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Return Service Request

Check us out on:

[Facebook.com/GrovePark Church](https://www.facebook.com/GroveParkChurch)

Instagram: [grovesparkchurch](https://www.instagram.com/grovesparkchurch)



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

Tuesdays 7:00 pm
Wednesdays 6:30 pm

7:00 pm
7:00 pm

Thursdays 7:00 pm
August 01 2:00 pm
August 02 11:30 am

August 02 2:00 pm
August 03 Noon
August 07 6:00 pm
August 08 7:00 pm
August 18 2:00 pm
August 19
August 21 6:00 pm
August 26
August 28

Noon Devotional on Facebook Live

Bible Study on the Maskils
Facebook Prayer Meeting
Zoom Prayer Meeting
Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
GPBC Book Club
Nominating Committee
Widows/Single Women Support Luncheon in

Fellowship Hall

Trustee Meeting
ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich Shop
Deacon Fellowship
Finance Committee
SIA Ice Cream Social
Fifth Quarter
Church Business Conference
Fifth Quarter
NC Baptist Week of Prayer begins



The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | AUGUST 2022

Anyone who grew up in Eastern North Carolina approaches August cautiously and it has little to do with August's ferocious heat. It has more to do with how heat is transferred around our planet through the formation of tropical systems. You see, August is the start of peak hurricane season. I was reminded of the best practices to prepare for hurricane season recently as I reflected on what practices we should employ to minister as we continue to find our place in the realities of a world where COVID is not simply going to vanish. So, what has a life of growing up and still having family at the coast taught me?

We would do well to remember it is important to have given some thought to all eventualities while not becoming fixated on worst case scenarios. I confess this is a tricky one on a couple of fronts. On one hand, we think to ourselves why waste energy thinking about things that may never happen? Yet, if there is one lesson the pandemic has reinforced, it is that you can only go so far reacting through the power of adrenaline. The high level of exhaustion and burn out that many are currently feeling across our society I believe is attributable to the fact that we have spent so long reacting on the fly and that adrenaline is like fossil fuels, it will eventually run out and when it does so do you. If we take the time to at least explore all eventualities, we are provided some cushion so as not to exhaust ourselves during a crisis. On the other hand, the worst case scenario is frightening and the ramifications endless. Fear seems only natural and that is why we cannot fixate on these scenarios because fear will immobilize us if it is not held in check. I understand this more this hurricane season than others knowing that my paralyzed father, who cannot be moved without a transport, may have a medical emergency at a time when transports are unavailable or he is unreachable due to hurricane impacts. However, I cannot focus on that and instead direct my thoughts to the fact that God will make a way and to trust Him knowing that all He asks of me is preparation and trust.

It is how God makes a way that brings me to the second preparation point. We must all be willing to do our part during the crisis such that all are helped together. Now, that assistance may require us to do things we normally do not do. I despise yard work, but post hurricane clean up meant generally helping a neighbor cut down and gather limbs because that's what you do in a crisis. Such assistance generally requires a level of sacrifice as well so as not to waste. When the power is out you have neighborhood cookouts so that food does not spoil. You may personally hate grilled chicken, you may want to eat grilled shrimp, but you eat so as not to waste resources for the benefit of all. The simplest way I know that God makes a way is by using us to be that way. Sadly, our inability to move ourselves out of the way often puts us in His way.

Finally, we should remember that grace must abound. A hurricane not only leaves an abundance of dangling power lines, but also frayed and dangling nerves. The shock that grabbing hold of either gives us can knock us down. It may take linemen a while to get the power reconnected and fussing and fuming will not hasten restoration, they too are tired, exhausted, and hot. An abundance of grace enables us to wait for power lines to reconnect and for our nerves to be reconnected as well. Grace puts everything in perspective, something that our society has been in short supply of for a very long time. Grace enables us to realize that resources are limited and that it might take a bit for added resources to be deployed. Grace teaches us to be thankful for what we have. I love long hot showers, something that is not available when a hurricane knocks the power out, but I learned to be thankful we at least had water for a shower. Grace, beloved, must abound.

When you grow up on the coast, you know it is never a matter of if, but when the next storm will strike. COVID has presented itself in much the same manner. Likewise, the need for faithful ministry remains constant and we know becomes necessary in a time of crisis. Our preparation then becomes key to how we perform the needed ministries. The only question is whether we are ready?

Grace Abounds,
Marc

Harmony

Harmony is a beautiful thing. It doesn't matter if it's barbershop, bluegrass, blues, or be-bop; a well-written and well-sung harmony catches my attention and speaks to my heart.

While harmony comes naturally for a lucky few, most people have to work at it. Here are some strategies to help us grow in harmony:

- When Christians live in harmony, it's a beautiful thing! Let's do that together.

♦ ♦

We will be launching a reboot of our children and youth Sunday School time beginning August 7 at 5:00 p.m. We will have age graded classes from birth through high school. We will also be offering a class for young adults and parents. If you would like to assist with this ministry, please contact the church office. Also, remember that we now have our nursery open during morning worship for children 5 and under. Please feel free to invite families in your neighborhood to participate in our Family Hour ministry.

Commissioner Jordan Bogart is pleased to announce a new season of the Holy Rollers Fantasy Football League is about to get under way. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board. You do not need a vast understanding of football to play, you just have to be willing to have fun and pick your roster each week. If you have questions please contact Assistant Commissioner Marc Sanders.

We announced during worship on July 24 a renewed emphasis on Kingdom focused prayer through the creation of a prayer team at Grove Park. We are introducing a box in the prayer room where you may place your prayer needs that will be forwarded to our prayer team. We are finalizing now a designated email address for our prayer ministry that you may send your prayer requests to as well. Let us each do our part to be a Kingdom focused praying congregation.

Fifth Quarter returns this year after a two-year hiatus beginning August 19. We will have sign-ups for specific needs available soon on the bulletin board. We will need volunteers as well to help staff each Fifth Quarter. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

A festive illustration of a Christmas tree where the branches are formed by green musical staves. The tree is decorated with various musical notes, including eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as red and green ornaments. At the very top, a red bow serves as the tree topper. The entire graphic is set against a plain white background.



Deacon George Britton

August 31

