

# GraceVine



May, 2023 VOL. 50, No. 5



**Buckingham Presbyterian Church**  
4241 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers, FL 33905

**Phone: 239-694-2444**

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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](mailto:leeinkc@hotmail.com) or deposited in the GraceVine mail slot in the office.

## Pastor's Corner



### *Day 40 of the Great 50 Days of Easter*

The calendar for the Christian year moves forward whether we pay attention to it or not. Certainly in the church's worship and liturgy people do not miss the feast/festival days and seasons, but some of them get a little less attention than others. Take, for example, Ascension Day.

Ascension Day is the fortieth day of Easter (thirty-nine days after Easter Day). Since Easter Day always falls on Sunday, the fortieth day is always on Thursday. While some churches observe the day—on the day, I suspect most Presbyterian churches do not. They prefer, instead, to recognize the ascension on either the Sunday before or the Sunday following that special Thursday. On Ascension Day (or whenever else it is observed), believers commemorate the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven. This is not unlike how on Easter Day believers commemorate the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Ascension Day, 2023 is Thursday, May 18. I have just finished re-reading (ok, kinda skimming my underlines ... but I have underlines on nearly every page) one of the most important books I have ever read, and as good a book on the subject of the ascension as one will find. It's title is *Jesus Ascended* and it is written by Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor Gerrit Dawson.

I suspect many, if not most believers see the ascension of Jesus, as Dawson suggests, as something we profess whenever we affirm our faith using the Apostles' Creed, but quickly forget about it the rest of the week. He reminds us that the doctrine is even omitted from a couple of our most recent creeds: the Confession of 1967 and the 1983 Brief Statement of Faith.

Whether they believe in it or not I often wonder if many Christians just see the ascension as a romantic way to bring down the curtain on the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

So let me leave you with an extended quote from Dawson's wonderful book. "Some time ago, ESPN celebrated episode 25,000 of Sports Center. In the promo, a man asks, 'How did you ever keep track of what episode it was? How do you know?' The camera cuts to someone in a giant bird mascot suit, sifting haphazardly through video tapes which are in total disarray around the room. The other man replies, 'Oh, we got a guy.'"

"Beneath the humor, there's a profound truth there. How do we know that when we die, we don't just rot in the grave forever? We got a guy. A guy in heaven who acts on our behalf. He lives in a glorified body. He promises he will give one to us. How do we know, in a world such as this, that evil won't triumph? We got a guy. He got killed, and he rose. He is in heaven, preparing a place for us, preparing to restore all things. We got a guy. How do we know that God will accept us at judgement day? How can we be sure that we're really OK with God? We got a guy. In our name and on our behalf, he appears before the Father. He prays for us, he speaks our names. He is there, still in skin, as the pledge of our acceptance, as the pledge of what is to come. We got a guy."

The Lord be with you ...



### PRAYER CONCERNS:

All Military Overseas &  
at Home

All 1st Responders

All Educators

Pastor, Church & Officers

Debbie Anderson

Beth Day

Diana Dixon

Rachel Fromm

Ryan & Liz Green & Baby Wyatt

Katherine Nolen

Kathy Smith

The Wylie Family

Tim & Haley Yoa

*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.*



#### MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY 6 NICOLE MOYE-CUDNEY

MAY 10 BETH DAY

MAY 12 JOHN GRAHAM

MAY 14 MARY BECKER

MAY 15 JOANNE MAYS-LAMB

MAY 18 MARILYN LIPSETT

MAY 20 EILEEN FRIDAY

MAY 20 TIM STEWART

MAY 21 DONNA PETERMAN

#### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 7 ROBERT & MARION ISHIMOTO-YUILLE

MAY 25 BILL & CAROLE KERR

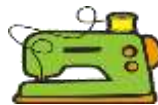
“This is my wish for you:  
Comfort on difficult days,  
smiles when sadness intrudes,  
rainbows to follow the clouds,  
laughter to kiss your lips,  
sunsets to warm your heart,  
hugs when spirits sag,  
beauty for your eyes to see,  
friendships to brighten your being,  
faith so that you can believe,  
confidence for when you doubt,  
courage to know yourself,  
patience to accept the truth,  
Love to complete your life.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

# SAVE THE DATES!

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

**Wednesdays at 6:00 pm** — Potluck dinner followed by our new study, Angels: Fact and Fiction



## Stitch N'Stuff

*A bell is no bell until you ring it. A song is no song until you sing it. And love in your heart wasn't put there to stay. Love isn't love til you give it away.*

The work we do in Stitch N'Stuff is a good example of what love can do for others. Some of us work at home cutting and sewing. Then on our meeting day it's amazing how a few people can use up a 20 lb box of Poly-Fil by stuffing pillows that were sewed at home. If you would like to see us at work, come on a Thursday to see us in action. When you get to work the energy comes to get the job done.

