



## Blacknall Newsletter

## November | December 2016

Dear Blacknall Family,

Recently I was ordained and installed as your new Associate Pastor. It was a wonderful day for me! The ordination occurred as part of a special Sunday afternoon worship service. I got to choose the texts and the music. I invited friends in the denomination—Divinity school classmates, former InterVarsity colleagues, and mentors—to be part of the Presbytery commission. And many of my out of town family and friends joined many of you to witness the event.

But the day was not *really* about me. It was about *us*. In the Reformed tradition, we emphasize our common calling to be followers of Christ. Every one of us has been called; every one of us is "in ministry." In the ordination sermon my former pastor, Corey Widmer, reminded us that "Every person who comes into relationship with Jesus is given a mission from Jesus. There is no being saved by him without being sent by him. There is no experiencing his grace without being called to extend that grace to the world." This is a part of what it means to be the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:5); we are *all* ministers.

Some of us are then set aside and ordained to equip all of us to do the work of the Lord. My ordination is about *your* ministry. You didn't ordain me so that I could do

more work and you could do less work. You made me a pastor so that I can help *you* participate in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Paul put it this way to the church in Ephesus: "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and

in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

**You made me a pastor so that I can help you participate in the ministry of Jesus Christ.**

Ordination is about the Lord being faithful to sustain His church. He gives us what we need, including persons to preach the word and

administer the sacraments (like me!). Ordination is the church saying "yes" to the work of the Lord. We call pastors because we want to be built up and become mature in Christ.

So remember this, as you call me "Pastor" with a wink and a grin: It's about the work the Lord has given to *all* of us, and you are priests, too!



In Christ,

Pastor Goodie Bell

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## About the Newsletter

Welcome to Blacknall's bi-monthly publication highlighting our life together! Issues feature stories, poems, and artwork created by our community. **Are you interested in submitting to the newsletter?** Contact [Mary Grimm](#).

## Church Staff

Allan Poole - Pastor  
David Dunderdale - Pastor  
Goodwyn Bell - Pastor  
Margaret Frothingham - Director of Congregational Care  
Traci Hoover - Director of Preschool Children's Ministry  
Tanya Kronstad - Director of Middle School Ministry  
Beth Solie - Director of Elementary 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

# Staffing Update

Personnel Committee

## Associate Pastor



On Sunday, November 6, the Blacknall family gathered around Goodie Bell and celebrated her ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Goodie, along with husband Jack, has been

with us for a few years now, through grad school for both Jack and Goodie, the birth of their two children, Hazel and John Moses, and Goodie's work among us as a ministry fellow. It has been a joy to participate with her as she has grown into her leadership role among us, and it is with great joy that we welcome her officially as an associate pastor at Blacknall, with particular responsibilities in ministry with our younger adults.

## Children's Ministry



Beginning August 28, Beth Solie and Traci Hoover changed work positions at Blacknall. Beth is now our Director of Elementary Children's Ministries and Traci is the Director of Pre-school Children's Ministries.

Children's ministry is ever-changing. Beth & Traci sensed that switching their work roles would help better meet these changes, as well as have other advantages for Blacknall children and their families. They worked with

the Personnel Committee and Session, and the change was approved.

Beth finds great joy in helping children begin to make faith their own. She also has energy and creative strength for the programmatic and planning aspects of elementary ministry. In addition, this job switch allows her to spend more time creating/writing curriculum, which she enjoyed doing before coming to Blacknall.

Traci feels a longing to invest more in the younger families, particularly the young moms, encouraging them in their early years of motherhood. She and her husband, Don, want to help families build strong foundations and strong marriages during these chaotic years. (Logistically, Traci is much closer to the church building, therefore more easily present to provide oversight and presence there when needed.)

For those new to Blacknall, Beth and Traci have worked together since 2006. They both worked part-time to cover the full time Children's Ministry Director Position. Then Blacknall grew, and they helped create today's two positions for better coverage of our children's ministry. Beth and Traci have covered both roles, and cross-covered for one another. Blacknall leadership is confident in this official role change as advantageous for all.

## Youth Pastor

Some of you are asking (and many of you are praying!) about the search for a person to follow in Brad Turnage's large shoes as Director of Youth Ministries. The committee, chaired by Becky Gould, continues to be at work, but has yet to discover the person God has in mind for us. In the meantime, we are very grateful to Tanya Kronstad, our Middle School Director, for her willingness to take on additional responsibilities and hours as she staffs volunteer teams for both middle and high school. Thank you, Tanya!

# Carol Smith



***Welcome Carol Smith, Blacknall's new financial administrator! Carol joined Blacknall over the summer. She brings a delightful spirit to the office, an excellent eye for detail, and a contagious laugh. We are so glad to have her on staff.***

## ***Tell us a little about yourself & your family.***

My husband (Steve) and myself are originally from Dublin and Pulaski, Virginia. The towns are very close to each other. We went to high school together and started dating our senior year. We have been married for 34 years. We have two lovely daughters. Our oldest daughter Brittany is married to a nice guy. His name is Ryan Sweeney and they live in Durham, NC. They don't have children but they do have three cats, one dog and three chickens. Our youngest daughter Chelsea, lives with us while she goes to school at Durham Tech. She has two cats. We live on Winding Arch Drive near Streets of Southpoint in Durham.

## ***What are three things you are passionate about?***

Reading, walking, and spending time with my family. My husband and I have worked on mission projects like putting up drywall in houses that have been victims of floods at the church in Blacksburg, Virginia where we lived before.

