



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

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THE MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | JUNE 2023

Beloved,

It is hard to fathom that we have been journeying together for five years, but we have arrived at that mile marker. I am positive that none of us could have imagined in our wildest moments what all we would encounter when we set off together that bright June day. Yet, we rejoice that through it all God's providential hand has shaped and guided us as we encountered many buffeting waves, the sight of some I confess made me anxious as they approached. We would do well to acknowledge that if it had not been the Lord who was by our side and his gracious care, we would have been dashed in the tempest. So, first let us give thanks to God for his all surpassing faithfulness that has amply provided for our every need, given us abundant grace to overcome every trial, and continues to grant us favor through opening new avenues for ministry and service.

Secondly, let me offer thanks to you and for you, Grove Park, for all you have done these last five years. Your ability to be flexible and gracious in some severely adverse circumstances is to be lauded. Such flexibility to embrace new initiatives with excitement and generosity is humbling to me as your shepherd. I am particularly excited by what we are slowly forming through our Family Hour groups and by our new Redemptive Ministries initiative. Grove Park, I recognize these transitions have not always been easy and without hiccups, but your unfailing resolve to adjust and yes grow through them continues to provide me with incredible encouragement.

Furthermore, I want to take a moment and speak to what you have meant to myself, Eliza, and Scarlett. These last couple of years have been incredibly taxing to our family as we have experienced multiple shocks to our family system. Your prayers, notes, encouraging words, again prayers, and other acts of kindness have often served as bright lights piercing an unimaginable darkness. Truly, you have become family for us and for that I am eternally grateful. When I say "Welcome Home" on Sunday morning it is said with the same sincerity of feeling as I would welcome someone to our actual home, my sense of family is so great.

My advisor for the grief project that I did this past semester wrote to me after reading my final paper, "I am glad to witness your sense of love for your congregation in inviting them to do the hard work of grief." It was incredibly affirming to hear someone far removed from Burlington acknowledge something that I am often at a loss how to adequately express. Beloved, I love you from the depths of my being. I am thankful God saw fit to allow me to serve alongside you. I continue to look ahead to greater manifestations of God's grace and provision in our fellowship, to ever growing impacts of ministry in the lives of those who desperately need to hear good news, to our "fives" becoming "tens" as the best kept secret in Alamance County is shared and shared some more. Once more, thank you for five fantastic years and here's to many, many more.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
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 (unless otherwise noted)
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club
June 04	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
June 06	11:30 a.m.	Widows/Single Ladies Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
June 07	Noon	ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich Shop
June 08	5:30 p.m.	Grove Park Elementary 5th Grade Graduation followed by reception hosted by Grove Park Baptist Church
June 11	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion
June 12	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
June 15	11:00 a.m.	Senior Adult Lunch & Learn at FBC Burlington
June 18	10:00 a.m.	Baptist Men's Day, Mr. Steve Reavis, Speaker
June 24		American Red Cross Beach Blast Blood Drive at GPBC
June 26	10:30 a.m.	Properties Committee

“The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

-Matthew 12:31-23



Let me start off by saying that we Cains are not expert gardeners. This is our first attempt at growing plants in a raised bed, and we are definitely learning about how many seeds to plant in the available space.

With that said, we are amazed at the size of plants that can grow from small seeds. The zucchini, carrot, and sunflower seeds that we planted were absolutely tiny. But, as you can see from the picture above, the plants are growing nicely. The tomato plants have grown exponentially and are getting lots of buds. We’re seeing some small tomatoes already and look forward to eating them when it’s time.

What’s my point here? It’s not really about gardening. Rather, I want us to consider how important small things can be. Small things can turn into big things, sometimes in a hurry.

This is true of both positive and negative things. Unkind actions and words, while small in themselves, can result in big hurts that have lasting effects. In the same way, small words of encouragement and deeds of kindness can multiply in their effect and have a lasting positive impact in people’s lives.

Don’t overlook small things that you can do for the Kingdom. You never know what kind of fruit they’ll bring! (Hopefully, I can share some early results from our garden in next month’s *Messenger*.)

Go and bear fruit!

Dale

We continue to collect items for the Food Pantry. Our items requested for June are:

Granola Bars, Pop Tarts, Cereal, SpaghettiOs's and cans of Pringles.

These can be placed in the blue bin in the vestibule or dropped off at the church office. We truly appreciate your continued support of this ministry.

Hope For Appalachia

Item for June - Soap

**This can be bar soap or body wash. No Irish Spring!



Our goal this year is 400 bags. This is not too big of a goal for us but we do need to start earlier for 2024. We are asking our Grove Park families to prayerfully consider a monetary amount that they could put towards Hope Boxes each month and spend that amount of money on whatever the item is for the month or on another item that you know is good for Hope Boxes. There will be a collection box in the foyer of the sanctuary for Hope Box items.

Calling all bargain hunters - check clearance aisles when you go into stores and buy Hope Box items as you see them on sale. Watch for sales and other clearance events. Many pharmacies will give you reward points or dollars towards another purchase. Shop clearance after holidays especially for toy fillers, pencils, and body wash. Thank you for helping with this effort.



GRADUATES

Makensie Culler graduated from UNC-G with a Major in Business Administration. Makensie is the granddaughter of Kathy and Steve Shambley.

Alex Johnson graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a Major in Political Science. Alex is the daughter of Krissy Szczepanski.

Benjamin Overby graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Double Major: Exercise and Sports Science and United States History. He is the son of Katie and Benjy Overby and grandson of Bunnie and Danny Overby.

Kaden Eric Reavis graduated from the Greater Vision Academy. Kaden is the grandson of Candy and Steve Reavis.

Mitchell Denard graduated from Kindergarten at Gibsonville Elementary School. He is the son of Derek and Lindsay Denard.

Nicolette Nault graduated from Marist University in Poughkeepsie, NY with a Masters in Psychology. She is the granddaughter of Sue and Jim Etheridge.

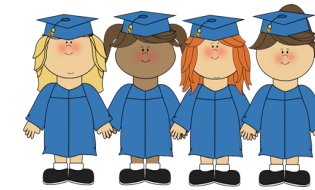
Owen Trull graduated from Alamance Virtual High School. Owen is the grandson of Sue and Jim Etheridge.

Vince Holmes graduated from Wake Forest High School in Wake Forest, NC. Vince is the grandson of Pat Thompson.

Steven Alan Reavis graduated from Home School. He is the grandson of Candy and Steve Reavis.



Grove Park will host the Grove Park Elementary School 5th Grade Graduation on June 08, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. After the graduation ceremony, we will provide a reception for the graduates and their guests. If you are willing to help with the reception, please contact the church office by e-mail (office@groveparkchurch.com) or call (336-227-2910) to sign up.



Senior Adult Lunch & Learn at FBC of Burlington on June 15th at 11:00 a.m. “Shake, Rattle and Roll” presented by Austin Decker-NC Baptist Aging Ministry. Call 336-226-0249 or email sandiking@mtzionassociation.com to sign up.

Ministers On Call for the Month of June:

June 01 thru June 04	Deacon Larry Dodson
June 08 thru June 11	Deacon Jason Bogart
June 15 thru June 18	Deacon Benjy Overby
June 22 thru June 25	Deacon Caleb Warren
June 29 thru July 02	Deacon Bob Webster

(Our Known)

June Birthdays

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. This will be held on Friday, August 4th and Saturday, August 5th.

Sign-up sheets will be posted soon.

