

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
AND CELEBRATION OF 175 YEARS OF MINISTRY  
MARCH 30, 2008 – 10:30AM**

**THE CHURCH GATHERS**

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION** – *Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises. Where we have been weak, grant us your strength; where we have been confused, grant us your guidance; where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort; where we have been dead, grant us your life. Apart from you we are nothing; in and with you we can do all things. Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*Festal Flourish  
O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Gordon Jacob  
C. Hubert H. Parry

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alex Evans

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you...**(All are invited to sign the Friendship Pad in the pew, and visitors are encouraged to leave an address or email.)

**INTROIT**

*Through Ev'ry Age Eternal God*

Issac Watts/Ezra Goff  
Deo Gloria

Through ev'ry age eternal God,  
Thou art our rest, our safe abode;  
High was Thy throne ere heav'n was made,  
Or earth Thy humble footstool laid.

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord,  
Eternal truth attends Thy word;  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Susan Verbrugge

O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**Our hope is in God who watches over our past, our present and our future, our coming and our going. Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*By Providential Care*

*Insert "By Providential Care"*

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** ("debts" and "debtors")  
Loving God, we come to worship today celebrating and rejoicing in our past, our present, and our future as your beloved people here. You have blessed us through the ages, and you are our hope for years to come. We sing, pray, and listen. You always hear us. Help us to hear you, not only today but well into our future, so that with fresh commitment and love, we can follow Jesus in all things. **We pray in Jesus' name, and together: Our Father, who art in heaven...**(Lord's Prayer on p. 16 in hymnal)

**CHILDREN'S ANTHEM**

*In God's House*

Brian and Sherry Pearson  
Children's Choir

## **THE CHURCH CELEBRATES**

### **WORDS OF CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION**

#### **A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

O Lord, you have been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

**You, O Lord, have been our help and strength in all times.**

We praise you, O God, for the joy we find in the church universal and in this church across the years.

**We praise you for communion with one another, for the sharing of bounty and burden, for nurturing one generation to the next, for all the expressions of holiness made visible in our midst.**

We praise you for all those who have gone before us, who have sacrificed and served, who have built this building, who leave such a legacy to us.

**We give great thanks, O God, for ministers and members, for younger and older, for servants and saints whose memory echoes in these walls.**

**GRATEFUL RESPONSE** *What Gift Can We Offer* v. 1 Tune: Blantyre

(Refrain:) **What gift can we offer to Jesus, our Savior,  
To show him our thanks for the love he gave?**

**We can do justice, treat all as neighbors, tending creation, as he would do.**

(text by Mary Louise Bringle, ©2007 GIA Publications, Inc., reprinted under OneLicense.net A-701634)

In July 1832, you gathered us in the wilderness in Blacksburg to form a new church.

**As this town became a university town, this church became an integral part of the emerging community.**

We are grateful for the courage and integrity of our ancestors as they sought to embody the gospel in worship, Bible study, and faithful living.

**We are grateful too for this church's strong position in support of justice and equity, faithfulness and life, through civil rights in the 60s, human rights in Central America in the 80s, the good stewardship of the environment, local and global partnerships, and other causes into the present.**

We are grateful for a strong record of good teaching, intellectual leadership, and meaningful discipleship in this town, region, state, nation, and world.

**We thank you, God, for effective pastors, leaders, and members who continue to guide us, encourage us, embody the faith and love of Christ, and offer gifts in your service.**

We praise you for disciples grown here, marriages performed here, celebrations of life lived here, and for all those whose lives have been touched by your grace here.

**We give thanks, Dear God, for all those who have lived for others, who have loved neighbors, who have extended themselves in service from here to the world.**

**GRATEFUL RESPONSE**

*What Gift Can We Offer*

v. 2

**(Refrain:) What gift can we offer to Jesus, our Savior,  
To show him our thanks for the love he gave?**

**We can love kindness, bless little children, practice forgiveness, as he would do.**

We praise you, O Lord, for the gift of this building set aside for worship and work following Jesus Christ.

**We give thanks, O God, for music and worship, for nurture and growth, for fellowship and care, for our outreach to the world from these walls.**

Our present is full of opportunities to embody the gospel as we seek to continue this strong legacy.

**May you strengthen our desire to serve faithfully in our community and around the world.**

Help us to grow in our relationships with each other and with you.

