



**Grove Park**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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**Office Hours:**

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

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Facebook: [Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch](https://www.facebook.com/grovesparkchurch)  
Instagram: [grovesparkchurch](https://www.instagram.com/grovesparkchurch)  
YouTube: [YouTube.com/@grovesparkchurch](https://www.youtube.com/@grovesparkchurch)



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Hour (unless otherwise noted)
Mon., Wed., Thurs.	Noon	Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study on the Book of Acts (Zoom)
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club (beginning September 07) (Zoom)
September 01		Provide meal for Williams Varsity Football Team
September 04		Labor Day. Office will be closed.
September 05	11:30 a.m.	Widows / Single Ladies' Luncheon in Fellowship Hall (Bring your favorite salad toppings)
September 06	Noon	ROMEO's meet at Southbound Sandwich Shop
September 07	1:00 p.m.	SIA Planning Committee
September 08		Provide meal for Williams Varsity Football Team
September 10	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
September 13	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	American Red Cross Blood Drive at GPBC
September 15		Provide meal for Williams Varsity Football Team
September 29		Provide meal for Williams Varsity Football Team

# The Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of Grove Park Baptist Church | September 2023

Last September, it seemed every time I turned on the radio the same song was playing. It seemed appropriate, it being September, that Green Day should be singing their timeless classic, "Wake Me Up When September Ends." I can say with all honesty as the time progressed it became my theme song given the tumultuous events of that month. We remain ever thankful for the support of our gracious faith family here at Grove Park over the subsequent year for without you, our journey would have been far more grievous. Confessionally, the sorrows of last September continue to impact our family. The tears don't flow as frequently or forcefully as they once did, but they do still arrive often unexpectedly.

I was reminded of the unexpected arrival of tears this summer as I was caught off guard by a wave while at Cape Cod National Seashore. The mouthful of sea water I received immediately invoked the taste of tears despite seawater's salinity being four times greater than human tears. A little later, when on the shore and the vastness of the Atlantic before me, I was struck by a couple of thoughts. First, the link between sea water and my tears reminded me that our sufferings are not singular, but universal. Sorrow too often places blinders on our vision that makes us believe we are the only ones experiencing such a bevy of emotions when the reverse is true. Every human on this planet is facing sorrow of one kind or another. The immensity of the Earth's oceans, covering some 71% of the planet's surface, should serve as a continuous reminder to us that sorrow affects all and invoke in us increased expressions of empathy, compassion, and kindness. Just as the seas either ebb and flow with the tides or rage and remain placid due to the wind and yet, the ocean's permanence does not change, so too is the case and nature of sorrow.

Secondly, we had been on the beach just a bit when suddenly a seal popped up in the waves. It would continue to surface intermittently the remainder of the afternoon always bringing us delight. We recognized though that potentially also lurking in the depths was the seal's deadly foe, the shark. Indeed, shark warning flags were flying. Thankfully, I failed to see a shark that day, but its potential appearance also did not cause me to refrain from entering the sea. Sometimes we choose to refrain from processing our sorrows or even acknowledge them because we fear what may be lurking beneath that might sink us, so we stay on shore. Yet Beloved, our refraining because of what might happen only keeps us from experiencing life abundantly, which is the gift of God to us. We should never allow the fear of possibilities to impede experiencing the joy of abundant life.

To that end, I feel it important to remind us of one other timeless truth that occurred to me that day as I contemplated the sea. I was thinking about how many individual tears would be required to fill the oceans when Psalm 56:8 sprang to mind. There David wrote, "You have kept count of my tossing; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?" If we view the seas as a representation of our sorrows and therefore composed of individual tears that are indistinguishable, it doesn't matter because God knows. God is intimately acquainted with our every sorrow and stands ever ready to provide the soothing salve of grace. May we ever seek that grace and be ready when God calls us to be the instrument through which that grace is administered to a deeply hurting world, and rest assured God is always calling us.

Grace Abounds, Marc



*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted..." - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*



Author's Note: this is Part 4 of my Gardening series.

I'm thinking these days about beginnings and endings. Part of the human condition is that we continually have to deal with things that end and new things that begin.

