

Blacknall Missions

Blacknall Pilgrims Journey Into the Unknown, the Heart of Durham

By Chris Rice

From February through Palm Sunday in March, twenty-six Blacknallites engaged the first-ever “Lenten Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope Into the Heart of Durham,” a journey of taking a deeper step toward learning to be friends of Jesus and friends with neighbors across the divides of our city.

Several weeks of spiritual, biblical, and contextual preparation around Durham’s history and Blacknall’s place in it (and a key question, “What’s the difference between being tourists, a mission group, and pilgrims?”) built up to the highlight—a February 22-24 weekend journey into Durham. We began “at home” Friday night with a brief worship service at Blacknall. We moved toward the “big picture,” across town to the home of one of Durham’s treasures, Ann Atwater. Over fried chicken and banana pudding, Ann told of her journey of unlikely friendship with former Klan member C.P. Ellis and the cost of struggling for hope amidst injustice and black anger.

Saturday morning we headed into “another world,” East Durham, to the heart of the “bull’s eye” where most of Durham’s crime and murders occur. Host Marcia Owen told of growing up white in Durham and her slow conversion into seeing the pain of lives lost to gun violence and prisons, and her healing work with communities, victims’ families, and inmates. Neighborhood mother Teresia Parker told of her ministry of welcoming teenagers into her home outside her full-time job. Our hearts were broken, hearing of the scrapbook her teenage daughter keeps, full of obituaries of all her friends killed by guns.

Deeply challenged by stories of pain and hope, we traveled down the street for lunch with the men at the Durham Rescue Mission, hearing their stories and seeing their humanity and humor. The tears of the men’s ministry director telling his story as a former homeless addict moved us deeply. What an incredible sign of hope he is.

Sabbath is also central to pilgrimage. Overflowing with stories and experiences, we came back across town to Duke Gardens for a time of rest, prayer, and reflection.

Our final move was to Walltown, aware of the “Broad Street divide” which separates different worlds. The people of St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church welcomed us with singing led by “Mother McCrae,” dinner, and testimonies from Walltown teenagers in the Urban Hope program. The charge of Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove of the Rutba House—“Let’s remember it’s a good thing to be awkward for the sake of the gospel”—prepared us to scatter to the homes of host families from St. John’s and others for overnight stays. Sunday morning we traveled with host families back to St. John’s for breakfast, Sunday school, worship on Black History Sunday, and the end of the weekend journey.

After several weeks of processing, what a joy to re-gather with Ann, Marcia, Teresia, and friends from St. John’s for a final celebration dinner at Blacknall on April 12 where we offered testimonies and envisioned ways of continuing to connect.

There already seems to be great interest in another pilgrimage next year. But for this first pilgrimage, we have learned that while a tourist returns home and moves on, and a mission group does their project and often also moves on, for pilgrims the journey is never over. What does it mean to journey further with Christ in *this* city? What does that mean for *our* lives, in *this* church? Some are wrestling with new questions about where to live, others how to connect more deeply to the people at St. John’s who welcomed us with such hospitality, others with invitations to join Marcia Owen in her work. One high school member of the group said the pilgrimage interrupted what he plans to do with his life—he will spend the summer in Cambodia on short-term missions. All of us have been interrupted, and we continue to ask how to nourish the seeds of lament and hope which have been planted.

Blacknall Church Calendar – May 2008

Sunday, 5/11
11:00 AM Officer Installation
and Ordination
7:30 PM Sons of the Day
Concert

Saturday, 5/17
8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, 5/18
11:00 AM Confirmands Received
12:30 AM Confirmand Reception

Tuesday, 5/20
Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, 5/25
9:45 AM NO Sunday School

12:30 PM Congregational Lunch
with the Hendersons

Monday, 5/26 Memorial Day
Holiday—Church Office Closed

Saturday, 5/31
9:00 AM Christian Education
Workshop

Church Staff

Allan Poole-Pastor
David Dunderdale-Pastor
Dave Stuntz-Music Min.
Beth Solie-
Children’s Min.-Preschool
John & Caroline Inazu-Youth Min.
Margaret Frothingham-
Congregational Care
Diane Beacham-Admin. Manager
Jan Smart-Assoc. Office Admin.
Dare Nicholson-Assoc. Office Admin
Terry Simpson-Facilities Manager
Andrea Bridges-Duke Div. Intern
Graham Ford-Duke Div. Intern

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

Monthly Schedule

Sunday
8:30 AM Worship
9:30-11:15 Library Open
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
4:30 PM Haiti Ministries (1st Sun.)
International Missions (2nd Sun.)
5:00 PM Adult Education (2nd Sun.)
6:30 PM Communion & Prayers (3rd Sun.)
6:30 PM Prayers for Missionaries (2nd Sun.)

