



## Blacknall Newsletter

## July | August 2016

Dear Blacknall family,

It seems like we have been in a dead sprint since Easter! At least it does to me, what with the new budget cycle at Blacknall (a real cause for celebration!), the largest new members class in recent memory, and training and installing a great new group of elders and deacons. And of course, in the midst of all this good work, students (and teachers) of all ages, along with families, have been making their way to the end of another school year, looking forward to summer holidays. And now that glorious season is finally here.

But in the midst of vacations and catching our breath and reading that novel and getting to swim practice, can I ask you to keep two important Blacknall matters on your prayer list? Two important search committees continue to work hard at finding God's choices for our youth ministry director and our associate pastor to young adults.

The Youth Ministry search team is chaired by Becky Gould, who is working closely with Michael Whisenhunt, May Hoover, Artie Kamiya, and David Sittser to identify the right person to follow Brad Turnage's excellent leadership. They have been receiving applications and are narrowing the field of applicants, hoping to conduct in-person interviews soon.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is a bit more complicated, since this position requires the involvement of the Presbytery of New Hope (as is the case with all ordained pastors). This committee, chaired

***In the midst of vacations & catching our breath, can I ask you to keep two important matters on your prayer list?***

by Steve Hinkle, is comprised of Andrea Bridges, Evan Cate, Alexa Gerend, and Amy Whisenand. The process is lengthier and sloooooower. I still remember the call process when I was invited to apply to Blacknall; it seemed interminable to me.

Both committees are continuing their work even though the summer months are upon us. Would you support them with your prayers and encouragement?

Blacknall has been gifted with a wonderful staff. Morale is high, and folks are working with a real sense of the privilege of serving Christ and the saints of Blacknall. Tanya Kronstad has taken on extra responsibilities following Brad Turnage's departure, and the summer camps have been important in the lives of our high school and middle school youth. Children's Discovery Weeks and Backyard Bible Studies have been a great success! And Carol Smith, our new Financial Administrator, has taken over for Jessica Butler with joy, skill and the determination to master Blacknall's financial systems. She is a great addition.

So in all your free time this summer, will you join in asking God to lead us to just the right people to fill these two remaining positions?



In confident trust,

*Allan*

Pastor Allan Poole

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## About the Newsletter

Welcome to Blacknall's bi-monthly publication highlighting our life together! Each issue features stories, poems, and artwork created by our community. **Are you interested in submitting to the September/November Newsletter?** Contact [Mary Grimm](#).

## Church Staff

Allan Poole - Pastor  
David Dunderdale - Pastor  
Dave Stuntz - Music Ministry  
Traci Hoover - Director of Children's Ministry  
Beth Solie - Director of Children's Ministry  
Tanya Kronstad - Director of Middle School Ministries  
Margaret Frothingham - Congregational Care  
Donna McBrite - Business Manager  
Carol Smith- Financial Administrator  
Mary Grimm - Communications Coordinator  
Ali Shoenfelt - Administrative Associate  
Goodie Bell - Ministry Fellow  
Talia Rice - Children's Ministry Intern  
John David Corwin - Youth Ministry Intern

**Cover Photo:** The first Backyard Bible Adventure (BBA) of the summer. Join us July 30 for the next BBA at Duke Park, from 9:30-11 a.m!

# A Home on Ivy Street

Mark Paulson



When I first heard that Blacknall would be sponsoring a Habitat house as part of our Centennial Celebration, I was excited. I had volunteered with Habitat in the past, and believed in Habitat's mission. But what really caught my attention was the thought of "giving back"—recognizing that 100 years earlier the Lord had established a house of worship in west Durham that came to be known as Blacknall.

The house at 1203 Ivy is now well underway, and I've found that the build is a wonderful opportunity for Christian witness. I mentioned the build to several co-workers who I thought might be interested in the project and every one of them signed up to help—several have worked more than one Saturday! It has provided a marvelous opportunity to spend time with folks outside our church community—to get to know them and to engage with them through work that serves others.

At the kickoff ceremony, we met a woman who had previously purchased a Habitat home in the neighborhood.

