

Blackna11

Memorial Presbyterian Church



1902 Perry Street . Durham, NC 27705 . 919-286-5586 . www.blackna11.org

January / February
2012

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Blackna11 family,

Let me tell you about Mary. I can do this now because she is dead. Mary is Kim's mother and she would never have been pleased to know that I was writing about her in our church newsletter. She died on December 21 and we miss her. Thank you for all your prayers and care for us.

But let me tell you about Mary. She was a remarkable woman who lived a hard but very blessed life. She had a very difficult childhood, one of ten children. She married an abusive, alcoholic man and they had three children—Kim in the middle of two brothers. Mary was a devoted mother who lived for her kids and then her grandkids.

As a result, she had a hard time believing she was loved. She clung in hope to the belief that Jesus loved her. Our kids remember when she came to visit us when Abe was born and she said that Jesus was the only person she knew who loved her. Our kids insisted that we all did but she really could not believe it. Only Jesus.

Last summer, by God's grace and, now in hindsight, by his providence, Kim's family had a reunion. Kim and her brothers and each of their families came together including all eleven grandchildren. It was a glorious time and Mary was full of joy, in her glory. One of our kids, remembering her comment from 13 years previous about only Jesus loving her, asked her, "Gram, do you know that we love you?"

Mary replied, "Yes! You know I really do!"

Mom died and she was 86 years old. For 70+ years she clung in hope to the belief that Jesus loved her. She hoped for what she could not see. It wasn't until the last few years of her life that she could identify Jesus' love for her incarnated in the love of her children and grandchildren. And now she knows face to face.

How did Mary cling in hope to Jesus? As we cleaned out her apartment in the week after her death we discovered how. She surrounded herself with reminders of Jesus' love for her: Bible verses, poems, pictures. Did she doubt? Certainly. She was confronted all the time with evidence that maybe Jesus did not love her. And so, she surrounded herself with evidence from God's Word that it was true. She clung in hope to those promises.

How about you and me? Do you know you are loved by Jesus? If you are like me there are lots of reasons for why he should not. There are lots of reasons to cause me to wonder if that could ever be true. Like Mary, we all need reminders every day that it is true. I need you to remind me. We all need someone to incarnate that love for us.

Beloved, ***"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*** [Hebrews 10:25]

D.A.D.

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Blacknall Happenings

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Alpha Update: Alpha is coming! Alpha is coming! Alpha is here! This month we are starting up a new Alpha course. This course will be meeting in two homes: **Sunday nights (5:30-7:45)** at Claire and Andrew Ruth's house, 901 N. Buchanan Blvd. in Durham and on **Thursday nights (6:30-8:45)** at Kim & David Dunderdale's house, 1220 Clarendon St. in Durham. Please be praying for these two groups and for the leaders: Jonathan & Amy Lett on Sunday nights and Tita Arky and John Nicholson on Thursday nights.

The course begins on January 19 and will run through the end of March. It is not too late to invite a friend or neighbor to participate in the course. It is also not too late to sign up to help provide a portion of one of the meals for Alpha. If you would like to help with a meal please contact [Emily Loney](#) or [Kay Ferguson](#).

Saturday, February 4, 9:30-11:30 am, join us for a book event in the Fellowship Hall: *Small Things with Great Love: Adventures in Loving Your Neighbor*, by Blacknallite Margot Starbuck Hausmann, is designed to encourage you and those around you toward Christ by starting "small" right where you are right now. The morning will include a talk and readings by Margot, opportunities for small group interaction, refreshments, and a book table. For more about the book see http://margotstarbuck.com/Small_Things.html.

Childcare is available. Please reserve a spot for your child(ren), with the number and ages of children by February 2 to ensure we have the care in place for them by contacting [Beth Solie](#) (with subject line: *Small Things*).

