

February
2010

Blacknall

Memorial Presbyterian Church



*For thus says the high and lofty one
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
I dwell in the high and holy place,
And also with those who are contrite
and humble in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite.*
Isaiah 57:15 (NRSV)

I have been spending some time lately in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah 40-66 is probably the portion of scripture that has been most influential in my life with Christ. I have never taught a class on it. I have rarely preached on it. It is holy ground for me.

I have been reluctant to teach or preach on it because of how precious it has been to me. It is as if trying to teach it would be a violation of a sacred intimacy that the Lord and I have shared. It has spoken deeply to me and I have never tried to examine why that is. It just does.

That is until now. This month I will begin a Sunday School class on Isaiah 40-66. On the Blacknall Adult Retreat I will be teaching on it as well. I know I will be frustrated. I really do not believe that I will be able to communicate in such a way that this beautiful portion of scripture will have the impact that it has had on me. That is the main reason why I have not taught or preached on this up until now. I have not wanted to be frustrated.

As I have been preparing for this exercise in frustration, I have noticed one thing. No, I have noticed two things. Both of these things are evident in Isaiah 57:15. The first thing I have noticed is how BIG Isaiah's concept of the Lord is. The whole book is permeated with the clear sense of how great and awesome is our God. The vision that Isaiah has of God in chapter 6 permeates his whole life. He never forgets his vision of "the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up." [Isaiah 6:1ff.]

The second thing (and it flows out of the first) is that Isaiah has no misconceptions about human sinfulness and our brokenness. There is no pretending or posing in Isaiah. He knows and can describe with great detail our idolatry, our faithlessness, our double-mindedness, our pride.

The amazing thing about Isaiah is how beautifully, powerfully, and wonderfully he is able to hold these two things together through the revelation he received of God's grace, mercy, and steadfast love. This month we will enter into the season of Lent. Might these two revelations from Isaiah be guides for us in this season of preparation for the coming of Easter?

What if we practiced the discipline of being reminded and meditating on the reality of God's bigness – His power, greatness, holiness and sovereignty? I will do that by living in the book of Isaiah for the 40 days of Lent. How could you do it? What is it in scripture, in life, in music or art, that reminds you that God is "the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy"? Can you practice the discipline of living the season of Lent in the constant reminder of that?

What if we practiced the discipline of daily, specific, confession of our sin and brokenness? This would be more than just a general sort of confession that asks God to forgive me "for all the things I have done wrong today." It could take the shape of beginning each day asking the Holy Spirit to point out and convict us of how we are falling short of the glory of God this day. Then, at the end of the day, what if we brought before the Lord those times we fell in order to ask Him for forgiveness? Would not this discipline keep us humble and contrite?

All the while, holding onto – clinging to – God's grace and mercy and steadfast love that are always with us. All the while, knowing and experiencing that God, the high and lofty One, is indeed with those who are humble and contrite. Might this be God's invitation to each of us to experience the reality of the Risen Christ as we prepare to celebrate Easter?

D.A.D.

Blacknall Family Announcements

New Bible Study for Women Starts January 31.

Blacknall members Kathy Gattis and Sarah Leverette will lead an 11-week study using Beth Moore's *Jesus the One and Only*, based on the *Gospel of Luke*.

The group meets **Sunday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m. at Blacknall (January 31-April 25)**. Contact Margaret Frothingham at 286-5586. Cost is \$15.00 for the workbook (check to BMPC).

Community Concert

February 6, 7pm and February 7, 3pm

Come for a community concert of beautiful music! This collaborative choir (led by Dave Stuntz) consisting of members from Blacknall, the School of Science & Math, and others from the community and the **Symphony Orchestra from NCSSM** (led by Scott Laird) will present a joint concert Saturday, February 6, at 7 p.m. in the Technology Center Auditorium at NCSSM and again **Sunday, February 7, at 3pm in the Blacknall sanctuary**. The concert will include music by Bach, Mozart, Brahms, and Vaughan Williams.

Lenten Season Begins

Wednesday worship services will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 17, 7-7:30pm** and continue through March 24. Childcare provided.

Youth Spotlight

All Youth Announcements

Sunday nights from 6-8pm we have BYG Time in the youth room. Come join us for fun and fellowship!

Ski Trip

Saturday, February 20

We will be going to Boone for a day of winter fun! Forms are located on the announcement table in front of the Fellowship Hall. Email Brad at bturname@blacknall.org for more information.

High School Announcements

Cornerstone

Wednesday's, 7:30-9pm

We are discussing Tulian Tchividjian's *Unfashionable*.

Lock-In

Friday, March 26

Mark your calendars! Location TBD.

Summer Mission Trip

July 23-31

This summer our teenagers will be traveling to New Orleans to work, fellowship and have fun together. Flyers are located on the announcement table in front of the Fellowship Hall. Email Brad for more information at bturname@blacknall.org.

Middle School Announcements

Nun-Ball, or Middle School Bible study, started meeting together on January 20. We meet every other week for Scripture study, Scripture memory, and prayer time together. We are studying Colossians this semester. If you're interested in joining, we meet 7-8:30pm at Caroline Inazu's house, and here are the dates of our meetings: Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26.

Middle School Spring Retreat

April 30-May 2

We're headed to Camp Don Lee for fellowship, sailing, games, small groups, and FUN! Registration information will be available in the coming weeks.

