



Blacknall Newsletter

September | October 2016

Dear Blacknall family,

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan friar. In a recent email devotional he talked about the sense of guilt that many of us live with. It is not a guilt for specific things we have done wrong. Rather, it is “often a guilt about not having yet lived. We call that essential or primal guilt. It’s deeper than guilt for an offense we can name. It feels like shame, not about anything in particular, but about who we are and who we aren’t.”

I wonder if this sense of “primal guilt” is the driving force behind much of our compulsiveness, especially our compulsive busyness.

Rohr goes on to say, “There is a certain fear of death that comes from not having lived yet...there’s an existential terror about losing what you’ve never found. Something in us says, “I haven’t done ‘it’ yet.” I haven’t experienced the stream of life yet. I haven’t touched the real, the good, the true, and the beautiful—which is, of course, what we were created for.”

My fall has been very, very busy. That is not unusual for many of us. For me, it has felt frantic at times. Am I frantically trying to find “it”? Frantically trying to experience the full, abundant life that is full of goodness, truth, and beauty?

Jesus invites us to surrender all of that. He says, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water

will flow from within them.” John adds: “By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.” (John 7:37-39)

Once we have experienced those rivers of living water flowing from within, Rohr suggests, then we don’t need to fear death or to fear this primal guilt. We have already received “it.” We have come to know the One who is Life. Hopefully, we have experienced His Life flowing in us and through us. I have Life. I don’t have to find it or get it.

I wonder if this sense of “primal guilt” is the driving force behind much of our compulsiveness, especially our compulsive busyness.

And those rivers of living water will lead me into Life, Life Eternal, Life Abundant. It will lead me into Life, not alone, detached and at peace with myself, but Life in communion with others. The Holy Spirit will lead us into Life in the world where we will see the world with Jesus’ eyes

and be empowered, together, to be Christ’s Body serving the world and witnessing to the goodness of God.

Beloved, we have this Life. Let us live into it so that when we face death we will be able to say with St. Francis, “Welcome, sister death.” I will not be afraid to let go of life because ***I have life.***



Thanks,

David

Pastor David Dunderdale

In This Issue

- 1 Pastor's Letter
David Dunderdale
- 3 Congo Initiative
Julie Bryce
- 4 Meet the Interns
- 5 StepUp Durham
Erin Roesch
- 6 Building a Home
Mark Paulson
- 7 Hollingsworth Snapshots
- 8 In case you missed it...

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 newsletter?** Contact [Mary Grimm](#).

Church Staff

Allan Poole - Pastor
David Dunderdale - Pastor
Goodwyn Bell - Ministry Fellow
Margaret Frothingham - Director of Congregational Care
Traci Hoover - Director of Children's Ministry
Tanya Kronstad - Director of Middle School Ministries
Beth Solie - Director of Children's Ministry
Dave Stuntz - Director of Music Ministry
Mary Grimm - Communications Coordinator
Donna McBrite - Business Manager
Ali Shoenfelt - Administrative Associate
Carol Smith - Financial Administrator
Joel Boersma - Duke Divinity Intern
Lauren Hunter - Duke Divinity Intern
Allison Wattenbarger - Duke Divinity Intern

Save-the-date!

Sunday, October 16 - Inquirer's Class Begins
Sunday, October 30 - Festival of the Bean
Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday in Advent

Congo Initiative

Julie Bryce

The next Blacknall trip to Beni, Congo to support our deep common journey with Congo Initiative is September 29-October 14. Four people are going on this trip: David Dunderdale, John Shoenfelt, and Chad and Ashley Weinard. They'll spend the majority of their time at the University, Université Chrétienne Bilingue du Congo (UCBC), a Christian bilingual university in Beni with around 40 faculty, 500 current students, and over 400 alumni. Founded by Dr. David Kasali in 2007, the vision for UCBC is to educate a new generation of African servant leaders in an effort to transform lives and rebuild Congo. UCBC is part of a wider network called Congo Initiative, which is a closely connected web of ministries to women, children, and the wider community in this eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Pray for the
Blacknall trip to
Congo!

Prayer Requests

- For safe travels and border crossings
- For peace and protection for anxious families at home
- For the building of strong relationships and new friendships
- For their reflection time together
 - That they could be useful and contribute their skills constructively
 - That they would listen well
 - That they would share stories and laughter with UCBC partners, faculty, students, and back at Blacknall
 - That they could understand how to pray for our friends in this region
 - For peace in Beni and for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at large
- For a peaceful and democratic process in the upcoming election in DRC

Congo Trip Plans

- Provide professional development to the faculty, teaching media among other specialties, to instructors who seek to integrate these elements into their classroom strategies
- Encourage friends including those with close ties to Blacknall (Kyle & Emily Hamilton, Noe & Bethany Kasali)
- Teach conversational English classes with students who will be returning for school

Last but not least: Blacknall is hosting the Congo Initiative (CI) board meeting October 13-16. Volunteers are needed to host board members and provide breakfast and lunches during the meeting, which will take place at Blacknall over the weekend. We'd like to house Board members within close proximity to Blacknall if possible, as most will not have access to cars. Want to volunteer for one of these partnership activities? Email [Julie Bryce](mailto:Julie.Bryce@blacknall.org).