She explained how the East Durham community was changing with each newly completed Habitat house. Habitat Durham is thoughtful in their approach. They have strategically focused their effort on the East Durham community and with each new home, with each newly

empowered home-owner, the pride of the neighborhood rises. It is a long and gradual process, but you can feel it! The East Durham community is being transformed, and as I become more familiar with the streets of East Durham, I am inspired to consider other ways in which we might have an impact on the lives within this community.

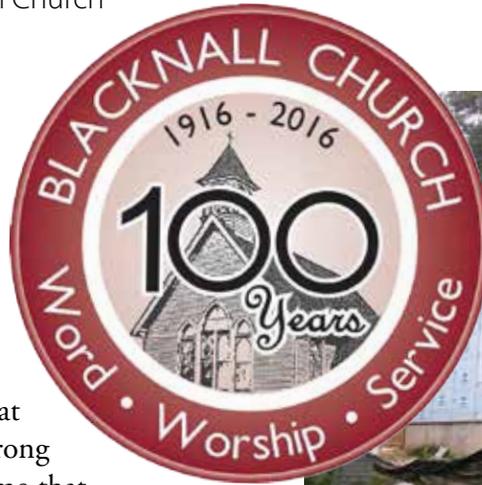
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This is much more than just a physical act of constructing a house—it is a spiritual work as well. As the house progresses, we are praying for the family that will soon call 1203 Ivy Street home and we are praying that the Spirit of the Lord will dwell within the home. Early in the project, we were encouraged to "sign" the house, within the exterior walls which would soon be covered up in insulation, siding and sheet rock. I love the idea of encasing the house in written blessings that will remain long after we pack up and leave.

I find that every time I volunteer I learn a little bit more about how homes are constructed, and I am amazed at the details. I've seen how the house is pieced together, and have come to appreciate the thought behind every joint, literally, every nail that goes into the house to make it strong and fit for a purpose. It strikes me that people and houses have much in common.

Just as I delight in what is being created at 1203 Ivy, so our heavenly Father delights in each of us. The Psalmist says that we are skillfully wrought, fearfully and wonderfully made. Every little detail of our being was thoughtfully and purposely constructed by our Creator. Much like this house, we have physical bodies, but we are much more than that. We are primarily spiritual beings; much like a house's primary purpose is to be a home, a spiritual place which God desires to inhabit. This house will impact the community of East Durham, much like we as individuals have an impact in the communities of life in which God has planted us. And, this house is having a transformational effect on those of us not in the East Durham community, much like God desires to use us for transformation and reconciliation in the lives of others outside our community of faith.

The house is well along, but it is not finished! Sign up on our [website](#) and pick up a hammer or make and serve lunch—you may find that this project is much more than simply building a house to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of our Blacknall home.



# In Appreciation | 48 Years of Service

Vincent Stubbs

After becoming a Christian through the ministry of Inter-Varsity, Judy Henslee, a Duke sophomore, began attending Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church in the fall of 1964. Thus began a relationship that would continue for more than half a century. Following her graduation, she joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and served in Columbia and Panama and then in the Santa Ana/Huntington Beach, California, home office before her marriage to Ken Hollingsworth in 1976.

## ***Language & Translation***

When they arrived in Cameroon in January of 1978, their first task was to learn the language of the Mofu-Gudur people and to reduce it into a written form. Then they had to recruit and train a translation team and begin the arduous task of translating the New Testament and parts of the Old Testament and of compiling a Mofu-Gudur dictionary in the process. After many revisions the New Testament was finally published, and the dedication service was held on February 17, 2008, with almost 5,000 people in attendance.

They also taught translation principles to eleven translation teams in northern Cameroon. Ken, who was a music teacher before joining Wycliffe, used his training in ethnomusicology to encourage Christians to compose Christian music in their own indigenous style. He and Judy also wrote a series of Mofu-Gudur primers for adults and for elementary schools so that the Mofu could become literate in their native tongue.

They extended Christ's love to their Mofu neighbors by providing food in times of drought, channeling

scholarship aid to students, listening to people's problems, praying with and for them, and assisting other Wycliffe translators. In the midst of frequently difficult conditions, sweltering heat, malaria, political instability, and horrendous roads they continued their labor of love for 32 years.

