

July
2009

Blacknall

Memorial Presbyterian Church



Dear Blacknall family,

I'm a member of the NC Zoo Society.

Jealous?

You should be.

My membership allows me to visit the zoo whenever I want for free, I receive 10% off of everything at the zoo gift shop and each summer I'm invited to swim with the polar bears.

All right, that last one isn't true, but I do love the zoo. Over the last few years, I've visited it about a dozen times because that's what you do when you live in Asheboro. During those trips I've realized that my favorite exhibit is the rhinos.

There are two things that I find very interesting about rhinos. First, these animals can run very fast, much faster than you would probably imagine. Second, rhinos have very poor eyesight. It seems silly to me that God would create an animal who can run very fast without being able to see what it's running towards. I wonder how many times a rhino has found itself barreling towards what it perceives to be a threat only to find itself headfirst into a tree or boulder.

Now why am I telling you this?

I'm telling you this because I feel a little like a rhino. Let me explain.

In the psalms, David says that the Lord is a lamp to his feet and a light to his path. For those of us that have ever been hiking at night, you know that even the best headlamp or flashlight only shows a few steps ahead. This is the image I have as I read Psalm 119. David doesn't say that the Lord has illuminated his whole course of travel. No, David compares our Lord's guidance as just a lamp at his feet and it seems like he is ok with that. David trusts that if the Lord shows him the path, then the path is straight and the direction is right. This trust allows David to move boldly in the direction that God is leading him even though, like the rhino, he can only see a few steps ahead.

Like David, I have found that there are few times in my life that God has given me a vision more than a few steps ahead. I certainly feel this way as I move into the role of Director of Youth this summer. I don't know what God has in store for the Blacknall youth over the next several years. I'm not even sure what his plans are for this year. Right now, I can see just a little ahead but I am eager to take off running at full speed.

So what does running at full speed look like?

We have about a hundred teenagers and I believe that God has called me to move into their world, build solid relationships with them and give them another adult

(continued)

friend with whom to share life. This summer I will begin building those relationships on their turf and at church. There are also two youth trips scheduled for this summer; a mission trip to West Virginia with our senior high and a middle school retreat in Florida. These trips will be a great start to my ministry at Blacknall and I can't wait to go on both of them!

Also, we have about 20 youth volunteers and I'm excited to join them and help enable them to minister to our youth. I want to be their biggest supporter and encourager as they follow Christ in loving our teenagers.

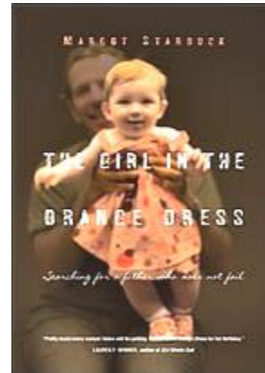
I'm sure it won't be long until God reveals more of the path that He's set, but until then I am eager to start this new job hitting the ground running, trusting that the path is straight and the way is right.

Brad Turnage

Blacknall Family Announcements

Congregational Pot Luck Lunch
Sunday, July 19

(see details on missions page)



What: Women's Event—Book Signing
When: Saturday, July 25, 9:30-11:30am
Where: Blacknall Fellowship Hall

Come hear Margot Hausmann read from her new book, *The Girl in the Orange Dress: Searching for a Father Who Does Not Fail*. Childcare is available with reservation by July 23 (mfrothingam@blacknallpres.org). Margot will sign and sell books (\$15 each). This is a wonderful opportunity to bring a friend.

For more information about the book, go to www.MargotStarbuck.com. Margot is also reading on Monday, July 20, 7:00pm at the Reality Center, 916 Lamond Avenue in Durham. A third reading is Thursday, August 6, at the home of Anne Paulson (r.s.v.p. rapaulson1@nc.rr.com).



Fourth Sunday Summer Family Fun!
Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social
Sunday, July 26, 6:30 – 8pm
Blacknall Fellowship Hall.
 We will make homemade ice cream together, and then share in some super sundae building. Bring your whole family and your favorite ice cream toppings to share in our fabulous sundae bar. Prizes might be involved, for most creative topping, most popular topping, best family-created sundae, etc.
 Ice Cream will be provided, along with lots of napkins! For more information contact Beth Solie at 286-5586 or bsolie@blacknall.org.

