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Happy New Year Buckingham!



I want to wish you and yours a Happy New Year!!! A big thanks to all those who pioneered new events and ideas as well as the visionary volunteers who made those events a reality! Buckingham is blessed by a large number of people who make ministry an important part of their lives. We can all participate in the renewal of our congregation, even if it is praying five minutes a day for God's guidance.

Top Twelve Things we did in just the last Six Weeks:

1. Your PNC is in full search mode now with weekly meetings.
2. Most of the PNC and Session heard a Holy Cow consultant interpret our CAT-SCAN results. We learned so much from our consultant, we will be scheduling another, more complete interpretation in February for those who missed the first date (and those who want to ask questions that were generated from the first interpretation). (I'm including the Executive Summary in this month's gram).
3. Our Seasonal Events turn-out was great: We saw familiar faces and new faces at the November Christmas Bazaar and Santa's Breakfast in December. The turn-out for the Family Christmas Dinner and children's play was higher than usual.
4. Improvements in our Physical Plant & Grounds: We completed a partial renovation of the kitchen making life easier for our cooking volunteers. Also, we continued to fundraise for a new playground to enhance our Children's ministry program.
5. The new Youth Class (11 & up) continues to grow (I can't tell you how exciting this development is!!!).
6. Our media equipment in Taylor Hall got a small upgrade (new cable & DVD player). This \$100 upgrade will help us show movies off of film websites without any freezing of the frames in the middle of the show/or children's game. The new DVD player offers crisper lines and colors when we play DVDs for movies. With this upgrade, Carol Neal can now start to plan for movie nights for those between 9 and 99-years-old in our congregation. This might be a great way for our neighbors to check out our programming.
7. Buckingham hosted a special graduation gathering and dinner at the conclusion of our three-church confirmation class. The class graduated two new members of Buckingham. The three pastors attending also discussed participating in a local ecumenical youth program in our area.
8. We had full attendance at most of our S'more Time with Jesus and Family Dinner Nights. If we weren't sure there would be interest in our "S'more Time with Jesus" events in the winter and fall, we learned from the good turn-out that there was indeed interest in continuing.

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9. Held our first-ever Blue Christmas Service for those suffering from grief or loss during the holidays.

10. Thanks to the efforts of Elder Lindsay and her family, our church float won 1st prize in the "adult sponsored float" category. Way to go Lindsay!

11. The Church Office made strides in expanding our church publicity efforts, taking better weekly attendance, and updating church directories more quickly. (Also, the Clerk of Session updated our membership records).

12. Prayed for God's guidance in all our efforts. If we do not rely on God's power and insight in this challenging time, we are not going to experience complete renewal in our congregation and church. The current obstacles to living faithfully as Christians and passing the faith on to the next generation (youth sports on Sunday morning, etc) are so high that we can only go forward with God's help.

Once again Buckingham, Happy New Year!!!! God is at work in our congregation! May we continue to glorify God in 2020!

--Rev. Glenn

Mission Report

Mission will be kicking off the New Year with the SOUPer Bowl of Caring! The collection of canned goods will begin on January 5th and run until Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 2nd. The cans will be stored to help fill our Blessing Box outside the church.

Help kick off this event by wearing your favorite team colors or team jersey on Jan. 5th! Once we know the final two teams playing in the Super Bowl, you will be able to cast your vote for the team that you think will be the Super Bowl Champs!

The Mission Committee team is looking for those who feel called to help serve. If you have a special mission in which you'd like to see our church participate, or if you would like to help carry out the missions of our church, we welcome you to join our team for this upcoming exciting year!!!

You can contact Lindsay Ashton at 410-629-1029, or the church office for more information!



The children of Buckingham put a lot of effort into the Christmas Parade Float and their hard work paid off!!



Buckingham's parade float won first place in our category at the Berlin Christmas Parade!!

GREAT JOB, EVERYONE!!



Executive Summary

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 120 persons were invited to participate; of these, 38 persons responded. A response from every member is not required to provide valid results. For a complete readout, please review the Vital Signs report that was sent to your church. A summary of that report is provided below.

Overall, approximately 29% of your members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that members can imagine a church with a higher level of vitality than they are currently experiencing and are searching for a pathway that will lead them to a stronger church.

Not every question is of equal importance to members. When asked how satisfied they are, members tend to focus on the issues addressed in the questions below. When they feel more positive in these areas, they tend to feel more positive overall.