In 2010 they returned to Dallas, where Ken served as a consultant for four northern Cameroon language translation teams. Both of them wrote exegetical notes in French to help translators understand biblical terms. Judy checked the translation work of the Mofu team. Suffice to say, language and translation work requires as much expertise as the medical and legal professions.

## ***July 17 Retirement Celebration***

Ken and Judy finally retired at the end of April, which means that after 48 years they are no longer Blacknall supported missionaries. After a mandated hiatus, they will be able to volunteer with Wycliffe, doing many of the same tasks they previously did.

On Sunday, July 17 we will welcome Ken and Judy to Blacknall to honor these stalwart soldiers of the cross and to give thanks to our gracious God for their faithful service and inspiring lives. Join us in the Fellowship Hall following the second service for a lunch celebration honoring Ken and Judy, Blacknall's longest supported missionaries!



# Welcome New Members



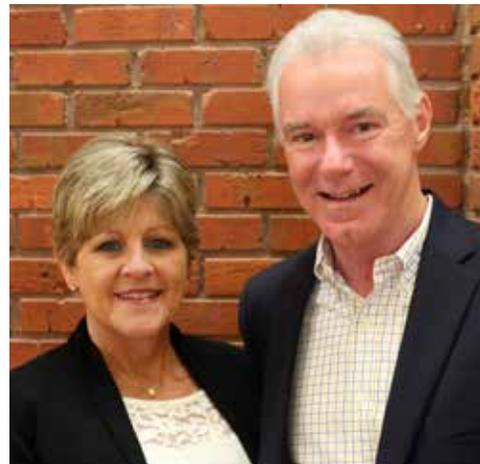
Leslie Beckman



Marcia & Randy Bridges



Lauren & Jeff Connolly (Sam & Peter)



Jan Francis



Vance & Amy Fowler  
(Van, Lily, & Maddie)



Cynthia Gadol



Catherine & Miles Honeycutt  
(Jackson, Charlie & Stuart)



Josiah & Lauren Hunter



Martha Jennison



Jake & Katie Kelley



Stephanie & Jim Ladd



Doris Stam



Nicholas Tay

**Not Pictured**  
Fulton Byrne  
John David Corwin

# MOVING FORWARD

Anne Paulson



After almost two years of prayer, planning, and fundraising, Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) and Genesis House are now officially a new combined organization, entitled Families Moving Forward (FMF). On July 2, the former IHN guests moved into the newly furnished rooms at the former Genesis House. This merger is providing both ministries a much richer and smoother way of helping families who are experiencing a major crisis in their lives—not having a home.

## **15 Years of Care**

Blacknall has been involved with IHN for over 15 years, working with other churches to provide meals and housing to families in need. More than 100 Blacknall folks have volunteered in a variety of capacities such as providing transportation, meals, time interacting with families in the evening, as well as spending the night at the host church. Several of those areas of service will no longer be needed with FMF because it will now serve as a residential “ministry.” Blacknall’s involvement will look different, but it will still be dependent on many volunteers.

*A much richer & smoother way of helping families who are experiencing a major crisis in their lives.*

Our initial commitment to FMF is primarily hospitality and childcare in conjunction with our partner churches Cole Mill Road Church of Christ and Trinity Methodist. The three churches have agreed to be responsible for four to five weeks a year of providing meals and childcare four nights a week.

## **Hospitality & Fellowship**

Blacknall will serve on Monday nights, providing a meal for all the residents of the FMF House in order for them to experience a family meal together. Following the meal, the adults will attend a house meeting, while we will care for the children less than 5 years of age. This will all happen from 5:30-8 p.m. We are going to need a lot of folks to donate their time to make this happen. Our first two service weeks are September 12 and December 12. This way of serving at FMF is going to allow a larger number of Blacknall folks to work together on the same night, creating more opportunities for fellowship among our members.



