

GraceVine



February, 2023 VOL. 50, No. 2



Buckingham Presbyterian Church
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[Click here for streaming service](#)

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Fellowship

Sharing God's Love through Fellowship, Ministry and Worship

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month. Items may be sent to Editor,
LeeAnn Burt: leeinkc@hotmail.com or deposited in the GraceVine mail slot in the office.

Pastor's Corner



Time, Talent, and Treasure ... all on loan from God

In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god of beginnings and transitions, also of gates, doors, passages, endings, and time. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past. The Romans named the month of January in his honor. For the obvious reason January is the perfect time to take a look behind to those things which have been as they are for some time and to look ahead at how some things might well be changed. Of course I am going somewhere with this.

Back in early autumn our new Time and Talent Survey was distributed. We were asked to check items in which we have an interest with a view toward serving our church in those areas. Incidentally, if any of you have not yet completed one of the surveys, they are still available.

But the Scriptures are not silent about money and possessions. When we look at the New Testament we find that one out of three of all Jesus' parables and one out of six of all his teachings have to do with those two items. The relationship between our money and ourselves fits right into the Biblical approach to life—that everything belongs to God.

J. B. Phillips tells a parable about some mice that had settled in a field of corn. Everything they needed was there for them. One day the time came for the farmer to harvest his crop. When he did, what had seemed so snug and secure for the mice was suddenly gone. It had never occurred to them that the field didn't belong to them.

Creation belongs to God. The earth and everything that is in it, the cattle on a thousand hills, and even our money. Now, that being the case, what part do you and I play in this great cosmic economy? That's an easy question to answer. You and I are stewards. In Jesus' parable of the talents, he made it abundantly clear that however little, or however much we have, we are accountable for its use. And ultimately we have to give account to God of how we've managed it—of what kind of stewards we've been.

Folks, this is serious biblical, theological, spiritual business! Relative to the Kingdom of God and all of that which we like to refer to as ours, what is God's opinion of our stewardship? Think about that.

Our Stewardship 2023 emphasis will happen Sundays, February 5, 12, and 19 with the final Sunday serving as Commitment Sunday. Each of our families will soon receive a mailing and one of the components in it will be an estimate of giving card. Please take a look backward and forward, pray, and ask God for guidance as to how we will respond to his goodness. Bring your completed card with you on Sunday, February 19 and during our offering time we will also present our commitments for the new year.

Following worship on Sunday, February 26 we will hold the annual meeting of our congregation and hear the first report of our stewardship campaign. We will also receive the Annual Report of the Congregation.


The Lord be with you,

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

All Military Overseas & at Home
 All 1st Responders
 All Educators
 Pastor, Church & Officers
 All Victims of Hurricane Ian
 Debbie Anderson
 Lenny Barshinger
 Dixie Battin
 Debbie Bill
 Bourdeau Family
 Harriet Brandt
 Betty Carlisle
 Daughtry Family
 Jeff East
 Pat Frasche
 Scott Gallaway
 Joe Garcia
 Cliff Gridley
 Dennis Irwin
 Grace Johnston
 John & Betty Jones
 Phyllis Larranaga
 Lehman Family
 Gerald Marsh
 Katherine Nolen
 John Smith
 Diane Williams
 Sherry Wilmer

Names will remain on the prayer list for one month, unless requested for longer. Please call the church office 239-694-2444 if you wish to add or delete a name.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 5	DOREEN DEOCK
FEBRUARY 6	TOM MORTENSON
FEBRUARY 14	LORI ANKNEY
FEBRUARY 21	RICK BURTON
FEBRUARY 25	JOHN MCWHORTER
FEBRUARY 26	MICHELLE NOLEN
FEBRUARY 27	HARRIET BRANDT
FEBRUARY 28	GAIL BUCHER

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY 10	BOB & DONNA PETERMAN
FEBRUARY 17	ROY & MARILYN LIPSETT







Sundays at 11:00 am — Fellowship follows each worship service. Please come and join us!