## ***People would be surprised to know...***

I like to travel. I have been to Holland where my husband's younger sister lives, Sweden and Australia. I am a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. I was in a youth choir called the Joyful Noise in Pulaski, Virginia at the First Presbyterian Church. We traveled to Colorado to a youth conference and sang at churches along the way on a school bus.

## ***What attracted you to this role at Blacknall?***

We had been attending Triangle Presbyterian Church for a few months, and I saw the notice in the church bulletin. I felt moved to apply for the job. After meeting the people along the process of the interviews, I felt that they were all so nice and I felt very comfortable. I felt like this was the place that God was calling me.

## ***What are you looking forward to in your role?***

I look forward to meeting people in the church and I really enjoy my job. Hope to get involved with some bible studies. I have joined the choir along with my husband and daughter, Chelsea, to sing the Lessons and Carols. We are really enjoying it. Hope to have more opportunities to work with people of this church and Triangle Presbyterian Church.



## Centennial Reflection

Blacknall's Centennial year (1916-2016) is winding to a close. It has been exciting to watch how the Lord has continued to bless us, and energize our work as an Outpost of the Kingdom.

We started with the Kickoff celebration in February 2016. Almost 500 people gathered for a fun-filled evening, including the excitement of seeing old friends (in person and projected on the screen!), and hearing from our past three senior pastors (spanning 65 years of service). There was hearty laughter at the creative way the barbershop quartet highlighted our historical "story" through satire and song.

We celebrated the **WORD** by having guest pastors, all of whom had their ministry start at Blacknall. These guests included Ed Henegar, Tim Filston, and Ryan Moore. Griff Gatewood will be our guest pastor the last Sunday in January, 2017.

Blacknall is known for the **WORSHIP** that occurs in tandem with the Word. We anticipate a special service in January, highlighting those worship songs that were written for, or by, Blacknall members.

Our **SERVICE** project of building the Centennial Home (Habitat House) is complete and the grass and plants are thriving! All that is missing is a buyer for this beautiful house we have helped build. We are waiting for the perfect family to make this house their home! Once we have a buyer, we will begin to plan the dedication ceremony, where the new owner will receive the keys to the house. The entire congregation will be invited to this event, where we will dedicate this home to the Lord. We will also give the new homeowner backyard playground equipment—a wonderful gift for which our children and families raised \$1,500! Look for an announcement in the bulletin about when this will happen. Many sincere thanks to all who gave of their time and resources.

We are grateful for such a lively, loving, and committed congregation. Here's to the next 100 years!

*The Centennial Celebration Committee (Dare Nicholson, Anne Paulson, Pam Pennigar, Brooklynne Travis, Ali Shoenfelt, Sherbie Skeen, Ann Talton-Lee)*

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of the Bean!



*Congratulations to the new  
Lord of the Bean Dan Train!*

# SUMMER CAMP SAVE-THE-DATE

## Girls Discovery Week

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
June 26-29, 9-3 p.m.

## Boys Discovery Week

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Summer Evenings (Dates TBD)  
4:30-8:30 p.m.

## Art Camp

Rising K-finishng 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
July 10-14, mornings



## Parking Update

Donna McBrite

The Property Development committee would like to update the congregation on our parking lot plans. We have been re-examining the construction of a paved lot, due to continuing negotiations and studies for a longer term solution in this area. The costs of the original plans we had were far higher than originally anticipated (due in part to new Durham Storm Water fees) and we feel they were too high for a parking lot that may have only been necessary for a year or two.

So, we went back to the drawing board to find a less expensive option that would be a better use of our resources for the short term. We are currently working on a gravel/grass lot that will span behind both properties at 714 and 716 Iredell. As we have more details, we will update again, but we believe we should be able to have this completed shortly and have spaces for about 25 cars.

Please know that we are working very hard to use our resources wisely, and to make the best decision for Blacknall and the neighborhood.

*Pictured: Donna McBrite points to the parking area*



## Extravaganza!

Tanya Kronstad

50 middle school students and leaders participated in Blacknall's Overnight Extravaganza this fall! One highlight of our evening together was time at Frankie's Fun Park where some of our students enjoyed go-karting for the first time. On Saturday morning, we were treated to a delicious, hot breakfast by some wonderful parents. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this Blacknall youth group tradition amazing yet again!

*Pictured: Erin Lima and Isela Coonley*

# Advent & Christmas

- SUNDAY, NOV. 27    **Advent Wreath Workshop** | 4 p.m. Community Room
- SUNDAY, DEC. 4    **Lessons & Carols services**  
**Mission Outreach Celebration Dinner** | 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- SUNDAY, DEC. 11    **Advent Open House** | 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall  
**Church Picture Day** | 10 a.m. Upper Atrium  
**Carols & Cocoa** | 6.30 p.m. Sanctuary
- SUNDAY, DEC. 18    **Advent Open House** | 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall  
**Worship on the Longest Night** | 6.30 p.m. Sanctuary
- SATURDAY, DEC. 24    **Christmas Eve Services** | 5:30 p.m. Sanctuary (Childcare provided)  
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary (No childcare)
- SUNDAY, DEC. 25    **Christmas Day Service** | 11 a.m. Sanctuary (Childcare infants-age 2)
- DEC. 26 & 27    Office Closed
- SUNDAY, JAN. 1    **New Year's Day Service** | 11 a.m. Sanctuary (Childcare infants-age 2)
- MONDAY, JAN. 2    Office Closed
- SUNDAY, JAN. 8    **Spring Sunday School begins**



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