## Moving Forward (continued)

### **Study Buddies**

We are hopeful that we will be able to provide volunteers to become Study Buddies to a school age child who is living at FMF. This will require a one-hour a week commitment for one semester. There will also be opportunities for us to be involved as Circle of Support groups, facilitators of small groups, mentors to families, leaders of enrichment classes and room refreshers. If you are looking for a place to volunteer your time, there is definitely a place for you here. For more information regarding the many other opportunities to serve FMF, please see the handout available on the information tables in the narthex and the upper atrium. To sign up to volunteer, please contact [Tasha](#).

### **Ruth Buchanan Room**

Families Moving Forward is very thankful to a group of Blacknall members who financed the furnishing of a new room at their facility in honor of their friend, Ruth Buchanan, who always worked hard to make Blacknall a gracious and welcoming place. It is a hope that each family who stays at FMF can find a respite from their crisis in these rooms they will call home for a short time. ■

*Photos: Newly furnished rooms at Families Moving Forward.*



# Mission Builders Summer Reading

Mindy Lance

Every summer we see how many books our kids can read—with a mission to bless other kids! Based on our grand total, we will make a donation to the Primary School with the Congo Initiative. So every time your kids read (or someone reads to them) a book from the Blacknall Library, they're helping other kids read too!

Summer is a great time for kids to read for pure pleasure. Kids are checking out all kinds of books: board books and chapter books, Bible stories and missionary adventures, books on animals, sports, mysteries, fantasy, history and biographies, and more!

If your kids haven't signed up yet, there's still time. The last day to record books is August 7. If your kids are already on board, keep reading! The more we read, the more we can give!

*Photo: One-year-old Naomi reads books from the Blacknall library to raise money for Congo.*



# Caring for International Students

Scott Hawkins

## ***Airport Welcome***

Blacknall & International Students, Inc. (ISI) in Durham invite you to join our annual Airport Welcome as a service to Duke University. First-year students will be arriving **August 19-20**. This is a wonderful opportunity to be the “first face of greeting” and welcome an international student, who will be traveling alone. About 50 will be requesting our welcome. Great friendships and exchanges can and have resulted from these simple gestures of greeting and welcome.

Please complete the [Information Form](#). We will invite you to select a student(s) according to your availability and their arrival times. We'll provide a welcome bag, instructions about campus check-in on Duke's East campus, and thorough support to your service.

## ***Welcome Gathering***

There are many ways to participate in the gathering on **Friday, September 2, 6-8:15 p.m.**—bring food, decorate the room, welcome at the door or at check-in, host a table, facilitate ice-breaker or a team-building activity, contribute musically, write a follow-up note, help with clean-up. More information will become available closer to the event. But it's a good time to add to your calendar this collective welcoming gesture!

These events are a part of Blacknall's Deep Common Journey initiative. A Deep Common Journey is a partnership in mission and it expresses the hope that Blacknall would share together as a congregation in a transformative relationship. Learn more about ISI on their [website](#).



## Women's Art Night

Serena Whisenhunt

The June 22 art gathering was spectacular! The appeal was multi-dimensional: fellowship (we had 40+ people), delicious food (including Shelly Epps's homemade baklava in honor of Tanya Moore's birthday!), and the luxury of time and space to create a piece of art. Nothing is more therapeutic for overloaded left brains than tapping into the brain's creative side. It was so inviting to come into the fellowship hall where samples were displayed, a spread of food was on the table, and art supplies were ready and laid out.

I felt that almost-forgotten joy of childhood, when you just show up and enter the fun! Eleatta, who is gifted not only as artist but as teacher, launched us with her instructions and then circled about the room, encouraging participants and making suggestions when we asked for them. Everyone went home with a finished canvas, and each creation was different.

For my adult daughter and me, it was also a sweet joy to draw, color, and paint side-by-side. I hope Blacknall will host another art gathering like this-and soon!



# Calendar

## JULY

July 12	Boys' Discovery Day
July 13-17	High School Service Trip
July 15	Family Fun Night
July 17	Hollingsworth Retirement Party
July 26	Boys' Discovery Day
July 30	Backyard Bible Adventure

## AUGUST

August 4	Backyard Bible Adventure
August 12	Family Fun Night
August 16	Boys' Discovery Day
August 28	Promotion Sunday



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