

ADVENT



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Buckingham-Gram

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Finding Peace in Anxious Times

Many studies have confirmed that changes and transitions (even good ones!) can rattle members of a congregation. On top of that, the holidays such as Christmas can bring joy, or they can bring even more anxiety. The consequences of change can be widespread, affecting both individuals and groups. Buckingham is definitely going through a lot of transitions right now. New secretary, new minister, new music director, new budget lines, new programs, new kids, all of these developments can give us a shock. We wonder where it will end! There is a US group, called Fresh Expressions, which trains people to start new ministries in their local community, and they recently advertised a webinar on addressing the heightened anxiety that comes with the birth of new ideas and ministries. They say there is no way around it, even mentioning the possibility of something new can unnerve a church, ministry team, or denomination. In addition, the growing anxiety in a congregation can be especially disturbing to someone who is already anxious. Anxiety from the pioneering effort will compound some people's internal anxiety, and that includes the pioneer! Anxiety in general can lead to easy frustration, disappointment in others, loss of energy, distraction, and the perception of failure where others see successes. Anxiety among either leaders or members (or both!) makes it hard for the community to work together, let alone pray and worship together as one.

As we experience anxiety about changes going on in our wonderful church, there are some rules I think will help: 1) Remember that everyone has the same goals for church renewal that you do; 2) Remember that church transitions have surprised church members since the day the Holy Spirit came down to the Apostles during the feast of Pentecost; 3) Remember to give others a chance to speak and lead. If people are going to improve their leadership skills, they need practice, so give them the space to do so; 4) Instead of spending time worrying, let's use that time to share our concerns with God and ask for peace; and 5) Let's turn any developing conflict into an opportunity to practice our Christian peace-making skills right here in our own homes and in our church home.

At the first Nativity, the angels declared *"On Earth Peace and Good Will towards All."* Let us think and pray about how we can live into that dream this Advent season as our beloved church seeks to write a new chapter in its life story!

Best, Rev. Glenn

LUNCHEON & FAIRE

Our 38th Luncheon & Faire is now a time gone by. It was successful thanks to all the help and contributions. It would be impossible to thank everyone individually since there were so many wonderful people who helped. We would like to mention the **AA group** that meets on Thursday evenings for continuing to set the table and chairs for us every year. Also for **Michael Parker** for the donation of all those chickens for us to make the Chicken salad. Thanks to the many volunteers from both services who cooked them for the group that came in on Friday morning to cut up and make the Chicken Salad.

We also want to thank all the cooks who made a variety of soups for us to serve at our Luncheon and for the Carry Out's. We don't want to forget all our bakers for the many baked goods for the Bake Table and Desserts for the Luncheon.

I'm sure you are anxious to know how much money was collected from lunch and from the bake table—to date we have a profit of \$1416.62.

Again we thank everyone for their donation, whether you cooked chickens, made soup, baked goods, helped with setting up, clean up, or came to the luncheon and enjoyed our luncheon.

We would also like to thank the Vendors who brought in their handmade crafts which were on display and for sale.

Thank you
Women of the Church



PLEASE HELP MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

We are so excited! After years of dreaming and praying, we are finally having a commercial dishwasher installed in the kitchen. With the increasing number of events that we are hosting, this step has become a necessity. The project, which includes—removal of the existing sinks and adjoining prep areas, hanging protective FRP on 2 walls, relocation of the ice machine and installation of the dishwasher, a three pot sink and prep areas, a hand washing sink and a new warming/steam table—is scheduled to commence on December 16 and be completed within a week. All of the equipment being installed, as well as the plumbing and electrical work, meet health department codes bringing us closer to complete compliance.

The price tag sounds steep - \$16,266.01 for the equipment, \$6000 - \$7000 for labor and approximately \$2000 for the FRP and closing the window into Taylor Hall. The Kitchen Fund currently has \$12,382.65, all of which will go toward the project. We are applying for several grants but are counting on the generosity of the congregation to help us raise the difference. If you have enjoyed a meal at the church, please consider making a donation to this exciting venture. No amount is too small (or too large!). Please be sure you note "**Kitchen Fund**" on the memo of your check. Donations can be mailed to the church or put in the collection plate.

Those of us who regularly clean up after Friendship Moment, Family Night dinners, S'more Time with Jesus, the Christmas bazaar, Breakfast with Santa, etc...say "THANK YOU!!!"