Youth Ministries

Blacknall Family Announcements

Our high school aged youth will be traveling to West Virginia July 20-25 to partner with Americans Helping Americans. We will be doing various home repairs such as fixing floors and roofs, building ramps, painting and more to help our neighbors in need. Please pray for our teenagers and leaders who will be going on this trip!

Josh Bayne	Caroline McSwain
Sarah Bohn	Malissa McSwain
Laura Bratt	Taylor Pennington
Abby Demarest	Kenny Phelps-McKeown
Dave Eyster	Sam Poole
Mark Eyster	Sarah Poole
Katherine Ferguson	Ben Rice
Tommy Grigg	Talia Rice
Brad Hinkle	Derek Skeen
Maria Hoover	Brennan Slacke
Gideon Lance	Zach Smith
Elani Mansfield	Cameron Tonn
Philip Whisenhunt	

Leaders are Brad Turnage, Matt Bridges, Matt Eagleburger, Michael Whisenhunt, Tanya Moore, and Emily Bratt.

High School Summer Bible Study! A summer bible study started June 28 for high school aged youth. The study schedule is July 5 and 12, August 9, 16, and 23. We will be discussing parables from the Gospel of Luke. Meet in the youth room at 6pm and please join us for dinner following the study.

BOOK NOOK Summertime is reading time! Make sure your kids are getting their summer reading fix with lots of great books from the Blacknall Library. And whenever kids check out a book, CD or DVD this summer, they'll be entered into a weekly drawing for a special prize. The more they read, the better their chances! Encourage them to explore all our titles and find something just right for them. Here are some examples of series that will keep them reading for weeks:

- Miracle Girls*
- Carter House Girls*
- True Colors*
- Eternity's Edge*
- Hollywood Nobody*
- Faithgirlz: Boarding School Mysteries*
- I Can Read! (for beginning readers)*
- Knights of Arrethtrae*
- The Lost Books*

Blacknall Missions Update

Partnership Sunday

On Sunday, July 19, Blacknall will be recognizing our new community partnerships with Reality Ministries and the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). At both worship services, we will pray for and bless the staff of these organizations. We will also have a potluck luncheon after the second service where we will hear more about what these organizations are doing and ways that we can be involved in the work that God is doing through them.

These partnerships are part of our congregational vision of participating together in Christ's mission. We are hoping that we will be able to enter more deeply into relationships with one another and with our partners in mission through these intentional and intensive partnerships. In the weeks following Partnership Sunday, we will be hearing testimonies from members of Blacknall who have been involved with Reality and IHN and we will hear about opportunities for us to be involved together.

Reality Ministries – www.realityministriesinc.org

Reality Ministries is a ministry of relationship and presence, reflecting the heart of Jesus for those who are marginalized due to poverty, violence, lack of opportunity, and special needs. To see what Reality is all about, Blacknallites are encouraged to visit their community center (the "Reality Center") at 916 Lamond Street, which is directly across the street from Durham School of the Arts (just let them know you are coming!). During the school year, volunteers can get involved with Reality as an after-school tutor, or as a "buddy" during "Tuesday Night Live," a ministry alongside friends with disabilities. This summer, Reality has opened its doors to middle and high school students as a day-center, providing safe space for playing games, developing leadership skills, and learning about Jesus. To spend time building relationships with these students, contact Reality Ministries at realityministries@gmail.com or 919-688-7776

Interfaith Hospitality Network -- www.dihn.org

For thirteen years the Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) has dedicated itself to the mission of ending family homelessness in Durham. Recognizing that providing shelter alone was only a quick fix, IHN pioneered a new approach. Based on a cost effective, nationally recognized model that efficiently applies volunteers and resources, 30 local congregations and over 900 volunteers have agreed to provide the shelter and meals for the guest families while IHN provides the intensive case management and support services. With this system, homeless families are not only provided with personal care and support, but they are also given the tools to truly get back on their feet and achieve stability and independence once again.

Blacknall volunteers with IHN as a "support congregation," meaning that we provide rides, meals, and overnight support during the weeks that the IHN guest families are staying at Trinity United Methodist Church. To volunteer, contact Brian Averette at Brian.Averette@catalent.com. In addition, IHN has also recognized that many guest families are stressed and lonely during their time with IHN. They have asked us to plan fun activities for the whole family to enrich their Saturday afternoons and to create support groups for those families that would like a community to journey with them. If you would like to help with these events, contact Brian Diekman at brian.diekman@duke.edu.

