



JULY 2019

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Buckingham-Gram
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How Do You “Unglue” the Average Church?

In April, the New Castle Presbytery started a church revitalization program for interested congregations called “Unglued Church” and about 33% of all churches in the presbytery signed up. The program hopes to apply the insights of a consulting group and the new Vital Congregations movement in the PCUSA to the context of the local church. By participating in New Castle’s program, I’m learning a lot about how Buckingham might be able to approach its future challenges in a thoughtful and deliberate manner. As you might imagine from the name of the program, the effort is designed to help local leaders and ministers to examine every part of their church program and then reassemble everything in a more focused, effective way. Goals and methods that made sense in the 1950s do not necessarily make sense today. And the nature of change must be more than piecemeal. New ideas must emerge from “outside the box.” As someone who has participated in several church-wide “new beginnings” processes in the past, I am impressed with the exercises and discussions so far. Below I have summarized and paraphrased the questions churches are asking themselves:

1. Who are we? (Marks of a vital congregation, vital statistics)
2. Who are we? (Appreciative inquiry, history of congregation)
3. Who is our neighbor? (MissionInsite analysis into demographics and religious preferences of local residents)
4. Community exegesis (Consultants visit church onsite)
5. Why should we reach our neighbor? (checking motivations)
6. How do we reach our neighbor? (writing down possible plans)
7. What will be our focus in the short-term? What will be our goal in the long-term?

One of the consultants, Sue Rothenberg, explains the three parts of the process: “(1) Developing a clear picture of the congregation and its resources/challenges/history/financial status, as well as the “essential DNA” that must be carried into the future, (2) Developing a clear picture of the community served by the church, and (3) Moving to understand and innovate adaptive ways for the church to move forward into God’s future story for them.”

How we can take advantage of this program? Well, 1) we can consider joining the next cohort in March of 2020. The Session will be looking at this in the new year. And 2) we can have some of these conversations in the 9 months before we join the cohort. These are some excellent questions for discussion right now. As our PNC researches the needs of the congregation, these questions can help guide that research.

So be prepared to share your perspectives in the coming months! We have a number of surveys to complete and a number of discussions to host. Although we might be tempted to take these surveys and conversations lightly, these opportunities are very important for all future plans for Buckingham Presbyterian Church.

We are going to have a lot to talk about in the next 9 months! So join the conversation.

Yours in Christ’s ministry,

Rev. Glenn



Events, Reports, Notices, & Stuff

Congregational Life

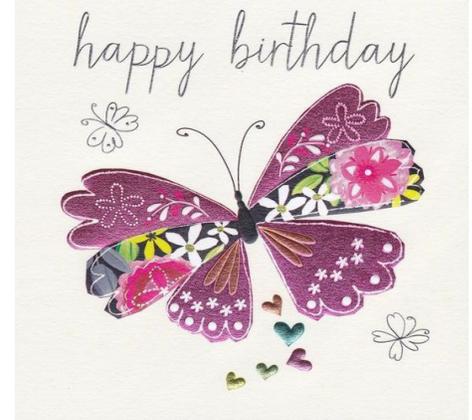


We had a great turnout for the Combined Service with Pancake Preaching in early June as well as for the Family Night dinner and S'more Time with Jesus on June 11th. Hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves and will turn out for our next events. We will again be serving hamburgers and hot dogs at the S'more Time with Jesus events on July 9th and August 13th.

Friendship Moment following the 11:00 service will be suspended for July and August. It will resume in mid-September, the week after the picnic. Coffee, refreshments and fellowship will continue following the 9:00 service through the summer. If you're interested in helping, please contact Lynda Truitt.

Thanks to our awesome committee members and all those who have helped us! Have a great summer!