- **Our church provides opportunities for members to engage in active ministry within the church and to the world.**
- **In our congregation the laity work with the Pastor in leading and planning worship services.**
- **Our church does a good job supporting persons in ministry by reminding them that they are making a difference.**
- **Our church provides opportunities for education and formation in a variety of ways so that I can find one that fits my complex lifestyle.**
- **A friendly atmosphere prevails among the members of our church.**

Conversely, when your members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. Your church has potential strengths related to stability and clarity of belief. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to become tradition-bound and conflict-prone.

As members look to the future, their top four goals are

- **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.**
- **Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**
- **Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.**
- **Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.**

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for your church are

- **Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.**
- **Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.**
- **Strengthen the management and support of persons in various ministries so that they are able to do what they do best in work that is meaningful and celebrated.**

These may warrant attention from the leadership even if they are mid-level priorities.

All the information in this report should be explored and validated in further conversation. **Survey data is not the end of a conversation but the beginning.**

Prayer Requests

The Buckingham community invites you to submit prayer requests for special intentions. Feel free to place your requests in person in the Prayer Tin in Taylor Hall, or call the church at 410-641-0234 to make a request by phone. You may also complete the attached Prayer Request Form and send it to:

Buckingham Presbyterian Church
20 South Main Street,
P.O. Box 248
Berlin, MD 21811

Let the fellowship at Buckingham join you in the power of prayer for your special intentions.



Prayer Request Form

Date: _____

Please pray for:

Requested by:

Please place my request in the weekly bulletin:

Yes: _____ No: _____

A Visit from the Director of the Samaritan Shelter, Pocomoke City

Our many Thanks to Shelly for visiting Buckingham on Sunday, December 8th to give us an overview of what the Samaritan Shelter is and does. The Deacons have been providing and serving dinner at the shelter once a month since July, and as you know, we have long supported the shelter with our hearts on the Angel and Hearts tree every Christmas.



Hearing firsthand how they work in the community and provide not only shelter and food to individuals and families during hard times, but also housing and employment, was very informative. They provide food twice a week to the community and also run a soup kitchen with a staff of only five people! We delivered 100 Blessings Bags to the shelter in 2019. The Deacons plan to continue to bring dinner, serve, and hang out with the folks in 2020. All are welcome to join us!

Monetary and supply donations can be made directly to the shelter in Pocomoke City (currently they are in need of twin sized bedding). For more information, or to learn how to help, please contact the Deacons office.





A NOTE FROM HISTORIAN LYNNE MURRAY

murray476@mchsi.com

Maryland was the first American colony to guarantee settlers the freedom to worship as they saw fit. In Europe the 1600's were a time of religious intolerance but the Calvert family, themselves converts to Catholicism, made that proviso to settlers in their colony of Maryland. George Calvert had loyally served King Charles 1, who rewarded him with the hereditary title of Lord Baltimore and a land grant of 10 to 12 million acres "north of the colony of Virginia." In 1632 the Calverts honored Charles' wife, Queen Henrietta Maria, by naming the colony Maryland.

According to Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia by Truitt and LesCallette, freedom of worship in Worcester County is as old as the very first settlement here. The present day three lower shore counties were originally all one county, that we now refer to as Old Somerset. The first houses of worship were known as meeting-houses and were either Quaker or Presbyterian. Although Church of England members resided in the area they had not yet established a church building and were meeting in private homes.

It was in 1683 that Colonel William Stevens introduced our Rev. Francis Makemie, who gave the first service on American soil conducted by an ordained minister. That service was in Colonel Stevens' home located at Rehoboth Towne. Makemie chose that location to build our mother church, the oldest Presbyterian Church in America, known as Old Rehoboth. This historic meetinghouse was completed in 1706, two years before Makemie's death.

Old Rehoboth pre-dates the two historic Episcopal churches best known to us; All Hallow's in Snow Hill was completed in 1756, and Historic St Martin's in 1759. Quakers were outlawed in Virginia and welcomed by Maryland, although I was unable to find a record of any of their meetinghouses still being in existence.

Old Rehoboth is a one-story brick building, finished in the Flemish bond pattern of alternating rows of brick sides and ends. Wikipedia online encyclopedia describes the interior as having a barrel-vault wooden ceiling, box pews with single raised panel on the ends, and a paneled gallery. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Happy Trails,

Lynne



Pulpit, Choir Stalls, Piano & Organ
The front of the interior of historic Old Rehoboth

From the Desk of Lindsay Ashton, Christian Education Chair



Christian Ed is looking forward to an exciting 2020 as many ideas and events are being planned to help our youth get "hands on, eye opening," experiences.