Monday
7:00 AM Outreach Comm. (2nd Mon.)
7:00 PM Community Outreach Comm.
(2nd Mon.)
5:00 PM Finance Comm. (3rd Mon.)
7:30 PM Diaconate (1st & 3rd Mon.)
7:30 PM Session (2nd & 4th Mon.)
7:30 PM Family Life Comm. (1st Mon.)
8:00 PM Building & Property (1st Mon.)
8:00 PM 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)

Saturday
8:00 AM Prayers for Renewal

Committee chair will notify members
of changes to meeting time.

May
2008

Blacknall

Memorial Presbyterian Church



The view from the end of the hall...

Dear Blacknall family,

Since the renovations of the Blacknall buildings, we have the joy of having all the staff in close proximity to one another. Now, when I enter the building in the mornings I get to walk past every office on my way to my own digs (with the exception of Margaret, who is just off the beaten path, but whose light shines brightly from just around the corner). And as I do so, I marvel at what God has put together in our little place, the arrangement of personalities and gifts and stories all working for one reason: because of a sense of call from God to serve Him and you. Each week we gather on Tuesday mornings for worship and calendar planning and prayer. Without fail, I thank God for these folk and our life together. It is an undeniable privilege.

And for the first time in a long time, our circle is near completion. Next Monday Amy Rowell joins us as director for our ministry to and with elementary aged children. Amy is filling the large hole left by Traci Hoover, and is joining Beth Solie in providing direction and guidance to our children’s ministries. Amy is married to Andy, a graduate student at the near-beginning of his five year Th.D. program, and they have two small children. Amy has great experience in and vision for children’s ministry, having worked at a church in Vancouver, B.C. and taught at Taylor University. Pray for her as she begins her new work among us, and be sure to stop by to welcome her.

Farther down the hall is the space occupied by John and Caroline Inazu, our directors of youth ministry. John will be finishing his work with us within the month, the better to be able to concentrate on his own Ph.D. work. Caroline is remaining as director of the middle school ministry, while a wonderful committee, (comprised of Will Flowers, Susan Gardner, An Nguyen, Mark Paulson, Betsy Poole and chaired by Artie Kamiya, who himself has long been involved with our youth as a volunteer, and is currently serving as an elder) is actively interviewing candidates for a new full time position, the Director of Youth Ministries. This person will have oversight responsibility for all the youth ministry, with particular responsibility for our work with high-school aged youth.

And of course, at the end of the hallway on the left you might find Dave Dunderdale, who is well on his way to getting situated as our pastor for missions and discipleship. Pray for him and his family, and for the sale of his house! It is time!

So for the first time in a LONG time, we are enjoying the prospect of having a full hallway! Would you take time today and give thanks for these fine people and for the work of the search committee? And of course, it would be a good gift if you would stop by Beth and Amy’s office and ask, “How can I help you?”

Boy, am I happy!

In the faithfulness of Christ,
Allan

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Blacknall Family Announcements

Special Mission Offering Sunday, May 4

In July Blacknall will send a mission team to the North Haiti Mission clinic in Cahesse, Haiti. This offering helps purchase medication and supplies needed to operate the clinic. We encourage you to ask God what you can share to help those in need.

Twin Sheets Needed

Twenty sets of twin sheets are needed for the North Haiti Mission. Mixed or matched donations may be placed in the box in the lower atrium, to be delivered by our mission team in July.

Concert Sunday, May 11, 7:30 pm

If you heard them last year, this will thrill you; if you missed them, get ready: **“Sons of the Day”, a six-voice a cappella group, is returning to Blacknall!** They will sing as part of morning worship on **May 11**, and then **they will present an hour-long concert here at 7:30 pm – and child-care is available!** The perfect way to celebrate Mother’s Day! Invite a friend and come.

