

The Buckingham Gram



Buckingham Presbyterian



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MAKING THE MOST OF THE SEASON OF LENT

Greetings Friends. It is hard to believe that the season of Lent is upon us. (*Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. A special Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM.*)

Doesn't it seem like the Christmas season has just ended and it's too early to be thinking about the Lenten journey towards Easter (April 17)?

But you know – maybe Lent 2022 is just what we need. In a fast-paced, ever-changing, worrisome and often-overwhelming world, Lent is a time when Christians can slow down, take a deep breath and wrap up in the never-changing life-giving words of scripture.

Lent is a time of remembering to take life's worries and challenges to prayer and to rest in God's outstretched arms of care. Lent is also a time for personal self-reflection and confession – a time not meant to lead to feelings of guilt and shame, but rather to help us move away from sin toward spiritual release as we refocus on our hope in the resurrection of the Prince of Peace.

Here are some ways to make the most of Lent and your walking with Christ toward Easter:

READ THE PSALMS: Our scripture focus in worship for this Lenten season will be on the Psalms. We will pray them, sing them and meditate on them in their many forms – be they songs of hope, prayers of lament, offerings of thanksgiving or simply expressions of our hope and faith in God's love and grace. I encourage you to read the Psalms for the week. Better yet, if you commit to reading 3 to 4 Psalms every day during Lent, you can read through the entire book of Psalms by Easter. Try it!

JOIN IN STUDY: I invite you to join in the Thursday night Bible study. We meet in Taylor Hall or by ZOOM at 6:00 PM. Beginning March 3 we will study the book of Job, discovering together the deep meanings of our faith as we encounter Job wrestling with his own. All are invited. Come!

Whatever you choose or however you feel led, know there is no perfect way to “do” Lent. Whatever you do, though, do so with your heart open to receive again and again the grace offered to you and made possible for you on the cross of Christ and on the morning of His resurrection. That, after all, is where this Lenten journey ends.

Be blessed this Lent as you are a blessing.

Peace,
Pastor Mark



Ash Wednesday Service, March 2 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

The service will be offered in person and via ZOOM with a link to be emailed and posted on Facebook. Please join us for this traditional services of ashes, special prayers, music and a message to help us begin the Lenten journey.

CHRISTIAN ED

We held another successful Super Bowl Sub Sale with proceeds benefiting the Draheim family and their trip to Disney. They sold 145- 12 inch subs, 63- 6 inch subs and 65 pints of chicken salad. Over \$3500.00 was raised for the Draheim family. Way to Go! Thank you to everyone who helped, those who placed orders & made generous donations. Please continue to pray for Lakelyn and her family.

S'more Time with Jesus will resume in the spring. More details to follow as dates and themes are decided. Please keep a look out!

"Camp Occohannock on the Bay" in Belle Haven, VA will be holding a "Beat the Game" Youth Retreat for Grades 7-12, March 25-27. The "Beat the Game" retreat will focus on one of the most relevant and problematic issues in our society: the overconsumption of technology through "screen time." We have some youth attending. If you would like more information or would like to know how to register your teen, please contact Victoria.

Once again we will be collecting individually wrapped candy, small treats and/or prize donations for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We ask that all donations be placed in the basket in Kortright Chapel by Sunday, April 10th.

If anyone is interested in helping Christian Ed in anyway (either for the year or just one event), please contact any Christian Ed member- Victoria, Lindsay, Kristin, Jerry, Emily or Arline.

MISSIONS

Wow! The youth Super Bowl Sub Sale collected 161 canned goods to add to our Blessing Box on Sunday the 13th. Thank you to all those who donated to help keep our Blessing Box full during the Souper Bowl of Caring.

We are currently collecting T-shirts, shorts, sweat-pants and sweatshirts for those in need while they are staying at the cold weather shelter and while they are having their clothes washed.



We are excited to announce that we have joined Worcester Goes Purple & 1st Presbyterian Church in Ocean City to help those in need get a shower as well as have a lunch on Tuesdays! What an awesome ministry to be part of! Beginning

March 1st a shower trailer from Salisbury will be stationed at 1st Presbyterian every Tuesday from 9:30am - noon. This will allow for individuals to take showers & receive clean socks, underwear, shirts, & hygiene supplies. Buckingham Presbyterian Church will be providing bagged lunches once a month. *If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact a member of the mission team: Wendy Macrides, Lynda Truitt, Nance Hall, Carol Neal & Lindsay Ashton.*

DINNER IS SERVED

**Saturday, March 19th 4-5pm
Drive Up or Delivery**

Our March Meal will be Ham or Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Macaroni & Cheese and Dessert. Please order your dinners by using the sign up sheets at church or by calling or texting Cindi Pruitt, 443-880-5502.

Please share this with your family, friends & neighbors or anyone else who would enjoy a free, hot meal.



