

**108 TRAIL ONE BURLINGTON, NC 27215** 

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**Return Service Request** 

Check us out on:

Facebook.com/GrovePark Church



Instagram: groveparkchurch



Mon., Wed., Th	urs.	Noon Devotional on Facebook Live							
Tuesdays	7:00 pm	Bible Study on the Maskils							
Wednesdays	6:30 pm	Facebook Prayer Meeting							
	7:00 pm	Zoom Prayer Meeting							
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)							
Thursdays	7:00 pm	GPBC Book Club							
August 01	2:00 pm	Nominating Committee							
August 02	11:30 am	Widows/Single Women Support Luncheon in							
		Fellowship Hall							
August 02	2:00 pm	Trustee Meeting							
August 03	Noon	ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich Shop							
August 07	6:00 pm	Deacon Fellowship							
August 08	7:00 pm	Finance Committee							
August 18	2:00 pm	SIA Ice Cream Social							
August 19		Fifth Quarter							
August 21	6:00 pm	Church Business Conference							
August 26		Fifth Quarter							
August 28		NC Baptist Week of Prayer begins							



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

If you're close to my age, you might remember the 1971 Coke commercial: "I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony. I'd like to hold it in my arms and keep it company." (As an aside, the original lyrics of that song didn't mention Coke at all.)

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.

Harmony isn't just a music thing, though. It's also a clear teaching of Scripture. Romans 12:16 says it directly, "Live in harmony with one another." Romans 15:5 adds, "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus..."

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:

1. We have to be on the same page. If some are singing from page 2 while others are on page 5, it's going to be a mess. Harmony requires unity. We don't have to be the same or think the same, but if we want harmony, we have to be able to agree on the essentials and be willing to show grace on the things that aren't.

2. We have to follow the lead. In a choir, band, or orchestra, there can only be one director. In a small group or ensemble, someone has the responsibility to keep everyone together. Where God has appointed leaders, it's important that we follow their lead. Where God has called us to lead, we need to make sure we are leading His way, not ours.

**3.** We have to sing our parts. If everyone is singing the same part, it's not harmony; it's unison. We shouldn't all try to sing lead. Some of us are natural altos, tenors, or basses, and that's ok. We're all necessary if we want harmony. (See 1 Corinthians 12.)

4. We have to listen to one another. Musicians understand that when you're doing harmony, listening is just as important as singing. In order to blend into a great-sounding harmony, we need to listen to the other parts while we're doing ours. That's the only way to make sure we all are together and that every part can be heard.

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

Dale

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#### **Family Hour**

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.

## **Fantasy Football**

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.

#### **Prayer Room**

We announced during worship on July 24 a renewed emphasis on Kingdom focused prayer though 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**

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.

Grove Park Baptist Church Seniors In Action (SIA)

# ICE CREAM SUNDAES ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18



Mark your calendar to join us on August 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board or you can call the church office (336) 227-2910.

Please sign up no later than August 14th so we can prepare.

# Get Ready for Advent!

We are beginning work on our 2022 Grove Park Church Advent Devotional materials. Yes, it's only August, but we all can use a little break from the summer doldrums by preparing for Advent.

You can help us prepare in a couple of ways. First, you can volunteer to record yourself singing a

Christmas carol. We'll provide the music, if you'll provide your willing voice. Don't feel comfortable singing? We also need people to write a brief devotional on different Christmas carols.



Please contact Dale if you'd like to help.



## Ministers On Call for the Month of August:

August 04 thru 07	Deacon Marian Brewe
August 11 thru 14	Deacon Jim Etheridge
August 18 thru 21	Deacon Larry Dodson
August 25 thru 28	Deacon George Britto

## (Our Known) August Birthdays

Dan Cuthriell	August 03
Erle Medford	August 03
LaRae Bolick	August 04
Mark King	August 04
Dee Noah	August 10
Lynn Murchison	August 17
Bunny Overby	August 17
Danny Overby	August 17
Steve Williamson	August 18
Arnetta Petty	August 19
Michelle Toy	August 19
Jackie Patillo	August 21
Jesse Medford	August 23
Joey Snead	August 23
Krissy Szczepanski	August 26
George Owen	August 27
Frances Willets	August 27
Pat Thompson	August 28
Bernice Crenshaw	August 31



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