



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.

Check us out on:

Facebook.com/groveparkchurch

Instagram: groveparkchurch

YouTube: YouTube.com/@groveparkchurch



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Return Service Request

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Mon., Wed., Thurs.		Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study (Philemon & Nahum)
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
Saturday, May 3	2:00 p.m.	Byrd Wedding
Sunday, May 4	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
Wednesday, May 7	Noon	Romeo's at Southbound Sandwich
Sunday, May 11		Baptist Women's Day
Wednesday, May 14	9:30 a.m.	SIA Set Up
Thursday, May 15	11:00 a.m.	SIA Event April Showers Bring May Flowers
Saturday, May 17	6:00 p.m.	Welcome to Grove Park Dinner
Sunday, May 18	3:00 p.m.	Zoom Finance Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 18	6:00 p.m.	Quarterly Church Conference
Friday, May 23		GPES needs proctors
Monday, May 26		Office Closed for Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 27		GPES needs proctors
Wednesday, May 28		GPES needs proctors
Thursday, May 29		GPES needs proctors
Friday, May 30		GPES needs proctors
If you know anyone that may enjoy our newsletter please send their info to the office so we can add them to our list.		

The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | MAY 2025

The Colorado River flows, sometimes tempestuously, for 1450 miles from its source in the Rocky Mountains until its rendezvous with the Gulf of California. Each year, approximately 5 million people travel from around the globe to witness 277 miles of the Colorado's journey through the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon at points reaches 18 miles across, the distance from Burlington to Efland, and is over a mile deep. Scientists estimate that it exposes nearly 2 billion years of Earth's geologic history. Just naming these statistics makes me want to drop everything and go see it myself as I have yet to cross it off my bucket list.

There are two reasons why I am sharing all of this with you if you are wondering. First, the Grand Canyon is truly a gift from God. The Earth constantly sings out hallelujahs to its Creator and we would do well to hear its song and seek ways to amplify the chorus. Christianity has, from its earliest days, taught about treasuring creation as a general revelation about God and the divine character. Indeed, Job 12 records Job telling his "friends" to, "speak to the earth and it will teach you." I could have offered any number of other places to draw your attention to this, whether it be the giant sequoias of Yosemite, the bubbling geysers of Yellowstone, the alligator infested wetlands of the Everglades, or the sandy shores of Cape Cod. I encourage you to heed Job's advice and learn more about the vast gifts of God to our nation found across the land and specifically in our National Parks that you may find ways to ensure their voices are not muted.

Secondly, long ago the trickle that is now the Colorado began sluicing its path across what is now the Grand Canyon. It was not always as wide or as deep as it is currently. What made it zig in one spot when it could have zagged, I don't know. I do know that whatever it was, has had long term impacts. The canyon is still growing and evolving due to those decisions. Our present is formed by the zigs and zags of decisions made long ago, maybe before we were ever on the scene. We need to recognize those factors as we deal with the present and we need to be mindful of the long-term impacts our current decisions will have on those who will never know us personally. God created intentionally I fully believe. Unfortunately, humanity is not so mindful. We would be wise to ask ourselves individually and societally what the impacts of our decisions might be going forward and seek to make those impacts one of bounty and not harmful. It's something to ponder as you hopefully visit some of God's great creation this summer.

Grace Abounds,

Marc

MISSION TRIP TO WALLINS CREEK, KENTUCKY

On Monday, April 14th , Pastor Marc, spouse Eliza, niece Scarlett, Candace Reavis, Naomie Taylor, Janice & Nathan Byrd, and Bob Webster departed the church in route to the Wallins Elementary School for the annual trip to Wallins Creek, Kentucky as one our mission initiatives.

Pastor Marc initiated these journeys over a dozen years ago. The objective is to bring hope, living essentials, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children and families of Appalachia. The initiative spread to other churches and now has an organiza-tion named Hope for Appalachia. Although President Lyndon Johnson launched the War on Poverty over 60 years ago, the “war” continues in many areas, including eastern Kentucky, a coal mining area with lack of employment opportunities. With mines closing due to environmental regulations, many families struggle in a hopeless system with poor educational support, and often necessities are hard to find. These factors help create a culture of rampant drug and alcohol abuse, high pregnancy rates, and a rigid cycle of poverty.

Wallins Creek began life as a coal mining town in 1925; the mine was owned by the Wallins Creek Coal Corporation. The Wallins Creek Baptist Church was established in 1855 with thirty members. Wallins Creek is home to Wallins Elementary School, which has been in use since the 1940s and has won several awards in sports and academics.

In 2014 the population was 152. But the school has close to five hundred students so the strain on the school is fairly clear. With thanks to our congregation who donated toys, toiletries, books, etc., and packed the boxes for the trip, the students were looking forward to this almost as much as Christmas.

After the 5-hour drive to Wallins, the team checked into the lodge and rested for the trip to the school the next day. Boxes were unloaded from the trailer, pulled by the skillful driving of Nathan Byrd, and arranged in the school gym. The students then arrive by grade level and were organized into four small groups, gathering around one of our team members who explained the Christian Easter story by using plastic eggs with icons of the Easter story tucked into one of twelve eggs. Egg number one contained a small piece of greenery, representing Palm Sunday, followed by more eggs containing symbols relating the last supper, the whipping of Jesus, the cross, the dice used in the gambling for Christ’s robe, and so forth. The last egg is empty since Jesus has arisen and is no longer in the tomb. It’s a powerful presentation and the showing of hands by many of the kids indicates some familiarity with the story.

After the Easter story, the kids receive their gift back packs, with items designated either for boys or girls, and then they return to their classrooms.

The staff is very appreciative of our relationship with the church and school and looks forward to this visit each year. If you wish to participate, all are welcome, and much fellowship is enjoyed during the round-trip travel. You may contact the church office to get your name on the list of participants and dates for 2026 will be announced in due time but look for the connection with the Easter dates.

Bob Webster



If you have graduates to announce in our June Messenger please contact the church office.

Things You Need To Know

Our new book club will start in June “What’s So Amazing About Grace” by Philip Yancey is available on Amazon.

Welcome to GPBC Dinner will be May 17th at 6:00pm. If you have recently joined GPBC whether through membership or regular attendance, please join us for an information dinner as we learn about each other.

Our Quarterly Church Conference will be May 18th at 6:00pm. Please plan to attend.

Grove Park Elementary School will need proctors May 23 and May 27–30th. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping.

April Showers Bring May Flowers

SIA will be hosting an event, May 15th at 11am with lunch at noon.

Speaker Katie Gantos from Twin Lakes speaking to us about senior wellness, the progression of Alzheimer's Disease/dementia and how we can support those living with the disease and their caregiver.



Please sign up to attend. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Together with their families, kindly join us for the wedding of

MATTHEW BYRD

-and-

KENSIE CULLER

May 3RD, 2025
at 2 o'clock in the afternoon
GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
108 Trail One Burlington, North Carolina



Ministers On Call for the Month of May

May 1-4	David McMillan
May 8-11	Matthew Byrd
May 15-18	Marian Brewer
May 22-25	Bob Webster
May 29-June 1	Beth Canada

Happy Birthday

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

