

The Messenger

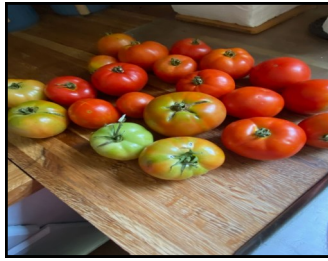
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | AUGUST 2023

I never cease to be amazed by what I find at the intersections of history where events that I have always thought separate either interact directly or I realize were contemporaneous. I recently learned of one such contemporaneous intersection that occurred during five tumultuous days in August, 1969. August 14 brought the news that a tropical depression had formed in the western Caribbean while at the same time thousands of music lovers and hippies were making their way to a dairy farm outside Bethel, NY for a music festival scheduled that weekend. Soon, the tropical depression had a name, Camille, and over the course of the weekend would spin into the second most powerful storm to ever hit the US directly when it stormed onshore August 17 as a Category 5 hurricane in Waveland, MS. While the Gulf Coast hunkered down that Sunday for the onslaught, over 450,000 people gathered to hear one of the greatest displays of musical talent ever as the Woodstock stage welcomed over the course of 11 hours the following acts: The Grateful Dead, CCR, Janis Joplin, Sly and the Family Stone, The Who, and Jefferson Airplane. In fact, The Who's performance would later be named one of the ten greatest music festival moments ever by Time in 2010. Monday's sunrise would illuminate untold destruction along the Mississippi Gulf Coast as Jimi Hendrix took the stage that morning at Woodstock for the festival's final performance, which included what is considered by some one of the greatest renditions of the "Star Spangled Banner" ever. Camille though would have the final say on these five days as she unleashed torrential rains across Virginia, estimated to be higher than the 27 inches recorded in 12 hours, that resulted in 153 deaths. Nelson County was hit hardest with 1 percent of the county's entire population perishing in the floods.

What does this have to do with anything you might be wondering? First, it is a call for us to question whether we are aware of what is going on around us? Do we ever take the time to consider how awesome a moment we might be living in and the blessing of God to live in such times? Woodstock occurred in absolutely miserable conditions, but the music was wondrous. Secondly, are we aware of the far-reaching impact of what is going on around us as we make decisions? No one who put together Woodstock ever dreamed of the turnout it would have or that it would be commemorated decades later by a little yellow bird in the Peanuts comic strip. Finally, do we ever look at the peripheral impacts of our decisions? Everyone remembers Camille's impact on the Gulf Coast, but few remember Nelson County, VA and most pass the US 29 roadside historical marker without paying a glance. Yet, 54 years later the families of the 33 souls who perished and their bodies were never recovered remember that fateful weekend. Isaiah 39 is the sad tale of how Hezekiah failed to take any of this into account and so doomed his successors to untold grief and sorrow. May future generations at Grove Park never look back to our generation and say the same for us.

Grace Abounds, Marc

“Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” - John 15:5b



Author’s Note: this is Part 3 of my Gardening series.

There’s nothing better than a tomato fresh from the garden. Think about all the ways we can enjoy tomatoes - tomato sandwiches (no mayo on mine, please!), sliced tomatoes, homemade salsa - the list goes on. Our tomato vines are bearing lots of fruit this season (yes, a tomato is a fruit), and as long as they keep going, I’ll keep enjoying all the tomatoes I can eat.

As much time as I’ve spent with our tomato vines this year, I’ve never heard them grunting and groaning. They don’t have to struggle to make tomatoes. As long as they get the right conditions - good soil, the right amount of sunlight, and sufficient water (I know I’m oversimplifying) - they will produce fruit. It’s just what they do.

We Christians are just like tomato vines. That is, producing fruit is just what we are supposed to do. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* As long as we have the right conditions, we should be growing in all of these characteristics.

What are the right conditions? See the verse at the top of this article. We are to remain in Jesus and to allow Him to remain in us. To bear fruit, we need to be rooted in Him, always looking to Him for everything we need. We need to make sure we keep on allowing Him to fill, guide, and empower us. If we are disconnected from Jesus, we’ll never grow fruit, just like if I pull up a vine and toss it into the yard, I won’t get any new tomatoes. But if we remain in Him and He in us, we will bear fruit. That’s a promise from God.

