

September 2023

Buckingham Gram



PASTOR'S NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 GEARING UP FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR



Well friends, the time has come. We are nearing the end of summer and getting ready for the fall months. That means cooler weather, perhaps a hoodie or a sweater – and of course it means for many (and mostly younger people) that it's time to go back to school!

But why should the kids have all the fun? Shouldn't we all – at any age – be willing and open to learning new things – especially when it comes to our faith? This summer we've been exploring the extraordinary value of being God-followers. This fall – we're all going back to school!

Beginning in September, we'll be kicking off a new sermon series called **LESSON PLANS - Exploring the Extraordinary Teachings of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew**. This will be as it sounds: a week-to-week journey through Matthew's Gospel with a focus on Jesus's teachings – many of which can only be found in Matthew. These include several parables, on-the-street teachings, and the Sermon on the Mount. We've already looked at a bit of this teaching already – as we made our way line-by-line through the Lord's Prayer (found in Matt. 6).

We'll begin, though, at the very end of Matthew's Gospel – with what we know of as "The Great Commission." In this is found the essence of Matthew's entire Gospel. In here is described the life into which every Holy-Spirit- infused follower of Jesus has been taught to live - a life that takes us out of our comfort zones and bids us to participate fully in our faith in Christ. We will do so on September 10th when we gather in Taylor Hall at 10AM for worship and fellowship as we celebrate and get excited for new opportunities for our youth and our church as God keeps us moving forward together.

Nervous? Don't be. We all have a lot to learn! So, hold on tight! I promise it will be alright. Jesus, after all, promised to be with us "to the end of the age" – that is, with us every day as we learn from - and choose to follow - Him.

To get ready I encourage you to read Matthew's Gospel through to the end. See what you find. What questions do you have? I look forward to continuing this extraordinary season of learning with all of you!

Peace,
Pastor Mark

"LESSON PLANS" SCRIPTURE READING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER:

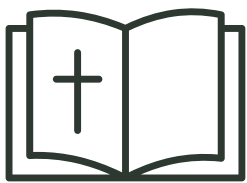
9/10: Matthew 28: 11-20 - "Always on the Move" (Congregational Meeting)

9/17: Matthew 4: 18-25 - "Special Guest from Zebedee's Fishing Emporium"

9/24: Matthew 7: 1-5 - "Standing in the Shoos of Others"

OCTOBER:

10/1: Matthew 14: 13-21 October 1 – World Communion Sunday



Our **“Saints and Scholars” SPIRITUAL FORMATION Group** meets **Thursdays at 6PM in Taylor Hall** - This fall our focus will be on the Gospel of Matthew. Join us as we follow along with the texts and teachings from Sunday. All are welcome. Bring your bibles, your questions and observations, and your hearts and minds open to the Spirit’s illuminations. Hope to see you this fall in Taylor Hall!

DEACON REPORT



The Deacons were very busy this summer! We had our annual Peach Pie Sale Fundraising event, which resulted in our most successful year ever. The funds generated will continue to be used to "support those in need".

Pastor Mark dropped off a donation to HALO Center of Hope. This donation was initiated by the Buckingham Youth sub sales and matched by the Deacons. Cathy Leyden also dropped off a donation to the SPCA on behalf of the Buckingham Youth sub sales.

We have several opportunities for parking fundraising this Fall. If you are able to assist please contact Bob Arthur. The Deacons continue to offer support in many silent ways. Please keep the Deacons and our initiatives in prayers.



Sewing Seeds of Love

What a great time Sewing Seeds of Love had working with these great kids from Worcester Co. Youth's Summer Camp in August. With the help of many volunteers as well as some of Buckingham's kids they were taught the basic skills of sewing and made pillowcases, backpacks, and lots of bean bags. Special thanks to Mack, Tucker, Claire and Wyatt for helping to pass on what they have learned while sewing for others. The Camp Kids LOVED their time sewing and the volunteers were blessed to serve in this way.



GOT SNEAKERS?

Thank you for supporting The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin with their Athletic Shoe drive! Through the Got Sneakers? program GCMWH receives funds while used sneakers are kept out of landfills and incinerators. We collected over 25 gently used athletic shoes for them!! We also collected 6 pairs of sandals and 3 pairs of boots which were donated to HALO. Thank you all so much!!



Youth MINISTRY Now Hiring

We are excited to announce that Buckingham's **Session** has approved the **hiring of a Director of Youth Ministry!** The role of this position will be to provide spiritual leadership and programming for our Middle and High School youth. This ministry is broad based, including a variety of activities designed to grow our students spiritually through worship, fellowship, discipleship and service. We will be advertising the position in several media during the month of September. For more information or to see a full job description, please speak with Pastor Mark or Arline Curtis.



