



APRIL 2019

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Buckingham-Gram

Editor: Kim Price

Office: 410-641-0234

Email: info@buckinghampcusa.orgWeb: www.buckinghampcusa.org

A Word from Dr. Z



What do interim/ transitional ministers do anyway?

In last month's *Gram*, the church shared with readers some of my past experiences and background. Today, I want to explain to readers what an interim or transitional minister is and how his/her responsibilities differ from a regularly installed minister. Until a few years ago, I myself didn't really understand what interim/transitional ministers did. I had a fuzzy idea that they worked sort of like a pulpit supply minister. In both cases, I would have told you, someone comes in and make sure the minimum is done to keep the church running.

No doubt some interim ministries are glorified pulpit supply as I first imagined. But an effective interim ministry must include more than just preaching. Interim ministry involves leading the church in creative ways to help members dream of a new future, reconsider old habits, and build the self-confidence of congregations to such an extent that they are able to boldly try new things. In the interim training I went through, ministers refreshed their knowledge of helping communities to do the following things: resolve harmful tensions; understand how history shapes the outlook of churches; expand the work of lay leaders, and reconnect the church with vital networks that can provide them with ideas on how to expand the scope of their ministries. Finally, the interim minister tries to identify and resolve any major difficult issues that could trip up the next minister in the first year of his/her ministry.

This Lent, your pastor is not the Answer-Man, he is the Question-Man

Asking questions is one of the most important things an interim can do as he/she begins their work. A minister simply asks people questions such as how did they become involved with the church, what is their spiritual pathway to personal vitality, and what their observations are about how the church can reach others. This last Sunday I asked the kids to whom I talked during the children's sermon time if they had any suggestions on what the church could do to better nurture the spiritual lives of members. When I arrived at my desk this week I noticed that one or two of the three children had decided to write out a suggestion, actually two (see a picture of the two on page 4).

Continued on next page.

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This Lent, take stock of your spiritual life.

During the last four weeks I have been asking members to use the themes and scriptures of Lent as a point of departure to explore their own spiritual lives in 2019. What do we believe? How passionate are we about our faith? What spiritual practices energize us the most? Do we truly trust God or are we holding back because of something that has alienated us from him? If we are unsatisfied with our faith, are we willing to call out to God for spiritual renewal? If we are satisfied with our faith, are we willing to call out to God for our next challenge? If we are bored with our faith, are we willing to call out to God to transform our faith into an adventure?

As the church thinks about the future, many challenges must be faced both individually and corporately. Everyone must discern what God is calling him or her to do and be in 2019. Fostering a deepening spiritual life is certainly the first step. If we rely on our own powers, intelligence, and resources we are not giving our all to the cause. We must also rely on our faith. God is moving, and when each one of us sees that, I guarantee you, you will see your faith renewed and recharged. Your faith will blossom, and you will want to spend time with Christ every day.

Reasons to Rejoice

While spiritual reflection is the emphasis for this Lent, that does not prevent us from recognizing how God is moving among us right now. We thank God and God's servants for the 50-60 people who came to Family Trivia Night (and had a great time). Many who came were reconnecting with their church family. Family Trivia Night was a great way for people to meet new people or get reconnected. We thank Lindsay Ashton, Deacons, and many others for their efforts in organizing the night. In the last three weeks, in fact, we've had eleven first-time visitors: a Berlin family of three, a local couple, a CT couple visiting on vacation, a new resident in Ocean Pines (Presbyterian deacon in fact), and a father moving back to the Berlin area after being away for decades and bringing his middle-school daughter along with him. Others have come reconnected with the church after a long absence.

As you look at all the exciting things developing, doesn't it make you want to praise God? God is faithful, the question is, how far are we willing to let the Holy Spirit guide our church and its ministries to the community.

Keep the Faith: repairing our hearts for the Lenten Journey

As we continue Lent, let us continue to ask ourselves the hard questions. The stakes are high, a decision must be made, people in need are waiting for our response, how far will we trust God in April? Let's bring all these questions to God in prayer.

