

January, 2011

Dear Members and Friends of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church,

It is once again my joy to share the annual report with you. We hope that by giving this report to you a week ahead of our annual meeting, you will have the chance to read and digest it. This report is a labor of love from many of your leaders here at the church (with a HUGE thank you to Jackie Kerr for pulling it all together!). It contains many of the highlights of the church's ministries and activities of 2010.

Everything in this report is important and exciting, but I get one page so I can only lift up a few things:

Please take a moment to read the report from the Long Range Planning committee. This past August, your Session met for a retreat during which we did some dreaming and visioning for the next one to three years. We adopted five goals on which we feel called to make significant progress. All of our ministries will be regularly evaluating how they are contributing to this shared vision. All of your staff will be regularly evaluating how we are helping to live out the vision in our day-to-day work. It is our hope that these five goals will become a part of our vocabulary, as well as yours.

Our staff also went through some major transition during this past year. Two Parish Associates, Rev. Jim Layman and Rev. Margaret Peery, joined our work at 10 hours/week in their respective fields. Due to some other needs this coming year, each one of them will cut back to 5 hours/week, but we are thrilled that they want to continue on with us. We brought Jackie Kerr, part-time Office Assistant, and Sheila Young, part-time Financial Secretary, on board. We moved the Youth Ministry piece from the DCE's job description to the job description of an interim part-time Youth Director, who is currently Beth Gunn. And, Alice Patton is now employed as the full-time Director of Preschool Ministries, a position that brings her Sunday morning responsibilities together with her Weekday School Director position. That combination of duties fits together well since several of our new member families came into our congregation through the ministry of the Weekday School.

We grew in both numbers and in ministry. We brought in 45 new members (including confirmands, retired pastors and affiliates) and 11 children. Our worship attendance has continued to be strong, causing us to re-think how we celebrate Easter and Christmas Eve! We had 150 folks in the Narthex last Easter!! It is a joyful problem to have.

As you know, I could just go on and on. But I have now run out of room so I hope you will take the time to read through this report. I thank God for the blessings that we share as a community of faith. And, I pray for God to continue pushing us, challenging us, and prodding us into deeper discipleship.

With peace and joy,



Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, *Pastor*