David Dunderdale



John Shoenfelt



Ashley & Chad Weinard

Meet the Interns



Joel Boersma

Hometown & Church Affiliation: Holland, MI; Reformed Church in America (RCA)

Ordination Track: RCA

After graduation I see myself pastoring, preaching, and teaching in the Midwest or on the East coast.

I love to talk about Michigan football, anything written by CS Lewis, and defending the many virtues of Dutch-Calvinism.



Lauren Hunter

Hometown & Church Affiliation: Richland, Washington; affiliated with PC(USA)

Ordination Track: PC(USA)...Not yet, but considering it! Potentially will start the inquirer's phase soon.

After graduation I see myself somehow working with college students/ Christian education, maybe teaching, college ministry, or college administration/student development.

I love to talk about Broadway musicals, Reformed theology, and recipes (particularly those that contain a lot of sugar).



Allison Wattenbarger

Hometown & Church: Philadelphia, PA; City Church

Ordination Track: Yep! Reformed Church in America (RCA)

After graduation I see myself in pastoral ministry and continuing to study biblical theology and the Middle East.

I love to talk about community, coffee, food, modernist literature, Judaism, international politics, and anything I don't know about yet!



StepUp Durham

Erin Roesch

Erin Roesch is the Director of Development and Employer Recruitment with StepUp Durham, an organization focused on adults and children transforming their lives through employment and life skills training.

Above is a picture of the graduating StepUp Class who went through 32 hours of employment readiness training at Blacknall the week of August 8-12. This was a special class because it was the first time in over five years that StepUp has had a 100% graduation rate. That means that everyone who started our Employment Readiness Workshop on Monday graduated the week on Friday and will receive an Employment Counselor to help with their employment search.

Key Partners

- Families Moving Forward
- Urban Ministries of Durham
- Partners for Youth Opportunity
- REAL Durham

Exciting Numbers from 2015-2016

40

StepUp graduates have obtained employment

43

employers have committed to a referral relationship

6

people have worked their way out of homelessness after partnering with StepUp

\$10.66

average hourly wage of a working StepUp participant



It is hard to believe that less than 5 months ago we began to work with Durham Habitat on the construction of the house at 1203 Ivy Street. The house is nearly complete and construction is winding down—our last work day was August 27. What was once an empty lot is now a beautifully landscaped three bedroom, two bath house.

Thanks to the many folks who have contributed to this project by:

- Working on the Saturday build teams
- Providing lunches for the Saturday build teams
- Collecting money for the playground equipment
- Praying for the construction and for the family that will eventually make this a home

A special thanks to those who went above and beyond by working on the house on weekdays during its construction.

If you have not yet turned in your contributions to the playground equipment, you can still turn in your house to any Deacon on Duty on Sunday morning. To date, more than \$1,000 has been raised! As soon as we know the details about the family moving in, we will buy the playground equipment.

Please continue to pray for the family that will eventually make this house a home. Once this family is selected, the house dedication will be scheduled—all are invited (whether you have participated previously or not) to come out to the dedication as we welcome this family into their new home—it will be a joyous and blessed event!



Mission Builders

The summer reading program ended with a bang! Blacknall kids read 265 books this summer. That means we'll give \$265 to La Charite Primary School in Congo. Not only did you read some great books this summer, you've helped Congo kids too! Now that school is back in full swing, don't forget to stop by the library and keep reading.



A New Book by Hunter Lambeth

Hunter Lambeth, a Blacknall-supported missionary with Young Life in Israel, has written

a new book, *Praus: A Parable for Winning the War Within*. The book is based on the metaphor of "Praus", an ancient Greek word used to describe the strength, discipline, and obedience of a powerful war horse.

100% of all royalties from book sales go toward funding Young Life camperships in the Middle East, so that more and more teenagers in Israel and the Palestinian Territories can hear the message of the Gospel.

In Appreciation | **48 Years of Service**



As a part of Blacknall's Centennial, we celebrated our longest-supported missionaries this past July.

For the last 48 years, Blacknall has supported Judy and Ken Hollingsworth as they worked on Bible translation around the world.



We give thanks for their good work!

In case you missed it...

[Table Talk Brochure](#)

[Sunday School Brochure](#)

[Children's Sunday School Parent Packet](#)

[Women's Retreat Brochure](#)

[Women's Newsletter](#)



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