



**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.



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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
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	Gospel of John (Resumes 1/7/25)
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 (Resumes 1/16/25)
Sunday, January 5	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
Monday, January 6	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 8	12:00 p.m.	ROMEOS lunch
Thursday, January 9	7:00 p.m.	TMS Chorus Concert



# The Messenger

A new year dawns cast in the shadow of the unknown. Nationally, our country transitions to new leadership during a time of heightened division and partisanship. The new year will afford us opportunity to look back to other instances in the nation's history where we just as divided if not more so. We will commemorate the 160th anniversary of the Civil War's conclusion in April followed in May by the 250th anniversary of the Second Continental Congress being seated for the first time. Ecclesiastically, churches across America continue to discern how to "be church" in rapidly changing times. How can we faithfully honor the best traditions of the past while making the necessary changes to reach a generation which finds the Church foreign and unresponsive to current challenges. Furthermore, your family may be similar to ours, as we know the new year will present certain changes to our family dynamics the impacts of which we remain uncertain. How do we advance on all of these fronts?

I share with you below a poem written over a century ago by Minnie Haskins. It is one of my favorites to reflect upon this time of year and I have shared it with you before. King George VI included the poem in his 1939 Christmas address. The next year saw England's government change as Churchill assumed the premiership, the Church facing the challenges of war, and George still facing numerous personal challenges since assuming the throne two years prior under difficult circumstances. Sound familiar? We can look back in the certainty of history that it all worked out, but they did not know that then. Years from now, I pray the same will be said for 2025. Regardless, we would do well to take to heart the wisdom George shared then as we stand at the gate of 2025. So, let us embark on the journey into the darkness hand in hand with the God who already knows the path ahead.

Grace Abounds,  
Marc

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".  
And he replied:  
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".  
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Kim and I were watching a cooking competition on TV recently. When the contestant's dish was being evaluated, one of the judges asked, "Would it have helped if you had an extra 10 minutes?" The chef replied that an extra 10 minutes would have been a major help. Of course, he didn't actually get an extra 10 minutes; he only had the amount of time that was given for that phase of the competition.

Friends, we are in much the same situation as that cooking contestant. We only have a certain amount of time given for our lives. And, unlike the contestants in that cooking show, we don't have a countdown clock to tell us how much time we have left.

When you get right down to it, though, we really don't need to focus on how much time we have left. The important thing is that, just like the contestants on the cooking show, we need to make sure we use the time we have to create the most beautiful, best tasting works possible.

How do we do that? How do we make sure we use our time to do works that are beautiful? Jesus has already told us this through the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

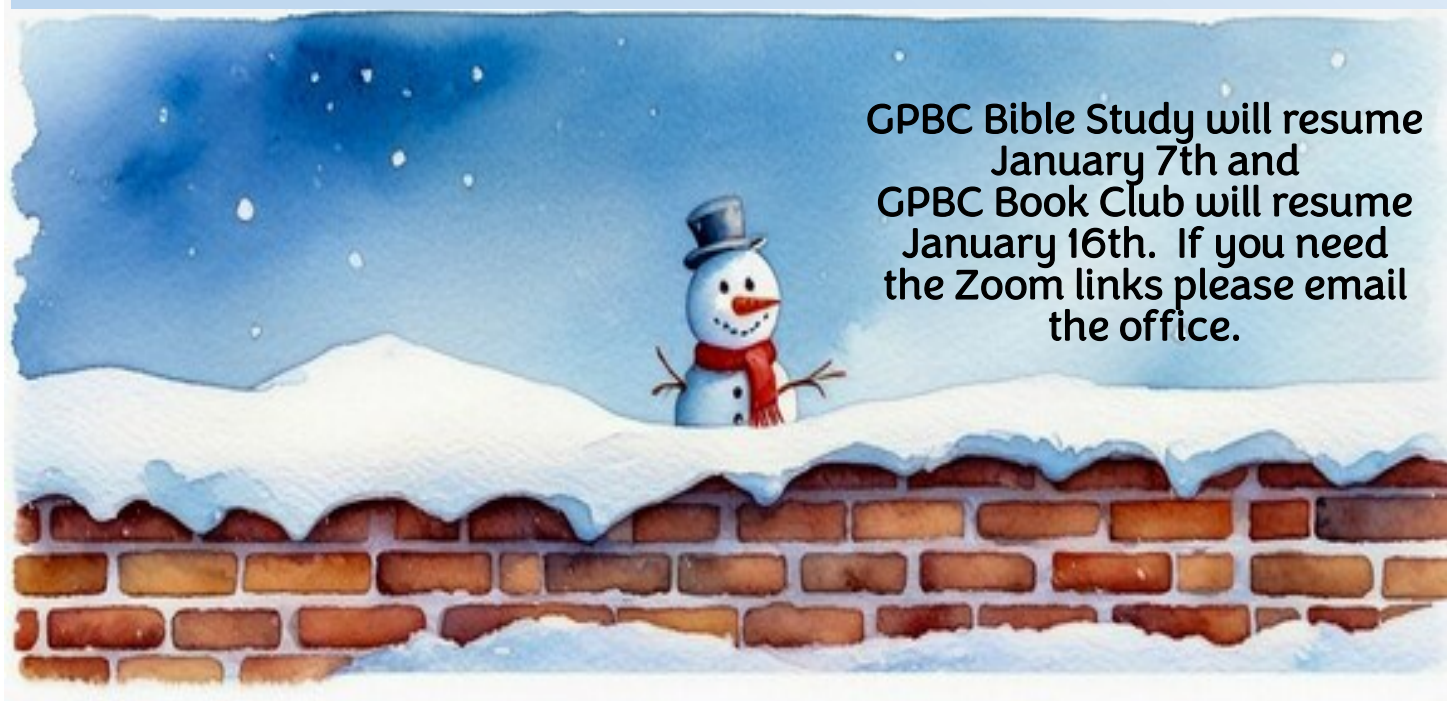
Love God with all of yourself. "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38) Each day, we need to make sure that we are holding back nothing but are "leaving it all on the field" in our love for God.