**As we cope with the legacy of tragedy and suffering, we thank you for your obvious presence and strength in the hearts of our compassionate church community.**

**GRATEFUL RESPONSE**

*What Gift Can We Offer*

v. 3

**(Refrain:) What gift can we offer to Jesus, our Savior,  
To show him our thanks for the love he gave?**

**We can walk humbly, prayerful and trusting, living as servants, as he would do.**

We praise you, Holy One, for the grace and strength that brings us to this day: hard work and sacrifice, attention to detail, and the celebration of our lives.

**We rejoice in 175 years of ministry as Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. We rejoice in memories and present moments, past members and ministers with us, in a momentum that sends us forward in faith and service.**

We dedicate to you, O God, our recent renovations to this space: windows and air quality, improvements and safety features, enhancements that help us welcome all and serve you in the world.

**We stand in awe, O God, of the grace that has been bestowed on us in this place and the calling to use our space and our lives in faithfulness to the gospel.**

We celebrate today the vision that continues in this congregation – a vision of worship and work that promotes Christ's reign.

**We commit our lives and our improved space to you and your glory, Dear God. Let this always be a place where we find peace in the midst of turmoil and courage for the work that is ours. We seek to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.**

Be at work in our hearts and lives to increase our faith, to form us as your people, to be instruments of peace and reconciliation in our world.

**Be at work in our lives and in our community that we can bear your light, manifest your hope, and promote the love and faith of Christ our Lord.**

**GRATEFUL RESPONSE**

*What Gift Can We Offer*

v. 4

(Refrain:) **What gift can we offer to Jesus, our Savior,  
To show him our thanks for the love he gave?  
We can sing praises, shout Alleluia, worship forever, as he would do.  
(Final refrain:) These gifts we can offer to Jesus our Savior, to show  
him our thanks for the love he gave!**

Great God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in the present, we also  
anticipate our future, seeking your guidance, to embody the gospel.  
**We seek to be a community of open minds, open hearts, and open lives,  
always sustained by you.**

We commit our lives to you: to worship in sincerity, grow deeply in faith and  
fellowship, and serve God effectively to the ends of the earth.

**Loving God, know our sincere gratitude for our 175 years as a  
congregation in Blacksburg. You have sustained us and led us through all  
things. Keep us open to your leading and guiding. Show us new ways to  
love and serve. Help us, younger and older, to continue growing in faith,  
abiding in your love, building community, striving for compassion and  
commitment that takes us to the far corners of the globe. Give us such  
trust in your Spirit and such confidence in your companionship that we can  
embody your love, convey your hope, and promote your peace in Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*GRATEFUL RESPONSE**

*Doxology*

Tune: Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
And also with you.

**THE CHURCH PROCLAIMS GOD'S WORD**

**SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN**

Ginger Evans and Sallie Drumheller

**CHILDREN'S ANTHEM**

*Small Deeds*

John Horman  
Children's Choir

**SCRIPTURE**

**HOMILY**

Catherine Snyder

**ANTHEM OF DEDICATION**

Warren Martin  
Adult Choir, Deo Gloria

based on three hymn texts:

*God Is Working His Purpose Out* (A.C. Ainger)

*Take My Life, and Let It Be* (Frances Ridley Havergal)

*O Jesus, I Have Promised* (John E. Bode)

**SCRIPTURE**

**HOMILY**

Alex Evans

**PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

## THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in  
death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Here I Am, Lord*

Daniel Schutte

*Insert "Here I Am, Lord"*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

George Telford

### OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

*Meditation*

Cecile Chaminade  
Cheryl Prince, violin

**\*RESPONSE**      *By Providential Care*      v. 5      Tune: Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>  
To You the Triune God, all glory now be giv'n,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, filling earth and heav'n.  
Most gracious One, with hearts ablaze in thanks and praise,  
to You we come!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN**

Insert "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**      *A Rejoicing*      Alfred V. Fedak

**\*Those who are able are invited to stand at these times**

**Community Worship Ends –  
Discipleship and Service Begin Again**

701 Church Street - P.O. Box 144  
Blacksburg, VA 24063-0144  
540-552-2504

[bpc@blacksburgpres.org](mailto:bpc@blacksburgpres.org)   [www.blacksburgpres.org](http://www.blacksburgpres.org)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

### **MARCH 30, 2008**

**As we celebrate God's love and care through 175 years of ministry in this place, we welcome all who gather for worship. May God's Spirit of peace, love, and light touch our worship for sincere praise to God, for lives of deeper faith, and more devoted commitment following Jesus Christ. We welcome all visitors, past and present members, former staff and previous pastors and their families, and all who enter here today. We also welcome students, and we welcome anyone who might be interested in membership in this congregation. Speak to one of the pastors for more information. We invite all to sign the Friendship Pad in the pew as we seek to have a record of attendance for this momentous occasion.**

**Immediately following worship, we will recess to the front lawn for a celebration picture of the congregation.** Following the photograph, all are encouraged to come to Fellowship Hall for a reception. We have a celebration cake and time for fellowship.

