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Office Hours:

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

Check us out on:

Facebook: [Facebook.com/groveparkchurch](https://www.facebook.com/groveparkchurch)

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

YouTube: [YouTube.com/@groveparkchurch](https://www.youtube.com/@groveparkchurch)



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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
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 (An Altar in the World)
February 07	Noon	ROMEOS (Southbound Sandwich Works)
February 11	10:00 a.m.	Super Bowl Food Challenge. If you are pulling for the Chiefs, bring jelly. If you are pulling for the 49ers, bring peanut butter. If you don't have a preference, bring saltine crackers.
February 14	11:00 a.m.	SIA Valentine's Celebration
	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:00 p.m.	No Choir Rehearsal
February 18	6:00 p.m.	Church Conference
February 20	5:50 p.m.	NC Baptists on Mission 2024 Missions Rally (Program begins at 6:30 p.m.)
February 29	10:00 a.m.	SIA Craft Morning



Monthly Newsletter of Grove Park Baptist Church | February 2024

Recently, I read an article about a Bible used by British missionaries to minister to enslaved persons in the Caribbean that left me astounded. What struck me most about this Bible is not how it looked or what it said, what gave me pause is what it didn't say. Anthony Schmidt from the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC estimates that around 90% of the Old Testament and 50% of the New Testament is omitted from the Slave Bible. More pointedly, there are 1,189 chapters in the Bible you and I use regularly, this Bible contains only 232. So, verses such as Galatians 3:28 which states "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you all are all one in Christ Jesus" are omitted while Ephesians 6:5 is included as it calls for servants to be obedient to their masters. Most of the book of Exodus, the story of an enslaved group rising up and leaving behind servitude at the command of God, is left on the cutting room floor.

It occurs to me that this is not a singular occurrence in history. Thomas Jefferson literally cut out all the miracles in the life of Jesus to create what is known as the "Jefferson Bible." What truly troubles me the most though is how we continue to do it, sometimes ignorantly, oftentimes willfully. The question becomes do we realize when we are doing it? Even more critically, do we realize the prejudices that we bring to the Scriptures that blind us to seeing the text in its fullest context? The Scriptures are ultimately, I believe, the most liberating compilation of thoughts the world has ever known. The intent of the Scriptures even at their harshest, for example the Hebrew prophets, is to liberate people from not only sin but abusive societal structures and mindsets as well. When we persist in reading the Scriptures with blinders on we become no better than Jefferson taking a knife and cutting away feeding the 5,000. Sadly, we also tack on another level of chains to enslave us and those who look to us as a faith witness.

One of my goals this year is to allow the Scriptures to truly be alive in my life by seeking to recognize the prejudices I bring to the text and removing my blinders to greater truths. I confess it is not always easy to see the areas where I am blind, but the reward is too great to miss. I pray you will join me in this journey so together our witness would grow brighter and people generations from now will not look back and wonder how did they miss what God was saying? Rather, those generations would rejoice in the steps we took now to bring them freedom then.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18, HCSB)

When I look out through my kitchen's bay window, I can see my neighbor's back field, a couple of houses, some trees, and if I look in the right place, Bass Mountain in the distance. If I look out my front window, all I can see is our front yard and hill and part of our neighbors' yards. Because our house is at the bottom of hills in all 4 directions and surrounded by lots of trees, I can't see our road or most of our neighborhood from inside our house; all I can see is what's close to us.

The thing that always amazes me is how different things look through the camera of my drone. When I stand in my front yard and fly the drone up 200-300 feet, through the camera I can see all the way to Burlington. I just have to get my eyes (through the camera) up high, and then I can see for miles.

Our lives are like that. I must admit, I've always been a "here and now" kind of guy. I pay attention to what I see around me. I deal with what's on my mind at the particular moment, and while I may have a general sense of what I want to do long-term, most of my planning is for the short-term. Much like my neighborhood, I only see what's around me at the moment, unless I choose to get my eyes up high.

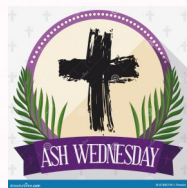
One of the challenges of the Christian life is to get our eyes in the right place. God is doing so many things in the world around us, and we never see them because we're not looking in the right place. How many opportunities to participate in God's Kingdom work do we miss? How many more people could we reach if we looked to see the eternal things that God is doing around us instead of being focused on just what's around us?

