



108 TRAIL ONE
BURLINGTON, NC 27215

CONTACT US:

Phone: 336-227-2910

Email: office@groveparkchurch.com

Online: www.groveparkchurch.com

Office Hours:

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

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The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | MAY 2023

Recently I have been reading a history on the study of hurricanes and their impact on the Western Hemisphere. I am awed by the tremendous power hurricanes possess having grown up at the coast and spend my summers and autumns with a watchful eye to what the dangerous cauldron of warm ocean waters are cooking up. The history I've been reading talked about the genesis of hurricanes and made a statement that floored me because I had never thought of it in the terms offered. The statement simply pointed out that one of the ingredients for hurricanes are the winds that blow in off the Sahara desert that mix together with moist storms that have traversed Africa from the Indian Ocean and the warm waters which surround Cape Verde. What an amazing thought, that winds blowing across a dry and barren landscape can be transformed given the right circumstances into some of the most powerful and consequential events on the planet.

These facts have been brought to my mind repeatedly as I have reflected on the Church's celebration of Pentecost on May 28. Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit literally blew into the Upper Room and quickened those Jesus followers still bewildered by the events surrounding the Resurrection and then the Ascension. The Church's history is riddled with instances when the winds of the Holy Spirit have blown across dry places and combined with the moment to bring about powerful and consequential events, events like the Reformation, the Second Great Awakening, the Welsh Revival, and most recently the events at Asbury College, Kentucky.

If you are like me, you often look around at the state of things and say how can it change, can any change be accomplished without a mass of people to push things forward? Confessionally, my questions supplant my faith sometimes and so I must constantly remind myself that with the Holy Spirit at work, one person can change any situation. To that end, I am pleased to invite you to attend on Sunday, May 7 at 6:00 PM a dinner conversation about how we can work together to address issues that I raised in our look at Joseph's life during Lent. The Deacon Fellowship will be hosting this light dinner of subs and desserts in the gym after which we will divide up into four groups to brainstorm ways we can address these issues as a congregation and create working groups to further the work. A Deacon will be at each table to help facilitate the conversation. Sign-ups are available on the bulletin board and the Welcome Table in the vestibule. A reminder that the four points, centered in where Jesus instructs us in Matthew 25 as a place we know we can find him, are the plight of the prisoner and the recently released, health care access, food insecurity, and environmental justice. These areas also continue our efforts to minister to young families and children as many are adversely impacted by these issues. I sincerely hope you will plan to join us as we seek to be at work in the places where Jesus is and speak to issues that are often ignored by the greater Church but desperately need voices which will speak redemptive grace into these matters. I am convinced that our work under the guidance of the Holy Spirit can create events powerful enough to bring consequential change into the lives of people who desperately need something redemptive to change the course of their lives.

Grace Abounds, Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Mon., Wed., Thurs.	Noon	Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	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
May 02	10:30 a.m.	Nominating Committee
	11:30 a.m.	Widows/Single Ladies Luncheon at Harbor Inn
May 03	Noon	ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich Shop
May 04	11:00 a.m.	Senior Adult Lunch & Learn/RockHill B.C.
May 07	4:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	Redemptive Ministry Dinner & Conversation
May 14	10:00 a.m.	Baptist Women's Day. Mrs. Eliza Sanders preaching.
May 22	10:30 a.m.	Properties Committee
May 28	10:00 a.m.	Pentecost Sunday (wear red)
May 29		Office closed for Memorial Day

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling....*

"Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress. - Psalm 46:1-3,10-11

This very familiar passage is one of my favorites. I love it because of what it says about God and about us.

What it says about God:

1. He is our refuge. He provides a place of shelter from everything that endangers or pursues us.
2. He is our strength. His strength is so far beyond ours. Why do we try to do things in our own strength when His is far superior?
3. He is always present. We may not always sense His presence, but He is there nonetheless. His faithfulness is greater than our senses.
4. He will be exalted over all. He is already over all, but so many don't acknowledge or even realize that. How I long for the day when He will be recognized by all for who He is!
5. He is with us. God is with us, and He is for us. He is on your side!

What it says about us:

1. We do not need to fear. Sometimes it seems like the world is going crazy. But, no matter what happens, we don't have to be afraid. Even if the world isn't what it used to be or what it should be, God is still God. We can trust Him.
2. We can be still. We may want to jump into crisis mode and start doing something...anything...to address the issue. But, sometimes we just need to stop and allow Him to work and to guide our actions.
3. We can know that He is over all. Nothing catches Him off guard, and nothing happens that is beyond His ability to use.
4. We are safe. No matter what threatens us, we are safe. What is the worst thing that can happen to us? Even if we suffer and die, that is only for a short time, and God will use it to prepare us for "an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

No matter where you are today, no matter what is going on in and around you, hold on to the truth about who God is and who you are in Him!

Dale



Graduate Sunday: It is not too early to begin making plans to recognize our upcoming graduates. If you know of someone who will be graduating this year, please contact the church office (office@groveparkchurch.com or 336-227-2910) with the details.



Update: Thank you for the tremendous response to needs for our Food Pantry. We will be extending our food pantry to all of Grove Park Elementary School as a way to address food insecurity. For this month, please donate cereal, saltine crackers, peanut butter, jelly, Spaghetti Os, and tomato, vegetable and/or chicken noodle soup. Items can be placed in the blue bin in the vestibule or brought by the church office. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

Alamance Chorale Presents...

There will be a Spring Concert on May 16, 2023, 7:30 p.m. at Mebane Presbyterian Church.

Let There Be Light!

Selections include: "Let There Be Light" by Craig Courtney; "I Believe" by Mark Miller; "Carry the Light" by Andy Beck with violin accompaniment.; "Light of a Clear Blue Morning" by Parton/Johnson with flute; "The Lord is My Light" (FRUCC) by John Carter; Two Hymns from Hymnal for audience participation; "Lux" by Dan Forrest with Chamber Orchestra.

Arleen Widerman, Artistic Director / Nancy McMillan, Accompanist

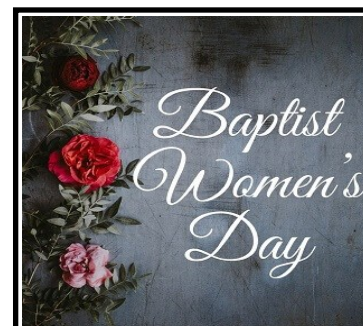
Grove Park will host the Grove Park Elementary School 5th Grade Graduation on June 08, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. After the graduation ceremony, we will provide a reception for the graduates and their guests. If you are willing to help with the reception, please contact the church office by e-mail (office@groveparkchurch.com)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



(Our Known)

May Birthdays

Traci Williamson	May 02
Michele McIntyre	May 05
James Rudd	May 05
Gene Willets	May 09
Hazel Latham	May 10
Charlotte Fitzgerald	May 11
David McMillan	May 12
Ivey Toy	May 22
Rodger Roach	May 23
Judy Roach	May 25
Lynnette Warren	May 28
Steve Shambley	May 31



We will be observing Baptist Women's Day on Sunday, May 14, 2023.

Mrs. Eliza Sanders will be preaching.

We hope you will join us for this special day.

CELEBRATE PENTECOST SUNDAY



Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50th day (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks.

In observance of Pentecost, we ask all members to wear red on Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Ministers On Call for the Month of May:

May 04 thru May 07	Deacon Caleb Warren
May 11 thru May 14	Deacon Bob Webster
May 18 thru May 21	Deacon Joan Smith
May 25 thru May 28	Deacon Jim Etheridge