

Deep Common Journey Partners

Partnership with an organization in mission toward learning to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Please visit Blacknall's website for more information.

CONGO INITIATIVE

Prayer requests from our partner David Kasali in Congo – “In DRC in general, in Beni and surrounding and particularly at CI-UCBC, we [have] been learning more and more to literally surrender to God for every aspect of our lives. Please pray that we will not give up, not see with our human eyes but see things from God’s perspective. We thank God for continued provision of peace and relative security especially in the past few days. Please pray that we will continue to daily live out our faith and trust in God. Our context gives us the opportunity to live out Christianity. Please pray that God will continue to be sufficient to us in all our needs.”

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, INC.

As we look to the new year, here are two ways for you to serve and love international students & scholars: 1) Bless international married couples at the Marriage Course by helping to set up, prepare and serve one or more of the meals. Thursday evenings from January 18–March 1. Contact: Joyce Kight (nightingale1960me@yahoo.com). 2) Be a host for the International Supper Club in the Spring Semester. More information can be found at <http://ivolunteers.website>. Sign up by January 12. Contact: Dan Kronstad (dkronstad@isionline.org) or Scott Hawkins (shawkins@duke.edu).

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD (FORMERLY IHN)

Thank you to all who served at FMF last week. This was such a blessing to all those who are in this shelter for the Advent and Christmas holidays.

REALITY MINISTRIES

The Reality Forum – Saturday, January 20. *What is Reality?* Together we will consider how knowing the reality of God’s grace rooted in the love of the Holy Trinity influences how we view ourselves, our neighbors, and every single person. For information and registration, go to www.realityministriesinc.org

Finance

Year-end Financial Information

Additional income needed by **December 31, 2017**
to meet our budget obligations: **\$224,969**

One aspect of being Christ’s disciples is entering into the joy of His ministry on every level, including providing financially for the mission of the church. As we enter the Advent season and near the end of the calendar year on December 31, we encourage Blacknall members and friends to review your 2017 giving records to make sure you’ve given as you’ve intended. Although Blacknall now follows a fiscal year budget that begins in July and ends in June, we still typically receive the largest share of offerings at the end of the calendar year and these end-of-year offerings are essential for us to meet our fiscal year budget. We rejoice in the Lord’s generosity to our church family and thank you in advance for participating in our mission.

The finance summary above differs from our usual format. The income total is updated each week and shows the total additional offering needed to meet budget for the end of the calendar year. The traditional summary (shown below) is updated at the close of each month with the actual offerings received compared to budget need as of the stated month. Please direct any questions to Joe Bohn (joebohn@gmail.com) or financial administrator Carol Smith (csmith@blacknall.org).

July 1 through November 30, 2017

Actual offerings: \$466,145

Offering need: \$562,433

Ahead/(behind): (\$96,288)

There are multiple ways to give to Blacknall:

- Cash or check in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.
- Cash or check brought to the church office. Gifts brought to the church office must be received prior to 4 p.m. on December 29 to be included in 2017 giving statements.
- Checks mailed to the church office. In order to be attributed to 2017 the letter must have a postmark of Dec. 31 or earlier. Any letter with a later postmark will be included in 2018.
- Automatic bank drafts as a part of bill pay directed to Blacknall using your local bank.
- Gifts of stock. Contact Rick Every for more information about how to transfer stock (919.489.9733; REvery18@aol.com). Please make arrangements prior to Dec. 20 to allow adequate time for processing.
- Online giving is available from our website (including ACH, debit card, and credit card donations). Members can also schedule recurring online gifts when signed on to CCB.
- Details on all giving options are available at blacknall.org/giving.



Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church

1902 Perry Street, Durham NC 27705

www.blacknall.org | 919.286.5586 (office) | churchoffice@blacknall.org

Blacknall is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Fellowship Community.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Songs of Adoration

“There is No Rose”

Caracciolo

“Gaudete!”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Invocation

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Isaiah 61

“Here With Us”

Dana McCarty & Jamie Turnage

Prayers of Confession

Response of Gratitude: “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven; and sits on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit; the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who has spoken by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Baptism of Gabriel Louie

(8:30)

Children’s Blessing *Age 4 – 2nd grade may leave for Children’s & Junior Church*

Welcome! Whether you are a guest or attend regularly, we hope you will find the rich presence of God, the warmth of genuine fellowship, and the abiding truth of the Word.

Thank you for silencing your cell phones and pagers during the service. Hearing assistance units are available, please speak to one of the deacons.

The Word & the Sacrament

Proclamation of the Word: Luke 1:46-56 *Allan Poole*
(Pew Bible page 1025)

Song of Response: “What Child Is This?”

The Bread and the Cup *Gluten-free elements by*
piano

Life Together

Presenting Our Gifts

Focus on Mission *Marriage*
Course (11)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Benediction

Prayer Teams: Michael & Serena Whisenhunt (8:30)
Joanne Beckman & Betsy Poole (11)

About the Music

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, traditionally referred to as “Joy Sunday.” If you were to identify a song for such a day, what would it be? My bet is that most of us would pick something that has some combination of these characteristics: fast, loud, high, bubbly, triumphant, regal. Many of us would immediately think of “Joy to the World.” Look carefully at the song of Mary (called the Magnificat, from the Latin translation of “My soul magnifies the Lord”) to see a different picture of joy. Mary’s joy is like a secluded pond, quiet and deep. Her song invites you to do as Luke says that she does, “...and Mary pondered these things in her heart.” It is as if she is singing about that which brings joy to God’s heart, and of her desire for it to be true for her as well: the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed. Her song depicts a “world order” that is reordered in accord with God’s heart of justice and holiness. Some of our songs today are crackling with energy and effervescence, and some are reflective of, “Be still and know that I am God.” The quieter songs invite us to draw closer; they challenge us to contemplate a costly joy, “nails, spears shall pierce Him through;” they beckon us to respond, “I am the servant of the Lord.” *Res Miranda, Pares forma, Transeamus, Gaudeamus.*

My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my Savior;
You have looked upon Your servant, You have visited Your people.
And holy is Your name through all generations!
Everlasting is Your mercy to the people You have chosen,
And holy is Your name!

