

April
2010

Blacknall

Memorial Presbyterian Church



Dear Blacknall Family,

One of the things I have been taught my whole life is the importance of telling others about Jesus. I grew up believing that the greatest thing a person could do is to lead another person to Christ. I grew up hearing stories of how people entered into conversations with strangers and, as a result, the stranger became a Christian.

I have spent a significant portion of my Christian life feeling guilty. Verses like *John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit"* have haunted me. If I were truly abiding in Christ then I would be bearing more fruit. My evangelical heritage convinced me that the fruit I should be bearing is bringing more people to Christ.

I have tried to be a good witness. I have received evangelism training. I read books on evangelism. I even tried (as a result of the prayers and efforts of many others) to galvanize our whole congregation to get on board and do this evangelism program called "Alpha." I am so glad I did.

Jesus says, "*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" (Mt. 11:28-30)

Being a part of Alpha these past few months I have experienced the truth of Jesus' words for me. Doing evangelism with Jesus is easy and being a yokefellow with Christ and with one another is carrying a light load. And it has borne fruit. Being a part of Alpha is easily the most fun I have ever had doing evangelism. Let me tell you three reasons why.

First, it has been fun because Alpha is based on hospitality. Just as important as telling people the Good News of Jesus Christ is inviting them into our lives and into the fellowship we enjoy together as God's people. Alpha has been fun because we have done it together. As we met in a home each week I had the opportunity of experiencing the joy of Christian fellowship again, even as I invited our guests to be a part of it.

Second, it has been fun because it is Holy Spirit dependent. I have been set free from the pressure of saying the right thing. Alpha has created opportunities and space for the Holy Spirit to work in people's lives. It is not my job or any of our jobs to say or do the right things that convince a person to follow Christ. We give the Holy Spirit the opportunity and He takes those opportunities as He wills to convince people of the good news. We get to see it. We get to receive the Holy Spirit working in us, too. It is wonderful to experience the reality of God at work by the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, it has been fun because we have done it together. Last Fall, the elders approved a new focus for us in our Outreach ministry. One of the main emphases was that we need to grow in participating in Shared Common Journeys in Outreach. Alpha has been a Shared Common Journey for us. It is some- thing that we have done together. We have opened our homes together, we have cooked meals together, done dishes together, prayed together. Trish Randall, who coordinated all the meals in five homes for ten weeks, put together a list of all of the people who have helped in any way with Alpha. We probably have missed some people but we came up with more than 120 people! It is fun when we work together!

In addition, the best part is (as I learned growing up) we have seen people come to know and accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. We have seen others decide that they want to learn more about Jesus. We have been obedient to what Christ commands us to do. We did this together and we will strive to continue to do this. Thanks for this Shared Common Journey that we are on.

D.A.D.

Blacknall Family Announcements

Worship Schedule for Holy Week

The week is rich and full! It is an opportunity unlike at any other time of the year, to come and be immersed in worship built around the Gospel narrative.

Maundy Thursday – April 1, 7pm

We will welcome once again our friends from Mt. Level Baptist Church for a combined service of worship here at Blacknall. Mt. Level will provide the preaching and they will "bring the music" – and how! Reception following the service. Childcare provided for birth through 4 years.

Good Friday – April 2, 7pm

We will gather in the sanctuary at for a time of quiet, hearing the Passion narrative, and increasing darkness. 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 birth through second grade.

Easter Sunrise Service – April 4, 6am at Mt Level

Blacknall will return Mt. Level's visit by celebrating the Resurrection in their sanctuary at 316 Hebron Road on Easter Sunday. Blacknall will provide the music leadership and the preaching.

Easter Worship Services – Sunday, April 4, 8:30 & 11am

Come and celebrate the Resurrection! There will be a reception at 9:45am for high schoolers and adults in the fellowship hall. Children's Sunday School will meet as usual.

Monday, April 5 – Holiday – Church Office Closed

Alpha Celebration — Wednesday, April 7, 6:30pm we will have a celebration of our Alpha course. It will be a time to hear the stories of participants, to celebrate the relationships that were formed, and to learn how lives were impacted. All guests, hosts, leaders, helpers, servers, and cleaner-uppers are invited.