Welcome Bob Henderson! Sunday, May 25

Bob was Blacknall’s pastor during the tumultuous ‘60s, and was instrumental in calling our congregation to a faith that was more evangelical in doctrine, more engaged with the campus, and more prophetic in mission.

In a day when Blacknall was populated by undereducated mill workers, he encouraged us to reach out to university students. In a time of racial strife, he welcomed African-Americans into the life of the congregation. And all in the name of Jesus Christ. We are who we are today in many ways because of Bob’s leadership during those fretful times.

On Sunday, May 25, Bob and his wife Betty will be with us at both worship services. Following the 11 am service we will have a congregational potluck lunch, and have a chance to hear more from him. Plan now to join us, if you will be in town that Memorial Day weekend!

Men’s Breakfast Saturday, May 17, 8 to 11 am

Men, come join us for breakfast and a time of discussion on Saturday morning, May 17, in the fellowship hall. Breakfast will be served at 8 am, followed by a discussion led by David Dunderdale on what the role of Men’s Ministry should be at Blacknall. To sign up, contact Mark Paulson (mpaulson@aeroglide.com, 621-2725), or Hank Humphrey (hhumphrey@rti.org, 451-2589).

Christian Ed. Workshop Sat., May 31, 9 to 2 pm

Join us for a workshop on using Montessori-based methods for Christian Education. Come for all or part of the day. Contact Beth Solie, Director of Preschool Children’s Ministries, for more information (bsolie@blacknallpres.org).

Bartkoviches return .

Blacknall members and missionaries to Uganda, Kevin and JD Bartkovich and children (Joseph, Louisa, Savannah and Nathaniel) will be returning to Durham this summer. Let’s help them settle in as they set up house. Contact Stella Sieber (sieber@niehs.nih.gov) or Christi Hinkle (christihinkle@hotmail.com) if you are able to donate any of the following items: microwave, couch/chairs, 2 dressers, bookshelves, bedside tables, adult desk (small), fish tank/hamster cage, lawn mower/rake, lamps, and coffee table.

Welcome New Members

The Session examined and welcomed the following new members into our fellowship: William and Kristine Barman, Cameron and Megan Boltes, Bryce and Lorie Carlisle, Bengt Carlson, Douglas and Suzanne Coonley, Ellen Davis, Clarine Druckenbrod, Shelby Gardner, Brooke Gardner, John and Jeanie Hamilton, Buddy Harris and Abigail Blosser, Kevin Hoff, George McLamb, Elizabeth Nguyen, John and Ali Shoenfelt, and Katherine Stein. Join us in giving thanks for these folks and for the gifts they bring to our life as the people of God at Blacknall.

Blacknall Family Announcements

Library News



Summer Reading Program is on the way

If you have participated in the Summer Reading Program before, this year we are doing things a little differently. We will still give one book to a kid’s ministry for every 10 books that Blacknall kids read. You will still stop by the library every Sunday to get a sticker for each book read. But instead of putting up stickers beside your child’s name, we will have a giant poster of books outside the library. We will see how many books we can fill up with stickers. Each filled book means we can give away another book! Last year we gave away 25 books. With your help, we can give even more this year!

Kids from birth through high school can participate. **No sign-up is necessary.** Parents, you can read to your little ones. Even if you read only a few, every book counts in our final total! The first day to get stickers is June 1. Remember: The more books you read, the more books we will give!

Family Christian Stamps

For those of you who faithfully collect stamps from Family Christian Stores for our library, there is a new system. Instead of collecting stamps, now all you need is a card with Blacknall’s specific bar code. Just show it when you make your purchase, and the cashier will scan your card, sending a credit of 5% of your purchase directly to our account. If you shop there, please drop by the library and pick up one of our cards. Thanks for supporting the Blacknall Library!

Children’s Ministries Summer Sunday School

Summer’s Coming!! Along the children’s ministries hallways, teachers are wrapping up their regular lessons and getting ready to take a break. We have a very committed team of 24 teachers for 8 classes of children – and they need a break for the summer. We would like to offer **YOU** the chance to spend some quality time with the children of Blacknall over the 13 weeks (June 1 through Aug 24) of our Summer Sunday School Program.

