

The Bell Ringer



BLACK MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

...SEEKS TO FOLLOW JESUS, MAKE DISCIPLES, AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD

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February/March 2012

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For what are you grateful? I imagine that if I gave you a piece of paper and 3 minutes to answer this question, you would quickly list 5 to 15 items and perhaps even more. We all know what the important stuff is in our lives – things such as family, friends, homes, food on the table, a warm bed at night, ability to provide the basics for our family, our church, etc.

To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, almost everybody can do that. To be grateful for all of our lives – the good as well as the bad, the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, the successes as well as the failures, the rewards as well as the rejections, well that's different. That concept of gratitude requires hard spiritual work.

Yet, we are only truly grateful people when we can say thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment. As long as we keep dividing our lives between special events and people we would like to remember and those we would rather forget, we cannot claim the fullness of our life and being as a gift of God.

I invite you to consider your life, reflect upon your journey to this point in time. Can you grasp all that has made you the person you are today? Were the good and easy times all that made you what you are? No, sometimes the things that make us stretch and grow are the great challenges and tough times we face along life's journey. We prefer the easy path, and yet our greatest lessons of strength and faith come from more difficult aspects of life.

As we reflect on the years behind us and look to a new year with all its new avenues for growth as Christian people, let's view it with spiritual eyes. We need not be afraid to look at everything that has brought us to where we are now.

With gratitude, let us remember: we are always in the guiding hand of a loving God. Gratitude is important Spiritual work. Let us give thanks with our words and our actions of service in 2012.

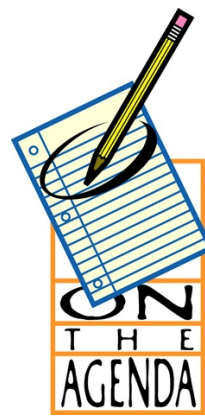
Blessings,
Lynda



The Black Mountain UMC congregation will begin the celebration of Lent on Wednesday, February 22 with an Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we begin our 40 day journey of reflection, remembrance and repentance. Whether you are experiencing this journey for the 1st time or the 100th, the story of Jesus is the story of our salvation. Unworthy as we are – He died for us. Although he died – He Lives!



A series of community lenten services sponsored by the Black Mountain/Swannanoa Ministerial Association will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22 at 12 noon. The first service will be at St. James Episcopal Church and will last about 30 minutes. You are invited to stay and have lunch at the Community Table, which meets in the fellowship hall of the church, following the service. The series of services will continue on Wednesdays throughout the Lenten season. Watch your bulletins and e-mail for a full schedule listing the location of each service.



February Committee Meetings

- **The Finance Committee** will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 7 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Church Library
- **The Capital Improvements Committee** meets on Tuesday, Feb. 7 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Church Library.
- **The Administrative Council** meets on Sunday, Feb. 12 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- **Staff Parish Relations Committee** will hold their regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
- **Education Committee** meets on Monday, Feb. 27 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Issues Class
- **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Monday, Feb. 27 @ 7:00 p.m. in the New Directions Class

Am I on That Committee?

Who IS on That Committee?

For the answer to these questions and more, pick up a listing of the Church Leadership for 2012 from the table in the back of the sanctuary or e-mail or call the church office and we will e-mail or mail you a copy.

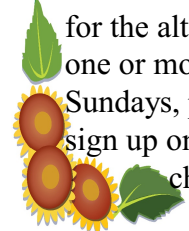


Book Club will meet on Saturday, February 25, at 10 a.m. at the home of Jackie Rio. Our book is a selection from the UMW Reading List, "I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced" by Nujood Ali, who is the first child bride in Yemen to win a divorce. This book should make an interesting companion to "Disfigured: A Saudi Woman's Story of Triumph over Violence," which we read in November. Please let Jackie know if you will be able to come and if you are planning to stay for lunch.

Our Fellowship Luncheon for February will be held on Sunday, the 19th following the service of worship. This is "Have a Heart for Paislee" month, sponsored by the Mission Committee. The meal, featuring Swiss Chicken Casserole, is \$6.00 for adults plus there will be an opportunity for donations to a Heart Tree. Be sure to stay for a wonderful meal on this day and help us support Paislee.

Watch your bulletins for details!

The 2012 Flower Chart is located in the east narthex of the sanctuary. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar one or more Sundays, please sign up on the chart or call the church office.



Hand In Hand Fundraiser – Spaghetti Dinner, Bake Sale

Friday, February 10th 5-7 PM

Snow date: Friday, Feb 17, 5-7 PM

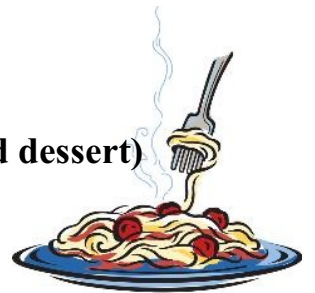
First Presbyterian Church of Swannanoa

372 Bee Tree Road, Swannanoa

\$6-Adults \$3-Children (Includes salad, bread, drinks, and dessert)

Take-Out: 828-686-3140

Valley Churches Helping Valley Schools



Proceeds Benefit Low Income Students in the Owen School District. Please support our community and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship in the Swannanoa Valley.



A Great Date Night A Fun Treat for Your Special Valentine

A Valentine Benefit Concert Love Songs for a Lifetime

Friday, February 17 – White Horse Black Mountain

7:00 PM – Valentine’s treats, Dessert — 7:30 PM – Showtime

Enjoy your favorite local musicians sing & play their favorite love songs

To Benefit

Black Mountain Pastoral Care&

Suggested Donation: \$20 per couple

Counseling Center

\$10 per person

Tickets & More information: BMPCCC – 828-779-1932; 828-669-9798

www.whitehorseblackmountain.com – 828-669-0816

(In Case of inclement weather, the concert will be rescheduled.

