

Blacknall

Memorial Presbyterian Church



1902 Perry Street . Durham, NC 27705 . 919-286-5586 . www.blacknall.org

April
2012

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Blacknall family,

This Lenten season has been intense and challenging for many of us. Internationally, the headlines tell us of tragedies at home and abroad, and the future somehow seems threatening and uncertain. As a congregation, we have been given our own challenges as we ask the Lord to guide us as we seek to be faithful to his call in a changing world. In my own life my mom's death has altered my spiritual and emotional landscape. There are many days when I feel a little like that WWII Marine dug in on a beachhead in the South Pacific theatre. In the midst of intense shelling by the Japanese, the young man jumped out of his foxhole and yelled, "My religion is not adequate for this moment!" and dived back into his foxhole.

No one welcomes suffering. Everything in us wants to avoid it, and when it is unavoidable, we want to explain it away, or blame someone else. But the truth is that we live in a world that is not the way it is supposed to be, and suffering, along with its more ominous and malevolent companion, death, comes to each of us, surprising, unwanted, and often devastating.

In this Holy Week, I am especially grateful for a God who has taken the pains to deal with this world as it really is, and not as I wish it were. In the events of this week, God Incarnate, Jesus Christ, took upon himself the weight of our broken world, suffering the judgment that rightly belongs to each of us. "He who knew no sin became sin for us," writes Paul the apostle, "so that we might become the righteousness of God." In his suffering and resurrection, he has counterbalanced the scale with his own weighty glory, and in so doing has declared that no suffering will have the final word for those who place their trust in him. For this One, sent from God, has defeated every enemy, including the stubbornness of our own sin, and death itself.

So we Christians rightly recognize Easter as the central event of our faith, the crowning triumph of the Incarnation. Because of the faithfulness of the One, we the many have been given an opportunity to embrace hope, to know that the guilt of our own sin and pride has been dealt with, and to live, even in the face of suffering, with the certain knowledge that the risen conquering Son has thrown open the door that death intended to bolt forever shut.

May this Easter season be a time for you to appropriate anew the hope that is ours, because we are His.

Yours, gratefully,
Allan

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Blacknall Happenings

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Women's Bible Study invites you to two special events this week. On **Thursday, April 5**, we will observe Maundy Thursday together in a special communion service including worship, Scripture, and a meditation by Janise Matyas Smith at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. We will follow with a time of food & fellowship. On **Friday, May 3**, we will conclude our year with a celebratory brunch in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30. Childcare is provided for both events. Questions? Contact Melissa Hartemink (416 8458 or mhartemink at yahoo.com)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK -

This week is rich and full! It is an opportunity unlike any other time of the year when you can come and be immersed in worship built around the Gospel narrative.

Maundy Thursday, April 5 – 7:00 pm – Blacknall will be joined by the congregation of Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church. Mt. Level will provide the preaching and will “bring the music” – and how! A reception will follow the service. Childcare provided for those 4 years old or younger.

Good Friday, April 6 – 7:00 pm – We will gather to reflect on the passion of our Lord. This is a powerful time of coming face-to-face with the events of that day, when the Lamb of God took upon Himself the sins of the world. Childcare provided for those Grade 2 and younger.

Easter Sunday, April 8 – 6:00 am – We will return Mt. Level's visit by celebrating the Resurrection in their sanctuary (316 Hebron Road). Blacknall will provide the music leadership and the preaching. Maps are available on the tables in the Foyer and Upper Atrium. (We will worship at Blacknall at 8:30 and 11:00 am as usual, and have a church-wide reception during the Sunday School hour)

Pass the Peas Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, April 3 and 17, and May 1. – *Taste the joy of the kingdom through dinner and fellowship.* Blacknall is in partnership with Reality Ministries and Interfaith Hospitality Network. We will continue a program with Reality Ministries called *Pass the Peas*; and open our doors twice a month to teenagers and adults with disabilities who are involved with Reality Ministries' *Tuesday Night Live!*

Here's how you can be involved:

- Cook and serve with a Blacknall team. Your family (or two families), small group, or Sunday School class could spend time together and get to know our friends with disabilities.
- Sign up to grocery shop, cook, serve and clean-up. **Two shifts (5:00-7:00 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm) of 4-5 volunteers for each shift are ideal.** . Volunteers are still needed on April 3, and May 1

Please contact [Noreen Naiman](#) or [Stella Sieber](#) to sign up. Find out more about Reality Ministries at www.realityministriesinc.org or call the Reality Center (919-688-7776).

Additional Announcements

The gifts of God from the people of God...

2012 Weekly Budget	\$24,153	Previous Week's Tithes & Offerings	\$14,795
Year to Date as of March 27, 2012			
Budget Plan	\$313,989	Actual Expenses	\$298,177
Tithes & Offerings	\$225,746	Tithes & Offerings	\$225,746
Excess or (Shortage)	(\$88,243)	Excess or (Shortage)	(\$72,431)

Blacknall Outreach Fellows Program

Are you interested in international missions? Would you like a short-term experience with one of the international missionaries that Blacknall supports? Blacknall has set up the Blacknall Outreach Fellows Program for those in the Blacknall community who are looking for this kind of an experience.