- 03/01 Lynda Truitt
- 03/02 Skylar Cook & Tammy Nickell
- 03/10 Suzanne Parks
- 03/14 Christopher Bunting
- 03/18 Dorothy Simpson & Erin Trask
- 03/21 Wendy Macrides
- 03/22 Ella Gaddis & Scout Vocke
- 03/24 Victoria Harsh

Happy Anniversary!

- 3/15 Gil & Dorothy Simpson
- 3/17 John & Carol Fisher
- 3/20 Edwards & Crystal Warren
- 3/26 John & Wanda Stricker
- 3/31 Steve & Lois Davis

Special Dates that we know about will be posted monthly. Please make sure to let the office know about your special day so that we can celebrate with you!



A Note from Historian Lynne Murray

Details Of The Destructive Fire At Berlin, Worcester County.

MANY FAMILIES HOMELESS

Experiences Of An Energetic Town Where No Protection Is Provided Against Conflagrations.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

Berlin, Oct. 2.—Crowds of people from the surrounding country flocked into Berlin today to see the ruins left by the disastrous conflagration which occurred Saturday afternoon and rendered many families homeless. The fire destroyed 16 dwellings, 2 churches and swept out of existence 3 important industrial works, valued in the aggregate at about \$38,000, on which there was little or no insurance. The total loss is estimated at about \$60,000, with but partial insurance.

Berlin, after two severe experiences of fire, required business houses to be constructed of brick. This was a great step forward, but the taxpayers refused to go to the cost of introducing waterworks, and there is no fire apparatus. The only dependence was the bucket brigade, and for this service everybody, men, women and children, enlisted. Now after the third experience and many persons homeless, a town meeting has been called for Monday night to provide for waterworks.

Saturday's fire broke out in the Veneer Works of the Berlin Improvement Company. A strong west wind carried the flames across the railroad to the large planing mill of C. J. Whaley. This structure was quickly consumed, and the destruction of 16 dwellings, the Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church quickly followed. It was several hours before the residents, who formed a bucket brigade, were able to get the flames under control. At one time it looked as if the whole town was doomed to destruction.

Thick foliage of numerous shade trees on streets and in yards, together with the hard work of the bucket brigade, saved the whole business portion of the town from destruction. The wind was blowing a gale and the sparks were scattered a mile from the fire.

On October 3, 1904 the *Baltimore Sun* published a lengthy report of the catastrophic Berlin fire that destroyed our fourth church building, plus the Episcopal Church, sixteen homes, and three businesses. A photo of the exterior and interior of BPC prior to the fire may be found on p. 107 of Page's *Old Buckingham By The Sea*. The lovely pulpit photograph was taken at Easter when generously decorated with flowers and palms. Our two Gothic design chairs upholstered in red velvet are visible in the background, so clearly there was time to save them from the fire as we still use them today.

This was the third major fire in Berlin's history and could have been worse, if businesses hadn't been required to rebuild in brick after the disastrous fires of 1895 and 1901. Unfortunately, there was no waterworks or fire apparatus in town as taxpayers had refused to fund such amenities. Although every able-bodied man, woman, and child participated in a bucket brigade, this was clearly inadequate and a town meeting was scheduled within days to provide for waterworks.

The fire broke out at the Berlin Veneer Works, located on the west side of town, where gale force winds drove the flames into the heart of town. Clearly this wood based business and the nearby Whaley mill gave fuel to the flames.



The Protestant Episcopal Church, which was a half mile from where the fire started, was the second building to burn. The streets and county roads for some distance from town were strewn with household goods of every description, and it looked at one time as if the whole town was doomed and nearly everyone moved effects from their homes. No one was killed, but several of the firefighters were severely injured.

Losses And Insurance.

The losses and insurance were as follows:
INDUSTRIAL WORKS.

Berlin Veneer Works and Factory, G. G. McCurkey, New York City, engaged in making fruit baskets and butter trays, \$30,000; no insurance.

Thomas J. Whaley, mill and lumber, \$5,000; no insurance.

Dilworth's mill and lumber, \$2,500; no insurance.

DWELLINGS.

Thomas N. Tingle, \$2,000; no insurance.

R. B. Timmons, occupied by Frank Johnson, \$600; insurance, \$400.

Riley Ennis, \$600; insurance, \$400.

Jenkins Bowen, \$650; insurance, \$400.

Noah Bradford, \$800; insurance, \$750.

Lucy Purnell, \$300; insurance, \$150.

John Gibbs, \$900; insurance, \$350.

Dr. E. J. Dirickson, \$1,200; insurance, \$400.

H. Davis, \$2,500; insurance, \$2,300.

Miss Clara E. Dirickson, \$1,280; insurance, \$1,000.

John Dirickson, \$1,000; insurance, \$1,000.

Methodist Parsonage, \$1,000; insurance, \$800.

Mrs. H. C. Connaway (three houses), \$1,800; insurance, \$1,800.

T. W. Cooper, colored, \$400; no insurance.

CHURCHES.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, \$5,000; insurance, \$1,600.

St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, \$5,000; insurance, \$3,900.

OTHER DETAILS.

