

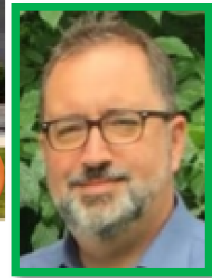
Buckingham Gram

October 2023



PASTOR'S NOTES for October 2023

Don't FALL Behind with Our Studies in Matthew!



"Don't fall behind in your reading." I used to laugh whenever my teachers would say that! Maybe that's because I've always been a slow reader, more prone to cram several chapters the night before an exam than "keep up" with my reading. But here I am saying this to all of you. (Perhaps you're laughing too?)

But it's not any old reading I'm encouraging you to dig in to. Our assignment this Fall – all the way to Advent – is to discover the wonderful Gospel of Matthew. In worship and study together we are looking deeply to discover the redeeming Lesson Plans of Jesus.

These teachings often come in large "chunks" (E.G. The Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5-7), in the many parables of Jesus, and just in the way Jesus interacts with those around him, calling them to come and follow him and learn the way of life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

At this writing, we are only a few weeks into the series. I hope, though, we are already beginning to see just how deep and rich Jesus's teachings can be. For example:

- We have looked at the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the words we know best as "the Lord's Prayer" and seen its call to forgive as we've been forgiven to be both challenging and life-giving. (Matthew 6)
- We've remembered His commission to us all to go out into the world to teach others to obey all that He's commanded us. (Matthew 28)
- We've remembered our call to follow Him (along with Zebedee!) and to remember that we all have what it takes to fish for men and women. (Matthew 4)
- We've been challenged by the imperative "Do not Judge," but rather to check our eyes for specks and logs so we may see and respond compassionately to those whom society too often shoos away. (Matthew 7)
- We've practiced our multiplication tables while coming to the communion table, remembering Jesus and our connection with Him and with all who - throughout space and time - have accepted the responsibility of feeding others in spirit, body and mind.

I hope to see you soon as we continue to learn from Jesus's Lesson Plans in the Gospel of Matthew. And remember – it's never too late to jump into the Thursday Saints and Scholars crew when we are going even deeper in learning to follow Jesus. After all – when we're in this class together – no one falls behind!

"LESSON PLANS" SCRIPTURE READING SCHEDULE

10/8: Guest Worship Leader

10/15: Matthew 18: 15-20 "Gym Class: Training for Feats of Strength"

10/22: Matthew 16: 13-28 "Grammar Lesson: Verbs and Conjunctions"

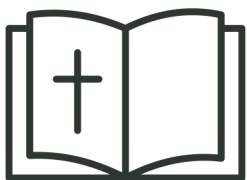
10/29: Matthew 5: 1-12 – "All Saints Recognition"

Good Questions for Studying Matthew's Gospel

When considering Matthew's unique presentation of Jesus's teachings, ask:

- 1) What is Jesus teaching us in the Gospel?
- 2) What is Matthew teaching us about Jesus?

BONUS QUESTION: What is Pastor Mark teaching us about what Matthew is teaching us about what Jesus is teaching us? (If you can figure this one out, you may clap the erasers! If you know what clapping erasers means... you're really old! 😊)



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

In the next few months the Deacons will be asking the church to come together for the community needs. We hope to adopt a family or two for Christmas, prepare a Thanksgiving Meal for the Samaritan Shelter, decorate the church and collect items for our Angel Tree. We are so proud of the love and generosity of our church. Please remember as the cooler weather approaches the needs of the community increase significantly. Please consider helping in anyway you can. More than anything please keep your Deacons in prayer as we continue to "help those in need". God of all grace, give us the finances to do good deeds and help those in need.



Special Announcement



By-Law Revision Informational Forums

At the September 10 Congregational Meeting, a vote was taken to postpone the vote on our proposed new By Laws to give members time to discern and opportunities to learn more. Honoring this request from our members, Session has set the following dates for informational forums and the next Congregational Meeting for the By Law vote. **All Active Members are invited to attend these informational forums and to make time to attend this important meeting:**

Forum #1: Monday, October 2 at 5:30PM (dinner provided)

Forum #2: Tuesday, October 10 at 10AM (coffee/tea/baked goods provided)

Forum #3: Tuesday, October 17 at 5:30PM (dinner provided)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, Oct 22

Immediately following a combined 10am service - **for the purpose of voting on the By Laws Revision (to go into effect January 1, 2024)**

Now Hiring YOUTH DIRECTOR!

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

We are excited to announce that
Buckingham Presbyterian Church is hiring 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 Now Hiring speak with
Pastor Mark or Arline Curtis.