Two and Three Year old classes will follow their regular routine: a brief lesson, snack, singing, and lots of play time. **Needs:** 4-6 teachers for each room= **8 to 12 People**

Four Year olds through Second Grade: we will be using a VBS curriculum “Crusin’ the Amazing Amazon” which focuses on Nahum 1:7 – “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.” We will work as a VBS classroom would for each Sunday morning, all the material needed is in the books! **Needs:** 2-4 room decorators (to prepare rooms in advance), 2-4 music leaders, 2-4 craft leaders, 2-4 teachers = **8 to 16 People**

Third through Fifth Grade: we will be doing Godly Play, focusing on the parables. We will train anyone who would like to be a Storyteller or Host for the Sunday school hour. We plan to do the story as a large group, and then split up for response time, so multiple hosts will be needed each week. **Needs:** 2-3 storytellers, 4-6 hosts = **6 to 9 People**

All of these positions are quite flexible, accommodating vacation schedules. Grab a friend or two and see how fun it can be to teach together! The more people willing to help, the more we can rotate duties. Please contact Beth Solie (286-5586 or bsolie@blacknallpres.org) to Volunteer!

Christmas in June?!? June 23–27, 9 to Noon

Kids who will be rising third grade through rising sixth grade this summer, plan to come and join us. We’ll explore the Mystery of Christmas in a whole new way, play games, have snacks, and create animals out of wood and paper mache to go with Blacknall’s large Holy Family set. Watch for more information and registration forms coming out in early May!



The gifts of God from the people of God

Year-to-date budget through April 28	\$ 369,917
Year-to-date income through April 28	\$ 283,383
Year to-date expenses through April 28	\$ 314,935

Covenant Campaign Total Borrowed	\$1,100,000
Covenant Campaign Loan Balance 4/29/08	\$ 434,929

New Staff Member Director of Elementary Age Children

We are very glad to welcome to our Blacknall staff **Amy Rowell**, a member here, along with her husband Andy. Amy will be filling the position of Director of Elementary Age Children, and will be working in partnership with Beth Solie. She comes to us most recently from Taylor University where she served as professor of Christian Educational Ministries. Before that Amy served as the director of children’s ministries in Vancouver; and also earned her Master of Divinity from Regent College during her time there. She is married to Andy, a doctoral student at Duke, and together they have two young sons, Ryan and Jacob. Welcome Amy!

Godly Play– What, Who, Where, Why, When

Do you ever Wonder?...What is Godly Play?

In Godly Play, an invitation is given not just for play in general, but for play with the language of God and God’s people: our sacred stories, parables, liturgical actions, and silences. Through this powerful language, through our wondering, through the community of players gathered together, we hear the deepest invitation of all: an invitation to come and play with God.

Do you ever Wonder?...Who is involved in Godly Play?

You approach the door of a Godly Play classroom. Seated by the door is a warm, inviting person – the Host for this classroom. At this doorway, children & adults stop and get themselves ready to go inside. At the heart of most Godly Play sessions is the telling of the lesson: a narrative drawn from sacred stories, a parable or the showing of the symbols & actions of a liturgical act. Most of us already know how to tell stories. Godly Play involves the children, the Host, and the Storyteller for each session.

Do you ever Wonder?...Where does Blacknall Use Godly Play?

We are using Godly Play for Junior and Children’s Church for both worship services and for Third Grade Sunday school. Over the summer we plan to use this method for the Third through Fifth Grade Sunday schools, and for Christmas in June (VBS). Some offering of Godly Play will be available at School of Discipleship in Fall 2008.

Do you ever Wonder?...Why should I get involved in Godly Play?

Perhaps you have a gift of creating an environment of welcome through hospitality. Perhaps you have always been a teller of family stories. Perhaps you would love to investigate Scripture with your heart. Perhaps you have a commitment to training up the children of Blacknall. All of these are wonderful reasons to get involved in Godly Play, and there are many more as well!

Do you ever Wonder?...When can I find out more about Godly Play?

During each Sunday morning service the children leave at the designated time and are escorted to the Godly Play classrooms. You are welcome to follow them to observe, sitting in the back and watching, or joining the circle and participating. Either way you are welcome! You can also plan to come May 31, 9 am to 2 pm here at Blacknall, for a workshop on using Montessori-based methods for Christian Education. Come for all or part of the day. Finally, you can contact Beth Solie, Director of Preschool Children’s Ministries, for more information (286-5586 or bsolie@blacknallpres.org).