Love others as yourself. "And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39) Rather than focusing on ourselves, we need to use our time each day to show love to other people - not just the ones who love us back, but everyone.

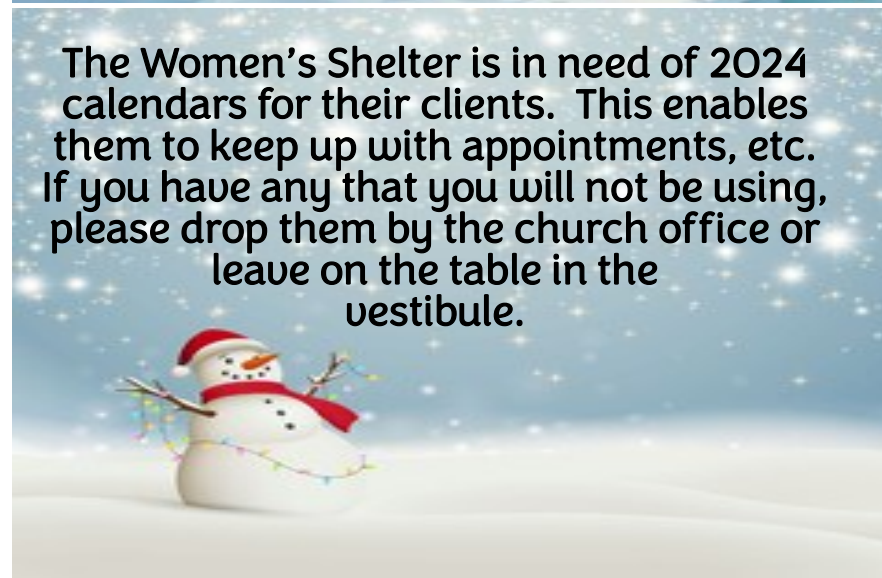
Make disciples. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19a) As we use each day to love God with all of ourselves and to love others as we love ourselves, God will use us to draw others to Himself. Then we are to help them grow in their own walks with Jesus, just as we have grown in ours.

Creating the most beautiful, best tasting works each day is not easy. But, isn't it great to know that when our time is up, our lives will have meant something? That God will have used us to make the world more beautiful? That is my prayer for each of us as individuals and for Grove Park this year.

Dale



Hope Boxes are in need of coloring books and card games this month. Donations can be dropped off in the church office.



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.



Ministers On Call for the Month of January

- Jan. 2-5 Beth Canada
- Jan. 9-12 Derek Denard
- Jan. 16-19 Mike Bouldin
- Jan. 23-26 David McMillan
- Jan. 30-Feb. 2 Matthew Byrd

January Birthdays

Cheryl Parrish	January 04
Janet Durham	January 06
Savannah Williamson	
Lambert	January 06
Kim Wood	January 09
Linda Canada	January 13
Richard Shepherd	January 15
Debbie Hamlett	January 19
Irene Britton	January 20
Janice Byrd	January 21
John Evans	January 21
Matt Evans	January 21
Larry Dodson	January 22
Norene Ray	January 22
Mike Byrd	January 23
Rosemary Faircloth	January 25
Tricia Medford	January 25
Karen Banzhoff	January 27