The Methodist Episcopal parsonage was not occupied, the Rev. Mr. Williams and his family being absent from town.

The High School building, the residences of Dr. James C. Dirickson, Henry T. Bell, Mr. Hoskins and the livery stable of Horace F. Harmonson were on fire many times, and it was only by the most heroic efforts on the part of the men, women and children of the bucket brigade that the business part of the town was saved from destruction.

The families rendered homeless were well taken care of by those whose good fortune it was to escape from the disaster.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built of brick, 1825; rebuilt interior, 1883; new chancel and vestry room erected 1893; walls of church not cracked, 13 inches thick, can be rebuilt; pipe organ put in 10 years ago cost \$1,500; insured, \$1,000.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, built of wood, 1860; rebuilt in lecture room added 1890; nothing saved. Previous to 1860 was located at what is now known as Buckingham Cemetery, south side of Berlin, was blown down by blizzard of 1857; rebuilt in what is now the center of the town.

Veneer works built in 1886 by stock company of business men of Berlin; machinery put in and plant operated by J. J. McCluskey, of New York. McCluskey afterward purchased stock of building except \$500. This is still owned in Berlin; no insurance on building, very small insurance on machinery or stock.

Thomas J. Whaley said: "My insurance expired six weeks ago. I have been unable since to get any that was satisfactory to me."

The tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad are repaired and trains are running as usual.

Past Experiences.

About one mile square is included within the corporate limits of the town of Berlin. It is at the junction of the Delaware, Maryland and Virginia branch of the Pennsylvania railroad and the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic railroad which leads to Ocean City, seven miles distant. It is the nearest town of the peninsula to the sea and it is full of energetic men. The Mayor of the town, Mr. Orlando Harrison, conducts one of the largest nurseries in the United States.

Sunday night, August 4, 1895, Berlin was swept by a fire which destroyed most of the business portion of the town. The conflagration swept over eight acres of territory in the heart of the town and destroyed pretty nearly all the business houses in the place. More than 60 buildings were destroyed and the total loss was upward of \$85,000, offset only by \$20,000 insurance.

The fire of August, 1895, started in the hay loft of a livery stable at 8 o'clock P. M., and by 1 o'clock next morning the destruction was complete. The population at that time was about 1,200, but many of the residents were absent at Ocean City to spend Sunday.

Berlin also experienced a disastrous fire March 21, 1895, but it was nothing in comparison with the disaster of August, 1895. On both occasions the houses were mostly of wood. But after these experiences the citizens realized the importance of rebuilding with brick, and on the sites of the old wooden structures many creditable and well-built buildings arose.

Berlin is well provided with hotels, having three comfortable houses of public entertainment, all well-constructed brick buildings. There are three banks and about 25 mercantile houses.

Reports of no insurance and inadequate insurance by individuals and businesses is sobering. BPC sustained a loss of \$5,000, of which only \$1,600 was covered by insurance. By contrast, St. Paul's Episcopal Church also experienced a loss of \$5,000 but their coverage amounted to a generous \$3,900.

Following the staggering loss of our wood church, Dr. John W. Pitts made a motion to construct the new church of brick with a slate roof. As we now know, the church was built of the finest Holmesburg granite, due to the efforts of Rev. William Bancroft, who appealed to Lady Martha Kortright for funds. To the surprise and delight of the congregation, Lady Kortright sent a check for \$5,000 toward the cost of the new church. Fund-raising and rebuilding moved rapidly forward as our cornerstone is dated 1905. A brief biography of Lady Kortright may be found in the May 2020 Gram.



March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Pastor's Hrs 3-5pm Session Mtg 6pm	2 Pastor's Hrs 1-3pm Ash Wednesday Service 6pm	3 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm	4 World Day of Prayer Pastor's Hrs 10am-12pm	5
6 1st Sunday Lent 9am Contemporary Service 11am Traditional Service Observation of Lord's Supper	7 Share & Care 6:30pm	8 Men's Breakfast 8:30am—Rayne's Reef Pastor's Hrs 3-5pm	9 Pastor's Hrs 1-3pm	10 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm	11 Pastor's Hrs 10am-12pm	12
13 2nd Sunday in Lent 9am Contemporary Service 11am Traditional Service	14 Share & Care 6:30pm	15 Pastor's Hrs 3-5pm	16 Pastor's Hrs 1-3pm	17 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm	18 Pastor's Hrs 10am-12pm	19 Church Dinner Drive Thru or Delivery 4-5pm
20 3rd Sunday in Lent 9am Contemporary Service 11am Traditional Service	21 Share & Care 6:30pm	22 Pastor's Hrs 3-5pm	23 Pastor's Hrs 1-3pm	24 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm	25 Pastor's Hrs 10am-12pm	26
27 4th Sunday in Lent 9am Contemporary Service 11am Traditional Service	28 Share & Care 6:30pm	29 Pastor's Hrs 3-5pm	30 Pastor's Hrs 1-3pm	31 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm		

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.*