**HEADSETS for the HEARING IMPAIRED are available.** Speak to the Head Usher or Gavin Faulkner to use one during the worship service.

**THE CELEBRATION FLOWERS are given by Jama Hayes in loving memory of James A. Williams, Jama's father.**

**We are grateful for those leading worship, including Catherine Snyder, Associate Pastor 1982-1986, now Campus Minister at Cooper House and George Telford, pastor at BPC from 1981-1987 and to Lynn Thye for directing the Children's Choir today.**

**Today we are grateful to Deo Gloria for sharing their vocal talents with us this morning: Steve Drumheller and Suzanne Sanford, Bob and Peggy Evans, John and Mary Jane McMillen.**

**New Easter Banners are hanging this Easter season. They represent the empty tomb bursting with the light of resurrection. The third banner, hung on the choir loft, visually reminds us of the joy and praise we sing in the final chorus on Easter morning it challenges us to live as Easter people. The banners were constructed by Marti Snyder from designs by Martha Dillard.**

**Next Sunday is Youth Sunday.** We keep our young people in our prayers as they prepare.

**Our offering today, unless otherwise indicated, will go to our Capital Improvement fund, to help with our debt from the recent renovations. Thank you for your care and support.**

**An introductory caving trip, a Men of the Church outing for everyone, happens this afternoon.** Helmets and lights provided. Be prepared to get very dirty. Meet at 3 p.m. in the Food Lion parking lot off North Main Street in Blacksburg. The trip should last 3 hours total. Space is limited. If interested, call Steve Grieco 951-2173 or 540-630-1800.

**Grads & "Grown-ups" Change of Plans:** BPC's young adult group will meet for potluck dinner and fellowship at the home of James Glenn on April 7<sup>th</sup>. James' address is: 1302 Sandy Circle, Blacksburg. Contact James (540-557-7754) or Beth Abbey at 250-6221 for more information. We are open to newcomers.

**Each week the Stewardship Committee will highlight different programs in the church's ministry that your contributions support.** This week spotlights **Community Ministry.** The Community Ministry Committee seeks to inform, enable, encourage, and lead our congregation in responding to Christ's calling to participate in God's work within the local community. Together we strive to respond to the calling of Jesus Christ who said "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I needed clothes and you clothed me." For the CMC, this means employing the time, talent, and treasure offered so generously by BPC to invest in childcare for low-income families, clothe children, help those in crises, provide food through the Interfaith Food Pantry, provide medical care through the Free Clinic, and help shelter abused women at the Women's Resource Center, among many other activities. Your tithes and gifts to the church make this possible. What do Christian service and mission look like to you?

**Walk to Jerusalem finished 12 weeks of walking on Easter Sunday with 66 participants and 12,405 miles-great job!** BPC is also the winner of the first "Golden Sandal Award" - of the seven participating churches, we walked the farthest! Thank you to everyone who participated and faithfully reported their mileage each week. Please contact Beth Abbey (250-6221 or [ebbey@vt.edu](mailto:ebbey@vt.edu)) with any comments or suggestions on how we can make this program better.

### SERVING TODAY

Elder of the Week: John Lipsey      **Next Week:** Shalini Perumpral  
Greeters: Judy Pospichal, Geoff, Abbie, Garrett and Kyle Knobl  
Ushers: Dee Baker, Lynn Lipsey, Barbara Sinha, Mary Frances Taylor  
Head Usher for March: John Lipsey      **April:** John Perumpral  
Counting Assignment: Shalini Perumpral and Mike McGilliard  
**Next Week:** Dorothy Domermuth and Bill Neely  
Drivers for Worship Service Team: Jason Pospichal

