on the Children's Ministry committee, is an elementary Sunday School teacher and is a member of Faith Circle. Jama works as the Communications and Alumni Relations Coordinator for the Aerospace and Ocean Engineering department at Virginia Tech. She and husband Matt are parents to Natalie and Nora.

#### **Jim Rakes**



Jim Rakes has been a member of BPC since 1978. He has served BPC both as a Deacon and Elder and is a Trustee. He was a member of the initial Endowment Committee. He has served on the Pastor Nominating Committee and, through the years, has taught Sunday School and served on the Community Ministry, Personnel, and Stewardship Committees. Jim is a retired banker and enjoys community involvement on several boards. He and wife, Janet, have two adult sons, Todd and Mark, who grew up in BPC. Todd and wife, Sarah, have two children, Emma and Luke, and spending time with grandchildren is a priority for Jim.

## Some Common Causes for Earth-Care-Focused Education



We recently received from Presbyterians for Earth Care a copy of a manifesto written by William P. Brown and colleagues, Mark Douglas and Stan Saunders, at Columbia Theological Seminary, entitled *Climate Chaos: A Pedagogical Manifesto*. Here are some excerpts:

*The two latest climate reports are the most dire reports yet to be produced by expert scientists. Within the next ten to fifteen years, the human race will largely determine its own survival, and that of countless other species, in “our common home.” As faculty colleagues joined together in the common causes of sustainability and the flourishing of life on a rapidly changing planet, we (re)commit ourselves to do the following:*

1. *To teach across our respective disciplines with an acute and abiding awareness of the mounting anthropogenic damage done to our common home;*
2. *To embrace the disciplines of grief, rather than despair, over the incalculable loss of life and livelihood among all species in the face of climate chaos and habitat destruction;*
3. *To attend to the voices of those on the margins, including environmental refugees, who suffer disproportionately from drought, pollution, flooding, and rising sea waters caused by fossil-fuel based industries and exploitative land use;*
4. *To be conversant with the best of science on climate change and on other anthropogenic crises, from deforestation to ocean acidification;*
5. *To embrace the disciplines of hope, rather than blithe optimism, as the odds against human survival continue to mount.*
6. *To teach in ways that lead to action and activism, working to advocate for environmentally-focused policies, challenge exploitative ones, and reshape cultural norms and individual lifestyles.*

How can we at BPC address these common causes?

### Plastic Bag and Film Recycling Update

We recently collected enough plastic film (500 more pounds!) to get another bench from Trex!  
Thanks to everyone who brought in their plastic (polyethylene) film! Keep it up!

## Cents-Ability – A Presbyterian Diet Program

**The Cents-Ability Diet Program** can help you eliminate hunger and reduce the level of poverty in the world. It is simpler than most diet programs, though, like them, it has 3 basic components: COMMITMENT, EXERCISE, and COUNTING.

**COMMITMENT** - You, your family or household commit to a time-frame for how much you will contribute per meal, how often and for how long. You can start any time; the program runs year-round.

**EXERCISE** - In this case you “exercise” when you sit down to a meal. Like other kinds of exercise, it takes discipline and consistency to be effective. Remember those who don’t have enough to eat, and exercise your sense of blessing by donating cents for those who don’t have enough.

**COUNTING** - not calories in this case, but coins. Every coin counts, and a little, when combined with others’, goes a long way.





## MALAWI PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY



Those of you who knew William Susuwele when he was a member here, will be happy to know that he was recently elected to the Malawi Parliament! Congratulations, William!

We will soon be sending scholarship tuition for the upcoming semester of \$1,612 for 2 students at the Mulanje Mission College of Nursing. Keith Lipato, who was active with our Partnership, is the Director of the College of Nursing. We will also need further funds for Henderson Chiotcha, the student from Mulanje Secondary School who is one of 30 students admitted to the new Malawi University of Science and Technology! BPC will cover his tuition, housing and all necessary equipment to make this opportunity possible.

At the moment we are waiting to hear from Dr. Arie Glas about the current situation and needs following the huge storm and flooding they experienced recently. Dr. Glas is our new Mission Partner at Mulanje Mission Hospital who was sent by Presbyterians in Holland.

As always, the generous support of BPC members is greatly appreciated!

### CEDEPCA Coordinator Visits Jerusalem for Class Promoting Peace

Did you know that CEDEPCA offers courses and workshops all year long? Even though students at many schools and universities take a break from learning during the summer months, the students at CEDEPCA continue studying. Staff also can take advantage of continuing education for themselves in order to continually improve their knowledge through the courses that CEDEPCA offers.