Last year, we heard the concerns of parents who wanted to have their children more engaged in church activities. We also wanted Buckingham's on-going church events to have more exposure in our community. We responded by creating a variety of fun, family-based events including a bi-weekly night-out for the kids called S'more Time with Jesus. We also had our first Trunk or Treat night, which was a huge success. In addition to those programs, we purchased a basketball hoop, made plans for a playground, and had our youth build a blessing box. The children also participated in a reverse advent calendar project whereby tokens were awarded and could be cashed in at the Bible Bucks store. We've learned a lot and are tweaking the events for even more success in the future!! All ideas and participation are always welcomed. No idea is too big or too small. If you are a parent looking for something special for your youth to do, we welcome you to join our committee, or let us know your ideas!

For 2020, we will be completing the playground project and adding street hockey to the parking lot. S'more Time With Jesus will continue on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month with events that are both family-fun and mission-involved. And if that's not enough, we're also making a mission trip to the Baltimore Ronald McDonald House. On January 10th, we'll begin that project by tying blankets during a dinner and movie night at church from 6-8pm. We could use any help with directing the activity from those who have previously made the blankets and who are familiar with the fabric/supplies. There are many ways to participate in this mission including the cutting and tying of blankets, making the meal that we'll serve at the House, gathering ideas and supplies for craft-making with the kids, and of course, the actual trip itself. All are welcome to participate in the preparation thereof or to take the trip with us to the Ronald McDonald House!

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On January 24th, we will host a "Soup-er Bowl" party to include football food, trivia, soup bowl painting and bowling! Be sure to show your team spirit and bring in canned goods to cast your vote for the winning Super Bowl team.

Plans are also in the works for our older youth group as they continue to grow and express their interests. The upstairs room to the left, the old movie room, will be converted into a "hang-out" area where the kids can enjoy a snack bar and watch TV, or play air hockey and foosball. We also are kicking ideas around for a Monday Morning Kid-to-Kid Mission group for the summer. If you can help with this, we'd love to hear your ideas! Feel free to contact any Christian Ed Committee Member!



**CALLING ALL
YOUTH**

Here's to an exciting 2020!!!
Lindsay Ashton, Chair

Events, Reports, Notices, & Stuff

Did you know that Buckingham's kitchen is getting a renovation?

By the time you read this, we should be just about finished! You are invited to stop by and see the updates! Our Kitchen Committee thanks you for patience and interest.

-Sue Mallory, Chair,
Kitchen Committee.



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Women's Lunch Bunch
Wednesday
January 8, 11:30am
@ DeNovo's in Ocean Pines
Bring a friend!

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

Family Dinner Night

All are welcome!

Tuesday,
January 14th @ 5:30pm

Fight the cold January blues
with **deliciously warm
comfort food!**

Enjoy chicken and dumplings
with all the fixins' !!!



Mmmmmmm Mmmmmmm Good!!

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update:



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) would like to update everyone on the progress we are making and what has taken place to date. As we are sure you are aware, this is an involved process and we are working hard and meeting weekly to move forward in finding the best leader for Buckingham Presbyterian Church.

There are a lot of behind-the-scenes steps that take place to move the ball forward. The first step was to complete a Mission Study. The Mission Study helps the PNC and the church look at our vision, mission, values, goals, strengths, and needs around us, and discern God's purpose for this congregation. This Mission Study will be made available to all members of Buckingham.

Once the Mission Study was complete, it was submitted and approved by the Session and The Committee on Ministers & Congregations (COMC). The COMC is a part of the Presbytery and provides a link between congregations, pastors and the Presbytery body. Our Mission Study received special compliments from the COMC.

With these important steps taken care of, it was time to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Early this year a special congregational meeting was held to elect the PNC.

Once elected, the first step for the PNC was to create a Ministry Information Form to submit through the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). The CLC is a database that allows the PNC to match up our needs with pastors who may be open to the call.

The Ministry Information Form consists of vital information such as church size, average worship attendance, church school attendance, and curriculum. Here, we detail the position type and requirements, employment status (Full time or Part time), language(s) required and request a Statement of Faith and any training/certification requirements. We also discuss salary and housing and request references. Once submitted and approved, which we have achieved, we begin to be matched with pastors who are open to the call.

Pastors submit their Personal Information Form (PIF), which includes contact information, ecclesiastical status, education, training and certifications, demographics, date of birth, gender and ethnic orientation. It also includes experience level, service to the church, employment type, geographic choice, leadership competencies, compensation, narrative questions, statement of faith, references and sexual misconduct self-certification.

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So far, we have received over 90 PIFs, some 5 pages long and many over 10 pages. Each of these are reviewed, discussed and eliminated or contacted to see if they are interested in further discussion.

We are currently in the process of scheduling interviews and have been receiving guidance and direction from Rev. Dan McKenty from First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City who has been very helpful and believes we are on the right course and where we should be now.

