

Blacknall

Memorial Presbyterian Church



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

May / June
2011

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Blacknall family,

It is the season of leave-taking, and, as is the case around here from time to time, we are feeling the loss in a particular way this year. A number of families and persons are graduating or heading for different places. Each one has contributed to our body from the gifts bestowed on them by God; we are a different place than we would have been had they not been among us. Thanks to each of you for participating in our life together.

I pause to thank one in particular, a saint who has quietly loved, prayed and cared for countless ones in an entirely selfless way. Betty Dilday has padded around this place in her quiet shoes (that reflect her gentle voice and heart) for many years now, looking for ways to serve. She now has a few gardening compatriots, but for a long time she was the one who would think to water the plants around the church. She was the one who would be weeding the garden even as she carried on a conversation with one of our homeless folk.

Betty is also one of the faithful intercessors who gather each Sunday to pray for the rest of us. She dutifully records each request, and notes how God has answered these prayers offered up through the years. She leaves a spot on my sofa that needs to be filled, if you have the inclination and the occasional opportunity.

You could spot her around town because her license tag is "Joyful," and that she is. Not in a boisterous way, and surely not in a way that would bring notice, but in a quiet assurance that was quick to praise God in all things. I cannot remember a time when she did not greet me with a smile and a warm welcome, even when her body was not at ease in the world and she wasn't feeling well.

"Joyful" will be seen more on the streets of Winston-Salem than here in Durham as Betty moves to be near her family. Their gain is our loss, but your example, Betty, has been an encouragement to us all.

Betty exemplifies for us, at Blacknall, the bright sadness of life in a world that is not yet what it shall be, the privilege of living into the Christian promise that is embodied in the words, "Not goodbye, but see you later." In our life together, in our comings and goings, we embody the promise of a future together in Christ. Thank you, Betty, for that reminder.

Thank you.

We will miss you.

For all your friends at Blacknall,

Allan

In this issue:

(click on link to take you to specific page)

[Blacknall Happenings...](#) 2
[Mark your calendars!](#)

[Focus on Giving...](#) 3
[International Missions](#)

[Library News...](#) 4
[Summer Reading Program](#)

[Children's Corner...](#) 5
[VBS Needs](#)

[Youth Schedule...](#) 5
[Fun events coming up!](#)

[Final Notes...](#) 6
[Memorial Day, Email prayer chain](#)

Blacknall Happenings

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Summer Sunday School and Children's Worship Volunteers Needed –

Would you consider serving our Kindergarten - Fifth graders for one or two weeks over the summer in either the 8:30, 9:45 or 11:00 service? We will provide training and support and can work around your travel schedule. If interested, contact Amy Rowell soon (arowell@blacknall.org). Thank you!

Women's Wednesday Night Activities Women at Blacknall, let's gather together this summer on Wednesday nights. Below is a wide variety of locations, and the hosting is shared by various people. No R.S.V.P. is necessary, but you are also very welcome to show up and bring a friend. We'll be meeting on **Wednesdays 7-9 pm** from **June 8 to August 13**. Here are the locations for June:

June 8 - Game Night hosted by Margot Hausmann at the Hausmann home (905 Lancaster St. Durham, 27701; 286-4663)

June 15 - Meet at Mad Hatter Bake Shop (1802 W. Main St. 27705, near Blacknall) hosted by Donna Mutter (309-9696)

June 22 - Meet near Southpoint at Bocci (5850 Fayetteville Road, Durham, 27713), hosted by Holly Larson (259-8704)

June 29 - Meet at Tyler's on the patio (at American Tobacco Campus near the Lucky Strike water tower)

Blacknall and Habitat for Humanity – As part of the Presbyterian Coalition of Durham, Blacknall will be participating in the sponsorship of a new Habitat for Humanity home in Durham's West End starting in May and continuing through June or July. The home at 808 Gerard Street is being built for Shanika Taylor of Durham, a single mother with three young children. We are glad that the men of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Walltown will be joining us in the building project. Other sponsor partners include the Catholic Coalition of Durham, and the Durham Community Band. Contact churchoffice@blacknall.org if interested in getting involved.

Position Opening At Blacknall – Blacknall is searching for applicants for a part-time (20 hr/wk) position serving our middle school youth. Caroline Inazu, who has filled this position so ably for these last five years, will be moving to St. Louis in early summer. If interested, please contact the church office (churchoffice@blacknall.org) for a copy of the job description and an application.

FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARIES

This article is part of a series that describes how our tithes and offerings make an impact for the Kingdom of God in our local congregation, our surrounding community, and around the world. Twenty-seven percent of what is given to Blacknall is used to support benevolences. This includes individuals in full-time mission work around the globe, on college campuses, and seventeen Durham ministries. The Hollingsworths are an example of those serving around the globe.

Blacknall has supported Ken & Judy Hollingsworth in their translation work with the Mofu people in Northern Cameroon for many years. The Hollingsworths will be with us for a Focus on Mission on Sunday, May 22. They dedicated the complete Mofu New Testament in 2008. Judy has been working hard at literacy efforts among the Mofu so that they are able to read the Word of God in the Mofu language. However, many are still illiterate. As a result they have “proclaimers,” machines that will play recordings of the New Testament read aloud in Mofu. They have “listenings” when they will set up a “proclaimer” and invite people to come and **listen** to God’s Word to the Mofu people.

Ken and Judy have sent us testimonies of some of the Mofu people on the impact of receiving the New Testament in their mother tongue:

◇ A woman who spent 10 years attending church services said, after a listening session: “Finally I am listening to the Word of God.”

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◇ “My name is Alioum Moïse. I was going to church, and I even received baptism. In 2000, I decided to change religion. My conversion to a new religion was published in the whole village with many [advertisements] saying ‘a pastor has decided to change his religion.’ During the 10 years I spent in this religion, I used to live in adultery and consulted fetish priests for protection. When the listening arrived in Langui [his home village] in my language, I was interested. I started secretly to attend listening sessions. After a period of listening, I decided to repent and come back to my first religion. I invited the pastor and some elders to my house. I confessed the bad life I was living. I brought out all my grigris [voodoo-like amulets], a bag of 50 kg! The pastor and elders prayed for me and they burned the amulets. Today my life has changed. Through my conversion, many other people became Christians.”

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◇ A new convert as a result of hearing God’s Word, Makba Rebecca, was using amulets for protection against sorcerers and to charm men. She brought them to church leaders who burnt them.

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◇ Another new convert, Habiba Prisca, was suffering with leprosy for 5 years. She was miraculously healed after listening to accounts of Jesus healing lepers.

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◇ In the village of Kilwo, the chief testified how the listening brought peace and security in the village.

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◇ In Nassarao, the program [of listening to God’s Word] helped to unite Catholics and Baptists.

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◇ In Kosmo Catholic church, a woman testified how she lost successively 3 children in a month. She was full of despair and decided to see a witch doctor to discover the reason for the death of her children. But through listening, the Lord comforted her and she abandoned seeing the witch doctor.

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◇ “My name is Moussa and I live in Kosmo. I was a thief. When people went to farm, I used to stay in the village. When nobody was at home, I stole animals, cereals, bicycles, radios and interesting items. Many times people brought me to the chief court, and I have paid many penalties. The village and even the chief were tired of me. People didn’t know what to do with me. One day, I was passing, and I saw people gathered. I went to see what was happening there. I found them listening to a small machine talking in my tongue. I was amazed, and I sat down to also listen. When I was listening, I started feeling bad, confused and very, very uncomfortable. The machine was exposing the bad things I was doing. I was as despaired as I have never been before, and I asked if there was hope again for a person like me. The pastor said, ‘yes,’ and he led me to repentance. This day, I accepted Jesus Christ in my life. At the beginning, people didn’t believe me. They thought it was a strategy to deceive them, but when they realized that I have really changed and I was going to church, they started believing. The chief was very surprised to learn that I was not a thief again because Jesus has changed my life. He asked for a proclaimer [machine to play recording of scripture] to also do the listening [playing of the read scriptures] in his family. He said: ‘if this machine has changed Moussa, it means it is powerful.’”

In addition to the Hollingsworths, **17 other missionaries** are supported by the Blacknall International Ministries budget. They are:

Dick & Nancy Baggé (Wycliffe)

Rich & Barb Leary (Campus Crusade)

Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship in Bihar, India

Fraser & Liz Bennett (Wycliffe)

Ed & Aretta Loving (Wycliffe)

Stacy Rinehart (MentorLink)

David & Mya Clarke (World Harvest)

Ron & Betsy Manila (YWAM)

Chuck & Bev Truxton (SIM)

Annette George (PCUSA)

Woody & Mary McLendon (Wycliffe)

‘Ale & Lynn Vander Woude-‘Aho (University of the Nations)

Rollin & Wendy Gram (Outreach Foundation)

Jonathan & Rocio Mikes (Latin America Mission)

Jennifer West (InterVarsity)

Tom & Judy Harvey (PCUSA)

David & Erin Pervis (Mission to the World)

Library News

The **Kids 2 Kids Summer Reading Program** is back!

