



108 TRAIL ONE
BURLINGTON, NC 27215

CONTACT US:

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Office Hours:

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

Check us out on:

Facebook: Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch

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

YouTube: YouTube.com/@grovesparkchurch



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Return Service Request

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 (Zoom)
December 03	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
December 05	5:00 p.m.	ARC Dinner
December 06	Noon	ROMEOS at Southbound Sandwich Works
December 07	2:00 p.m.	SIA Christmas Celebration
December 10	10:00 a.m.	GPBC Christmas Cantata
	3:00 p.m.	Alamance Chorale Christmas Concert
December 12	7:30 p.m.	Alamance Chorale Christmas Concert
December 18	9:00 a.m.	American Red Cross Holiday Blood Drive
December 20	6:30 p.m.	Longest Night Service
December 24	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
December 31	10:00 a.m.	A Festival of Lessons and Carols



The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | DECEMBER 2023

Christmas, more than any other time of the year I believe, is bound to music. We can and do sing songs about the Easter season all the year long however, we only sing "Away in the Manger" in December. I have yet to meet anyone who does not have a favorite Christmas song, whether it be "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" or "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming." Likewise, I have yet to meet anyone who has a favorite Labor Day song this and even as I write I am left to wonder if there is even such a thing as a Labor Day song. And so, it is this resolute bond between the Christmas season and music that keeps ringing in my head as the holidays approach, or maybe I should say echoes. I am unsure if it is my love of good organ music at Christmas that makes me believe that Christmas music should echo, but I firmly believe that it should.

The Christmas message, as expressed so well in the great carols of the faith, should echo within us. When the hymn writer states in "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" that "this flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load" it should echo in my life and shatter the places where I do not allow God to lighten my load and where the fragrance of God has lost its sweetness. Similarly, the veracity that "the wrong shall fail, the right prevail" should echo in my heart with such ferocity that it overwhelms the despair within me when I far too often agree with Longfellow's other line in "there is no peace on earth, I said; for hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good-will to men!" Beloved, does the music of the season echo within your soul so as to cause meaningful change?

Additionally, Christmas music's power should echo beyond the season. Many years ago, I was looking through Enfield Baptist's vast Christmas music library when I came across an old German carol entitled "All This for Us." I had it included in that year's Christmas Music and even now, though I have forgotten most of the words, the power of that simple title "All This For Us" and the strength with which it was conveyed by the sopranos echoes in my heart every year. I confess, too many years of marching band have lessened my hearing, and I cannot always hear all the words, but music's reverberating power within me is felt and sustains me long after the music is filed away. Christmas music more than any other has such power, if we would only let it echo within us.

Now, some would argue the power of the echo is found in the message and I would be hard pressed to disagree. Yet, I must also acknowledge that the universality of the message is also key. Christmas music, more than any other genre, features music from around the world. German, Polish, Chinese, French, Native American, the list goes on and on of beloved Christmas carols culture of origin. The message though remains, God became incarnate in Bethlehem's manger for us and for our salvation. May we always be searching for ways to unleash the universality of the message that the echo may ring on for ages to come.

Happy Christmas,

Marc

REV. & MRS. DALE S. CAIN
together with
MR. & MRS. MICHAEL W. BYRD
INVITE YOU TO THE WEDDING
OF THEIR CHILDREN

**REBEKAH JOY &
NATHAN EDWARD**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th, 2023
2 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

Grove Park Baptist Church

108 TRAIL ONE
BURLINGTON, NC

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
KINDLY RSVP | 336.260.7771
by DECEMBER 1st

Hope Boxes: We are so grateful for all the contributions we continue to received for this outreach ministry.

During the month of December, we are collecting toys (\$5-\$10). Lots of sales are going on during the Christmas season. Items can be placed in the baskets located in the vestibule or dropped off at the church office.

Alternative Christmas Market: Our Alternative Christmas Market continues. Our market seeks to holistically address the two great commandments of loving God and loving our neighbor. We hope you will let us assist you with your Christmas shopping this year. Books and order forms are available in the vestibule and the church office.



Advent Devotionals: The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd. Once again, we will have a book of daily devotionals available for reflection during the Advent season. These will be available on or before December 3rd. Each day's devotion can also be found on the GPBC website.



(Our Known)

December Birthdays


Larry Snead	December 01
Don Moriarty	December 03
Stuart Latham	December 03
Sue Atkinson	December 04
Lois Dickerson	December 05
Lillian Anne Culler	December 10
Ruth Tyler	December 11
Beth Canada	December 12
Thomas Overby	December 13
William Overby	December 20
Brian Weatherman	December 20
Graham Parrish	December 22
Melanie Fitzgerald	December 31
Nancy McMillan	December 31



Ministers On Call for the Month of December:

Nov. 30 thru Dec. 03	Deacon Jim Etheridge
Dec. 07 thru Dec. 10	Deacon Larry Dodson
Dec. 14 thru Dec. 17	Deacon Jason Bogart
Dec. 21 thru Dec. 24	Deacon Benjy Overby
Dec. 28 thru Dec. 31	Deacon Joan Smith

The church library committee has observed that the non-fiction section is seldom used anymore. Therefore, we have decided to eliminate it to make more room for the popular fiction books. If you want to stop by the library anytime through December 17, you can take and keep any books from the non-fiction section. Happy reading!



Christmas Dreams

Presented by **Alamance Chorale**
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
1974 - 2024

Sunday, December 10 at 3:00pm
and Tuesday, December 12 at 7:30pm


Grove Park Baptist Church, 108 Trail One, Burlington, NC

Grove Park Baptist Church is pleased to host two Christmas Concerts by the Alamance Chorale to be held on December 10th at 3:00 pm and December 12th at 7:30 pm. The theme of the concert is "Christmas Dreams" including many old favorites of Chorale members. There is no charge for their performances. The length of the concert is approximately 1 hour and will be followed by a reception where they look forward to talking with their audience members.



The Lottie Moon Post Office is now open and is set up in the Missions Room.

The Women's Shelter is in need of 2024 calendars for their clients. This enables them to keep up with appointments, etc. If you have any that you will not be using, please drop them by the church office or leave on the table in the vestibule.



American Red Cross
Annual Burlington Holiday
Blood Drive
Monday, December 18th
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
at Grove Park Baptist Church.
Make your appointment online at:
www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Holiday
or call 1-800-RED CROSS

**Grove Park Baptist Church
Seniors In Action (SIA)**

Christmas Celebration

Music provided by Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Nancy Webster
Pastor Marc will be sharing a Christmas thought

2:00 p.m.

December 7th, 2023

We hope you will make plans to join us in the Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up no later than December 3rd so we can prepare.
Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board or you can call the church office.

EXCEL PLUS Accessible Time-Saving Arrangements for the Small-to-Medium-Sized Choir

Unto Us a
Child
Is
Born

A Message of CHRISTMAS HOPE
Arranged & Orchestrated by Nick Robertson

lillenas

Presented by the Grove Park Church
Sanctuary Choir
Sunday, December 10,
during Morning Worship.