



March 2020

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Friends of Buckingham,

I've been thinking about how we can do a better job communicating our "hope within" to the larger community. As I write this, Ash Wednesday is just a few days away. And that means we will soon be inviting friends and family to experience the miracle of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. How do we express in a few sentences the hope and joy we have as Christians? We don't want to say, "You should consider joining our community because I've attended all my life and it has been a great experience!" That statement might reflect our own experience (and it might be 100% true), but it probably won't connect to someone outside our own families.

So what else can we say about our experience of having faith in Christ or belonging to Christian community? What about, "I feel like I'm making a difference in the world when I serve food to the homeless as a deacon," or "I have been supported by God and my friends during several crises?" These types of statements are more likely to illustrate to others in a compelling way the joy we experience as we live out our faith in Christ.

I arrived at a few new insights on this topic recently as I read a thoughtful article by a church-affiliated fundraising consultant who explained how churches could better communicate their fundraising goals to members. I found the advice to also be relevant to the challenge of talking about the work of the church, both to fellow members and the members of the general public. Perhaps we can read through the points and have our committees and classes discuss how we can implement some of the recommendations. If nothing else we will find the questions to be thought-provoking.

Here are several of the questions (paraphrased) we can ask ourselves and our committees:

### On the topic of Strategy:

- *Can we clearly connect our ministry vision & goals with life change?* Life change is the measurable evidence of ministry impact. In addition to the ability to measure success, it is critical that your plans are actionable so you can empower people to play their parts in God's plans.
- *Can we clearly connect our committee activities with life impact?* It's not about being busy; it's about being effective in making disciples. You must have a healthy leadership team and staff structure that is aligned with your ministry strategy.
- *Has your committee invited every committee member into your vision and strategy development process?* If you aren't collaborating with your leaders, they are missing an opportunity for personal growth and deep ministry impact. Conversely, you and the committee are missing their wisdom.

(Cont'd on next page)

- Do you have a ministry plan that will inspire others through story? We cannot assume that people know what we value or think. We have to tell stories that illustrate our goals.
- Are you sharing your ministry impact and life change consistently across all relevant channels? An untold story has no impact. Be careful not to project your personal communication habits onto others. Share life change and impact often and over a wide variety of communication channels, including social media.
- Are you leveraging your Sunday morning worship time each week to point people back to your ministry's impact of faith- and life change? Your weekly worship service is a built-in opportunity to champion the impact your committee is making and to help worshipers experience the impact their faith is having on others.

As we prepare for Easter, let's experiment with how we can talk to others about the deep joy and fellowship we have experienced through our volunteer ministry experiences and worship times. We are already living the "Greatest Story Ever Told." Easter is the time for passing on that story to others.

Together we can experience God's gift of Resurrection in a new way in 2020!

Best Wishes for meaningful and enriching Lenten and Easter seasons in 2020, Rev. Glenn

## MISSIONS

The Mission committee is continuing to find ways to bring our church closer together through fellowship and hands on in Mission projects. **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a special combined worship service at 10:00am** with a special coffee hour afterward so that together we can finish tying the blankets for the Ronald McDonald House project. Blankets will be available during the service as well as during the special coffee hour. Thank you to those who made donations during the Valentine's Dance to the Ronald McDonald House, \$402 were collected that night. The mission committee will match the funds and present them during the trip to the house in memory of DJ Wax's son, the DJ of the dance.

During March the mission focus will be collecting supplies for Operation We Care, see the shopping list for a list of items. We are hoping to either have a box packing party at our church or to participate in the large box packing party in May at the event location. Mark your calendar for April 19<sup>th</sup> to join the Buckingham Presbyterian team and walk the boardwalk during the Cricket Center Walk. See the board in the hallway to sign up and how to make donations toward our team. Our Blessing Box was featured in a great article in the Dispatch on February 7<sup>th</sup>, we are currently low on toilet paper and paper towels for the box. If anyone has mission ideas or would like to join the team, please see any mission committee member.

## Operation We Care Shopping List

This column contains the items that are most needed. We try and include them in every box.	✓
Baby Wipes	
Body Wash	
Granola Bars	
Lip Balm	
Chef Boyardee Pasta - 15oz cans	
Hot Chocolate Packets	
Deck of Cards	
Dental Floss	
Deodorant (non - aerosol)	
Disposable Razors	
Gum/Breath Mints	
Ink Pens	
Instant Oatmeal	
Microwave Popcorn	
Pop Tarts	
Powdered Drink Mixes	
Ramen Noodles (brick style not cups)	
Shampoo	
Small Personal Kleenex	
Toothbrushes	
Toothpaste	

## From Christian Ed....

First the committee would like to thank the church for their continued support in so many ways! We held our 1<sup>st</sup> Super Bowl Sub sale on Super Bowl Sunday and raised \$850 to go towards the playground fund, which is now close to \$4000!! Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, purchased subs and helped with the making of the subs. It was so nice to see so many kids participating in making the subs and fellowship! We plan to order the equipment in the next month so we can have it up and ready when the warm weather is here to stay! We had our 1<sup>st</sup> Family Valentine's Day dance on Valentine's Day. We can't thank everyone enough for helping to decorate, making food and for spending your Valentine's day at the dance. We had between 85 and 95 people in attendance with a wide range of ages! S'more Jesus on February 28th was a fun family Bingo night followed by a lock-in for the older youth class.