Believe me, I am writing this to myself much more than to you. I am challenging myself - and you - to get our eyes up high, to focus on what is unseen much more than on what is seen.

Let's work on this together, so we can join God in what He is doing.

Dale

Ash Wednesday serves as a time for Christians to reflect on their lives, confess their sins, seek repentance, and prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. We hope you will join us for our Ash Wednesday service on February 14th at 6:30 p.m.



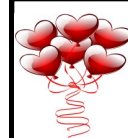
We will host our quarterly church conference at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, February 18, 2024.

If you or a committee you serve on have any reports or motions to bring before the conference, please let the church office know as soon as possible.



Grove Park will be hosting the NC Baptists on Mission Region 4 Mission's Rally on Tuesday, February 20. We will need people to serve as greeters and assist in set up and take down which will also include a meal prior to the rally. Please call the church office if you are available to help. We will also need desserts to provide at the conclusion of the meal. Sign-ups for desserts will be in the hallway.

Grove Park has been blessed the last six and a half years by the ministry of Vicki Stanley in her role as our administrative assistant. She has served as the face of Grove Park to so many in our community and balanced a multitude of responsibilities with undiminishing grace and care. Vicki has decided the time has come to use those skills as a full time grandma and has announced her retirement effective February 29. Please take the opportunity this month to drop by and thank Vicki for her service. There will be a box in the vestibule for you to place tokens of appreciation for Vicki's service throughout February. Finally, if you know someone who matches Vicki's skillset that would be a good fit for the administrative assistant's position, please ask them to forward their resume to apply@groveparkchurch.com.



Seniors In Action



Valentine Celebration -
Because He First Loved Us!

Wednesday, February 14
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Come Warm Your Hearts with Fun,
Soup and Dessert!



Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board or
call the church office.

Ladies Craft Day, sponsored by SIA
February 29th at 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$10.00.

There will be places for 20 ladies.

Joanne Griffith will lead us in making an Easel Craft.

See examples in the library window.

Bring your own bag lunch and fellowship awhile longer.

SIA will provide drinks. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin
board or call the church office.

Baptists on Mission 2024 Missions Rally

Tuesday, February 20th

Supper at 5:50pm (no charge, but must register)

Program 6:30 - 8:30pm

Grove Park Baptist Church

108 Trail One, Burlington, NC 27215

It will be a night of mission inspiration as we experience what God is doing through NC Baptists around the world. There will be worship, testimonies, videos, and information about how you and your church can be a part of future mission opportunities!

Registration is due 1 week prior to the rally date

www.baptistsonmission.org/rallies

Melanie Crawford (919) 459-5596—mcrawford@ncbaptist.org

Hope Boxes: We are so grateful for all the contributions we continue to receive for this outreach ministry. During the month of February, we are collecting small toys. Items can be placed in the baskets located in the vestibule or dropped off at the church office.

Food Pantry: We continue to be blessed to be able to help people who contact the church office facing food insecurities.

We are collecting the following during the month of February to replenish our stock: instant potatoes, canned meats (Spam, Ham, Chicken, Tuna, Beef Stew, Chicken & Dumplings) and SpaghettiOs'.

Donated items can be placed in the baskets in the vestibule or dropped off at the church office Mondays thru Thursdays.

(Our Known)

February Birthdays

Rev. Dale Cain	February 01
Rev. Marc Sanders	February 03
Benjamin King	February 07
Daniel King	February 07
Randy McIntyre	February 07
Alvis Oakes	February 07
Myrtle Talbert (105th)	February 10
Ron Sapp	February 11
Bobby Andrews	February 12
Earl Hudson	February 17
Kathy Shambley	February 20
Audrey Snider	February 27



Ministers On Call for the Month of February:

February 01 thru February 04	Deacon Derek Dennard
February 08 thru February 11	Deacon Benjy Overby
February 15 thru February 18	Deacon Caleb Warren
February 22 thru February 25	Deacon Matthew Byrd
February 29 thru March 03	Deacon Jason Bogart