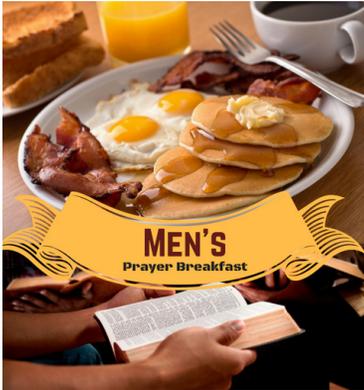
Best Wishes,
Rev. Glenn



Events, Reports, Notices, & Stuff

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, April 5 @8am
DeNovo's in Ocean Pines



Last month the Men's Prayer Breakfast started back up and was well received. Rev. Zuber attended and it was reported that all had a great time.

What better way to start your day then with good food, fellowship and the Lord.



Women's Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, April 10
Doyle's Family Restaurant,
Selbyville 11:30am

For further information, please call Evelyn Warren at 410-641-2109

FAMILY NIGHT

Tuesday, April 9 - 5:30pm



Meat Loaf, Mac & cheese, salad, veggies and dessert



EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, April 21st
@10:15am

With Refreshments afterwards

Donations of wrapped candy and trinkets that will fit into the plastic Easter eggs are needed. Please drop off donations in the baskets provided in Kortright Chapel or the Sunday School room. Thanks in advance to all who donate!



Can we do prayers
after childrens sermon?

God ? God
by Sophiamurides



May we have a kids youth
service in the summer time?
we can have games, a bonfire,
and crafts!

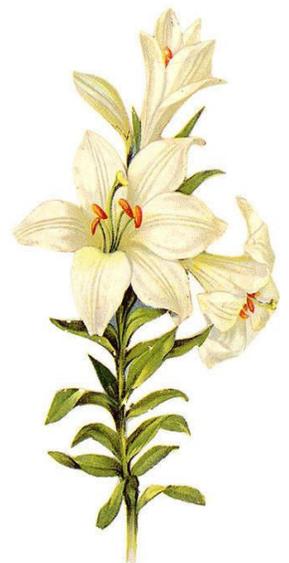
THANK you!



FRIENDSHIP MOMENT

Friendship Moment Coordinator for April is
Tracey 410-710-9598

Friendship moment is a time when you can get to know the people you worship with, the pastor, and the children of the congregation. Please lend a hand and help to make these moments special for all.





COMMUNION

will be held on the following
date: **June 9, 2019**
Day of Pentecost



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!
Acts 2.4**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

27th—TRICIA & Edward Welch



3rd — JAROSLAW Pylypczuk

4th — Susan Baer

13th—JOSHUA Shoemaker

14th—ELIZABETH Lynch

Brooke Warren

16th—PAUL Cook

17th—CHRISTIAN Beres

18th—SUSAN Rencher

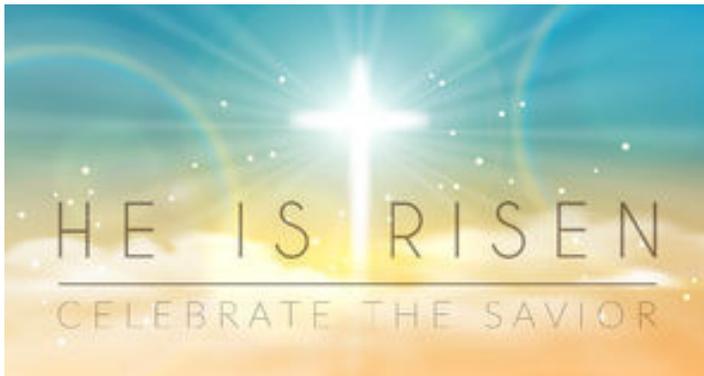
19th—Bob Schultz

DEBRA Trevino

22nd—WYATT Parker

23rd—DAVID Pruitt

26th—Cole Bergey



Pilgrim's Progress Animated film



Friday, April 5 @ 6pm
See Spiritual Formation
Page 7 for more info.

KIDS' MOVIE PJ NIGHT

Wrecked Ralph Breaks the Internet



Friday, April 12
@5:30

See April Mission &
Christian Ed
Page 6 for more info.