Arnoldo Aguilar, Coordinator of the Biblical and Theological Program, writes:

*Recently I had the extraordinary opportunity to participate in the course "Jerusalem: One City - Three Religions." This course was offered from February 18 to March 30, 2019, by the Swedish Theological Institute (STI) and the Church of Sweden. This experience created an intercultural and interethnic space for gathering pastoral agents and Christian educators from Asia, Africa and Latin America to analyze different aspects of the reality of Jerusalem, the Holy Land...*

*It is complicated to summarize what the encounter with such a complex scope has meant. However, it has invited me to reflect on the importance of interreligious dialogue in the conflicts that, as in Israel or Jerusalem, are experienced day by day in many countries. But it has been encouraging to see how, from within this reality, we can raise voices and initiatives that dream and work for a different reality.*

### Consider traveling with the Presbytery to Guatemala through CEDEPCA October 28-November 3, 2019

This is part of the Intercultural Encounters program and you will meet people whose lives have been changed by the work of CEDEPCA, participate in Bible Studies, and go to the Festival of Kites—ginormous kites associated with the Day of the Dead. This Listen and Learn trip is for anyone!

Contact Sandy Schlaudecker, [spspas@aol.com](mailto:spspas@aol.com), for more information.

## Habitat for Humanity: Homes on Church St Project Update

When we decided to embark on this development project my husband, a developer, told me to “buckle up, it’s not for the faint of heart.” Now I understand his meaning. Phase one of this project is to re-route the storm-water leaving the church parking lot to an underground drain system connecting on Main Street. The site plan required 4 rounds of approval, but then the Town would only allow a permit after graduation, delaying us by a few months. We then discovered a communications bundle in the Main St. manhole requiring a new plan and several more week’s further delay. Phase one should be complete by the first of August and allow us to begin Phase two, the actual home construction! We will begin framing in September and that is when the fun really begins.



We have partnered with four families for this project, though one inherited funds from a family member and was able to purchase a home without our help. The others are teachers and VT employees. We have two more families in the process of partnering and we are still looking to partner with three more families so please spread the word.

We had to cancel all of our summer volunteers, youth groups, travelling Habitat for Humanity volunteers due to these delays. We are currently scheduling for opportunities this fall. We need a minimum of 15,000 volunteer hours on this project. Despite a few false starts we are looking forward to working with the BPC congregation.

### Be on the lookout for church-wide work days on the Habitat Project!

### Kroger Community Rewards Enrollment

Did you know you can support BPC just by shopping at Kroger? It's easy when you enroll in Kroger Community Rewards®! To get started, sign up with your Plus Card below, and select a local organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for your chosen organization every time you shop and use your Plus Card!

**You must re-enroll every year.**

**To see if you are enrolled**, open the Kroger App/Choose “More”/Choose “Account Details” under My Info/Choose “Community Rewards” under Loyalty. Your enrollment status will show as will the name of the organization. To check your status or if you need to re-enroll go to [Kroger.com/account/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards). After signing in to your account, search for Blacksburg Presbyterian Church or TL329 and click Enroll. It’s that simple!

## July Birthdays

2 – Wyatt Eschenmann

3 – Andrew Warren

7 – Sally Greenfield

9 – Erika Slagel-Perry

10 – Lois Doherty, Laina Stewart

11 – McKenna Slocum

12 – Nora Green, Roy Jones, Sharon Watkins

14 – Diane Wilson

15 – Alexandra Grieco, Dave Snyder

19 – Steve Jones

22 – Darrell Bosch

23 – Charles Goodsell

24 – James Harder

25 – Julianne Anthony

26 – Jonathan Anderson

27 – Tom Howard

28 – Connor McFall

29 – Natalie Green, Fred McCormick

31 – Susan Miller, Lynn Thye

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church  
701 Church St SE  
Blacksburg, VA 24060-5213  
www.blacksburgpres.org  
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701 CHURCH ST SE  
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060-5213  
540-552-2504

BLACKSBURGPRES.ORG  
EMAIL: [BPC@BLACKSBURGPRES.ORG](mailto:BPC@BLACKSBURGPRES.ORG)

Rev. Dave Cozad, Interim Pastor/Head of Staff  
[Dave@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Dave@blacksburgpres.org)

Steve Lawrence, Music Director  
[Steve@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Steve@blacksburgpres.org)

Kendra Crabtree, Director of Communications and Church Life  
[Kendra@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Kendra@blacksburgpres.org)

Susan Hunter, Director of Children and Youth  
[SusanH@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:SusanH@blacksburgpres.org)

Sherry Ingham, Office Manager  
[Sherry@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:Sherry@blacksburgpres.org)

Viola Howery, Custodian

Kathy Carpenter, Campus Minister for UKirk at VT  
[campusminister@pcusa-vt.org](mailto:campusminister@pcusa-vt.org)