Wednesdays at 4:00 pm — Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm — Wednesday Night Connection

Friday, February 3 at 4 pm — Fish Fry

Sunday, February 12 — Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 26 — Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

Sunday, March 26 — Soup & Salad Luncheon following worship

A note of thanks ...

I really appreciate all the support I had for Paul's memorial service. Plus all the nice words that were spoken, along with the workers who provided the food and drinks.

Thanks to Pastor Tim for his support with his sermon, along with Grace playing the music for Paul's favorite songs.

Thanks for all the people who attended to celebrate memories of Paul's life.

God bless you all.

Betty E. Carlisle



Wednesday Night Connection

Did you ever wonder who wrote the Apostles' Creed or why it is important? Many of us faithfully recite this Creed without fully understanding its meaning. Come join us Wednesday evenings to get a deeper understanding of the Apostles' Creed in an energetic study led by Pastor Tim. WNC begins at 6:00 pm with a "Pot Luck" fellowship meal followed by the study. The current study of the Apostles' Creed will continue through February. Join us even if you have not come for the earlier part of this study or not able to attend weekly. Each week we learn and discuss a new section of the Creed. If you prefer, you can come for just the study which begins around 6:30pm. For or more information ask Pastor Tim, Vicki, or the church office.

February 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>9:30 -11:00 R&R 11:00 Mission Committee Mtg 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Labor & Landscape</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4:00 Fish Frv</p> 	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>5th Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Labor & Landscape 9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>6th Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Labor & Landscape</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Transfiguration of the Lord</p>	<p>20</p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>6:00 Session Mtg</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 Labor & Landscape 9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>1st Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Annual Congrega- tional Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>				

A Note from your Stewardship Chair:

- If you want to save on your tax bill this year, plan on making your pledge donations using a tax free donation from your IRA or Brokerage account.
- Please remember your church when updating your Trust or Will.

Contact Rodney Burt or Roy Lipsett if you have questions or want to learn more.

Fish Fry

Don't forget to come support our fish fry on Friday, February 3, 2023. Drive-thru service begins at 4:30 pm and continues until we run out of food. The cost is \$13 per person or \$25 for two. It includes a fish fillet, Cole slaw, salt potatoes, roll, and a cookie or brownie. Please share with your family, friends and neighbors!



Just received from Amazon ...

In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we have made plans to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. Until this date, customer purchases made via AmazonSmile will continue to accrue funds for your charity as normal. To help nonprofits like you plan ahead, we will also provide you with a one-time payment equivalent to three months of payments based on what you accrued in 2022 through this program.



Nursery Attendants

February 05 - Alexis Brown
 February 12 - Margaret Elyard
 February 19 - Mary Edmonds
 February 26 - Susie Green

May today be all you need it to be. May the peace of God and the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in your thoughts, rule in your dreams tonight, and conquer all your fears. May God manifest himself today in ways you have never experienced. May your joys be fulfilled, your dreams be closer, and your prayers be answered. I pray that faith enters a new height for you; I pray that your territory is enlarged. I pray for peace, healing, health, happiness, prosperity, joy, true and undying love for God.”

Remember prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive. There is no cost, just a lot of reward. Make sure you pray, and pray, believing God will answer.

Session Members

Class of 2023

Rodney Burt
Mary Edmonds
John Graham
Rodney Green

Class of 2024

Cal Brown
Vicki McWhorter
Bob Peterman
Janell Webb

Class of 2025

Sue Barshinger
Roy Lipsett
Wayne Nichols
Bob Yuille

Vicki McWhorter,
Session Clerk



Once they have their beautiful fancy feathers all in place, the flamingos are ready to show off their passion and romance in a ritual dance consisting of synchronized marching, head-flagging (turning their heads from side to side while stretching out their necks), loud short bursts of honking, and wing-flapping to show off all of their new colorful feathers.

FLAMINGOS





February 12 is our Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting canned soups, protein, vegetables and fruits. Boxes will be in the narthex and labeled for the two final teams playing the Super Bowl. Please pick your favorite team's box to deposit your canned goods. We will also have two cans with labels on them identifying the two teams that will be playing in the Super Bowl. You can vote on which team you think will win by placing your money in that can. In the past our congregation has been very accurate in picking the winner. The cans and money collected will be given to Misión Peniel. Thank you for your support!