You may recall, we also performed a congregational survey with help and input from Rev. Glenn Zuber and are in the process of reviewing and discussing the results to insure we know the needs of our congregation and are looking for, not only a pastor, but the best one for Buckingham Presbyterian Church.

The purpose and goal of the PNC is, above all, to serve the congregation of Buckingham Presbyterian Church. Please feel to contact any of the PNC members listed below with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have.

Co Chairs: Lindsay Ashton and Jerry Woroniecki

PNC Committee Members:

Carol Neal, Debi Cook, Bob Arthur, Dennis Parker, and Rose Campion

**Christmas Luncheon/Faire
Update:**

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Buckingham's Christmas Luncheon/Faire was a big success! Total money received was 1,456.75. The Women of the Church will meet early in the year to decide what Mission/Missions we will support in 2020. Many thanks to all who contributed this past year, and we're already looking forward to next year's event. Watch the Gram for future updates!



**Enthusiastically,
Women of the
Church**



- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| January 1 | Tyler & Brandon Kulyk |
| January 3 | LAURA Black |
| January 8 | MITCHELL David |
| January 10 | Ellen Wittmyer |
| January 13 | EMILY Shoemaker |
| January 14 | LARRY Nickell |
| January 17 | JOAN Townsend |
| January 22 | AUDREY Balster |
| January 24 | LOIS Davis |
| | KATHRYN Gaddis |
| January 26 | ASHLEY Eschenburg |
| | Blaine Warren |
| January 27 | SARAH Kohler |
| January 28 | NANCY Holland |

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORIAM 2019

LUCILLE BROWN

In Memory of William S. & Elizabeth Hudson

PAUL & DEBI COOK

In Memory of Harry R. Cook

William J. Thompson

THE GUBOSH FAMILY

In Memory of Michael Xavier Gubosh

In Honor of Mary Smith

Elizabeth Lynch

RICHARD & CHERYL HOLLAND, SR.

In Memory of Edward L. Holland

Nadine H. Holland

In Honor of Roland & Etta Powell

TOMMY, JULIA, JESSE & SHERI LYNCH

In Memory of Mary Louise Taylor (Mom)

Mary Jarvis Taylor (Gran)

Charles H. Lynch, Jr.

Betty Crabtree Lynch

JESSE & SHERI LYNCH

In Memory of Charles H. Lynch

JIM & SUE MALLORY

In Honor of Our 8 Grandchildren &

6 Great Grandchildren

FRED & CAROL NEAL

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Honor of Our Children & Grandchildren

GEORGE PHILLIPS

In Memory of Glen Phillips

Mark Hammond

George O. Phillips III

CHARLON M. PRUITT

In Memory of John Q. Pruitt

Milton E. Moore

Irene W. Moore

HERSHEL & CAROL ROSE

In Memory of Dalmas & Gladys Parker

Mamie Parker

Morris & Evelyn Hall

Mildred Ann Villani

Nevada Hastings

In Honor of Buckingham's Sunday School

Children & Youth Class

PAT ROUCH

In Memory of David Rouch

In Honor of Adam, David, Matthew, William, & Ryan

SUSAN J. TODD

In Memory of Bob & Bertha Jackson

DOROTHY WARREN

In Memory of Edward R. Warren, Husband

JERRY, MICHELLE, & MACY WORONIECKI

In Memory of Turner Dennis

JANUARY

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day—Church Office Closed 	2 Choir Practice 7pm  AA 8pm	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Christmas Football Jersey Sunday	6 Pastor Hrs. 10-3 Adult Caregivers 6:30	7 Mens Breakfast 8am Session 6pm 	8 Pastor Hrs. 10-1 Womens Lunch Bunch 11:30am Spiritual Formation 6pm	9 Choir Practice 7pm  AA 8pm	10 S'More Time with Jesus Blanket Making/ Movie Night	11
12 Baptism of the Lord; Communion Sunday	13 Pastor Hrs. 10-3 Adult Caregivers 6:30	14 Family Dinner Night—Chicken & Dumplings 5:30pm	15 Pastor Hrs. 10-1 Spiritual Formation 6pm	16 Choir Practice 7pm  AA 8pm	17	18
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	20 Pastor Hrs. 10-3 Adult Caregivers 6:30	21	22 Pastor Hrs. 10-1 Spiritual Formation 6pm	23 Choir Practice 7pm  AA 8pm	24 S'More Time with Jesus: Trivia Night Soup(er) Bowl Party	25
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	27 Pastor Hrs. 10-3 Adult Caregivers 6:30	28	29 Pastor Hrs. 10-1 Spiritual Formation 6pm	30 Choir Practice 7pm  AA 8pm	31	

**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.*