Saturday, February 18, 9-11:30 am, the Blacknall Congregational Care Committee will host a workshop entitled, *Companioning Well: Walking Alongside Friends and Family with Mental Illness*. The workshop is designed to equip people with theological and practical resources as they walk with those who live with mental illness. We will spend time examining Scripture and how the reality of the Holy Spirit's work in the world, drawing us into participation with God in Christ, guides and informs our interactions. This will lead to a practical exploration of what healthy, Christ-centered relationships might look like as we engage those we love with mental illness. Please email [Margaret](#) or [Emily](#) to register or for more information.

Calendar Girls of Prayer – part of Blacknall's Ministry to New Parents. Another exciting ministry is going on behind the scenes at Blacknall. Our Ministry to New Parents, led by Susan Kinghorn, provides meals to families with new children, prayer partners for new moms, and a clothing/equipment closet. The Prayer Partners piece of this ministry has changed this year. One woman for each month of the year will pray for the women whose due dates fall within that month. Three of these praying women are adoptive mothers themselves, so new adopting moms are assigned to one of them depending on the time of year that the adoption is likely to take place.

We also are aware that this can be a sensitive issue around Blacknall, as there are many families experiencing infertility at the same time as we have so many new children being born. One of our Calendar Girls has offered to be praying around the calendar for those of you who are grieving infertility. Please know that you are being lifted in prayer, even without knowing your names! ***If you would like to be lifted up by name, please contact [Margaret Frothingham](#), and she will pass along your request to the praying Calendar Girl.***

Pass the Peas Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. January 31, February 7 and 21, March 20, 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 February 21; 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

Concerts at Blacknall

Saturday, February 4, 7 pm, – a performance featuring the Blacknall choir, students from Science & Math and dozens of folks from the community. This concert will feature almost 150 musicians and is free and open to the public.

Thursday, February 9, 7:30 pm – Mary Rocap, a local singer-songwriter, will present music from her new DC. The concert is free and open to the public; an offering will be received.

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](mailto:Diane.Beacham@blacknall.org) and tell her you have set up an online payment to Blacknall.
4. If you have questions, call 919-286-5586 or email Diane.

The CROP WALK takes place Sunday, April 1, at 2:30 pm on Duke Campus for Durham's 37th annual walk for hunger. This year's goal for our city is to have over 2,500 walkers participate and to raise over \$175,000 –75% of which fights world hunger and 25% of which is used for local food programs. For more info about walking and donations, visit the [website](#).

Blacknall's Crop Walk rep this year is [Alice Wisler](mailto:Alice.Wisler@blacknall.org) (919-489-4006).

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](mailto:Chad.Weinard@blacknall.org), chair of the IMT or [David Dunderdale](mailto:David.Dunderdale@blacknall.org).

FOCUS ON MISSIONS

Young Life in the Middle East

A great big thank you! from Hunter, Lauri and Haley Lambeth

For more than seventy years the mission of Young Life has looked for opportunities to extend its reach in impacting teenagers for the Kingdom of God all over the globe. Today, that includes about 80 nations. For twelve years, as director of Young Life's short-term mission's program, I had the great privilege to visit and serve and lead service trips to many of those countries. This was made possible in large part to the incredibly faithful support of Blacknall, where I once enjoyed an office that afforded me views of the back porch of Cosmic Cantina and the accompanying aroma that drifted across the alleyway and beckoned me to lunch. Oh how I miss those days! Alas, love came calling, I married Lauri, and we relocated to the Atlanta area, where I served in the same role with Young Life until 2009. To this day, Blacknall has remained for me a "home church," and I have greatly enjoyed staying connected to that community.

Up until this past year, Young Life's global "reach" included every major geographical world region except one, the Middle East. No more! A year ago, Lauri and I accepted the challenge to establish the first Young Life youth work in that corner of the globe, beginning with Israel and the West Bank of Palestine, where the estimated Christian population is astoundingly less than four percent! And we are so grateful to the community of Blacknall for their continued faithful support of our family and this call God has placed upon our hearts.