The time recently came to end our first crop in the new raised planting beds. The carrots never really did anything, the zucchini plants did all they could do, and many of the tomato vines were withering. So, Kim pulled up the zucchini, gave up on the carrots, and drastically trimmed back the tomato vines.

With that ending came a new beginning. Kim planted some more carrots and some collards. And, surprisingly, the remaining tomato vines found their second wind and started some new branches - and even the beginnings of some buds. We're looking forward to round 2.

You may be experiencing some times of ending in your life. If not now, you certainly will in the coming days. As I said, it's part of the human condition.

When this happens, start looking around. Is something new already beginning around you? If not, is there something that is tugging at your heart or itching in your brain? When one thing ends, that's a good time to be sensitive to new opportunities. Who knows, you might even enjoy it!

Looking forward to the beginning of football season (Roll Tide!)

Dale

**North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO)** is a special offering received during the month of September that supports the ministries of Baptists on Mission, Church Planting, mission camps, associational projects and mobilization ministry projects. Below is a link where you can see the many, many ways the NC Missions Offering assists ministries in impacting the lost for Christ!



<https://ncbaptist.org/article/offer-relief-for-today-hope-for-tomorrow-through-ncmo/>

**Williams High School Football Meal:** Grove Park will be providing the pre-game meal for the varsity football team on the following dates. For more information or if you would like to help, please contact Janice Byrd.

September 01  
September 08  
September 15  
September 29  
October 20



**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** Grove Park will be hosting the Burlington Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

You can make your appointment online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), sponsor code: Grove Park or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

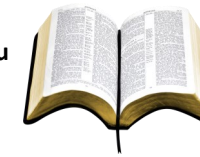


**Hope Boxes:** We met our goals for crayons, markers and colored pencils! Great job, everyone! For the month of September, our items is toothbrushes. Multipacks are fine as we can break them up. Sometimes dentists are willing to give toothbrushes to non-profit organizations so if you have a check-up don't forget to ask.

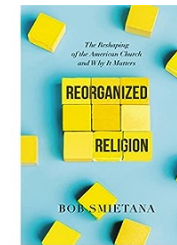


School supplies are beginning to wind down and as that occurs many times stores put the excess on clearance to get rid of it quickly. Take a look at store clearance especially for water bottles, pencil pouches or boxes, headphones, erasers, pens, highlighters and other fun items. This is a great time to get some super cheap items.

**Bible Study:** Our Bible study began on August 29th on the Book of Acts. We hope you will join us as we delve into the historical account of the first three decades of the Church.



**GPBC Book Club:** Our book club will reconvene on September 7th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The book selection is Reorganized Religion: The Reshaping of the American Church and Why it Matters and is available on Amazon.com. The Zoom link will be forthcoming.



**Alternative Christmas Market:** We are beginning to work on our ACM for this holiday season. If there is an organization you would like our Missions Committee to evaluate for inclusion in our market, please let a member of the committee know or you can contact the church office. Committee members are: Rev. Marc Sanders, Bob Andrews, Matthew Byrd, Eliza Sanders, Krissy Szczepanski, Caleb Warren and Nancy Webster.

**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. Sign-ups are now available.



**Ministers On Call for the Month of September:**

Aug. 31 thru Sept. 03	Deacon Larry Dodson
Sept. 07 thru Sept. 10	Deacon Jason Bogart
Sept. 14 thru Sept. 17	Deacon Benjy Overby
Sept. 21 thru Sept. 24	Deacon Caleb Warren
Sept. 28 thru Oct. 01	Deacon Bob Webster

(Our Known)

**September Birthdays**

Barbara Dodson	September 02
Martha Johnson	September 02
Bruce Joplin	September 05
Marcus King	September 05
Naomi Taylor	September 07
Dave Bolick	September 08
Hardy King	September 12
David Stalls	September 15
Benjy Overby	September 19
Glea Haithcock	September 20
Ann Hayes	September 20
Mike Bouldin	September 22
Lavica Apple	September 23
Robert Padgett	September 23
Lovenia Parrish	September 25
Sarah Butler (104th)	September 27
Joanne Griffith	September 28