We are looking for new members to cut out items or sew them in preparation for stuffing pillows and close them up after they are stuffed. We meet in Clayton Hall every other Thursday from 9:00 —11:00 am. Our May meetings are May 4 and 18. Just drop in and check us out to see what is going on. You might just find something you'd like to do to help someone who needs our items.

If you have any questions please call Betty Carlisle at 239-219-3014.

# May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 9:30 -11:00 R&R 11:00 Mission Committee Mtg 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection	4 <b>National Day of Prayer</b> 9:00 Labor & Landscape 9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff	5	6
7 5th Sunday of Easter	8	9	10 9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection	11 9:00 Labor & Landscape	12	13
14 6th Sunday of Easter <b>Mother's Day</b>	15	16	17 9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection	18 Ascension of the Lord 9:00 Labor & Landscape 9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff	19	20
21 7th Sunday of Easter	22	23	24 9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection	25 9:00 Labor & Landscape	26	27
28 Day of Pente- cost	29 <b>Memorial Day</b>	30	31 9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection			

## Building and Grounds Update

I am very grateful for the people helping in Buildings and Grounds: Cal Brown, John and Kelly Graham, Rodney Green, DT Lewis, John McWhorter, Jim and Cindy Welch, and Bob Yuille. Our team will be shrinking fast as many head north for the season and others take summer vacations. We are about to embark on the "rainy season" and our workload will be increasing, therefore we can use more help. We meet each Thursday at 9AM. If you are available, please join us.

The most recent project Buildings and Grounds has undertaken is hosting work teams that are responding to the devastation from hurricane Ian. This is being done through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program. To date we have hosted teams from; West Virginia, Tampa, Orlando, and Georgia. *Please see one of the group's thank you notes on the following page.* Most of the work they performed was tarping roofs and mucking out homes, together with some interior carpentry. The areas ranged from Fort Myers to Cape Coral to North Fort Myers. Every team commented about our hospitality and housing standards. The leader from Orlando told her group not to expect these conditions on future disaster trips. Housing at our church was the best it will ever get.

Currently we have 10 teams scheduled through August, plus we are working on a 10-week schedule for 2024. The positive financial impact for our church is amazing. As an example, the 10-week schedule in 2024 will bring us over \$30,000 with minimal expenses. Jamie and Carol Jameson pioneered this project for hurricane Irma. Unfortunately, we only received one work team for Irma but the foundation was laid for the future. I hope Jamie and Carol are still receiving the Gracevine....a BIG thank you for your work.

Other projects we are working on; installing a sprinkler system and planting blue Plumbagos on the west side of the office structure, preparing a burial site for ashes in the memorial garden, changing the flooring in the music room, researching sealing the blacktop driveway, schedule training on our defibrillator, and researching a new electronic sign for our entrance.

I also want to thank Cal and Alexis Brown for donating a lawn mower, Bob and Marion Yuille for donating a lawn mower and a light fixture, DT Lewis for donating mulch, and all of our people who continue to donate their time and other items to Buildings and Grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Peterman  
Building and Grounds Chair



03/24/2023

Everyone at Buckingham Presbyterian Church,

We genuinely cannot thank you enough for letting us stay here during our trip! Thank you for the beds, the hot showers, the AMAZING food, and of course, the great Wednesday night company and conversation. 😊 It was so nice to hear a little about everyone's story and again, thank you so much for welcoming us in with blind trust and open arms! The arrangements for sleeping, eating, bathroom trips, and showers went above and beyond anything we were expecting; it was seriously ALL PERFECT! We wish you all the best and again, THANK YOU!

— Eckerd College Spring Break Trip (2)

(Kasia, Spencer, Alexis, Lexi, Kalli, Angela, + Nadya)

*My Mother sometimes drank her coffee like this! I thought it was because it was too hot. Do you remember older generations drinking from their saucer? Then today I came across this poem that made me feel there was symbolism to the coffee ritual.*

Drinking from My Saucer  
by John Paul Moore



I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.  
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.  
I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.  
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.  
I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.  
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.  
If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.  
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

## Fundraising Report

Our last Fish Fry on March 31, 2023 netted \$1,079.85. Our 2022/2023 Fish Fry season served 993 dinners for total net proceeds of \$7,882.89.