Through a handful of trips and a long summer assignment in the Holy Land, we have been able to train and equip a group of national, indigenous youth leaders, mainly Palestinians in the West Bank, and watch with joy as they go about building relationships with teenagers, sharing the good news of the Gospel and beginning the long-term investment of relational discipleship. Our year was highlighted by our first-ever camp this past July, right on the shores of the Dead Sea! More than fifty teenagers and twenty leaders, including both cultural Jewish and Muslim followers of Christ, laughed, sang, fellowshiped and listened with open hearts as the Gospel was presented in both word and action.

The next big step in this work involves our family's plans to move to Nazareth, Israel this coming summer! The hometown of our Savior will serve as a base and backdrop as we step forth in faith to further deepen and develop Young Life in the Holy Land as well as other parts of the Middle East. We do this highly aware and deeply grateful for the support of the Blacknall community of Believers. We feel so blessed by you, lifted by your prayers and undergirded by the church's support and affirmation.

Thank you for helping us reach teenagers with the love of Christ, back in the very land from which the Gospel was born! For us, the "ends of the earth"! (Acts 1:8)

You're Invited

What: Dessert Reception

When: Thursday, February 9, 7:30-9:00 pm

Where: Blacknall's Upper Room

Hear from Hunter Lambeth and meet the new Palestinian Field Staff member as they share news of amazing things God is doing in the lives of teenagers through the ministry of Young Life in Israel and the Palestinian Territory. They will offer opportunities for you to partner with them in this exciting work.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Children's Dance Group

All children in grades 1 through 8 are invited to join us Sunday evenings in the Community room from **5:30 to 6:30** as we learn to worship God through dance. Please contact [Bethany Innes](#) with any questions.

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.

Nursery Workers needed!

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

A Note from Anna Morrison about Genesis Home

I am so thankful for the outpouring of donations for Durham's foster children and their families. I get to see first hand, as I deliver the items, how the toys are being dispersed in the rooms and how grateful the children, families, and supervising workers are in response to your generosity. More donations are needed for infants up to teenagers. This is such a simple yet powerful way to help our neighbors that partake in visitations there weekly at the Genesis Home. There will continue to be a bin in the lower atrium for donations.

There are more ways to help out at the Genesis Home; see their [website](#). Also, if you are interested in learning how to become a foster parent or respite provider for foster children please contact Anna Morrison (carolina6@nc.rr.com or 919-475-5142).

C O R N E R

Y O U T H

MARK YOUR CALENARS!

Our summer mission trip has been announced! We will be going to **Philadelphia July 1-7**. Visit youth.blacknall.org for more details

HS and MS BYG Time started back Sunday January 22, at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room.

YG Time started back on January 22.

Cornerstone will start Wednesday, January 25, at 7 pm in the Corner Room.

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

Year-End Giving

Year to Date as of December 31, 2011

Budget Plan	\$1,177,540	Actual Expenses	\$1,136,215
Tithes & Offerings	\$1,235,941	Tithes & Offerings	\$1,235,941
Excess or (Shortage)	\$58,401	Excess or (Shortage)	\$99,726

Library News

The list of Blacknall authors continues to expand. Drop by to see our display of books written by current and past Blacknall members and friends. Some of these names won't surprise you, but they remind us of the many gifts among us, including sharing experiences and talents through writing. Here are a few titles to look for:

The Digital Pilgrim by Matthew Adler (Matt Eagleburger)

Small Things with Great Love: Adventures in Loving Your Neighbor by Margot Starbuck Hausmann

Round Trip by Chris Blumhofer

A Wedding Invitation by Alice Wisler

In the Presence of Many Witnesses by Martha Carlough

Grace Matters by Chris Rice

Choices by Stacy & Paula Rinehart

Acquainted with Grief by Tom Harvey

Better Than My Dreams by Paula Rinehart

Getting the Best Out of College by Peter Feaver

Souls in Transition by Christian Smith

Keeping House by Margaret Kim Peterson

Life on the Vine by Phil Kenneson

They Suffer in Faith by April Perry

Together We Can! by Aretta Loving