Join us -
Thursday Evenings @
7:00pm
Share the joy of ministry

A Note from Historian Lynne Murray



I was surprised to discover that many historians believe King George III and his supporters considered the American Revolution to be a *War of Presbyterians*. It is true that many of the King's opponents were dissenters, as Anglicans then referred to Presbyterians. According to I. Marshall Page's *Old Buckingham By The Sea On The Eastern Shore of Maryland*, one writer recorded that half the officers and soldiers in the Revolution were Presbyterians. While I think we may question the veracity of that statement there were many Presbyterian patriots of note. In one New Jersey Presbyterian burial ground alone, there were listed the graves of more Revolutionary War patriots than I could count. They varied from private soldiers, to captains, colonels, and church Deacons.

The history of Princeton University is of particular interest to our faith as it was founded in 1746 as a Presbyterian ministerial school. By 1756 the college had moved from Elizabeth, New Jersey to Princeton where its buildings were severely damaged during the war for independence. The prominent Presbyterian minister John Witherspoon became president of Princeton in 1768 and shifted the focus from ministerial training to preparation for leadership in the new nation. Among Witherspoon's students were the patriots James Madison, fourth President of the U.S., and Aaron Burr, Jefferson's Vice President. In 1812 the Princeton Theological Seminary was established as a separate entity from the liberal arts establishment. Presbyterians can be proud of the fact that Witherspoon was the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Many of our founding fathers were either Presbyterian, or supported its form of government, as can be verified on the internet and various printed sources. According to the website *answers.com* the separation of powers was a Presbyterian form of government before it was adopted by the founding fathers. We have the Pastor, the Session (made up of people elected from the congregation), and the local Presbytery. According to Leo Rosten's *Religions in America*, the Presbyterian form of government is itself a representative democracy, in which the people govern the Church through elected representatives.

This is heavy stuff, my friends; I think I need to pour myself a cup of tea and ponder my findings. The next time Pastor Glenn asks for *Concerns and Joys* during worship I'll think of how fortunate we are to be Presbyterians and Americans, with the freedom to worship as we see fit.

Happy Trails, Lynne
murray476@mchsi.com



From the Desk of Lindsay Ashton, Christian Education Chair

If you haven't already, make sure you mark your calendars for all the upcoming events. On December 1st at 4:00 pm we will be decorating the Christmas trees in Taylor Hall followed by caroling around town. We will also be kicking off the reverse advent calendar to help stock our blessing box pantry as well as a clothing pantry for the schools. During the Christmas parade on December 5th we will be passing out cookies and hot chocolate as well as participating in the parade with a float. We will need cookies to pass out, if you are able to help with cookies please have them to the church by Thursday, the parade begins at 7 pm. On Friday December 6th we will be setting up for the breakfast with Santa, anyone able to help set up please meet in Taylor Hall at 5:30. On Saturday, December 7th the breakfast with Santa will take place. We are looking for volunteers to help cook, serve from the buffet, and wait on tables. The breakfast runs from 8:30 - 10:30 in Taylor Hall. On December 13th we will have a one-night Christmas VBS. Parents are welcome to drop their children off and enjoy a night out. Kids will have dinner followed by rotating through stations to make crafts and learn about some of the symbols of Christmas and the meanings behind them. On December 15th the Christmas family night will take place with dinner followed by a Christmas play put on by the children. Please bring a canned good, hygiene item, or paper product to participate during the audience participation part of the play! If you are able to help with any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Lindsay 410-629-1029, linzparker@hotmail.com.

S'more Time with Jesus in November included a family paint night. We had over 140 in attendance of which 57 kids painted. Some of their art is on display in the local businesses on Main St. On November 22nd we had Thanksgiving Minute to Win it games and Lego challenges. It was a wonderful night with over 80 people in attendance! We also painted the kid's hands to look like turkeys on a tablecloth to be used during the Thanksgiving breakfast. The kids wrote on a pumpkin what they were thankful for to also be used and read during the Thanksgiving breakfast. The December 13th parents night out will be the only S'more Jesus event for the month of December. We will continue with the 2nd and 4th Fridays in January. Thank you to everyone who continues to help make this ministry so successful!! We are planning to turn the 4th Friday nights in to hands on Mission Project nights in which all ages can help and participate in!!

