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Return Service Request

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night	
Mon., Wed., Thurs.	Noon	Devotional on Facebook Live	
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	n. Bible Study on Ecclesiastes	
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting	
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting	
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)	
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club	
March 01	Noon	ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich Shop	
March 05	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship	
March 07	11:30 a.m.	Widows/Single Ladies Luncheon meet in	
		Fellowship Hall	
	7:00 p.m.	New Bible Study begins on Ecclesiastes	
March 09	1:00 p.m.	SIA Planning Committee	
March 12		Daylight Savings Time begins	
March 13	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee via Zoom	
March 28	10:30 a.m.	Properties Committee	



One of the books I received for Christmas last year was a biography of Jimmy Carter entitled "His Very Best" by Jonathan Alter. First, let me encourage you to go and get a copy and spend some time reading it. I learned an immense amount of things about Carter that were previously unknown to me and as I stated in a noon devotion offered around that time, it caused me to reevaluate some of my opinions and conclusions about the Carter presidency. One of the things that I was particularly struck by as I read was the fact that some of Carter's initiatives were far ahead of their time and if they had been followed up 45 years ago, the world we live in quite possibly would be a much better place. I've had the same feeling recently as I have been reading a biography of Hubert Humphrey. I confess, much of the information I'm learning is new to me, but the same thought keeps reoccurring, why didn't we just do that then? Humphrey's assessments of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict and potential solutions seem completely out of place in the late 1950's, but in 2023 are shown to be correct.

Now, you may be thinking, such is the clarity of hindsight and I would agree. What gives me pause though is how both of these men reached their conclusions. Each man was a diligent student of the times they lived and the information that was afforded to them. They sought wisdom through careful study of the subjects, learning information on the ground by conversing with those directly impacted, and through consultation and conversation with knowledgeable people from a plethora of backgrounds. Can a similar process be used to describe how we have reached decisions and opinions? If not, might it be time to reassess some of what we hold to by applying such methods?

We inhabit a time of information overload and so navigating the information we ingest is critical. Do we value opinions solely on the fact that they buttress our thoughts or do we sincerely entertain contrary information and opinions? Are we willing to take up opinions and causes that seem out of time and place, things which there is a strong headwind against, but must be done because it is the right thing to do if for no other reason than to spare future generations of unnecessary pain and conflict?

Why take the time to speak to this? First, it provides an additional structure through which we can apply our current Lenten focus on issues that we normally do not talk about. Secondly, it should serve as an encouragement to embody Proverbs 15:22, "without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." It's helpful to remember that none of us know everything and wisdom can be found in unexpected places if we would but look. Finally, such learning paradigms are important for the future because the Church universal and here at Grove Park will in the years ahead have important decisions to make because of the rapid shifts our society is experiencing. We have to begin thinking about these issues now so as not to be caught flatfooted then and have someone we have yet to encounter ask, "why did they fail to do that then, my how things would be so much better if they had."

Grace Abounds, Marc

Hope Boxes

We are returning in person to
Appalachia for the first time in 4 years
following our COVID hiatus. We will be
ministering to the students of Wallins Elementary
School on Friday, April 14 as we offer hope both
through the gift of a Hope Box and the sharing of the
Gospel. We will travel up on April 13 and return after
we finish with the students on April 14. If you are
interested in participating in person, please call the
church office and sign up. We will have empty boxes
and instructions available on Sunday, March 5.

If you have any questions, please speak with Eliza Sanders.



Ministers On Call for the Month of March:

Mar. 02 thru Mar. 05	Deacon Jason Bogart
Mar. 09 thru Mar. 12	Deacon Benjy Overby
Mar. 16 thru Mar. 19	Deacon Caleb Warren
Mar. 23 thru Mar. 26	Deacon Bob Webster
Mar. 30 thru Apr. 02	Deacon Joan Smith



(Our Known)

March Birthdays

Jerome Moore	March 02	
Alton Apple	March 05	
Marian Brewer	March 08	
Shelly Sapp	March 08	
David Johnson	March 09	
Ellen Andrews	March 11	
Chuck Fujiwara	March 11	
Pat McIntyre	March 11	
Karen Auth	March 12	
Derek Denard	March 14	
Rosemarie Goslen	March 14	
Joy Cain	March 17	
Larry Canada	March 17	
Eliza Turner	March 18	
Caleb Warren	March 19	
Gracie Williamson	March 19	
Lindsay Denard	March 20	
Betty Joplin	March 20	
Kay Dunn	March 24	
Howard Hayes	March 25	
Shirley Bentley	March 26	
Anne Latham	March 28	
Reid Abernathy (104th)	March 29	



Anxiety

As I age, I find that I am far more anxious than I used to be. Back in the day, I was a pretty confident person. Now, I find myself feeling more anxiety and less peace. From what I read, that's a pretty common part of the aging process.

Here are some Scripture verses that I find helpful when I feel anxious. If you share this condition, take them to heart.

I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done...
- Isaiah 46:9b-10a.

Nothing that you face will ever catch God by surprise. One thing you will never hear God say - "Boy, I didn't see that coming!"

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- 1 John 4:4

Nothing that you face is bigger than God, no matter how it may seem at the moment.

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."
- Deuteronomy 31:8

Nothing that you face will cause God to abandon you. Others may leave you, but God never will. That is His eternal promise.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. - Ephesians 3:20-21

Nothing that you face is beyond God's ability to use. He can do far more abundantly than we can even imagine, and His promise is that He will use it all - somehow - to bring glory to Him.

Hold on to these verses when you face anxiety. On those days and every day, walk with God.

Dale



New Study

We will begin a new Zoom study on Tuesday, March 7 on Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes is often thought to be a difficult book to understand because the Teacher's philosophical takes are so esoteric in places. Come and join us as we seek to peel away the confusion and hear important words for our time and place.

Our Five

Have you been working steadily on your five?
Regardless, mark your calendars now for April 9. It's Easter Sunday and a perfect day to invite someone to join you for morning worship. Beloved, the truth is that many people are just waiting for an invitation to worship and knowing they have someone to sit with them. Make your plans on how to invite, who to invite, and put it in motion as we join together to celebrate the glorious gift of Easter.

Meet our Newest Members

Makensie Culler

joined Grove Park on January 29, 2023. She is the mother of Lillian Anne and resides at 1630 Doncaster Lane, Burlington, NC 27215.

Her birthday is August 31st.





Naomi Taylor

joined Grove Park on February 26, 2023. She resides at 3027 Maple Avenue, Unit E2, Burlington, NC 27215.

Her birthday is September 7th.