Thanks to everyone who participated, whether it be working, bringing baked goods, or buying dinner. Thank you all so very much.

Stay tuned for our May fundraising meeting date. We will be discussing projects for the summer months and all are welcome.

The Celebration Box is doing very well with total proceeds of \$4,572.00 since inception in July. Please continue to contribute.

Cal Brown  
Fundraising Chair

## 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

# the GRADUATE

A young man always pampered by his rich Dad was preparing to graduate soon. A few weeks ago he saw a very beautiful sports car in a showroom and wanted to get it as graduation gift. The day he saw the car in showroom he went inside and took details of the dealer and car. He gave certain signs to his Father that he wanted that car on graduation day.

The young man was really excited as he was expecting his father to gift him the car because he always got whatever he wished for from his Dad. Finally graduation day came. His Father called him into his study and ask him to sit. He got up and brought a beautifully wrapped gift to his son and gave it to him telling him how proud he was to have such fine son and how much he loved him.

The young man very happily opened up the box, hoping to see a sports car key inside it but what he got was a book. He was very disappointed and angry to see just a book and not keys for the car. In anger he raised his voice and said to his Father, "With all your money you got me this?" and stormed out of house, leaving the book behind. The young man got so angry that he left the house without even waiting for his Father's response and decided never to come back.

Many years passed and the young man became a successful businessman just like his Father. He hadn't seen him since graduation day. One day he received a telegram his Father had passed away and willed all his possessions to him for which he needed to come there and take care of things left behind by his Father.

When he arrived at his Father's house, he felt sadness and regret filled his heart. He went to study where he last spoke with him. There he began to look for things to sort. In one of the drawers he found the same book which his Father had given him on graduation day. All his memories came back in a flash. He sat down on the same chair and with tears rolling down his face, he opened the book and began to turn pages.

After turning few pages he found a hole in the middle of book with the car key in it with tag on it. On the tag it was written.

"With Love for my precious son, who made me so proud."

## **Moral:**

*Many times in Life we prejudge people we meet and things we experience in life because they are not packaged as we expect them to be. Due to this we sometimes make drastic choices based on misunderstandings.*

*In times of anger, we need to stop for a moment and think before making any harsh judgment of a person or a situation. Most importantly, we need to learn to forgive before it's too late.*

## Random Acts of Kindness

*(As told by a police officer)*

Today I made a traffic stop on this vehicle as it had a flat tire. The man was traveling to see family and was aware the tire was flat. He began explaining to me that he had a “donut” tire as a spare, however he did not have a jack to change the tire.

I told him I had one in my patrol vehicle and offered assistance in helping him change it. I grabbed the jack and began to place it under his car. He thanked me but said he could not allow a female to change his tire. He started jacking it up but didn't know how to take off the center cap. I assisted him in removing it. He had some difficulties with the jack which required me to lay on the ground and change placement. As he was jacking the car back up he was obviously in pain, telling me that he had been shot 8 times and has severe leg/back pain.

I put the donut on and tightened the lugs. Let the jack down and sent him on his way. He inadvertently left an item at the scene of the traffic stop, so I caught up to him to return it. At that time he asked me if we could take a picture together to say that he has proof that “cops aren't bad.” I gladly agreed. He told me he wanted to share his experience and asked I do the same. Because, you see....it's NOT a black and white thing. It's NOT a male and female thing. It IS a HUMANITY thing. All it takes is a little compassion.

Thank you, sir, for brightening my day.



## Nursery Attendants

May 07 - Margaret Elyard

May 14 - Mary Edmonds

May 21 - Susie Green

May 28 - Vicki McWhorter



### The Man In The Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self  
and the world makes you king for a day  
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself  
and see what that man has to say

For it isn't your father or mother or wife  
who judgment upon you must pass  
The fellow whose verdict counts the most in your life  
is the one staring back from the glass

Some people may think you a straight-shooting chum  
and call you a wonderful guy  
But the guy in the glass says you're only a bum  
if you can't look him straight in the eye

He's the fellow to please never mind all the rest  
for he's with you clear up to the end  
And you've passed your most dangerous difficult test  
if the man in the glass is your friend

You may fool the whole world down the pathway  
of life and get pats on the back as pass  
But your final reward will be heartaches and  
tears if you've cheated the man in the glass.

**Buckingham Presbyterian Church is a proud Sponsor of the  
Riverdale High School Raider Marching Band**

The Spring Concert is being held in the RHS Auditorium on May 16  
at 6:30 pm. It is free and all are welcome.

The band so appreciates our support and attendance.