This program involves exploring various short-term experiences that would be available with one of our international missionaries and applying to the Blacknall International Ministries Team (IMT). If selected, you would receive partial funding for your trip and would meet with members of the IMT for training beforehand and debriefing afterwards. You would also be expected to share with the congregation in various venues about your trip and the mission that we support.

If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity than you should contact [Chad Weinard](#), chair of the IMT or [David Dunderdale](#).

Electronic options

Did you know that you can use online banking at no cost to you or to Blacknall Church to make regular gifts of your tithes and offerings?

If you already have online banking in place, it will be easy!

1. Set up Blacknall as a new payee (Blacknall Presbyterian Church, 1902 Perry Street, Durham, NC 27705, phone 919-286-5586), entering the amount of each offering gift and the frequency of the payments.
2. Please put "Offering" on the memo line.
3. Email [Diane Beacham](#) and tell her you have set up an online payment to Blacknall.
4. If you have questions, call 919-286-5586 or email Diane.

Stay tuned...

for the unveiling of Blacknall's new logo and website this Spring!

FOCUS ON MISSIONS

Save the date!

**Blacknall's annual Great Day of Service (GDOS)
is coming up on Saturday, April 21.**

Participants will have the opportunity to join one of several service projects with community ministries between 8 am and 12 pm, followed by lunch and a time for sharing in Blacknall's Fellowship Hall.

The GDOS event has been a Blacknall tradition since 2003, and every year we are surprised by the many blessings the day brings. The types of service activities can range from planting a garden or painting a room, to working in a thrift store or teaching arts and crafts to kids.

Some of the best reasons to participate in the day of service:

- ◇ Learn about and celebrate local ministries. GDOS provides Blacknall members a snapshot into the important work Durham ministries do year-round. Learning more about what drives their work can be a great encouragement as we strive to be the body of Christ together in Durham. This experience also helps volunteers become aware of opportunities for involvement throughout the year.

- ◇ Get something done! A team of volunteers can get a lot done in a few hours on a Saturday morning. The GDOS activities will be challenging and rewarding experiences we can share together. This can also be a great bonding experience for families, small groups and Sunday school classes.

Stay tuned for more information. Service opportunities and sign up sheets are available throughout April in the Lower Atrium.

Requesting Donations for a Child-Focused Service Project on the Great Day of Service, April 21: Please put in Lower Atrium area. Last year, during our GDOS, Blacknall children and their families packed over 200 bags to be distributed to people in need in the Durham area. Our children and families will be packing bags this year, too, and we need your help! We have asked each Sunday School class to donate these items, but feel free to donate any item on this list. It will not be wasted! **Kindergarten:** Granola bars and travel-size water bottles (16 oz.); **1st Grade:** Individual snack size Raisins and travel size water bottles (16 oz); **2nd & 3rd Grade:** Men's size socks (new) and Granola Bars; **4th & 5th Grade Boys:** Men's size socks (new) and travel size Deodorant; **4th & 5th Grade Girls:** Wash cloths (new) and travel size soap. Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry and in helping our children understand the importance of generosity.

Parent Feedback Session Regarding Sermon Supplement: Sunday, April 22 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Upper Room. During the weeks of March 4 - April 8, we are conducting a "pilot" or "test" for our third through fifth graders on engaging their involvement in the sermon. We have provided sermon journals we hope will help engage your child more in this time of worship. If your child did participate in this project, please plan to attend this important meeting in order to provide your feedback on its strengths, weaknesses, and any needed improvements or changes. Your input is greatly appreciated! Please RSVP to [Cullen Rodgers-Gates](#).

Parenting Resource on Disciplining Elementary Age Children (Pick up a copy in the Lower Atrium). Respected biblical scholar William Webb has a brief postscript in his new book *Corporal Punishment in the Bible: A Redemptive-Movement Hermeneutic for Troubling Texts* on how to discipline elementary-aged children effectively without the use of spanking. He offers both preventative and corrective strategies that may help some seeking to effectively discipline without the 'rod'. There is nothing particularly profound here, but it may offer some helpful strategies and generate some good conversation among parents on how we might faithfully train the children God has entrusted to our care. Contact [Amy Rowell](#) with any questions or concerns.

Nursery Workers needed! Contact [Beth Solie](#) if you are interested in helping in the nursery on Sundays.

Assistants Needed During 11:00 Service in Children's Church

We are looking for people who want to communicate God's love to children and serve Blacknall on a one-month-on/two-months-off basis by assisting with 4 & 5 year old Godly Play during the 11:00 worship service. No outside preparation required. Please contact [Amy Rowell](#) if interested.

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MARK YOUR CALENARS!

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Our spring semester is underway and our youth group is enjoying a season of fun, fellowship and spiritual growth! Along with our usual weekly activities, BYG Time on Sunday nights and Cornerstone on Wednesday nights, we have spring retreats coming up. Our high school group will be traveling to [Salt and Life Christian Center](#) at Topsail Beach **April 20-22** and our middle school group is going to [Camp Don Lee](#) on **April 27-29**.

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Its also time to sign your teens up for our **summer mission trip to Philly and our middle school trip to The Great Escape**. To learn more about these trips and to download permission forms, go to www.youth.blacknall.org.

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Visit www.youth.blacknall.org for more information about Blacknall Youth, including weekly announcements.