APRIL MISSION

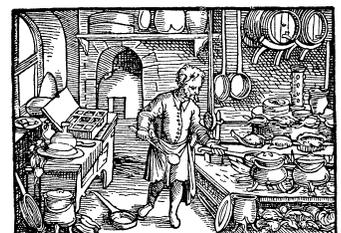
In April, our Mission focus will be a combination of finishing what was started in March and initiation of a new focus. In March, we collected food items required to prepare freezer meals to be made for the elderly, sick, homebound, anyone handling a life challenge, or someone simply needing a meal or smile. On April 12 at 5:30 PM, Buckingham Presbyterian Church will host a Movie and Meals night. While our young ones are watching the movie, anyone interested, can assist with making the freezer meals. Once made, they will be placed in the BPC freezer for use when a need is seen.

April's new focus will be collecting pajamas for the Casey Cares Foundation. This foundation creates buckets for families dealing with critical illnesses by easing the isolation through a PJ and movie night. We join Brianna, a local 11 year old who is "paying it forward" after receiving a package from the foundation as she fought her own health battle. We will be collecting two piece pajamas sets at numerous drop off locations including BPC, Victorian Charm, Heart of Gold Kids and Bank of Ocean City locations. In addition to pajamas, donations also encouraged are \$10 movie gift cards (Fandango, Netflix, Amazon) as well as \$10 Pizza restaurant gift cards. We will be collecting through April and celebrating our focus by having a pajama party during the Movie night on April 12.



CHRISTIAN ED

Christian Ed held it's first Family Trivia Night on March 16th. What an awesome night as families gathered in fellowship and food as the kids enjoyed playing trivia. We had a total of 58 people show up and participate, 28 adults and 30 kids!! In April we will be working with the Mission team in collecting PJs for the PJ drive as well as celebrating on April 12th at 5:30 with a PJ party during the Movie and Meals night. Kids are invited to wear their PJs and watch Wrecked Ralph Breaks the Internet. Our Sunday School teacher Laura and the older children of our church will also be available to help watch the children and play games with them allowing any parents who would like to stay and help make freezer meals to stock the church freezer. Food and beverages will be provided that night as well for both children and adults. As Easter approaches on April 21 we are asking the congregation to help bring in individually wrapped candy as well as small toys that would fit in Easter eggs, donations can be left in the baskets provided in Taylor Hall. The Easter egg hunt will be held on Easter morning at 10:15 am, followed by refreshments. Be on the lookout for a car wash as three of our older youth will be raising money to help fund their camping trip to Occohannock on the Bay, a summer Christian camp. Any other youth who are interested in more information about the camp please contact Lindsay or Jerry.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

"Throwing Off The Cloak"

For those curious about the book, "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan currently being read and discussed in the Spiritual Formation group, I would like to share some of what I have learned thus far. For me, the story chronicles every Christian's journey to understand what it truly means to accept the gift of Grace and Salvation that God gave us through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ and to learn, once we make that choice, how to honor that gift as *sons* or *daughters* of God in Christ with HIS promise of eternity in heaven. In "Pilgrim's Progress," we follow the character of the Pilgrim, (called "Christian" in the story), on his Spiritual journey towards the Celestial City (Heaven) and the many people he encounters along the way, who either help or hinder his spiritual growth. The story introduces us to those people Christian meets along the "road" opening the reader's eyes to the many pitfalls of straying from the path laid out for us in the Bible. We ourselves meet those very same people on our spiritual journey, who can pull us in the wrong direction, through their own ignorance, deceit, spite, or jealousy and also those we meet who try to help and guide us on our spiritual path with love and knowledge.