Submitted by
Cindi Pruitt



- 2nd— SUSAN Cropper
- 7th— KANDIS Kulyk
KATHLEEN Pruitt
- 8th— RALPH Bunting, III
- 10th— KATHLEEN Eschenburg
Kim Price
- 17th— CAROL Neal
- 19th— BRENDA Burbage
- 21st— ROSE Champion
- 24th— Laura Amrhein
- 25th— VIOLA Keesling
- 26th— John Fisher
- 29th— PEGGY Jones
PAT Rouch

S'MORE TIME WITH JESUS

Tuesday, July 9th

6-8 pm

"BE A SPARK IN THE DARK"



Burgers and Hot Dogs provided



- 22nd — WILLIAM &
ROSEALEE Champion
- 24th — Jeremy & LINDSAY
Ashton

BERLIN PEACH FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 3, 2019 from 11am—4pm

Rain date: Sunday, August 4

Visit our Deacons' booth
in front of the
Taylor House Museum.

Whole Pies \$15

Slices \$3

You can buy pies baked
or frozen. If you want to reserve a pie
ahead of time, let one of our Deacons
know. See you there!



COMMUNION will be held on the following
date: **Midsummer Communion — July 14**

Upon request, Communion will be offered to
house-bound members of our
congregation. Please advise a
member of Session, or the
Church Office if this service is
desired.



**Please note that the elements we serve are
gluten-free**

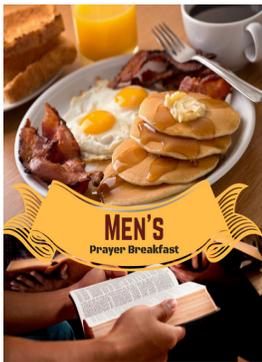
MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

@ DeNovo's in Ocean Pines
8:00am

Bring a friend!

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



Confirmation Class



A Confirmation class for all Presbyterian
churches in the area is being planned at
Buckingham!

We will all meet in Taylor Hall between 5:30
and 7 pm, Sunday nights Sept 8 - Nov. 17th.

Our curriculum is for those 13 and up. Contact
Rev. Glenn if your child plans on coming.

Women's Lunch Bunch

Meets Wednesday, July 10,
11:30am

South Gate Grill

Ocean Pines

For further information contact
Evelyn Warren at 410-641-2109



Seeking volunteers

Do you like seeing your friends on Sunday
morning? Do you like welcoming them back to
our beautiful sanctuary? Then maybe you
would like to help being a "Greeter" when
needed before our Sunday, Traditional Worship
Services at 11:00 AM. Responsibilities involve
welcoming worshipers to our church and
handing out the Church bulletin. Oh yeah. A
smile is also needed. No long term
commitment is required. Anyone interested in
assisting with some of the activities performed
at our Traditional worship service should
contact Nance Hall at 410-973-1282.



*Welcoming our visitors with warmth and sincerity
in our hearts and souls.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Ed is continuing to plan kids and family activities for the summer and fall. During June's first S'more Time with Jesus we had over 60 people show up for a cookout and games. The kids had a great time with all the GLOW (God Lights Our Way) activities. Did you know the word "light" appears over 263 times throughout the Bible? The kids found glow in the dark eggs which had puzzle pieces in them, once their puzzle was together, they had to find their passage in the Bible about God being the light. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday nights and invite friends to our S'more Time with Jesus from 6-8. July 9th the theme is "Be a Spark in the Dark" we will have hamburgers and hot dogs followed by a sermon from Rev. Glenn and games for the kids. July 23rd we will have John the magician as well as the Kona ice truck serving snow cones, they will be donating 25% of their sales back to the church. Feel free to bring a picnic for dinner to eat while enjoying the show. Vacation Bible school will take place July 22-26th from 6:00-8:30 at SonRise church on Rt. 50 this year, the theme is Roar. Youth ages 12 and up mark your calendars for September we will be holding a confirmation class. The class will run Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00 beginning Sept. 8th through Nov. 17th. We will have a light meal (pizza, hot dogs, etc.). The classes will be held in Taylor Hall and the curriculum will be Theocademy confirmation class. Please let Rev. Glenn or Lindsay Ashton know if you are interested in participating in the class. As always please feel free to invite friends and join in all activities. If you would like to help or need more information, feel free to contact Lindsay or any Christian Ed committee member. Lindsay – 410-629-1029, linzparker@hotmail.com

Summer Mission focus

Thank you to all who collected your spare coins to help support change at the Grace Center for Maternal & Women's Health. By doing so, you have helped provide much needed support to young women and families as they enter one of the most important roles they will ever have - parenthood.