### THIS WEEK AT BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - \*Hatcher Conference Room

April 1      Bible Workbench at 7:30 a.m. -\*HCR  
Prayer Group meets at 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Room  
PJGM and Community Ministry meet at 7:30 p.m. -\*HCR  
April 2      Way Cool Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.  
April 3      Building and Grounds meet at 5:00 p.m. -\*HCR  
April 6      Youth Sunday  
Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m.  
Coffee Sales  
Worship at 11:00 a.m.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT BPC      \*HCR - Hatcher Conference Room

April 7      Lydia Circle meets at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
April 13      Treat Students to Lunch at 12:15 p.m.  
Memorial Tree Planting at 12:15 p.m.  
HIV/AIDS Presentation at 12:15 p.m. - \*HCR  
April 15      Youngish Women meet at 7:30 p.m. at Lorinda Straley's Home  
April 16      No Way Cool Wednesday this week  
Ecumenical Worship Service and Dinner at Blacksburg Baptist Church  
April 20      Session Meeting at 5:00 p.m.-\*HCR  
April 21      Hearts and Hammers Report at 7:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall  
University Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m. - \*HCR  
June 9-13      Vacation Bible School for all ages!  
June 20 -22      Good News Partners here from Chicago!  
July 26- August 2      BPC trip to Good News Partners in Chicago

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### **THE FOLLOWING ARE AVAILABLE TO COMMEMORATE THE HISTORY:**

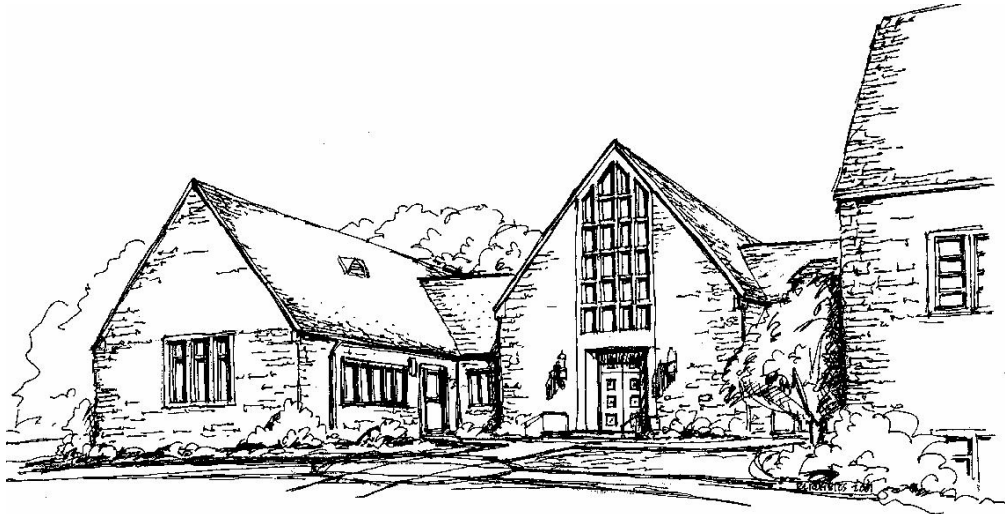


BPC plates - \$15.00  
BPC wooden church building replicas - \$15.00  
BPC note cards - \$5.00 for package of 6  
BPC children's coloring books, Sallie Drumheller, artist -  
Donation (\$1)  
BPC decals - \$3.00 (Each family of current members will  
receive one *free* decal.)

BPC 175-Year History, Charles Taylor, editor and author - \$25.00 (advance order forms and  
payment, publication date TBA)

All proceeds from sales will be contributed to the  
Valley Interfaith Child Care Center (VICCC)  
(childcare for local low and moderate income families supported significantly by BPC)

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**Blacksburg Presbyterian Church**  
**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**1832-2007**  
**March 30, 2008**

**Our Mission**

To proclaim God's Word in our contemporary world  
To grow with commitment, faith, and understanding  
To welcome all to our community and fellowship  
To extend comfort and grace to those in need  
To work actively for justice and peace in the world  
To be generous, responsible stewards of God's gifts.

**Ministers - All Members**

**Pastor - Alexander W. Evans**

**Associate Pastor - Susan Verbrugge**

**Parish Associate - Charles Taylor**

**Director of Music, Organist, Bell Choir Director - James Bryant**

**Children's Choir Director - Mary Harder**

**Director of Christian Education - Ginger Evans**

**Administrative Assistant - Sherry Ingham**

**Youth Advocate - Matt Drumheller**

**Custodian - Viola Howery**

**Librarian - Richard Rusk**

**Presbyterian Campus Minister at Cooper House - Catherine Snyder**