The Great Escape

July 28-August 2

This is our annual trip to summer camp in Florida. Flyers and registration forms are available from Caroline or in the youth room.



This month we celebrate the work of Blacknall authors. Whether sharing personal stories of overcoming obstacles or issuing challenges that make us think more deeply, these brothers and sisters have been faithful to exercise the great gift of communicating through the printed word. Drop by to see our display of books written by current and past Blacknall members and friends. Here are a few titles to look for:

Souls in Transition by Christian Smith

How Sweet It Is by Alice Wisler

The Girl in the Orange Dress: Searching for a Father Who Does Not Fail by Margot Starbuck Hausmann

Getting the Best Out of College by Peter Feaver

They Suffer in Faith by April Perry

Keeping House by Margaret Kim Peterson

In the Presence of Many Witnesses by Martha Carlough

Slices of Life by Aretta Loving

Grace Matters by Chris Rice

Strong Women, Soft Hearts by Paula Rinehart

Choices by Stacy & Paula Rinehart

Girl Meets God by Lauren Winner

Life on the Vine by Phil Kenneson

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

		YTD Budget	\$87,808
2010 weekly Budget	\$21,952	YTD Income	\$60,530
Tithes & Offerings 1/24/	\$20,600	YTD Expenses	\$62,495
Covenant Campaign Total Borrowed		\$1,100,000	
Covenant Campaign Loan Balance 1/5/10		\$ 9,937	

Contributions to Blacknall

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

Substantiation Letters

Blacknall Substantiation Letters for 2009 Offering Gifts and Covenant Campaign Pledges and Gifts – Blacknall is required by the IRS to keep a record of any single gift of \$250 or more.

We will mail out letters of substantiation for 2009 contributions before mid-February. If you contributed to the Covenant Campaign, you will receive two letters: one for the operating budget and one for the Covenant Campaign. These letters are only for your records; they do not need to be sent to the IRS as an attachment to your tax papers. For gifts less than \$250, your cancelled checks are sufficient documentation.

Please notify Diane Beacham as soon as possible if one of your letters is incorrect, by calling the church office (286-5586).

Blacknall Missions

Alpha 2010 Update

Blacknall's latest Alpha course began the week of January 10 in five homes across Durham. Two groups currently meet on Sunday night at the homes of Martha Carlough and Stella Sieber. Three groups meet on Wednesday night at the homes of Doug and Rachel Campbell, John and Virginia Greene, and Bethany Innes.

In total, about 50 guests have attended Alpha in the first three weeks! Praise God that all of the homes were full on the kick-off night, and many guests have returned.

Several Blacknall members are coming together to provide delicious, home-cooked meals in each of the homes each week. Others are helping to set up, serve food, lead worship, clean up, provide rides, support their friends who are guests, and pray for the course. We are thankful to the entire congregation for their support, and to God for His faithful provision.

Over the next couple weeks:

- Pray that our guests would feel comfortable in their groups and choose to return each week, especially those who are not Christians or new believers. Pray that they would be receptive to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Pray for wisdom and encouragement for all the group leaders, helpers, and those who are serving in other ways.
- Pray for a good turn-out to the Alpha Weekend-Away, February 26-28.
- Praise God for the work He is doing in Durham and Blacknall through Alpha.

Church Staff

- Allan Poole - Pastor
- David Dunderdale - Pastor
- Dave Stuntz - Music Ministry
- Amy Rowell - Children's Ministry - Elementary
- Beth Solie - Children's Ministry - Preschool
- Brad Turnage - Director Youth Ministries
- Caroline Inazu - Middle School Youth Ministry
- Margaret Frothingham - Congregational Care
- Mike Sardi - Office and Facilities Manager
- Diane Beacham - Finance
- Dare Nicholson - Associate Office Admin.
- Jan Smart - Associate Office Admin.
- Evan Cate - Duke Divinity Intern
- Amanda Leahy - Duke Divinity Intern
- David Sittser - Duke Divinity Intern

Monthly Calendar

Sunday

- 8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship
- 9:30-11:15 Library Open
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 2:30 PM Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 PM International Missions (1st Sun even months)
- 6:00 PM BYG Time (Youth Group)
- 6:30 PM Communion & Prayers (3rd Sun)
- 6:30 PM Prayers/ Missionaries (1st Sun)

Monday

- 7:00 AM Outreach Comm. (2nd Mon)
- 12:00 PM International Wives Cooking Class
- 7:00 PM Community Outreach Comm. (1st Mon)
- 5:00 PM Finance Comm.(3rd Mon)
- 7:30 PM Diaconate (1st & 3rd Mon)
Session (2nd & 4th Mon)
Family Life Comm. (1st Mon)
- 8:00 PM Building & Property (1st Mon)
Congregational Care (1st Mon)
Hospitality Comm. (1st Mon)

Tuesday

- 7:30 PM Worship Comm. (1st Tues)
- 7:30 PM Personnel Comm. (3rd Tues)

Wednesday

- 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM LCs (Seniors Ministry)
- 7:45 PM Choir
- 7:30 PM Cornerstone (Senior High Bible Study)

Thursday

- 8:00 AM Prayers for Renewal
- 9:15 AM Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
(Community Room)

Saturday

- 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
(Community Room)

Email: churchoffice@blacknall.org
Web Site: www.blacknall.org