Some members of the current Youth Group joined Pastor Mark for National Night Out in Berlin. The Youth Group also enjoyed an end-of-summer gathering in Ocean City playing miniature golf and fellowship around a meal of pizza and ice cream. The group will be meeting regularly once a month.



Want to help make a difference in a child's life? We would appreciate your assistance with volunteering for the Nursery or Sunday School during the 9 AM service. The curriculum plans walk you through the entire lesson!! We work on a rotating basis so that you only need to commit to one Sunday every other month!! Contact Arline Curtis or anyone on the Christian Ed Committee if you can help!!



THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered and participated in this year's VBS. It was a great time of Twist & Turns as the children had fun learning about Jesus.

HOSPITALITY TEAM MEETING Monday September 11th 6:00pm DINNER PROVIDED

We will discuss details for team member duties and hope to get started serving on Sundays toward the end of September. *Questions? Call or text Debi at 410-430-9111 *

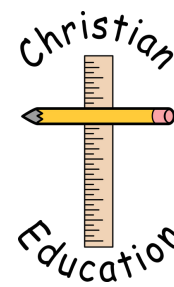
"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." - Matt 10:40



We had a great service at the Athletic Complex with the Blessing of the Backpacks followed by fun, food and fellowship. Let's remember to keep our children and all school staff in our prayers as a new year begins.



There will be a Christian Ed Meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 4:30 PM Updates on Director of Youth Ministry, Halloween Plans and so much more. All interested parties welcome!





SEPTEMBER 10TH AT 10AM COMBINED SERVICE & RALLY DAY

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR A COMBINED SERVICE - September 10th 10:00am - Congregational Meeting to vote on proposed By Law revisions* and special RALLY DAY festivities to kick off the Sunday School year. Breakfast will be provided by the Christian Education ministry. All are encouraged to come enjoy a great meal together, to celebrate and get excited for new opportunities for our youth and for our church as God keeps us moving forward together.

*NOTE: Copies of the proposed revision are available for review ahead of the September 10 meeting. (REMINDER: Active members may vote on congregational matters.)

What is



RALLY DAY is the time to **"come back together"** after the summer months when vacations, work schedules, and other activities keep us from regular attendance at church.

RALLY DAY is a way for ALL of us to renew our energy together as church community.

What better way to start than with a good breakfast!!

Sausage and Pancake Breakfast beginning at 9:30 AM

Followed by a 10AM Combined Worship Service in Taylor Hall!

- Celebrate the many wonderful events that occurred over the summer months!
- Register your children for a new Sunday School year!
- Worship with the entire congregation as a whole giving thanks and praise for everything Buckingham!
- Listen to the proposed new By-Laws and vote on their approval! (only members are eligible to vote)
- Consider Joining the Study Group on Thursday evenings, serving on one of the many committees or join the choir!!

We hope to see ALL of you for Rally Day!!!



SPECIAL MAUI OFFERING

Let's continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Maui. We will continue our special collection for Maui through September. All funds collected will be matched by our Deacons and Mission Ministry.



Birthdays This Month

SEPTEMBER

Sept 2 Ronald Hall
 Sept 7 Holly Bunting
 Sept 10....Charles Herpen
 Glen Phillips
 Susan Todd
 Sept 13Kaye Gubosh
 Sept 17Steve Davis
 Sept 18Jessica Bunting

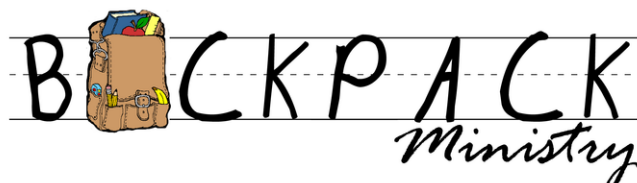
Sept 20Gloria Gubosh
 Sept 21 Evan Cook
 Anne Hastings
 Sept 23 Mack Ashton
 Wanda Stricker
 Bailey Warren
 Sept 25 Arline Curtis
 Sept 26 Tracey Trask

Sept 6 Jerry & Michelle Woroniecki
 Sept 7 Timothy & Emily Vocke
 Sept 22 Victoria & Jeremy Harsh
 Sept 13 Kaye Gubosh
 Sept 27 Ethan & Anne Marie Cook
 Sept 27 Paul & Debi Cook

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!



