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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | JULY 2025

I have been pondering the Declaration of Independence a lot as we approach the 249th anniversary of its ratification. Two things have occurred to me that I would like to share with you all in this month's reflection. First, the United States was most assuredly free from the British Empire following the actions of the Second Continental Congress. Yet, that is a vague misrepresentation of reality. North Carolina had already declared itself free from King George on April 12, 1776, in Halifax, and other colonies had followed suit in a hodgepodge fashion. So, the events in Philadelphia were just another step toward freedom. The nation would take another step in in the ratification of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and another step with the Louisiana Purchase and another with the War of 1812 and the list goes on. Therein lies the secret of American history: our nation is always taking the next step toward freedom, and when we are at our worst as a nation, it is when we fail to secure previous steps or take the next one. The same is true for the child of God. The events of Easter weekend declare us free, free from the power of sin, free from the eternal hold of death, free from the sorrows and cares that beset us. We must continually strive to take the next step toward greater enjoyment of our freedom in Christ, while also guarding against taking a step backward into the chains of the past.

Likewise, as we proceed toward greater freedom, we must be aware that we not only allow others to experience the same freedom we enjoy but also seek to secure it for them. Thomas Jefferson wrote the following passage, which was later struck from the Declaration of Independence before its final ratification, as he delineated the abuses of King George. Jefferson wrote, "He [King George III] has waged a cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce." This strong denouncement of slavery was struck to keep the Southern colonies in the new nation. The Declaration signers wanted to be free, but they did not believe all should experience the same freedoms. What to me is even more galling is that they espoused emancipation but only granted it in limited instances after the Signers were dead. Beloved, we do this spiritually on numerous fronts. We should examine where we enjoy freedom but fail to advocate for others to experience the same freedom, remembering that in Christ, all are considered the same and all are deemed free. Let us truly let freedom ring.

Grace Abounds,

Marc

Check us out on:

Facebook.com/groveparkchurch

Instagram: groveparkchurch

YouTube: YouTube.com/@groveparkchurch



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
Wednesday, July 2	Noon	Romeo's at Southbound Sandwich
Friday, July 4	3:00 p.m.	SIA Fourth of July Cookout
Sunday, July 6	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
Monday, July 28	10:00 a.m.	SIA Christmas in July Set Up
Tuesday, July 29	10:00 a.m.	SIA Christmas in July Ornament Event
Friday, August 1	6:00 p.m.	Vacation Bible School
Saturday, August 2	9:00 a.m.	Vacation Bible School

The Messenger



Vacation Bible School August 1 (6:00 pm - 8:30 pm) August 3 (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

This year's Wild Wonder Theme is "Flourish". Flourish is about helping God's creation flourish and believing in the promise that God will make all things right again through the redemptive work of Jesus. All children age 3 through Grade 5 are invited to join us for a weekend of Wild Wonder. Look for the bulletin insert on Sunday mornings that you can use as an invitation for families in your neighborhood.

We are in need of VBS workers for Friday night and Saturday as well as some individuals who can help break down on Saturday afternoon. Sign-ups are available on the bulletin board by the library. We are in need of individuals to help with food, crafts, games and group leaders willing to lead a small group of children on our wild wonder adventure.

Hope boxes need school supplies and Target has some great deals now. These are the brands and the prices of what is on sale if you would like to start getting these items now. Crayons Crayola 24 pack .50 Mondo Llama 24 pack .25 Markers Crayola 10 pack fine line or broad line .99 Mondo Llama 10 pack fine line or broad line .75 **Colored Pencils** Crayola 12 pack .99 Mondo Llama 12 pack .50 Pencils Up & Up Brand 24 count #2 pencils .99 Notebooks Deal worthy brand one subject wide or college ruled notebooks .35 Deal worthy brand composition books .50



Our new Bible study on Isaiah 40-66 will begin in August.





Mt. Zion Baptist Association 2025 SEMOR ADULT BANOUET THURSDAY AUGUST 711

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH * 3572 W. GREENSBORO-CHAPEL HILL ROAD LIBERTY, NC 27298

> RATION ENDS MY. JULY 21ST SO PER PERSO

Registration Detail: can register at your church offi You can stop by our office at 2744 Ramada Rd, Burlington M-Th, 9am-2pm, or You can mail your reg P.O.Box 1005 Burlington, NC 27216

PLEASE MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION REACHES OUR OFFICE BY THE MONDAY, JULY 21ST DEADLINE.





JOIN SIA FOR UP ON THE BULLETIN

CHRISTMAS IN JULY-JULY 29TH AT 10AM. WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US AND MAKE A CHRISTMAS **ORNAMENT. PLEASE SIGN BOARD SIGN UP SHEET IF** YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

Ministers On Call for the Month of July

Bob Webster Marian Brewer Beth Canada Derek Denard Mike Bouldin



SIA-CELEBRATE MEAL.

July 3-6 July 10-13 July 17-20 July 24-27 July 31-Aug 3

July Birthdays

Joshua Bogart	July 03
Eddie Canada	July 04
Gail Shepherd	July 07
Jan Bouldin	July 08
Pat Helms	July 08
Kenna Davis	July 09
John Moore	July 09
Kathy Fujiwara	July 10
Kim Cain	July 12
Gary Parrish	July 12
Jim Etheridge	July 13
Ann Kidd	July 15
Avery Miles	July 21
Alex Johnson	July 23
Matthew Byrd	July 24
Chloe Dunn	July 26
Brandon Kidd	July 28
Tiffany Dunn	July 29
Ken Davis	July 31



We will have a baptism during our morning worship on July 6th.