The story clearly shows the struggle many Christians have trying to follow God's laws and the teachings of Jesus in the face of temptations, human frailties and flaws in these modern times. What stands out to me in Pilgrim's Progress is the **"heavy load"** we are told that Christian carries upon his back, representing to me the mental struggle of how knowing the laws of God makes us more responsible for keeping those laws and teachings, and the fear of failure when we find that we cannot. The **"Good News"** Christian learns, and the reader also, is that faith in Jesus allows us believers to drop that load from our backs and leave it at the foot of the cross. I compare this with the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, in Mark 10:46-52, who upon hearing Jesus is among the large crowd nearby, cries out for Jesus to heal him. We are told that Jesus hears the blind man above the din of the many people and calls for the blind man to come to him. Bartimaeus, **throws off his cloak** and goes to Jesus where he is healed of his blindness. I wonder if Bartimaeus's cloak represents his **"heavy load"** which had been causing his blindness and that it is his faith, as Jesus calls him, that restores his sight?

If you are curious to hear more of Christian's journey, you will be most welcome to join our Spiritual Formation class on Wednesday evenings, at 6:00pm.

Prayers and Blessings

Karla Davis

Be Sure to Join Us

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 @ 6:00PM

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS—Animated film

This is a Buckingham Church family event. Children of all ages will enjoy the movie - it's FREE, but we will be taking a love offering for Engage Media Partners who are sponsoring the event.



This is a story every Christian should know. It is a pilgrim's journey from bondage to freedom, from sin to salvation, from death to eternal life. It will help both you and your children to understand the importance of good choices and right living.

There will be refreshments, but feel free to bring your own.

LAST DAY TO ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

We have extended the deadline to order Easter Flowers to Sunday April 14. The Church Sanctuary looks so lovely with the flowers on Easter Sunday; and the best part is you get to take your flowers home to plant. Bulbs come up year after year in your garden making a reminder of the Easters you have spent with your family and friends.



EASTER FLOWERS 2019

It's that time once again to get ready for the glory of Easter by helping to beautify our Church Sanctuary. This year, Easter is celebrated on April 21st.

We offer the following for your consideration and selection. Please complete the form below and forward along with your check to the church office by **Sunday, April 14th**. If you are emailing the order, the check can follow later in the mail.

Thank you for sharing your choices and helping to bring the beauty of Springtime to Buckingham's Easter Celebration. Please mail your check to Buckingham Presbyterian Church 20 South Main St. Berlin, MD 21811 Memo: Easter Flowers

I would like to order:

_____ 6" Hyacinth @ \$8.00 ea. \$ _____ 6" Lilies @ \$8.00 ea. \$ _____

_____ 6" Tulips @ \$8.00 ea. \$ _____ 6" Daffodils @ \$8.00 ea. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Bulletin & Gram Dedication—PLEASE PRINT:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Name (s) / Given By _____

_____ To be distributed to the Home-Bound

_____ Will be picked up after Easter Services on April 21st





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Office Hrs. 11am-5pm; AA Meeting 6-8; ACG 6:30-Kortright Chapel	2 Men's Break-fast-8am Session 6	3 Pastor Office Hrs. 8:30-12:30; Spirit. Formation 6; Choir 7	4 AA 8	5 Animated Pilgrims Progress Movie 6-8pm	6
7	8 Pastor Office Hrs. 11am-5pm; Deacons 6; ACG 6:30	9 Family Night 5:30	10 Pastor Office Hrs. 8:30-12:30; Women's Lunch Bunch 11:30; Spirit. Formation 6; Choir 7	11 AA 8	12 Kid's Movie Night-Ralph Breaks the Internet-5:30 pm Freezer Meals prepared.	13
14 Last Day to order Easter Flowers	15 Pastor Office Hrs. 11am-5pm; ACG 6:30	16	17 Pastor Office Hrs. 8:30-12:30; Spirit. Formation 6; Choir 7	18 AA 8	19	20
21 Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 am	22 Pastor Office Hrs. 11am-5pm; ACG 6:30	23	24 Pastor Office Hrs. 8:30-12:30; Spirit. Formation 6; Choir 7	25 AA 8	26	27
28	29 Pastor Office Hrs. 11am-5pm; ACG 6:30	30				

BUCKINGHAM GRAM

VISION STATEMENT

We are a community of disciples,

Who honor all people,

Care for those in need,

Share the hope we receive from Jesus Christ.