March has more fun in-store as we will hold a St. Patrick's theme night on March 13<sup>th</sup> with a lucky coin hunt and making gingerbread Leprechaun traps. Our older youth group will be attending a weekend retreat during the weekend of March 27<sup>th</sup>, this is for middle and high schoolers. A male and female chaperone will need to attend from our church, if you are interested in chaperoning or have a youth who would like to attend please let the church office or a Christian Ed member know. Donations of gently used or new children's books will be collected during the month of March in celebration of Read Across America on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Suess' Birthday. The books will be delivered to the Maryland book bank in Baltimore, used in the blessing box, and sent to Africa and Hope of Life for libraries in other countries.

## Your Deacons in Action

Since the beginning of 2020 the Deacons have:

- Helped two families with rental assistance
- Issued two \$50 emergency food cards
- Paid one Sharp Energy gas bill
- Purchased \$150 worth of comforters for the Samaritan Shelter as part of the Angel and Hearts tree from Christmas
- Spent \$109.90 to cook, serve, and eat dinner to the folks at Samaritan Shelter along with milk, bread, eggs and paper products
- We've used some food donations from the Blessing Box and purchased \$36.59 to bring food to our two Seniors.

We still have over \$5,000 in our savings account.

## Movie Night for every one 9 - 99

Mark your calendar right now for our next movie night, **March 20th at 6:00**. Is there a Christian movie you'd like to see with fellow church members? Recommendations accepted. We do have a few in mind, so the title will be updated when we have a consensus. Popcorn and drinks provided.

**Embracing Change: Matthew 17:1-9** A New Look "And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white." (Matthew 17:2)

*A fifty-year-old woman posted on social media that something had shifted in her relationship to Christ. She felt completely and surprisingly different. Others replied that they had always regarded her as a good person, but now she seemed to radiate Christ's love. Her appearance even changed.*

*Sometimes we can go decades regarding Christ from a distance, like we would view a work of art in a museum. Then we accept Christ into our hearts, and we are transfigured. What glory! This change surprises those of us who feel we are leading "good" lives and opens our eyes to a fuller vision of God's kinship. When we keep Christ at arm's length, what does it take to lower our arms and become transfigured?*

**God, help us move from being spectators to being participants in your work. Amen.**

By Joy Warren, Murfreesboro, Tennessee—excerpted from *These Days* February 21, 2020

## A Note from Historian, Lynne Murray



Those of you doing a computer search of our congregation may have also brought up the website of another Buckingham Presbyterian Church, this one located on Buckingham Road in Fort Myers, Florida. Their history is worth a look and I have copied it here. I'm in awe of these dedicated Presbyterians who met and conquered the obstacles of organizing and building a new church. It's particularly interesting to note they are exactly 300 years younger than our Buckingham. We were organized in 1683 and they in 1983.

*The history of [Florida] Buckingham Presbyterian Church is one of faith, hope and love in action. In the late 1970's the New Church Development Committee of the Peace River Presbytery targeted East Fort Myers as the highest priority area to begin a new church. In 1981, Presbytery purchased a 10-acre tract of land on Buckingham Road, and in faith called Robert E. Veley to the challenge of serving as organizing pastor. In January 1981, Reverend Bob Veley accepted the call to become the organizing pastor for this new church that was envisioned. He immediately set to work inviting people to join the new Presbyterian fellowship. Faith and hope brought together a small but loving group. First, services were held in the offices of the Suburban Reporter, a local weekly newspaper. By April of 1981 growing attendance made it necessary to rent the Buckingham Community Center for services with 31 chartered members and lots of dreams. The church office was located in the pastor's home and Sunday School was held under the trees and later, in a motor home brought by a member each week. By November, 1981 we had moved ahead in faith and named ourselves Buckingham Presbyterian Church.*

*It took a great deal of faith in those early days to endure the hardships of new church development. There was so much work and so few to do it! The building had no heat or air-conditioning. We learned early that creature comforts did not make a church. A church is a fellowship of love, and we had become that.*

*In 1982 an architect was employed to draw the plans for the church buildings. A first phase consisted of a Fellowship Hall, offices and classrooms. Long-range projections call for a Sanctuary and additional classrooms. Our numbers were slowly growing, but our dreams of organization did not become realized until November, 1983 when we had our 100 chartered members. The organization celebration (held on Sunday, November 20, 1983 to celebrate the birth of the new church) was marred only slightly by rain, dripping through the roof. We had reached our first great hurdle: organization. A greater challenge, a home of our own, lay ahead. A building committee had begun in 1983 and a building drive was undertaken. Less than 60 families pledged to start giving regularly to the dream of building our own church building. After struggling with our governmental regulations and red tape, persistence paid off.*