Our Life Together

Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church is called to glorify the Triune God, to make known the crucified and risen Christ, and to advance the Kingdom that God is building in us, in Durham, and around the world.

Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests

We rejoice today with Michele Lanham & Raphael Louie in the baptism of their son, Gabriel Lanham Louie.

Let’s pray for Margaret Scarce and the whole Scarce family in the death of longtime Blacknall elder Richard Scarce, who died on December 7.

Pray for Blacknall missionaries Fraser & Liz Bennett, with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Fraser is the Director of Academic Training for SIL International, in Dallas, Texas, Wycliffe’s sister organization that focuses on *applied* linguistics. Translating the Bible for 200 million of the world’s most marginalized people is a demanding task that requires extensive training. Fraser’s job is to make sure that training is available worldwide. He supports program coordination in Asia, Europe, and the Americas; training center development in Papua New Guinea; and translation curriculum development in Africa. Specific prayer requests: 1) thanksgiving for their 3 month “mini-furlough-in-place” and the opportunity to rest, take stock of their next years of service, and reconnect with their support partners; 2) the entire Bennett family, as they transition back to regular life; 3) improvement in the way Wycliffe recognizes and honors its most senior, qualified translation consultants; 4) adequate financial support.

Advent & Christmas

Tonight – Worship on the Longest Night, 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Are you feeling out of step with the joy of Christmas? Blacknall offers a contemplative service that provides space to pause, reflect, and remember that Jesus comes for those of us who are suffering, lonely, or grieving. All are welcome. Childcare is provided.

Coffee & Donuts in the Rose Garden – Join us before the worship service from 10-11 a.m. on Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24 and on New Year’s Eve Sunday, December 31 for a chance to fellowship together.

Christmas Eve Services – Sunday, December 24 | Sanctuary

11 a.m. – Children’s programs & nursery provided. Please note there is no 8:30 a.m. service or Sunday School on Christmas Eve.

5 p.m. – All ages are welcome at this joyful service. Children are invited to worship with us but childcare is also available.

7:30 p.m. – Join us for bells, candles, carols and communion. No childcare.

New Year’s Eve – Sunday, December 31, 11 a.m. | Sanctuary

Children’s programs & nursery provided. Please note there is no 8:30 a.m. service or Sunday School on New Year’s Eve.

Children’s Ministry

Children’s & Junior Church – A continuation of the worship service in their own space is offered for children after the Children’s Blessing. Children’s Church is for 4 and 5 year olds in Room 105, and Junior Church is for 1st and 2nd graders in Room 112. After the 8:30 service, please pick up your children and prepare them for Sunday school (i.e. bathroom break!) before taking them to their classes. After the 11 service, please pick up your children promptly.

Women’s Ministry

Save the Dates for January – Stretch and Pray will meet on Saturday, January 13, 9-10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Knit Together** will meet on Saturday, January 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m, Location TBA.

Announcements

Blacknall Advent Devotional – Blacknall members, missionaries, and partners have composed an Advent Devotional for you! Pick up a copy in the entry lobby and sign up on our website to receive the devotions daily in your inbox.

Angel Tree – Today is the last day to bring in your Angel Tree gifts. Gift will be distributed to St. John’s Church and Families Moving Forward. Thank you for your generosity! Questions: call Suzanne Coonley at 919.680.2593.

Each Sunday we will light candles and read Scripture for Advent – would you or your household like to help with this for Christmas Eve or Dec. 31? Please speak to Dave Stuntz today! **Would your child like to play/sing as part of the prelude Christmas Eve?** Please speak to Dave right away (dstuntz@blacknall.org).

Christmas cards for Blacknall supported missionaries are on the table in the Lower Atrium to sign with a note of encouragement and appreciation. And don’t forget to pick up the **December Missionary Prayer Guide**.

Thank you from the Almousa Family – The Almousas, a family of Syrian refugees that Blacknall supports through the work of our World Relief volunteers, were very touched and extremely grateful for the provision of clothes. They asked Nadia to thank everyone saying, “We don’t know how to thank them. Please thank them for us.”

Thank you from Jan Smart – My family and I would like to express our appreciation for surrounding us with your love and care during our period of bereavement on the loss of JB. Thank you for your moral support, prayers, telephone calls, floral arrangements, food, financial donations, etc. We greatly appreciate them. A big thank you to all.

Gbaya Bible Translation – At Lessons and Carols two weeks ago, Lenore Brown read from Luke 2 in Gbaya, a language spoken in South Sudan. Lenore and Rick analyzed this unwritten language, reduced it to writing, trained teachers and translators, and helped translate the New Testament into Gbaya, working for Wycliffe Bible Translators. To follow along with their work, send your email address to Lenore (Lenore_Brown@sil.org).