OR



Stitch N' Stuff

"Share with each other troubles and problems." Galatians 6:2

Everybody wants to be happy. It sounds like something that we are able to do with the items we make in Stitch N' Stuff.

Just like I had on an Easter Sunday with the different pillows when Paul was in the hospital. The one lady said she wanted to take an arm pillow for her husband and another a neck pillow for her husband and I had Paul's extra long pillow for his feet. It's the little things that count.

Just like counting your blessing each day.

Hope to see more of you out in Clayton Hall every two weeks. Please call Betty at 239-219-3014 with any questions.

Celebrity Random Acts of Kindness

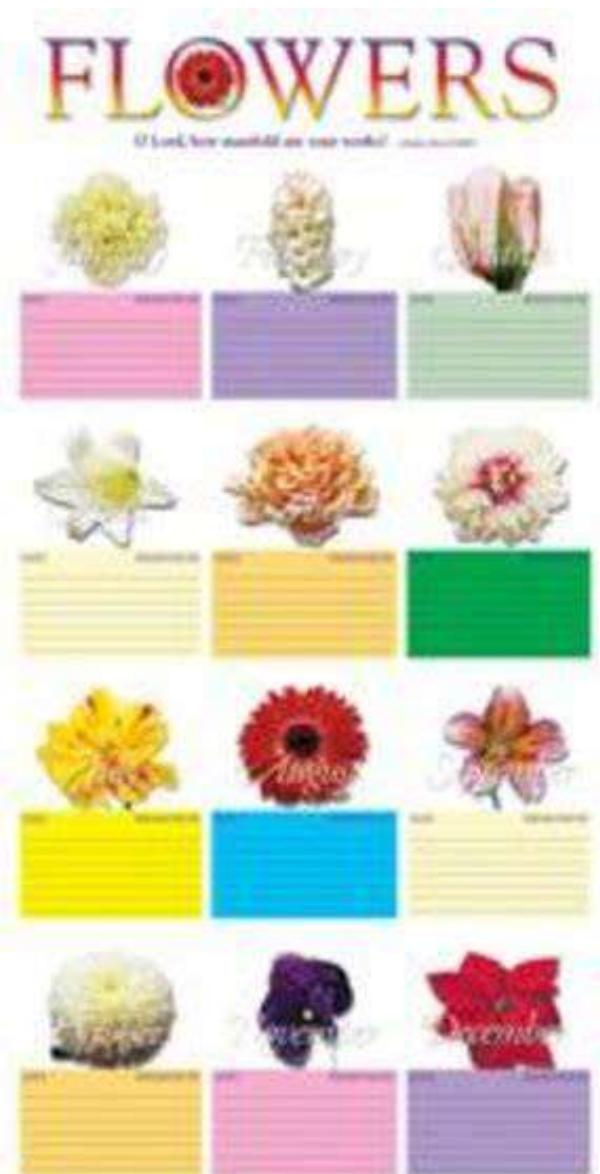
Bradley Cooper—While filming *Silver Linings Playbook* in Philadelphia, Bradley Cooper bought hundreds of winter coats for the homeless and personally handed them out. When a homeless man complimented the coat Bradley was wearing, Cooper took the coat off his back and gave it to the man.

Carrie Underwood—At a 2012 concert in Des Moines, Iowa, Underwood lost her voice after singing for 90 minutes. She had a couple of songs left of the 'Blown Away' concert, but Carrie unable to continue singing, told the crowd, "I feel real guilty about making any money on this show tonight ... so whatever I'm making is just going to go right back into this community. I feel that's the right thing to do."

Tom Cruise—Tom Cruise witnessed a hit and run accident. He pulled over, called 911 and stayed with the victim until the ambulance got there. Cruise then followed the ambulance to the hospital to make sure the girl was okay. When he found out the girl was uninsured, he paid the hospital bill.