Also, anyone who is interested in attending the next Alpha course is invited. If you have a friend you would like to consider coming to the next Alpha course why don't you invite them to come with you to our Celebration on the 7th? Please contact Dave Dunderdale at ddunderdale@blacknall.org if you plan to come.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Update

Join the Circle! As a part of our local partnership with IHN, we are assembling a Circle of Support for a family transitioning out of homelessness. Training will be provided. If you're interested in providing encouragement and support for one year and learning a lot, please contact Brian at brian.averette@yahoo.com.

Give Us Your Furniture! Interested in helping to furnish this family's home? Here's what we need . . .

1. Twin Beds
2. Stackable Washer/Dryer
3. Refrigerator
4. **STRONG BACKS!** to help with moving

Contact Lisa Mitchell at lisa@pc-net.com to donate or help move furniture.

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

2010 weekly Budget	\$21,925	YTD Budget	\$285,025
Tithes & Offerings 3/28/10	\$19,870	YTD Income	\$220,874
		YTD Expenses	\$258,033

Contributions to Blacknall

Please remember to write separate checks for the offering and Covenant Campaign. Funds are kept in separate banks.

Women's Ministry

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 1, 9:15 - 11:30am

Women's Bible Study (WBS) will host a special service in the Sanctuary for Maundy Thursday. We will be led in worship by Angie Hong and receive God's Word and Communion led by Janise Matyas Smith.

Even if you are not regularly participating in WBS, we invite you to join us. There will be socializing and refreshments in the fellowship hall following the service. Childcare is provided.

Women's Contemplative Retreat

Lake Gaston, April 23-24

Come be part of a small (16-person) retreat for Blacknall women at the lovely lake house of Joanne Hodgson on Friday, April 23, 4pm until Saturday, April 24, 5pm. The theme of the retreat incorporates God's love for us and his presence with us. This was the theme of our fall 2009 retreat, and the speaker, Margot Hausman will draw on that theme at the Friday evening session. The rest of the time will include some silent reflection time, guided solitude times with scripture, group worship times, good food and rest.

Cost is \$25, payable to BMPC, and your check secures your spot. Mail this to Blacknall (1902 Perry Street, Durham 27705) or put in Margaret Frothingham's mailbox by April 16. We still need a few women to help with various tasks. For questions, and many more details, e-mail mfrothingham@blacknall.org or call 286-5586.

End-of-the-Year Brunch

Thursday, May 6, 9:15am

We'll gather to celebrate, socialize and hear reflections from Blacknall's own Melissa Hartemink who spent the last year serving with her family at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. All women of Blacknall are invited to the brunch. Please consider inviting a friend .

Save the Date for a Retreat at the Beach!

October 22-24

The Blacknall women's fall retreat is at NC Baptist Assembly in Oak Island, NC. The website is www.fortcaswell.com . Please be praying for the retreat committee as they plan. If you are interested in helping contact Brooklynne Travis at Brooklynne_travis@yahoo.com or Sherbie Skeen at sherbieskeen@hotmail.com . More information will come later.



Women, please sign up for our information list serve, which contains announcements and opportunities for service and recreation with Blacknall women. To join send an e-mail to: blacknallwomen+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

At the end of every announcement, there is a wonderful women's ministry vision statement, written by the leadership team a few years ago. Many of us have been scrolling past it for years. Here it is:

It is the desire of the Women's Ministry Leadership Team that each woman: identify herself as a vital member of the Blacknall community, practice spiritual disciplines, bear fruit of the Spirit, live in forgiveness, peace, generosity obedience and submission to Christ; use her gifts; extend and receive support; and actively participate in the church/WM mission. We seek to rely on the unifying work of the Holy Spirit to move us toward this vision in each ministry, event and meeting we sponsor.

Members of the current leadership team are: Carla Fulton, Brooklynne Travis, Carmen Pennington, Tana O'Keefe, Sherbie Skeen, June Van Bruggen and Margaret Frothingham. We'd love to hear from you.