See Calendar on White House website for details)

Our Lenten Journey - From Ashes to Hope

February 22 - Ash Wednesday: The journey begins. Ashes mark the beginning of a journey where our hands will —get dirty and we find that with Christ at our side, hope can be found even amidst struggles

February 26 - 1st Sunday of Lent: Who is on this journey with you? How can people encourage or discourage you when the going gets tough? This segment tackles the importance of being involved in faith friendships and learning to lean on Christ as the ultimate Friend.

March 4 - 2nd Sunday of Lent: Identity and self-esteem can make or break the journey. Do you base your identity on who people say you are, or who you know God created you to be? Finding a firm foundation in who you are called to be will help you overcome obstacles

March 11 - 3rd Sunday of Lent: We all rely on work to meet the financial needs incurred in our journey, but how can work itself be realized as a joyful destination? The disciples gave up all of their things to live out their passion for Christ. Many of us give up all of our passions to have —things.? How can we find a balance?

March 18 - 4th Sunday of Lent: When we get tired along the way, it is tempting to stop or turn around. To go the distance as true disciples, we must learn to give freely of ourselves in service. As we share through One Great Hour of Sharing we learn what it means to live fully for Christ.

March 25 - 5th Sunday of Lent: Money is a means of exchange for something that we want. Any journey requires —purchases along the way. Do you have a healthy relationship with money? In other words, do you have money, or does money have you? We will encounter scriptures that illustrate both (The Rich Young Ruler & The Widow's Mite) and focus on Christ's response

April 1 - Palm Sunday - Our Chancel Choir will lead our worship experience with the cantata *Come, Touch the Robe* by Pepper Choplin. We will hear of the encounters with the Healer, the Servant, the Lord of Easter.

April 5 - Maundy Thursday: Community was gathered around the table with Christ the night before He gave Himself up to be crucified. As we remember this important gathering, we too gather around tables, sharing the cup and breaking bread with one another in an experiential Eucharist Service.

April 8 - Easter: When all hope feels lost, it has truly just begun. The journey continues- We Are Easter People. Come celebrate all Christ did for you!



Pastor's Lunch – March 4, 2012

Are you interested in knowing more about our church? Are there questions you have about the programs offered here at BMUMC? Would you like to know more about becoming a member of this church? Interested in becoming more involved in the ministries of our church? If you have these questions or others about BMUMC, we invite you to join us for our Pastor's lunch, immediately following worship on Sunday, March 4th.

Come join in conversation and time for fellowship. We will meet in the fellowship hall. Please call the church office and let us know if you can join us on March 4th for lunch – 669-8248.



Room In The Inn

Be watching your bulletin for your opportunity to volunteer with Room In The Inn Homeless Shelter for women. The shelter will be housed at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church March 18-25. We will assist with providing breakfast foods, bag lunches, dinners, overnight volunteers, van drivers etc. Watch for sign up sheets or call Lynn Brunner to volunteer.





February

SUMMER THOMA	2	SUE NOYES	16
NELL SNYDER	4	THOMAS ELDRIDGE	18
PAISLEE CORDELL	5	NANCY SCHNEPP	19
MARGARET CAMERON	10	JOAN HYATT	20
JACK BROWN	11	JOSH QUESINBERRY	21
PATRICK JOHNSON	13	BAILEY SIMPSON	21
EVELYN GRASS	14	BILL EUBANKS	25
SHEILA RAYE	15	BRETT DECKER	28

March

L.B. BROWN	1	MIA SELF	17
LYNDA BRIGGS	1	RICHARD HUDSON	17
IRIS MOORE	2	PHILLIP MINTON	18
MASON JACKSON	4	AMANDA GOVERN	19
JOHN KLUTTZ	6	LEA BORTELL	19
OLIVER BRUNNER	6	MADGE MILOVITZ	22
SETH ADAMS	7	ASHLEY MCELREATH	25
WAYNE SIMS	8	PENNY CREED	25
JOHNATHAN SAUNDERS	9	JIM HUGHES	26
JOAN MONROE	10	RUBY KNIGHT	27
BILL CREED	10	DWIGHT HUSSEY	28
TYLER ELDRIDGE	10	JAMES SAUNDERS	31

Not 'OK' but 'forgiven'

Since Thomas Harris' popular self-help book I'm OK, You're OK was first published in 1967, the title has become a cliché, thanks to knock-offs and parodies. One is titled I'm OK, You're Not So Hot. Indeed, it's often in our nature to be more accepting of our own behavior than of others'.

Yet at other times we're too quick to dismiss a wrong done against us. When a wise Christian apologized to me for something she'd done, I immediately replied, "It's OK." But she responded, "No, it's not OK, but you can tell me I'm forgiven."

Lent reminds us that none of us is perfectly "OK" in our relationships with God and one another. But thanks to God's unconditional love, demonstrated through Jesus' willingness to suffer even death for us, we're indeed forgiven.

—Heidi Mann

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Make this craft to capture the beauty of God's creation in springtime.

What you need:

- White glue that dries clear
- White watercolor paper
- Black fine-point permanent marker
- Watercolors
- Paint brush
- Water bowl
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. With glue, draw a picture on watercolor paper of flowers and other things in God's creation we see in spring. Keep lines fairly big and simple, without many small details.
2. After the glue dries, use a fine-point permanent marker to trace the glue lines.
3. Paint your picture with watercolors for a stained-glass effect.