Altar Flowers

With a new year comes our new flower chart for 2023. You, too, can contribute altar flowers to add beauty to our Church. The sign-up chart is on the bulletin board in the office copier room. Write your name on the date of your choosing. If you want a short sentiment added to the Church bulletin, i.e. "in memory of my Mom's birthday" or "in celebration of our 25th anniversary," just make a note beside your date and name. You choose the flowers, bring to the service that morning and place them on the round flower table by the altar. You can purchase wherever you like, grocery stores are easy and have beautiful flowers. You may also contribute money and someone will purchase the flowers for you. After church you may take your flowers home, share with someone to brighten their day, or leave for the office staff to enjoy. If you have any questions, please text or call Barb Mitchell at 239-478-9373.



Memorial Garden

On January 23, Marie Reeve, Kate and Chris Larson, together with Roy Lipsett and Bob Peterman, were present for the burial of Robert and Lu Benson's ashes. Chris was a former member of our church, moved to Gainesville and has returned to Fort Myers. Kate and Chris were good friends of the Bensons. According to Chris there are a number of people's ashes spread in the garden. We need to research this properly to mark the area with their names and dates. Marie would like for us to have Robert and Lu's names added to the memorial drive, together with Marie's late husband, Bill. Please contact Bob or Roy if you know of additional names whose ashes were buried or spread in the memorial garden.



Kate (left) and Marie (right)



(pictured left to right) Chris, Roy, Jesus, Kate and Marie

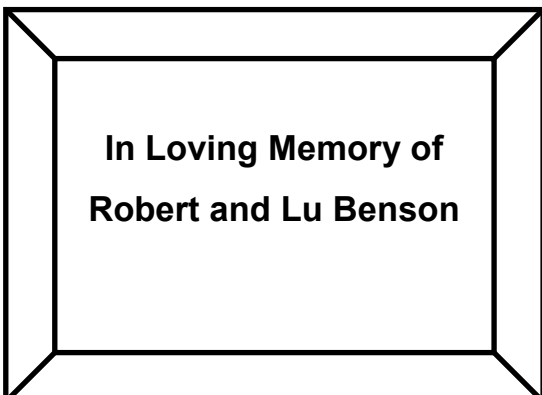
Farewell Tammie

It is with deep regret we announce that Tammie Vough has notified us that she will be leaving our church office. Tammie and her husband will be selling their home and moving out of state to take care of her brother, Dennis, who is facing serious illness.

Although Tammie has only been with us since May of 2022, she has been a great asset and will be greatly missed. She has done an outstanding job in keeping our office operations running smoothly and efficiently.

We do not have a date for Tammie's last day, but have started the process of seeking her replacement. We will keep you updated.

On behalf of our congregation, please let us all pray for Tammie and her family as they face what the future holds.



Fundraising Report

Our December Fish Fry netted us \$939.35, while our January Fish Fry netted us \$759.95. We are planning our next one for Friday, February 3.

We have a commercial deep fryer compliments of Paco Solis of El Tarasco Mexican Restaurant in Lehigh Acres. This unit has taken the place of several small pots and propane burners and has reduced the amount of labor required to fry the fish

Our Celebration Box has been very successful. From July, 2022 to December, 2022, it has yielded \$3,705. Thanks to all of our faithful volunteers who helped make our fundraising efforts a success.

If anyone has any ideas for future events, please contact me at 585-330-7874.

Cal Brown
Fundraising Chair



Musical Notes

Lent is coming, tra-la, tra-la! Now that would seem to be an exactly opposite statement to the facts; Lent is a time of introspection, re-dedication, or making penance like giving up candy for 40 days. However, from a musician's standpoint, Lent is the musical highlight of the liturgical season. We have a rich and varied musical canon with which to work, the options are almost endless. For example; I started work on our Lenten anthems as soon as I recovered from Christmas, and the music we're going to be featuring this year will run the gamut from camels wandering across the desert, to horses racing across the plains, to a New Orleans funeral, and many stops in between. I'm really excited about the music we're going to be offering from Ash Wednesday through Easter. I hope you enjoy it as much as the choir will enjoy performing it.

Jim Shubert
Director of Music



