

Dear Family and Friends,



“Mary wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger” (Luke 2:7).

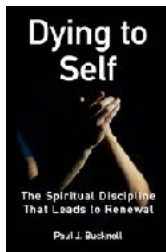
God sent His love in humility through the birth of Christ. Our forgiveness is found in Jesus’ humble birth, life, and death on

the cross. Christmas continues to live in our hearts through these memories but also in the excitement of Jesus’ glorious return. Oh, that we would discover His peace in these days of turmoil!

Paul & BFF Ministry

We celebrate BFF’s 20th Anniversary this year!

It’s hard to believe. This ministry began when God heard Paul’s desperate prayer and inspired the vision for BFF 20 years ago. God works daily, giving ideas for articles for the biblically-based Christian resources on the web. BFF offer’s a free video course: *Overcoming Anxiety: Finding Peace, Discovering God*, complete with worksheets. *Dying to Self: The Spiritual Discipline that Leads to Renewal* is Paul’s newest book, thoroughly refreshing his life and ministry.



God shaped BFF for this trying season. Check out our brief video for a full description of how God has so



richly blessed BFF for the past twenty years. (Click video or here) Our new search engine now combines resources from both websites, providing an immediate vast treasure trove of texts or images.

Sign up/update here to receive our monthly prayer letters. Paul on Twitter: @PaulJBucknell | Follow BFF on Facebook

Paul & Linda have faced colossal changes this year. Who could imagine that we sold our home, left our adopted Pittsburgh of 30 years and moved south? Realizing that our kids are all growing up and moving out, our roots were cut, setting us free for the next stage of God’s leading in our lives. We are still

in transition, temporarily overseeing the beautifully-situated Christian Leadership Renewal Center on the border of VA/NC. God uses waiting periods and older achy bones to further refine us. With a constant view of the lake, even from the center’s library (Paul’s office), we find continued refreshment. Paul enjoyed his brief swims in the lake at the end of the summer.



Rebekah's high school graduation



Our last hurrah from Bainton St.

Moving out-of-state means huge changes: shifting churches, saying good-byes to close friends, along with new responsibilities, finding new places to shop, doctors, dealing with losses—all during Covid. We were very grateful for the farewell event to say goodbye to our closest friends—one’s we hadn’t seen for a while due to the virus. We currently attend a local church in person.



Among this year’s greatest blessings have been two new grandsons: Isaiah (Christy’s fourth) and James (Allison’s first). We had an early Thanksgiving family gathering at the center, except one family, just before the second wave of alerts. It worked out perfectly, as there is plenty of room to host our family in one of the Center’s nice houses. We hope to see many of you in the days ahead, wherever God lodges us!



Brooks &

Elizabeth. Brooks is still working in insurance. The pandemic created some challenges this year, as it did for everyone, but he is thankful to have had some flexibility in his work and with his employees. International student ministry has been more difficult with social restrictions, but we continue to be available where there is opportunity. Elizabeth has been home

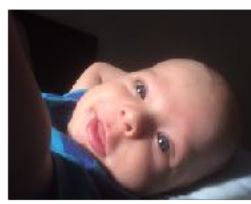


with Josie a lot more, but it opened up time to do different things. They had a garden again this year and planted some new vegetables like eggplant and sweet potatoes. Elizabeth has been experimenting with fermented foods like sauerkraut and sourdough breads and doing a little more baking.



Josie, 3, has a vivid imagination and chatters all day long about the stories she's creating. Seems that Snoopy and Woodstock come with us everywhere these days. She loves to play outside, help mama "make supper", "read" books, sing, dance, and loves it when we tickle her.

Elias and Christy welcomed Isaiah Miguel into their family in August in the midst of Covid. It was an experience trusting God even more. Having a baby has been a big adjustment for everyone but also a joy. Joshua, Bri and Micah all have been enjoying him in their own way. Everyone is home for school again and have enjoyed and are grateful for the flexible schedule. The older three continue to enjoy each of their crafts. Elias took over as leader of the Royal



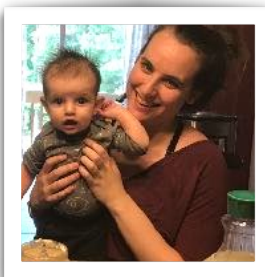
Ranger program at our church. What a crazy year to take over!

Aron and Allison

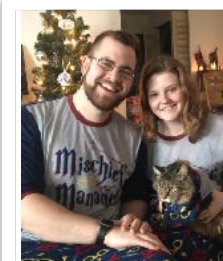
welcomed James Walter in February! Allison continues to work from home as a copy editor in addition to freelancing—a challenge with a 10-month old! Aron is a



productive car salesman for Infiniti, and has loved watching James grow and develop. James is starting to cruise along furniture and has sprouted his two bottom front teeth. They keep fit and visit the local gym daily.

**Daniel and Meredith's**

year was quite interesting for their first year of marriage. They thank God every day that they were able to be married before the pandemic happened. Both being essential workers, their work lives didn't change too much throughout this year. Dan is working as a Physical Therapist Assistant and Meredith works as a Laboratory Technician at their local emergency veterinary hospital. During the year they were able to spend some time in nature with friends and each other, going on many hikes and camping adventures like



their trip to Laurel Hill State Park and Ohiopyle. They look forward to what next year holds for them and what God will do in their lives.

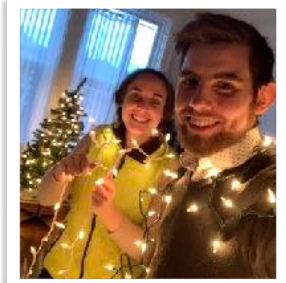


Benjamin & Christina

This year Ben's family saw big changes due to COVID. Ben changed careers from cooking to construction, and Christina got a job as a manager of a local construction company. Fynn finished all of her classes the second week of December and is now graduating with her high school diploma and an associates degree.



Isaac took up biking to work at the rock store in the center of Pittsburgh during the spring/summer. After the house sold, he moved to East Pittsburgh to start an additional job in the Electrical department at Home Depot (same location as Kathryn). He finished filming his mini-film series just before one of his prime actors (Rebekah) and Bainton street house was no longer available. There's still plenty of editing to do, though! Aside from serving occasionally on the church tech team, activities are way down—but that is good as he has had time to fast improve his cooking skills! In the new year, he hopes to further improve his computer skills, and then may be looking into trade schools for electrician programs.



Kathryn recently moved to a new apartment, now living with Isaac. She still loves her job at Home Depot. She continues to strengthen her friendships with coworkers and management. Her managers have given her more responsibility within the garden department, and she has taken it on as a growing opportunity. Aside from working full time, she also continues to serve as an assistant small group leader and on the tech team at church. She has delighted in doing flowers for a couple of her friends' weddings, even during the pandemic.



Rebekah, 19, had a pretty big year. She graduated from high school, worked part-time, and this summer she moved to Raleigh, NC. She is Allison and Aron's live-in nanny for 10-month old James. She enjoys North Carolina quite a bit. She also has been baking up a storm, made tiramisu, cream puffs and many other delicious things.



We have room for your family!

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