BUCKINGHAM PRESBYTERIAN



As kids gear up to go back to school next month, our Backpack Buddies Mission will start back up again! Buckingham Presbyterian Church wanted to thank you for your past support and share how your donation helped feed kids in our own community! This past year, we fed 36 students each weekend!. This is the highest number of kids we have had benefit from this program so far.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...

We were not only able to provide food on the weekends but also a holiday meal to help with the extended time off school. Families received a Thanksgiving dinner along with a loaf of bread, eggs, milk and cheese delivered to their door. We also ended the year with extra stuffed bags of food to help during the summer months.

On August 30th the youth held a car wash and sold lemonade, sno-cones and cookies to kick off this year's backpack program. All donations will go directly to feeding youth in our community.

How Can You Help?

Donations in any amount, big or small helps.

For only \$15 we can feed one child 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners, snacks, and drinks for the weekend.

\$350 will feed a child every weekend for an entire year!

We also gather monthly to pack bags and would love your help.

Our 1st Sunday of packing bags will be September 17th at 10 am, feel free to join! If you would like to help in any way from donating to packing bags, please contact Lindsay Ashton or Buckingham Presbyterian Church. Thank you and God Bless!



Meet the Members

(a new addition to our Newsletter)

Interviews with Walt Leppin and Arline Curtis

WALT LEPPIN

Interviewer: Hi Walt, tell us a little about you.

Walt: *I came to the Eastern Shore in the 1980's. My wife and I established a business in Shanty Town and we ran that for over 20 years. We enjoyed the beach and having our children visit. I currently live in West Ocean City and have 2 cats.*

Interviewer: How did you come to be a member of Buckingham Presbyterian?

Walt: *Three years ago I started looking for a church family. One Sunday morning I was on my way to a church in Ocean City as I got closer to town I noticed a big mushroom cloud and realized there was no way I was getting into Ocean City. I turned around and came to Buckingham in Berlin. I have been happy here since that day!*

Interviewer: What is something you enjoy about our church?

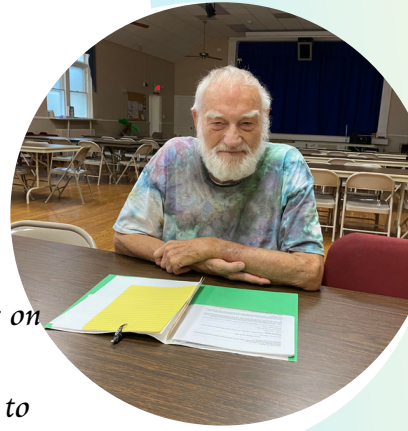
Walt: *The Fellowship, the comradery, and the people I have met. I also love the old structure.*

Interviewer: Is there something you would like to see the church offer/are there any gifts or talents you would be willing to share?

Walt: *I can't really think of anything*

Interviewer: What do you enjoy most about being a Christian?

Walt: *Being able to relate to people and helping them anyway I can; spiritually or physically.*



ARLINE CURTIS

Interviewer: Tell us a little about you.

Arline: *I was born in Kentucky, raised in New York City and attended high school in New Jersey. I worked for Colgate Palmolive for 25 years. I was a Roman Catholic, then a Lutheran and have been a Presbyterian since 1989. My husband John and I have 7 children together, 2 German Sheppard and 2 Cats. We currently live in Greenbackville, Virginia.*

Interviewer: How did you become a member of Bucking Presbyterian?

Arline: *God brought me here!*

Interviewer: What is something you enjoy about our church?

Arline: *People, always the people and the church.*

Interviewer: Is there something you would like to see the church offer/Are there any gifs or talents you would be willing to share?


Arline: *I love children. I really believe the children are the future of the church. The church needs to be there for children whether they are apart of the church or not.*

Interviewer: What do you enjoy most about being a Christian?

Arline: *Sharing Gods light and the love of Jesus with others*



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FALL OFFICE HOURS Tues, Wed, Fri 10:00am—3:00pm 					1	2
3 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45 Friendship Time Birthday Celebrations 11am Traditional	4 Labor Day Share & Care 6:30pm	5 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Session 6pm	6 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	7 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	8	9
10 10am Combined Service with Congregational Meeting. Rally Day	11 Hospitality Team Meeting 6pm Share & Care 6:30pm	12 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Rayne's Reef Christian Ed Mtg 4:30pm Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	13 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	14 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	15	16
17 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45 Friendship Time 11am Traditional	18 Share & Care 6:30pm	19 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	20 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	21 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	22	23
24 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45 Friendship Time 11am Traditional	25 Share & Care 6:30pm	26 Deacon's Mtg. 12pm Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	27 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Trustees Mtg 4pm	28 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	29	30