Resumes can be submitted to info@buckinghampcusa.org



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!!

*"Jesus said,
'Let the
little
children
come to me,
and do not
hinder them,
for the
kingdom of
heaven
belongs to
such as
these'"
(Matthew
19:14).*

Community DINNER



We're finally cooking again!
The menu will include baked honey garlic
chicken with rice, sauteed mixed veggies
and dessert. Dinners can be ordered by
calling or texting Cindi Pruitt at
443-880-5502 or by signing up at church.
Please place your order by Thursday,
October 12. Share this information with
family and friends and include an extra
dinner in your order for anyone who may
benefit. Dinners can be picked up at church
from 4:30 - 5:30 pm or we will be happy to
deliver to those unable to pick up..

October Birthdays

Oct 01....Thea Macrides	Oct 15.... Taylor Black
Trent Macrides	Oct 17....Betty Davis
Oct 03....Jason Pylpczuk	Oct 21....Amelia Nickell
Oct 05....Joshua Pruitt	Oct 22....Cindi Pruitt
John Rencher	Oct 24....Mark Piedmonte
Oct 25....Sue Mallory	
Oct 31....Tucker Ashton	

A decorative image at the bottom of the birthday list showing several wrapped gifts in green, orange, and purple with orange bows, and several small pumpkins.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Oct 14...Bradley & Laura Black
Oct 25...Cecil & Dana Tull
Oct 30...James & Kandis Kulyk

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!

New for YOUTH

THE BPC G-3 FORCE

(God, Games & Grub)

Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm in Taylor Hall (unless otherwise noted)

This Fall our Christian Ed Ministry is inviting youth ages 8 and up to get in on the action of

BPC's G-3 Force!

Let's get together and learn about **G**od - enjoy **G**ames - and eat some **G**rub!

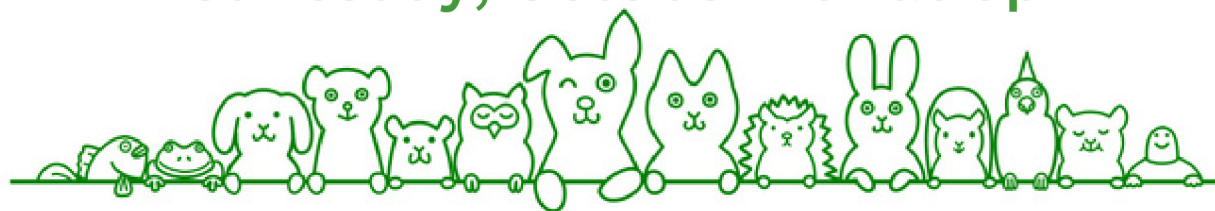
That's it - simple and fun. Friends and family members are welcome.

All gatherings will include a meal!

The First G-3 Force will be

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Wednesday, October 4th at 6pm



Bring your "super pets" for a special blessing. Food for pets and people will be provided. Do your pets know tricks? Have them practice so they may show off their skills! (People tricks are also encouraged). We hope to see you and your pets there and then. Families and friends are of course invited. (Pets should be on leashes or in cages.

If your pet doesn't play well with others, you may bring a toy or picture to represent them for the blessing.

UPCOMING G-3 Force Dates

(5:30-7:00pm in Taylor Hall, unless otherwise note)

October 11 – God, Games and Grub!

October 25 – Do Not Be Afraid! (Halloween Party)

November 1 – All Saints Celebration

November 8 – G-Force Thanksgiving Dinner

November 29 – Getting Lit Up for Advent

December 7 – 7PM - Berlin Christmas Parade (no meal, just cookies!)

December 13 – G-Force Christmas Party



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time Birthday Celebrations 11am Traditional	2 Bylaws Forum # 1 5:30pm (dinner) Share & Care 6:30pm	3 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Session 6pm	4 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Blessing of the Animals 6pm 	5 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	6	7
8 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	9 Share & Care 6:30pm	10 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Rayne's Reef Bylaws Forum # 2 10am Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	11 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm G-3 Force Youth God, Games and Grub 5:30-7pm	12 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	13	14 Community Meal 4:30-5:30pm 
15 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	16 Share & Care 6:30pm	17 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Bylaws Forum # 2 5:30pm (dinner)	18 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Vital Congregation Meeting 6:30pm	19 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	20	21
22 10am COMBINED SERVICE Followed by Congregational Meeting	23 Share & Care 6:30pm	24 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	25 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm G-3 Force Youth Do Not Be Afraid Halloween Party 5:30-7pm	26 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	27	28
29 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	30 Share & Care 6:30pm	31 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Deacon's Meeting 12:00pm				

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.*