



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

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BURLINGTON, NC 27215

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Office Hours:

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

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BURLINGTON, NC 27215
PERMIT NO. 140

Return Service Request

Check us out on:

Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch

Instagram: grovesparkchurch

YouTube: YouTube.com/@grovesparkchurch



UPCOMING EVENTS:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sundays | 5:00 p.m. | Family Night |
| Mon., Wed., Thurs. | | 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 |
| April 01 | | Office Closed in observance of Easter Monday |
| April 02 | 11:00 a.m. | Trustees Meeting |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Nominating Cmte Meeting |
| April 03 | Noon | ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich Shop |
| | | No Choir Rehearsal |
| April 09-10 | | Kentucky Mission Trip |
| April 14 | 6:00 p.m. | Deacon Fellowship |
| April 16 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom Bible Study on Zechariah begins |
| April 17 | 10:00 am to 3:00 pm | Red Cross Blood Drive at GPBC |

The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | APRIL 2024

One of the things that we must guard ourselves against is becoming stuck in seeing the Scriptures through only one lens. I confess, I fall prey to this very often, a point that was driven home to me recently as I reflected on Paul's plea in Philippians to "know him and power of his resurrection." I have always been drawn to the word power as the key word in the text, probably because it appeals to my middle school boy fascination with dynamite. Yet, this time as I read the passage two other words jumped out—know and resurrection. It occurs to me that Paul is not simply talking about knowing resurrection at the end of his life, he wants to know the power of resurrection now in his daily life. Paul is not seeking to wait until the sweet by and by because he understands that we need resurrection in our life every day on some issue. Hence why he will say later in the passage, "but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

So, how do we obtain resurrection in our daily lives? First, we must recognize that achieving resurrection necessitates change. Paul writing earlier to the Corinthians elaborates on this when he writes that the mortal must put on immortality and the perishable must put on imperishability. Most of us are hesitant to change anything in our lives, I know I am, but we cannot experience the fullness of resurrection without changing something. Change enables us to recognize the places in our lives that are no longer working in order to experience new life, resurrection, by engaging in something different, whether that be a thought process, a discipline, or a perspective.

Additionally, we must establish a new mindset that recognizes that the end of something is always the beginning of something else. Yes, we mourn losses, but we must also search out the thread that leads to new beginnings in the midst of loss. We are should never be defined by what was, rather we should be defined by what we are doing with what is in front of us presently. We live resurrected lives when we seize those new beginnings. To this end, Paul will say in the same passage to the Corinthians the most antithetical of phrases—"Death is swallowed up in victory." We prefer to live looking backwards and longing for what we know. God calls us to resurrection, to looking forward to the good things that are currently present and still to come for only then can we see death swallowed whole by victory.

Beloved, as we move throughout the coming Easter season, I encourage you to choose the path of resurrection, just like Peter did after those dark times after his denial of Jesus. Choose to live resurrected lives every day that you may experience a foretaste of the resurrection that awaits all those who look to Jesus. Choose resurrection in a culture that runs headlong toward death and destruction so that others may choose resurrection as well. Charles Dickens said that Scrooge chose to keep Christmas every day of his life. I think it better to say he chose resurrection and kept Easter everyday. We would do well to do likewise.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

(1 Peter 1:3)

At this particular moment, we are on opposite sides of Easter. As I write this, Easter 2024 is still a week away. While my planning and preparation are already done (mostly, at least), a lot can happen between now and then to change those plans. I think I know what Easter will be like, but I've lived long enough to know that life can turn on a dime. I'm on this side of Easter, looking forward. As you read this, most likely Easter 2024 has already happened. You already know how God moved through the worship service as well as the other things that went on that day. You're on the other side of Easter, looking back.

Which side of Easter you're on makes a big difference. There's a difference between faith and sight, anticipation and experience, hope and knowledge. Now let's take this thought to the next level. The question we all need to face is this: which side of Easter are you on? Not just Easter 2024, but the reality of Easter?

Many people live before Easter. They go through their day, through their year, through their life without ever coming face to face with the resurrection of Christ. They may have a pretty comfortable life, but there's so much they simply have not experienced yet. Because they live before Easter, they don't know the living hope that comes through a relationship with the living Jesus.

Because of God's great mercy toward us, we all have the opportunity to live post-Easter every day of the year. We don't have to worship a God from the past, who doesn't really have much to do with our lives today. Rather, we get to walk, day-in and day-out, with a resurrected, living Jesus, who is just as powerful, just as impactful, just as meaningful today as He was 2000 years ago. Once we experience Him in this way, our entire lives are different. The way we look at the events of the day, the way we encounter the people around us, and the way we face the future are all forever different because of the reality of Easter.

Do we let the resurrection of Jesus Christ change our lives daily? Do we live in the conviction that, no matter what we face, we have been *born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*? Bill and Gloria Gaither said it well, "and life is worth the living just because He lives."

Dale

April Food Pantry Needs



Thank you for your continued generosity to our Food Pantry. Our needs for this month is all about soup. We need chicken noodle, vegetable, and tomato soups. Please drop them off by the church office or place them in the food pantry bin located in the vestibule.

Zechariah Study

We will begin our new Zoom Bible study on the prophet Zechariah on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00. If you would like the Zoom link please contact the church office or Pastor Marc.



New Administrative Assistant

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that beginning March 25 Angela Hammack is now serving as our administrative assistant. Her email address is ahammack@groveparkchurch.com. Please drop by and introduce yourself.

Hope Bags

Thank you so much for your generosity in donating all the supplies we need for the Hope Bags going to the children at Wallins Elementary School. Our team departs on Tuesday, April 9 and will be delivering on Wednesday, April 10. If you would like to go please see Pastor Marc before April 3. Please be in prayer for the team as they travel and for the students who will receive the Hope Bags.



Easter Baptisms

We will be celebrating the ordinance of baptism during our Easter Sunday service. Please make plans to join us as celebrate the new paths on which these fellow disciples are embarking.



Red Cross Blood Drive

GPBC will be hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 17 from 10-3. Sign ups are available on the Red Cross website. Please consider giving the gift of life during this time of decreased blood donations.

Our Five

Have you been working steadily on your five? We will begin a new sermon series on living the Resurrected life on April 14. Make plans to join us and bring along one of your five. Beloved, the truth is that many people are just waiting for an invitation to worship and knowing they have someone to sit with them. Make your plans on how to invite, who to invite, and put it in motion as we join together to celebrate the glorious gift of Easter.

Ministers On Call for the Month of April:

April 4 thru April 7

Deacon Caleb Warren

April 11 thru April 14

Deacon Matthew Byrd

April 18 thru April 21

Deacon Jason Bogart

April 25 thru April 28

Deacon Marian Brewer

(Our Known)

April Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Mauricio Arroba | April 03 |
| Jaxon Bogart | April 05 |
| Cathy Martin | April 05 |
| Jazmine Bogart | April 07 |
| Donna Moore | April 07 |
| Jason Bogart | April 08 |
| Susan Hudson | April 13 |
| Bennie Kidd | April 14 |
| Louise McGhee | April 15 |
| Howard Martin | April 16 |
| Ed Williamson | April 17 |
| Katie Overby | April 18 |
| Joyce Hayes | April 21 |
| Scarlett Rutter | April 25 |
| Jessica Rutter | April 25 |
| Mary Etta King | April 27 |
| Susan Massey | April 27 |
| Randy Joplin | April 30 |

