

## 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 set up, prepare, and serve one or more of the meals. Thursday evenings January 18–March 8. 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)

**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree for FMF and for St. John's.** Your gifts have made many families in Durham feel loved at Christmas! Blacknall continues to bless many at both of these places as we give to **folks we don't even know.** A special thanks to Doug and Suzanne Coonley for their selfless giving in doing all the arrangements for the Angel Tree—they allow us to be generous!

### 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](http://www.realityministriesinc.org)

## Finance

### Year-end Financial Information

Additional income needed by **December 31, 2017**  
to meet our budget obligations: **\$169,190**

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 December 31 or earlier. Any letter with a later postmark will be included in 2018.
- Gifts of stock. Contact Rick Every for more information about how to transfer stock (919.489.9733; REvery18@aol.com).
- Automatic bank drafts as a part of bill pay directed to Blacknall using your local bank.
- 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](http://blacknall.org/giving).



### Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church

1902 Perry Street, Durham NC 27705

[www.blacknall.org](http://www.blacknall.org) | 919.286.5586 (office) | [churchoffice@blacknall.org](mailto:churchoffice@blacknall.org)

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



**BLACKNALL**  
MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

### Songs of Adoration

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

### Invocation

“The First Noel”

“The Echo Carol”

Lighting of the Advent Candles: John 1

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*arr. Getty*

*Doris Stam, soloist*

### Prayers of Confession

Response of Gratitude: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

### Affirmation of Faith Creed

### Apostles'

*We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**Children's Blessing** Age 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: Matthew 1:18-24 *Allan Poole*  
*(Pew Bible page 966)*

Song of Response: “Come and Stand Amazed”

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

### Life Together

Presenting Our Gifts

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Benediction

Prayer Team *Betsy Poole & Kim*  
*Dunderdale*

### About the Music

Carols are distinctive from all other sacred songs – they show up every year, but only in December. They easily become part of a too-easily-sentimentalized season, devoid of meaning, reduced to simply a familiar tune that helps us think happy thoughts. But carols also contain language that is stunning, jarring, and astonishing in its clarity and power. Here are a few phrases gleaned from songs which we have sung at Blacknall this year, or in another recent December: The Incarnation. Emanuel, God With Us. This baby, God’s own Son. God’s love made visible. The wondrous gift. Salvation. The heaven-born Prince of Peace. The Sun of Righteousness. The Word. That child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord. The dear Christ. Our Master. The arms of peace. The everlasting Light. Come to earth to taste our sadness; by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend. A human baby bearing undiminished deity. Born that we no more may die. See the Sovereign without splendor, see the Fullness destitute. “O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell [but really, they were singing, right??]; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emanuel!”

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give Him: give my heart.*

*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.*

## Our Life Together

### Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests

**Let’s rejoice with Katie & Ryan Connolly** on the birth of their son Abraham Burton Connolly on December 18; and with **Amy & Dan Gaultney** on the birth of their son Isaac Michael Gaultney on December 20.

### Church Programs & Events

**Tonight** – Christmas Eve Services, 5:00 & 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary  
**5 p.m.** – This service is well attended by families with small children as they begin their Christmas Eve observance. While childcare is available for our youngest ones we encourage families to attend this service together. All are welcome. Please note: Communion will not be served.  
**7:30 p.m.** – This service tends to be quieter and more reflective. Communion will be served. All are welcome. Please note: no childcare provided.

**Coffee & Donuts in the Rose Garden** – Sunday, Dec. 31, 10-11 a.m. A chance to fellowship together before the worship service. If the weather is bad, we will move into the Community Room (located to the left of the Rose Garden when facing the church on Perry Street).

**New Year’s Eve Service** – Sunday, Dec. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in Room 112. After the 8:30 a.m. 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 a.m. service, please pick up your children promptly.

### Women’s Ministry

**“Listening to Others” Workshop** – Saturday, January 27, 9-11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Meredith Milke, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and Professional Counselor. What would it mean for

our relationships if we were better listeners? Come join us for a practical and interactive workshop on learning to listen. We will laugh and practice together so you can have a few more tools to love others well. Sign up coming soon.

**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

**Would your child like to sing or play for the prelude tonight?** Please speak to Dave right away (dstuntz@blacknall.org).

**Holiday Office Closings** – The church office will be closed Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1.

### Notes