Let’s grow! Dale

It’s time to start thinking about our Fantasy Football league. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the library.

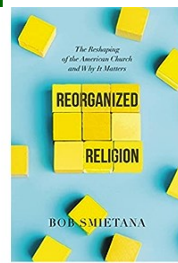


Bible Study: Our Bible study will begin in August on the book of Acts. We hope you will join us via Zoom. Start date will be announced.



SAVE THE DATE—OCTOBER 28!!

We will host our annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28th. Please mark your calendars for this fun event. It will be here before we know it.



GPBC Book Club: Our book club will reconvene in August via Zoom. The book selection is Reorganized Religion: The Reshaping of the American Church and Why it Matters and is available on Amazon.com



Seniors In Action (SIA)

Sing To The Lord
August 10th at 2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall



Are there church songs that you miss singing? This is your chance to sing them again and enjoy having a great time sharing a delicious bowl of ice cream.

Sign up sheet on bulletin board or call the church office at 336-227-2910.





Vacation Bible School

August 4 (6:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

August 5 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

Wild Wonder is rooted in Psalm 104:24 (MSG):

“What a wildly wonderful world, God!

You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,

made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.”

All children age 3 through Grade 5 are invited to join us for a weekend of Wild Wonder. Students will explore the world that God made as they learn about nature and come to understand that we are caretakers of His Earth. Students will also learn how they can care for the Earth. Look for the bulletin insert on Sunday mornings that you can use as an invitation for families in your neighborhood.

We are in need of VBS workers and help setting up and breaking down. Set up will be on Wednesday August 2nd at 1 pm. Breakdown will be on Saturday August 5th right after VBS. Sign-ups are available on the bulletin board by the library. We are in need of individuals to help with food, crafts, games and group leaders willing to lead a small group of children on our wild wonder adventure.

Pre-register by calling the church office at 336-227-2910.

We will have a blessing of our Backpack Program during morning worship on August 27th. We truly appreciate your continued support of this important ministry.



We will host our quarterly church conference at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 20th. If you or a committee you serve on have any reports or motions to bring before the conference, please let the church office (336-227-2910) know as soon as possible.



(Our Known)

August Birthdays

Erle Medford	August 03
LaRae Bolick	August 04
Mark King	August 04
Dee Noah	August 10
Lynn Murchison	August 17
Bunnie 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
Krissy Szczepanski	August 26
George Owen	August 27
Frances Willets	August 27
Pat Thompson	August 28
Bernice Crenshaw	August 31
Makensie Culler	August 31



Global Hunger Sunday

August 27, 2023

Global Hunger Relief is a gospel-centered solution to hunger.

We will be sharing more information for this important mission.

Ministers On Call for the Month of August:

Aug. 03 thru Aug. 06	Deacon Benjy Overby
Aug. 10 thru Aug. 13	Deacon Caleb Warren
Aug. 17 thru Aug. 20	Deacon Joan Smith
Aug. 24 thru Aug. 27	Deacon Jim Etheridge
Aug. 31 thru Sept. 03	Deacon Larry Dodson



Grove Park

BAPTIST CHURCH

108 TRAIL ONE
BURLINGTON, NC 27215

CONTACT US:

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Online: www.groveparkchurch.com

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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Check us out on:

Facebook: Facebook.com/groveparkchurch

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

YouTube: YouTube.com/@groveparkchurch



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Hour (unless otherwise noted)
Mon., Wed., Thurs.	Noon	Devotional on Facebook Live
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
August 01	11:30 a.m.	Widows'/Single Ladies' Luncheon in Fellowship Hall (Bring toppings for your salad)
August 02	Noon	ROMEO's meet at Southbound Sandwich Shop
August 04	6:00pm-8:30pm	Vacation Bible School
August 05	9:00am-1:00pm	Vacation Bible School
August 06	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
August 10	2:00 p.m.	SIA "Sing to the Lord" and Ice Cream
August 14	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
August 20	6:00 p.m.	Church Conference
August 27	10:00 a.m.	Blessing of the Backpacks
August 28		Alamance-Burlington First Day of School