*On Mother's Day, 1985 we held our first service in our own building. The Fellowship Hall and classrooms were dedicated on November 17th of that year. We were a body of Christ held together by love and commitment to a dream. The future lay ahead.*

*The future is now. We are still seeking new members. With growth comes additional programs and services, new needs physically and financially. The faith, hope and love which is the cornerstone of our church family points us to new horizons and new challenges. We've known all along that with faith, hope, and love, miracles happen. Our church is proof. Our people are its testimony.*

This story of the other Buckingham Presbyterian Church is truly inspiring. Although our handsome Gothic Revival building dates from 1905, we have issues in common with our southern colleague such as maintenance and fund-raising. Perhaps the most notable difference between our two congregations is the presence of palm trees in their front yard! Happy Trails, Lynne

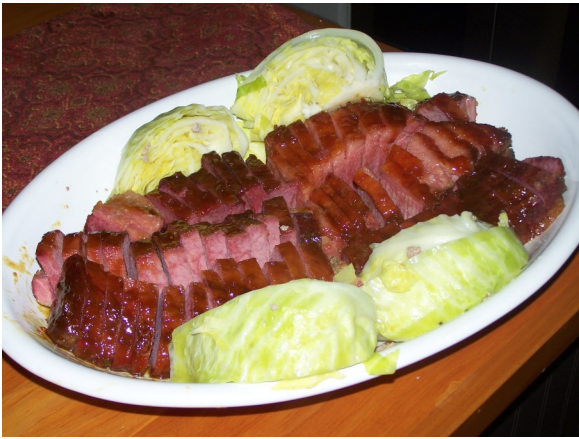
*Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, FL*



# Events, Reports, Notices, & Stuff

## FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

Tuesday, March 10 @ 5:30pm  
Ham, Corned Beef, & Cabbage



### Women's Lunch Bunch

Sunset Grill

Wednesday,  
11:30am

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



### FIRST LENT COMMUNION

will be held on

**MARCH 1, 2020**

## Prayer Request Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for:

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Requested by:

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Please place my request in the weekly  
bulletin:

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Buckingham Presbyterian Church  
20 South Main St.  
Berlin, MD 21811  
Attn: Secretary



- 3/1— LYNDA Truitt
- 3/2— Skylar Cook  
TAMMY Nickell  
PATRICIA Pylypczuk
- 3/10— SUZANNE Parks
- 3/11— Glenn Zuber
- 3/14— CHRISTOPHER Bunting
- 3/15— PATRICIA Welch
- 3/18— DOROTHY Simpson  
ERIN Trask
- 3/21— WENDY Macrides
- 3/22— Ella Gaddis
- 3/24— VICTORIA Harsh
- 3/26— Frederick Moore



- 3/15— Gil & DOROTHY Simpson
- 3/17— JOHN & Carol Fisher
- 3/20— EDWARD & Crystal Warren
- 3/31— STEVE & LOIS Davis

# March 2020

Sun

Mon







Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 1st Sunday Lent— Communion <i>L Turn away E N T from sin</i></p> 	<p>2 Pastor 10-3 Caregivers 6:30pm</p>	<p>3 NO Men's Breakfast Session 6pm</p>	<p>4 Pastor 10-1</p>	<p>5 Choir 7pm AA 8pm</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> 	<p>9 Pastor 10-3 Women of the Church 11am Caregivers 6:30pm</p>	<p>10 Family Din- ner 5:30pm Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm</p>	<p>11 Women's Lunch Bunch 11am Pastor 10-1 Deacon Mtg. 6pm</p>	<p>12 Choir 7pm AA 8pm</p>	<p>13 S'More Time w/ Jesus—St. Patrick's Theme Night</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Combined Worship 10am— Blanket Tying Project - Coffee &amp; Fellowship</p>	<p>16 Pastor 10-3 Caregivers 6:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Pastor 10-1</p>	<p>19 Choir 7pm AA 8pm</p>	<p>20 Movie Nite 6pm Gram articles due</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23 Pastor 10-3 Caregivers 6:30pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Pastor 10-1</p>	<p>26 Choir 7pm AA 8pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Middle &amp; High Schoolers Retreat</p> 
<p>29</p>	<p>30 Pastor 10-3 Caregivers 6:30pm</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.  ~Doug Larson</p>	<p>The day the Lord created hope was prob- ably the same day he created Spring.  ~Bern Williams</p>	<p>Every April, God rewrites the Book of Genesis. ~Author Un- known</p>	<p>April is a promise that May is bound to keep. ~Hal Borland</p>

## EASTER FLOWERS 2020

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 12th.

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 **Thursday, April 2nd**.

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 or place in the offering plate—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 12th



Buckingham Presbyterian  
Church

**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.*