If you cannot be in church on July 19 or would like more information about these partnerships, contact Amanda or Brian Diekman at Amanda.Diekman@gmail.com or brian.diekman@duke.edu or David Dunderdale at ddunderdale@blacknall.org. To learn more about the organizations and ways that you can get involved, see www.blacknall.org and click on "Community Outreach".

Blacknall Family Announcements

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

		YTD Budget	\$551,075
2009 weekly Budget	\$22,043	YTD Income	\$463,152
Tithes & Offerings 6/21	\$14,407	YTD Expenses	\$511,774
Covenant Campaign Total Borrowed			\$1,100,000
Covenant Campaign Loan Balance 6/26			\$73,949

Children's Ministry

"Because you are my help I will sing in the shadow of your wings." - Psalm 63:7

We have this beautiful pair of cardinals in our yard, who have almost become a part of our family during the year that we've lived in our house. The male is rather creative: he will come and sit on the deck railing and sing, and if no one seems to notice him, he'll fly up, cling to the window screen, hang there, and sing. He does get noticed when he does this! We all enjoy listening to his song; morning and evening we hear him serenade us from wherever he is in the yard. He seems to be just full of pure joy, which comes out in his song.

This has been my prayer lately, that I would learn to sing for joy in the shadow of my God's wings. Other verses talk of dwelling in that shadow, but I love this one, which speaks of *singing* in that secure position. As I wander around the nursery hallway on Sunday mornings, I sometimes feel as if I'm listening in on a serenade just as beautiful as that of the cardinal in my yard. It's the serenade of children's voices: singing, laughing, telling stories, sometimes even shrieking with joy. These children are creating this beautiful noise in this place because here, like under the shadow of God's wing, they feel safe and secure. They know that they are loved and welcomed, and they express that with moments of pure joy.

Much of that feeling of safety and security, loving and welcome, comes from those who volunteer, and their commitment to creating that space for our children. We would love for you to wander down to the nursery hallway this summer and take a moment to listen to the serenade, to dwell in that joy for awhile yourselves. Perhaps you will find that you might like to stay a little longer, and be a part of things on a more regular basis. Our families are growing, and the need for volunteers just keeps on growing too! Nursery workers for each service or the Sunday school hour, summer Sunday school teachers, and school-year Sunday school teachers, room parents, laundry helpers, Children's church volunteers - the list is long! There is an ongoing need in all these areas, so don't wait to be asked, give us a call!

Blacknall Small Groups – Summer Update

Many small groups take a break during the summer or have an abbreviated schedule. One group that meets in North Raleigh will be continuing to meet and would love others to join. If you are interested in this group, please contact the Small Group Ministry Team to get connected: smallgroups@blacknall.org or call 919.768.3616.

Sign-ups for all small groups will occur in August. If you would like to be a coordinator of a new group starting in the Fall, please let us know. Also, we would love to have you join our team. Visit the small groups website: blacknallsg.wordpress.com

Monthly Schedule

Sunday

8:30 & 11:00AM Worship
9:30-11:15 Library Open
9:45 AM Sunday School
5:00 PM International Missions (1st Sun– even months)
6:00 PM Prayers for Youth
6:30 PM Communion & Prayers (3rd Sun)
Prayers for Missionaries (1st Sun)

Monday

7:00 AM Outreach Comm. (2nd Mon)
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)

Monday (continued)

8:00 PM Building & Property (1st Mon)
Congregational Care (1st Mon)
Hospitality Comm. (1st Mon)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Church Staff

Allan Poole - Pastor

David Dunderdale - Pastor

Dave Stuntz - Music - Ministry

Amy Rowell - Children's Ministry - Elementary

Beth Solie - Children's Ministry - Preschool

Caroline Inazu - Middle School Youth Ministry

Brad Turnage - Director Youth Ministries

Margaret Frothingham - Congregational Care

Diane Beacham - Finance

Dare Nicholson - Associate Office Admin.

Jan Smart - Associate Office Admin.

Terry Simpson - Facilities Manager

Chris Blumhofer - Summer Intern