Ready to read some great books this summer?

When you read, you'll be helping another kid read too!

Here's how it works:

Kids sign up in the library and read books (or listen to someone else read to them) from the Blacknall Library for 10 weeks. For every 10 books that Blacknall kids read, we'll give one book to the Reality Center, a local Durham ministry serving kids. Last year, our kids read 315 books, and we gave 32 books to the Reality Center to start a reading club.

This year, how many more can we read? 350? 400?

The Summer Reading Program runs from **June 12 to August 14**.

Kids from birth through high school can participate. Stop by the library every Sunday to get your stickers for each book you've read — and watch our total grow!

The first day to record books is **June 12**.

Remember: The more books you read, the more books we'll give!

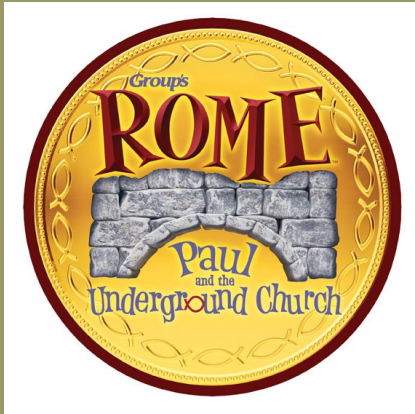
You can sign up in the library starting May 29 to get your name on our chart.

C O R N E R

2011 Blackna11 VBS

Join us this year as we go back in time to ancient Rome where we will learn about Paul and the Underground Church. We will explore the caves of the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-time projects, experience thrilling real-life dramas, play high-energy games, sample tasty Middle Eastern snacks, and hear some unforgettable music all while learning about God's love.

The adventure runs from June 20 to 24, 9:00 - 11:30am.



TO REGISTER, please use this link :

https://blacknall.ccbchurch.com/w_form_response.php?form_id=31

If you have questions or would like to get involved, contact either
Susan Kinghorn (susankinghorn@yahoo.com) or
Brooklynne Travis (brooklynne_travis@yahoo.com).

Please let us know if you can help with the following NEEDS (Most items will be returned, if you label them well – a collection box will be in the lower Atrium):

Bamboo paper plate holders

Drapery / curtains: Reds, purple, gold

Tablecloths: Solids and patterns

Canopies / tent awnings: For the marketplace

Roman type columns: all sizes

Urns, baskets, artificial plants, plastic fruit

Baskets: All sizes (VERY large to very small are needed)

Blankets: Picnic-type blankets and throws that can be used as decorations for Rome

Sheets: (will NOT be returned) Solids and prints. These will be made into togas, so the bold prints are welcome as well as solid colors

C O R N E R

H MARK YOUR CALENARS!

June 12

Summer Bible Study Begins

June 26 - July 1

High School Mission Trip

July 28 - August 2

Great Escape Trip

Visit www.youth.blacknall.org

for weekly youth updates and additional info including downloadable camp forms.

Interested in being a youth leader?

The heart of our ministry is our volunteer leaders. More than anything, our ministry is centered around teenagers hearing the Gospel from adults who care about them and are consistently in their lives. If you have a few extra hours a week and love Christ and teenagers, then being a volunteer leader may be perfect for you! This spring we will be looking to add some folks to our team of youth volunteers. If you are interested in helping out or just want to learn more about Blacknall youth ministry, please contact Brad Turnage - btturnage@blacknall.org.

Final Notes

Memorial Day Schedule — We will have our 8:30 and 11:00am services, but there will be NO Sunday School. Instead, we will serve a bagel brunch at 10am. The office will be closed on Monday, May 30.

Blacknall Email Prayer Chain – Prayer requests are placed on the prayer chain by contacting Jan Smart or Claire Ruth in the Church Office during business hours (286-5586; churchoffice@blacknall.org). For prayer requests during non-business hours, contact Jan Smart (682-7226; jsmart@nc.rr.com) or Karen Simons (489-9300; klsimons@nc.rr.com). It is helpful to explain in the request what the relationship is between the person in need of prayer and the church (e.g. a member, relative, church friend, etc.). When you receive the request, it is not necessary to forward it to anyone else. All prayer requests that are shared are to remain confidential. If you are not currently on the Blacknall Prayer Chain and would like to be part of this intercessory prayer team, please contact the Church Office.

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

Budget Plan:	\$452,900	Actual Expenses:	\$417,229
Tithes & Offerings:	\$407,848	Tithes & Offerings:	\$407,848
Excess or (Shortage):	(\$45,052)	Excess or (Shortage):	(\$9,381)

“...And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” Colossians 3:23