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The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | JUNE 2022

Recently, Howard Martin called with something he had found in an old church cookbook that he thought I might like to use on our sign. You may have seen it by now, it says "Everyone Welcome, No Experience Necessary." Its placement has taken me down multiple lines of thought, some of which I would like to share with you. First, if we were to write an advertisement to encourage folks to visit Grove Park what would we say? I have found job listings often expose more about the values of the company than they do about the attributes of potential candidates. So, how would I write such a listing knowing Grove Park? Let's try this one.

Do you often find yourself exploring questions about the state of the world and your place in it? Are you tired of cliché answers that fail to address the depth of your personal experiences and those of your friends and colleagues? Do you tire of doing life alone and seek a place that provides community for the whole you and not simply the segments that only frustrate you through over-compartmentalization? Are you looking for a place to serve in our community that seeks to tackle root causes rather than perform temporary fixes that continue systemic cycles rather than birthing new beginnings? If so, you have a home at Grove Park. Grove Park is a gathering of pilgrims who invite others to join us in our search for answers to life's great questions. We seek those answers through study, championing our community through our pursuit of peace and justice for all, and worship that accurately reflects the breadth of God's Kingdom across all times and cultures. We do not promise to have all the answers but do promise a safe and grace filled space for us each to bring our doubts, questions, and experiences as we seek those answers together.

I confess, I find it difficult to imagine any true searcher turning down such an opportunity even if they attend only once. I do have to wonder though if someone would accept our ad invite and leave thinking us a bunch of liars? Are we as humble and gracious as our ad would imply, or do we believe that age has turned us into a bunch of omniscients? Do we remain as pilgrims in a continual search for the fullness of God's Kingdom or do we believe we have already arrived and taken ownership thereby transforming us from generous distributors of God as we journey to stingy preservers walled off from those passing by? Beloved, I recognize we think we may know the answers, but how we act, our dispositions on Sunday, are how people will make snap judgments that may point to more verifiable answers. Confessionally, I am not sure I always can be described as generous distributor and if we are honest each of us would admit our shortcomings as well. Our mutual confession goes a long way toward creating the space described in the ad. Let us not fall prey at Grove Park to what I have occasionally felt at our home, "it's mine, like it or leave." Let us perpetually exhibit all the wonderful fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) that we are commanded to offer so that the presence of the life-giving Holy Spirit is palpable whenever someone is around us. For then, when our ad is answered the only thing people can say is "I just couldn't handle all the depth of God's goodness that they offered" if they refuse a follow-up visit. I suspect though that won't happen, as I believe they will bring someone with them the next time.

Grace Abounds, Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat.	Noon Devotional on Facebook Live
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm	Facebook Prayer Meeting
at 7:00 pm	Zoom Prayer Meeting
at 7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
Thursdays at 7:00 pm	GPBC Book Club
June 02 at 11:00 am	SIA Program and Lunch
June 05 at 5:00 pm	Deacon Fellowship in Lamplighter's Class
June 07 at 11:30 am	Widow's / Single Women Support Group
June 08 at Noon	ROMEO's (Real Old Men Eating Out) Lunch at South Bound Sandwich Shop
June 12 at 10:00 am	Graduate Sunday
June 13 at 7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom
June 19 at 10:00 am	N. C. Baptist Men's Day
June 25 from 9:00 to 1:30	American Red Cross Beach Blast Blood Drive at GPBC

Dit, dit, dit, duuummmmm. Dit, dit, dit, duuummmmm. I imagine you can already hear Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor in your head, just from reading those words.

That famous series of notes is referred to as a theme. It's a recurring pattern of notes that appears throughout a musical composition. If you listen to all 36 minutes of the Fifth Symphony, you'll hear that theme over and over again. Listen carefully and you'll notice that it appears in different notes, played by different instruments, everywhere in the symphony.

