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**Office Hours:**

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

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Check us out on:

Facebook: [Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch](https://Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch)

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

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Hour (unless otherwise noted)
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
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club (An Altar in the World)
March 05		Election Day. The office will be closed.
March 06	Noon	ROMEOS (Southbound Sandwich Works)
March 10		Daylight Savings Time begins. Spring forward.
March 17		St. Patrick's Day
March 23	10:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
March 24	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday
March 28	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
March 31	10:00 a.m.	Easter Service

There are two sides to every story we have been told repeatedly throughout life. I wonder though if we really believe it. Our increasingly polarized society seems ever ready to pick sides of a story while refusing to entertain the possibility the other side has any authenticity. These days, one of the ubiquitous statements deployed to express displeasure regarding additional narratives is articulated by declaring that folks are attempting to “rewrite history.” I confess there are times when I have used this line myself. However, it has slowly occurred to me that such statements are more often than not, problematic. They are problematic if for no other reason than they imply that I am all knowing on a particular subject. Truthfully, I am not sure I am even all knowing in my knowledge of myself, let alone a plethora of other subjects.

Herein becomes the important task we must engage in during these tenuous times. We must recognize the blind spots created by ignorance and seek to shine light on them. Blessed are the peacemakers, Jesus declared, and this is not simply relegated to brokering conclusions to hostilities. It also means making whole and when the stories we hear and place much stock in are only partial, then we too are left lacking. Clearly then a part of the command of Jesus here is for us to engage in the task of gaining wisdom so that we can be whole and share with others so that they can become whole as well. So, if I am trying to understand North Carolina and how some segments of our populace thinks, I must become conversant with things like the Wilmington Race Riot and how it still impacts our state. Its inclusion is not “rewriting history,” rather it is a matter of trying to fill in a void that through ignorance made me unaware of even the void’s existence and left open the possibility that I might stumble into it and become more fractured rather than more whole. It behooves us, Beloved, to attempt to know as much of the story as possible for our own safety.

What does all of this have to do with faith you might be wondering? First, it ensures that we are always sharing a complete truth so that others will trust us when we share the greater truths that accompany a relationship with Jesus. We cannot expect people to believe us on issues of faith if they can easily punch holes through other things we assert. Secondly, our search for the truth through a variety of perspectives helps us to maintain humility and remain conscious of giving and receiving grace. When we read for instance the Resurrection story, we always like to think of ourselves as the ones believing the veracity of the account. Do we ever position ourselves though in the place of the sleeping guards and ruling authorities in Matthew and ask ourselves what lengths we travel to prop up incomplete narratives for our benefit? Do we welcome the questions like those offered on the road to Emmaus or make space for the validity of Thomas’s pain? In each of these instances and countless others, Jesus showed himself to the Prince of Peace by making the narrative whole. The question for us this Easter is do we always act similarly? May our answer ever be a resounding yes!

Grace Abounds,  
Marc

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!  
(Psalm 143:10)

During my years as a teacher in our public schools, I taught a lot of different children. Some children I connected with easily, while others took more effort and some (I admit sadly) I never connected with at all.

Was it that I was a good teacher for some students and a poor teacher for others? Perhaps that's part of it. Excellent teachers are willing to use different strategies with different students, because they know that what works for some just will not work for others. Students have different needs, different learning styles, and different life experiences, and good teachers try to accommodate those differences in order to meet students' needs.

However, it must be realized that part of the learning process lies with the individual students. Some students are eager learners and want to soak up every bit of knowledge they can. Others are indifferent to specific subjects; they can learn, and with some skill, creativity, and effort, it's possible to find the right methods to help them learn. Honestly, though, some students not only don't care about learning; instead, they actively resist learning. (It hurts to have to admit that, but if you ask anyone who has spent any time in the classroom, they'll say the same thing). Perhaps I didn't try hard enough to find the right strategy for some of my students.

Why am I talking about this? Simply put, we are all students in God's classroom, and He is the master Teacher. He knows us intimately, meets us where we are, and works with us patiently to help us learn His ways. He never gives up on us.

The question for us is this: what kind of students are we? Are we eager to soak up everything that He wants to teach us? Do we approach Him with anticipation, looking forward to finding out what new things He wants to share, what new ideas He wants to incorporate into our lives? Or are we indifferent to new thoughts, perhaps being willing to stretch if He catches us at the right moment or speaks to us in ways that we find interesting? Or, are we ones that don't want to learn or grow, either because we like ourselves just as we are or because we're too busy or too tired or too \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) to deal with it?

Let our prayer always be what the Psalmist said above. *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!*

Dale

# Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 23, 2014**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Please come join us for some fun!**

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Please join us for the following Holy Week Services:

March 24th - 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday

March 28th - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday

March 29th - 7:00 p.m. Good Friday

March 31st - 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday

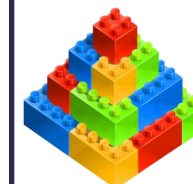


## SPRING FORWARD!

CHANGE THE TIME ON YOUR CLOCKS  
AND THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

**March 10th**

**Hope Boxes:** We are so grateful for all the contributions we continue to receive for this outreach ministry. During the month of March, we are collecting toothpaste, candy, and 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 March to replenish our stock: cereal, oatmeal packets, instant potatoes, StoveTop Stuffing, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, saltines, and graham crackers.

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

(Our Known)

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jerome Moore	March 02
Alton Apple	March 05
David Helms	March 05
Karen Perry	March 06
Marian Brewer	March 08
Shelly Sapp	March 08
Scarlett Turner	March 09
Ellen Andrews	March 11
Chuck Fujiwara	March 11
Patricia McIntyre	March 11
Derek Denard	March 14
Rosemarie Goslen	March 14
Joy Byrd	March 17
Larry Canada	March 17
Eliza Turner	March 18
Caleb Warren	March 19
Gracie Williamson	March 19
Lindsay Denard	March 20
Betty Joplin	March 20
Howard Hayes	March 25
Shirley Bentley	March 26
Anne Latham	March 28
Natalie Nolf	March 30
A. J. Moore	March 31



### Ministers On Call for the Month of March:

February 29 thru March 03	Deacon Jason Bogart
March 07 thru March 10	Deacon Marian Brewer
March 14 thru March 17	Deacon Beth Canada
March 21 thru March 24	Deacon Derek Denard
March 28 thru March 31	Deacon Benjy Overby