Over the Summer, we will be focusing our activities on the Ronald McDonald House located in Baltimore. This organization provides care for children and families of children with long term illnesses. The House provides families with a comfortable and convenient home-away-from-home where they are provided with housing, compassion and encouragement as they go through health battles of a serious nature. Emotional support for all involved is critical during such challenging times. We will be planning activities that will be open to anyone in our congregation who may want to get involved. Some of the activities being proposed involve making blankets that will be donated to the children at the center and a potential day trip where we can prepare a meal and help provide a day of fun for the children. Stay tuned for more information as meetings and plans are communicated. We'd love to see everyone involved! This mission is sure to touch your hearts.

Submitted by Nance Hall





Spiritual Formation

What Can You Do?

“PRAY”



Reverend Zuber previously asked us what we needed from him and what he could do for us. Now we answer the question of what **‘we’** can do for **each other** and the church. If the question of **“what can you do?”** makes you panic because you scarcely have time to do more than attend Sunday services, or you feel you have no gifts or talents to offer, take heart; there actually **is** something even more valuable, more important than giving of your time or money, that you can do. Something we all can do. We can give the gift of **prayer**. Jesus says we are to **“Pray for and heal each other”**. This you **can** do! And I personally know there are many attending our church who do. I am aware of them at church services, in awe of them and touched by their honest and heartfelt hugs, smiles and words of comfort they give when we move through our circle of prayer and offerings of "peace". They may not be able to attend the many church activities Buckingham has, or belong to committees, but they sincerely **pray**.

They give a most precious gift. When these church members tell me they will pray for me, I believe them. I have no doubt that once they leave the church on Sundays, they have not forgotten the pain of those they had just shared a moment with. They may not recite elegant prayers, nor even pray aloud. They pray quietly, in their own space and time. These are prayers offered up for others in silence from the pew, or in the privacy of home or car or during a quiet walk in nature. I believe these petitions for healing sent from true and honest hearts, by those in our prayer circle on Sundays, are heard and accepted by God above all other prayers and actions. So, to answer the question of "what you can do", you can **pray!** If you can't find the words, take a hand, give a hug, share some tears. In the quietness of your soul, lift up your prayers for others. Offer up your own suffering and pain for another.

Join us at Spiritual Formation, Wednesday evenings at 6:00.
Share your much welcomed and needed gift with us!

Submitted by Karla Davis





A Note from Historian Lynne Murray

In the June edition of the Gram, I discussed an 1839 purchase of land in Berlin by a committee representing the church. Several of the committee members are buried in Buckingham cemetery, the earliest headstone being that of John Fassitt, 1773 to 1846. That 1839 deed described the property as being in *the village of Berlin called Burley* but it's specific location was unclear.

Sally Kohler had given me some BPC documents and one of them is the deed for the purchase of the property on which the church currently stands. We know from I. Marshall Page's book, *Old Buckingham by the Sea*, that our last church building to exist on the cemetery property at the end of South Main Street collapsed in January 1857. That brick building had been erected in 1784 when Berlin was quite small and most attendees lived on farms. By the mid-1850's, many members were town folk who found walking that distance to be a burden. There was strong sentiment for moving the church into town but equally strong sentiment by rural residents opposing the move. To accommodate those having to walk to church a lecture hall had been maintained in the town for some years. On the night of Saturday, January 18, 1857 this dilemma was solved by blizzard conditions from a storm of rare ferocity. Strong winds blew for many hours and snow accumulation was such that the weight of it caused the church roof to collapse. Marshall Page further states that the property in town for the new church was purchased from John H. Marshall. A copy of that document is quoted here:

"This deed made this thirtieth day of April in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven by John E. H. Marshall and Laura Ann Marshall his wife of Worcester County in the state of Maryland, witnesseth that in consideration of four hundred and fifty dollars the said John E. H. Marshall and Laura Ann Marshall his wife do grant unto the Committee of the Presbyterian Congregation of Buckingham & their successors, in trust for the Presbyterian Congregation of Buckingham, of said county and state, all that tract or parcel of ground, situated in the town of Berlin in the said county and state, Bounded as follows - On the East by the Main Street passing through the town of Berlin, on the South and West by the lot of ground belonging to the Estate of Dr James R. S. Purnell deceased, attached to the dwelling in which the said Dr James R. S. Purnell was residing at the time of his death & on the North by the Parsonage lot of the Methodist Episcopal church, the lot of ground hereby conveyed being all that part of a tract of land conveyed to said Laura Ann Marshall by Elisha L. Purnell in two deeds one dated the ninth day of October eighteen hundred and forty-one, recorded in the records of Worcester County in Liber [etc.], the other dated the eighteenth day of March eighteen hundred and forty, recorded in Liber [etc.], which lies upon the west side of the Main Street aforesaid in fee simple, Provided that if at any time a majority of said committee shall authorize any burial or interment within the ground hereby conveys then & in that case this deed is to become null and void and the lot herein conveyed shall revert back to John E. H. Marshall and Laura Ann Marshall their heirs and assigns in the same manner as if this deed had never been made."

Signed by John E. H. Marshall and Laura Ann Marshall. Witness' name is unclear.

Clearly, John Marshall sought to guarantee that no burials take place on this new church property!

This illustration from *Old Buckingham by the Sea* is the church built in 1784 that was destroyed by the fierce blizzard of Saturday, January 18, 1857.



Happy Trails, Lynne

murray476@mchsi.com

UP COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS



Adult Care Givers meets every Monday at 6:30 pm
Spiritual Formation meets every Wednesday at 6:00 pm
Choir meets every Wednesday at 7:00 pm
AA meets every Thursday at 8 pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3— BERLIN PEACH FESTIVAL

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6—MEN’S BREAKFAST—DE NOVO’S in Ocean Pines—8:00am

MONDAY, AUGUST 12—DEACON MEETING 6:00pm

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13— S’MORE TIME WITH JESUS (Burgers & Hot dogs provided) 6-8pm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14— WOMEN’S LUNCH BUNCH — 11:30am

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27— S’MORE TIME WITH JESUS 6-8pm



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3—MEN’S BREAKFAST — DE NOVO’S in Ocean Pines—8:00am;
SESSION 6:00 pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8—COMBINED SERVICE—BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS—11:00am
Steven Decatur Park followed by picnic

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN 5:30pm—Classes will be every
Sunday evening through November 17th.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11—WOMEN’S LUNCH BUNCH—11:30am



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1 MEN’S BREAKFAST — DE NOVO’S
in Ocean Pines—8:00am; SESSION 6: 00 pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6—COMMUNION—
WORLD COMMUNION DAY

Do you an upcoming event or meeting? Please get it onto the church calendar so that it can be included in the next issue of the Gram.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Session 6	3 Pastor's Office Hrs 8-1 Spirit. Form. 6 Choir 7	4 AA 8 	5	6
7	8 Pastor's Office Hrs 11-5 ACG 6:30	9 S'more time with Jesus — Campfire Service 6-8	10 Pastor's Office Hrs 8-1 Women's Lunch Bunch 11:30am Spirit. Form. 6 Choir 7	11 AA 8	12	13
14 Mid Summer Communion 	15 Pastor's Office Hrs 11-5 ACG 6:30	16	17 Pastor's Office Hrs 8-1 Spirit. Form. 6 Choir 7	18 AA 8	19	20
21	22 Pastor's Office Hrs 11-5 ACG 6:30 VBS 6-8:30 	23 S'more time with Jesus — Campfire Service 6-8 VBS 6-8:30 	24 Pastor's Office Hrs 8-1 Spirit. Form. 6 Choir 7 VBS 6-8:30 	25 AA 8 VBS 6-8:30 	26 VBS 6-8:30 	27
28	29 Pastor's Office Hrs 11-5 ACG 6:30	30	31 Pastor's Office Hrs 8-1 Spirit. Form. 6 Choir 7			

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.