Themes aren't just limited to music. Writers often use themes across a novel or even throughout an entire series of novels, in order to make a point. For example, the detective Harry Bosch is the hero of 23 novels, and a recurring theme throughout them is his belief that "Everybody counts or nobody counts." That theme points to one of Harry's central characteristics, a belief that everyone, no matter who they are, deserves to experience justice. That's what makes Harry the person he is.

Our lives have themes as well. If you look back, you may see recurring patterns that have appeared in different times and events throughout your life. These themes have shaped you and guided you. They are what makes you the person you are. They influence how you interact with others.

For example, one of the themes of the Apostle Paul's life is grace. From the moment his life was touched by Jesus' grace, it became his theme. He experienced it, shared it, and talked about it continuously. Even today, when you think about Paul, the theme of grace cannot be far from your mind. Grace is simply who Paul is.

What is the theme of your life? What are the repeated thoughts, beliefs, and events that have shaped and guided you - that have made you who you are? As you discover your theme, allow it to guide you into your future. After all, if God spent years building a theme into your life, He has probably brought someone into your life who would benefit from that theme.

Dale

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR KNOWN 2022 GRADUATES:

Thomas Overby will be graduating from Walter M. Williams High School and will be attending Appalachian State University. He is the son of Katie and Benjy Overby and grandson of Bunny and Danny Overby.

Avery Miles will be graduating from Walter M. Williams High School and will be attending High Point University. He is the son of Jerome Moore and grandson of Donna and John Moore.

Kaden Lewis Wilborn will be graduating from Western Alamance High School and will attend Ferrum College where he will be playing football. He is the grandson of Debbie and W. N. Hamlett.

Landon Michael Pope graduated from East Carolina University with a Major in Construction Management. He is the grandson of Sue Ellen and Allen McKinney.



N. C. Baptist Men's Day

We hope you will join us on June 19th for our Baptist Men's Day. We will have a guest speaker and music will be provided by the men's choir. ???



American Red Cross Beach Blast Blood Drive
Saturday, June 25th

The Beach Blast Blood Drive will be held in the Grove Park Baptist Church Gym on Saturday, June 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

To schedule your lifesaving appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and search by sponsor code: Beach Blast or call 1-800-RED-CROSS..



ROMEO's
We have a new lunch group, the ROMEO's (Real Old Men Eating Out). They will meet at Noon on June 8th at Southbound Sandwich Shop. Southbound is located at 3328 South Church Street in the Correct Time Plaza. If you are male and reading this, you qualify as a ROMEO, so make plans to join for good food and fellowship.
If you have any questions, please contact Bob Webster.



WIDOW'S / SINGLE WOMEN SUPPORT LUNCHEON
The Widow's / Single Women Support Luncheon will be on Tuesday, June 7th at 11:30 a.m. at Harbor Inn. All widows and single ladies are invited. Please make plans to join us on for good food and fellowship.



Seniors In Action (SIA) Fellowship

Please join us on June 2nd at 11:00 a.m.

Our program will be presented by Master Police Officer Bobby Davis with the Community Resources Division of the Burlington Police Department. Officer Davis will be discussing scams and how to avoid them along with other issues seniors may encounter.

A light lunch will be served at Noon.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board or call the church office at 336-227-2910.

Ministers On Call for the Month of June:

June 02 thru June 05	Deacon Marian Brewer
June 09 thru June 12	Deacon Larry Dodson
June 16 thru June 19	Deacon Bob Webster
June 23 thru June 26	Deacon George Britton
June 30 thru July 03	Deacon Earl Hudson

(Our Known)
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Nathan Byrd	June 02
Stanley Haithcock	June 03
Mark Reich	June 06
Pam Johnson	June 08
Candy Reavis	June 09
Jordan Bogart	June 11
Cynthia Willets	June 12
Hallie Davis	June 13
Ethel Phillips	June 13
Patricia Witt	June 19
Steve Reavis	June 21
Benjamin Overby	June 24
Kaden Lindberg	June 26
Hunter Joplin	June 27
Jeanie Reich	June 27
Doris White	June 27
W. N. Hamlett	June 28
Eliza Sanders	June 29

