

108 TRAIL ONE BURLINGTON,NC 27215

CONTACT US:

Phone: 336-227-2910

Email: office@groveparkchurch.com

Online: www.groveparkchurch.com

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/groveparkchurch

Instagram: groveparkchurch

YouTube: YouTube.com/@groveparkchurch



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays Mon., Wed., Thurs.	5:00 p.m.	Family Night Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study on Zechariah
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club
May 1	Noon	ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich Shop
May 6	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
May 11	2:00 p.m.	Mother's Day Tea
May 12		Baptist Women's Day
May 16	11:00 a.m.	SIA "Name That Hymn"
May 19	6:00 p.m.	Church Conference
June 6	5:30 p.m.	Grove Park Elementary Graduation



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | MAY 2024

Recently, I had the high honor of joining with others at my dear friend Rabbi Michael Knopf's home for Passover Seder. Michael is rabbi at Temple Beth-El in Richmond and one of my classmates at Union. I had never been to a seder before and to be able to experience one under the leadership of my very learned friend was truly a delight. I spent the evening not only dining on some absolutely delicious food, it was like Thanksgiving in April, but pondering the intersections between the seder in which I was participating and the commemoration of another seder two millennia ago that Christians remember each time we come to Table.

One of those intersections is that both are truly a festival of freedom, a phrase Michael used repeatedly throughout the evening and in correspondence leading up to the event. I was amazed at the joyous nature of the seder, marked by the enthusiastic singing of joyful songs and lively discussion about the freedom God brought to those enslaved in Egypt. The juxtaposition I witnessed between the two observances could not have been more immense. I have played for a multitude of Communion services and have never dared to play anything other than somber reflective music, music that is incapable of being described as festive and joyful. As I have continued to reflect on this dichotomy, I keep asking myself why are our Communion services so somber? Should not the freedom we are commemorating unleash festive adulations from our soul? I think we are missing something when our commemoration does not reflect the magnitude of the truth that "whom the Son sets free is free indeed."

Another point that kept coming to my mind throughout the meal is how singularly focused our Communion observances are compared to the Passover seder practiced by our Jewish brothers and sisters. One of the most moving moments of the seder occurred when a reflection was read about those who are being oppressed around the world, a subject with greater significance following the events of October 7 in Israel. Michael then called each of us to reflect on what we were doing to free others from oppressive conditions. Suddenly, the narrative has switched from a commemoration of a past redemption and the place we hold in that story, to one of present suffering and the possibility of future redemption through our actions. I do not think we ponder this nearly enough during our observance of Table. We think about our sin and our redemption, but fail to hear the call to arise from Table and go bring freedom to others. Inherent in this call to service then is a recognition of the oppressive systems around us and how we might be unwittingly supporting them, a subject of much debate at the seder.

Beloved, I could continue these comparisons but I recognize the limitations of space under which I labor so I will conclude. I do ask though that you ponder on these points as we move toward our next observance of Table on May 26, particularly that second point. May we each experience a festival of freedom as we come to Table and bring others who might not have experienced themselves, similar to my recent role in Richmond, that they too may hear the story of God's wondrous love and redemption.

Grace Abounds, Marc

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

The Scripture verse above is one we often sang in youth group at Grove Park in the late 1970's. We sang it because it had a catchy tune and a message that we needed to get into our heads in the (even then) "complicated" world of high school.

As relevant as that message was for the world of high school in the 1970's, we could have never conceived how much more it would be needed for the world of today. I don't need to go into details about how much things have changed over the last 50 years or about how more complicated life is in 2024. You see it for yourself in news coverage, on social media, and just by watching people around you.

Friends, the message of Ephesians 4:32 needs to be proclaimed to today's world. More than that, the world needs to see Christians living out this message. Believe me, if we live out this message, people will see it - because they don't see it anywhere else. And if they truly see it, they will be drawn to it.

Be kind to one another - simply put, treat people the way you would like to be treated yourself. None of us wants to be the recipient of harsh words or negative actions, so we need to make sure we don't treat others that way. How radical it is simply to put other people's needs ahead of our own!

Tenderhearted - this rightly follows after being kind to one another. Being tenderhearted means we feel for others, but more than that, we feel along with others who hurt. We come alongside them and feel with them, not just for them. But we must be determined to put kind actions alongside tenderhearted feelings. One without the other is not enough, just like sending "thoughts and prayers" without taking any actions to address the issue is not nearly enough.

Forgiving one another - this builds upon being kind and tenderhearted. Forgiving is much more possible when it comes from a place of kindness and tenderheartedness. True, it is possible and even necessary to forgive while we are a place of anger or hurt. But, when we are willing to step back from that and move our hearts into a more kind and tenderhearted place, forgiveness is easier for us to give and to receive as well.

As God in Christ forgave you - this is our motivation and the power that makes our kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness possible. The world around us is full of selfishness, violence, and pain, and we often are on the receiving end of that. But, to be honest, we all have treated God with selfishness, rebellion, and doubt - and yet He has responded with forgiveness. If He can and does forgive us of our sins, we can and must forgive others.

This month, I encourage all of us to put Ephesians 4:32 into practice. Let's live out kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness. As we do that, people will notice. (And, if you want to get Ephesians 4:32 stuck in your head, visit our Facebook page for the version we sang in youth group.)

Dale



Please wear <mark>red</mark> in observance of Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024



Please join us for Grove Park Elementary's Graduation on June 6th at 5:30pm

May Food Pantry Needs

Thank you for your continued generosity to our Food Pantry. Our needs for this month are canned hams, canned chicken, spam, tuna, instant potatoes, stove top stuffing, peanut butter, saltine crackers, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. Please drop them off by the church office or place them in the food pantry bin located in the vestibule.





MAY 11 AT 2:00PM

GROVE PARK FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please sign up on the bulletin board

or call the church office



Please come dressed in your country best for our SIA event, "Name that Hymn". Thursday, May 16th at 11am.



Baptist Women's Day Mrs. Eliza Sanders, Speaker May 12, 2024



Ministers On Call for the Month of May:

May 2 thru May 5

Deacon Beth Canada

May 9 thru May 12

Deacon Derek Denard

May 16 thru May 19

Deacon Benjy Overby

May 23 thru May 26

Deacon Caleb Warren

May 30 thru June 2

Deacon Matthew Byrd

(Our Known)

May Birthdays

James Rudd May 5
Tommy Forrester May 9

Gene Willets May 9

Jeanette Deutsch May 10

Hazel Latham May 10

Charlotte Fitzgerald May 11

Jevon Moore May 11

David McMillan May 12

Nathan Reich May 19

Ron Hall May 21

Ivey Toy May 22

Rodger Roach May 23

Judy Roach May 25

Lynette Warren May 28

Steve Shambley May 31



If you are celebrating a graduate this year please call the Church office.