Congregational Meeting



Sunday, December 8, 2019

Combined Worship Service 10:00am

(Coffee & Pastries available at 9:30am)

Annual Congregational Meeting 11:00am

(Light refreshments served following the meeting)

All Members are encouraged to attend!

Events, Reports, Notices, & Stuff

DEACON REPORT

It's that time of year when we start to shift our focus toward holiday planning, family gatherings, and gifts to place under our Christmas trees. While those are such uplifting activities, we still need to keep our eyes on those who may not be as fortunate. Buckingham will not lose sight of them.



We thank everyone who helped pack a Christmas box for Operation Christmas Child.

We continue to serve dinners at the Samaritan Shelter every month. We have and will continue to provide clothes and food to children and families in need via our contacts at local Berlin schools. We have joined forces with our local Berlin law enforcement to adopt a senior in need of living necessities as well as companionship.

Soon you will see angels and hearts on our Christmas tree enabling you to purchase a gift and help make a local child's Christmas one to remember.

We thank everyone who helps Buckingham Presbyterian Church be a loving and caring force in our community. Let's keep our hearts open and help share our joy and love throughout the remainder of the year!



Christmas VBS

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 13, 2019

5:30 -9:00pm

Drop your children off and enjoy a night out. Children will have dinner followed by crafts and lessons on Christmas symbols.



Annual Christmas Family Dinner & Children's Program

Sunday, December 15, 2019 @ 5:00pm

Menu: Ham, Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing and Gravy

Everyone is asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert. All are welcome and encouraged to share in this holiday tradition!



Women's Lunch Bunch

Wednesday

December 11, 11:30am

@ Atlantic Hotel

Bring a friend!

For further information please contact:

Evelyn Warren at 410-641-2109



12/5—LOTTIE Nickell
 12/6—DOUGLAS Parks
 12/12—EMILY Vocke
 EDWARD Warren
 12/14—ANTHONY Davis
 12/16—Riley Pruitt
 12/17—Edward Welch
 12/19—WILLIAM Campion
 12/20—Pamella Russell
 12/22—CHRISTINA Tilghman
 12/23—HOWARD Cathell
 12/30—Macy Woroniecki
 Anne Cook



12/6—DOUGLAS & JAYNE Balster
 12/9—SUSAN & JOHN Rencher
 12/10—ROBERT & HOLLY Bunting
 12/17—David & SALLY Kohler
 12/26—RICHARD & CHERYL Holland, Sr.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DATE:

Sunday, Dec 1
 Thursday, Dec 5
 Saturday, Dec 7
 Sunday, Dec 8
 Friday, Dec 13
 Sunday, Dec 15
 Tuesday, Dec 24

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS / MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

TREE TRIMMING AND CAROLING 4pm
 BERLIN CHRISTMAS PARADE 7-9pm
 SANTA BREAKFAST 8:30-10:30am
 COMBINED WORSHIP 10am; ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG. 11am
 PARENTS' NIGHT OUT - Christmas VBS 5:30-9pm
 FAMILY NIGHT CHRISTMAS DINNER & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM 5pm
 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7pm

December 2019



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 1st Advent Communion Sunday Tree Trimming & Caroling 4pm	2 Pastor on Vacation Adult Caregiv- ers 6:30pm	3 Session 6pm	4 Pastor Hrs. 10am-1pm Spiritual For- mation 6pm	5  7-9pm AA 8pm	6	7 Santa Break- fast 8:30- 10:30 
8 Combined Ser- vice 10am Congregational Mtg. 11am Confirmation Graduation 5:30pm	9 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm Deacon Mtg. 6pm Adult Caregiv- ers 6:30pm	10	11 Pastor Hrs. 10am-1pm Women's Lunch Bunch 11:30am Spiritual For- mation 6pm	12 Choir 7pm AA 8pm	13 Christmas VBS—Parents' Night Out 5:30-9pm	14
15 Annual Christmas Family Dinner & Children's Program 5pm	16 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm Adult Caregiv- ers 6:30pm	17	18 Pastor Hrs. 10am-1pm Spiritual For- mation 6pm	19 Choir 7pm AA 8pm	20	21
22 Christmas Joy Offering	23 Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm Adult Caregiv- ers 6:30pm	24 Candlelight Service w/ Communion 7pm	25 Church Of- fice Closed 	26 AA 8pm	27	28
29	30 Pastor on Vacation Adult Caregiv- ers 6:30pm	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.*