



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.



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 Isaiah
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
Monday, Sept 1		Office Closed for Labor Day
Wednesday, Sept 3	Noon	ROMEOS at Southbound Sandwich
Friday, Sept 5		WHS Football-Feed the Team
Tuesday, Sept 9		Red Cross Blood Drive Set Up
Wednesday, Sept 10	10:00 a.m.	Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, Sept 19		WHS Football-Feed the Team



THE MESSENGER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2025

September arrives with the familiar sounds of school bells and football whistles. I confess that my heart beats a little slower than normal this year for a game that, though I never played, I dearly love. I will explain my dissatisfaction with the sport a little later. For now, let me share why I love football. My dear friend Gene Willets once asked me something to the effect of “What is the most hopeful moment of the year?” I replied that I did not know, maybe Christmas? Gene responded that it was 11:59 AM on the first Saturday of college football, as it was the last moment for fans to hope their team was going to be great before kick-off revealed the true state of the team. This has stuck with me because it shed light on why I so love football—it’s a sport of hope.

Yes, this could be said of other sports, but football is in a class by itself. Baseball, my second love, is a sport steeped in tradition and shared family memories. Football is a game of hope from beginning to end. I am constantly hoping for a big pass or a breakout run. When my team is caught short, I eagerly scan the field for some bright yellow detritus that I normally would despise, but in that instant, I hope means my team’s failure has been washed away like it never happened. I usually spend even blowouts dwelling in that hope that one play could turn it all around, or at the very least that the band will play something I love. Sadly, I can’t say I always live in such eager expectation in every other moment of life. Yet, the life of faith, which is far more important than football, calls us to such hope because God is at work in this world, and we should be ever hopeful about what that is and how we might play a role. The message of Easter, which is the eternal message of the child of God, is a message of hope. The eternal question is, how well do we act on and deliver that hope?

Now, I previously mentioned my current dissatisfaction with the state of football, and I should qualify that by narrowing it specifically to Power 5 college football. “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil,” we are told in 1 Timothy 6:10, and I fear that such love is destroying not only college football but also the lives and traditions associated with it. The fact that my beloved Tar Heels are hosting that perennial ACC football power, Stanford, for Homecoming, is proof of how far afield the sport has gone. I am fully aware that times change, and this occasionally requires me to change to meet the moment. While not a straight comparison, I feel a similar disquietude when I look at the state of the church in our society. I confess that some of the trends I see in church life do not make sense to me, and some flat-out trouble me as being antithetical to how I hear the call of God’s Kingdom. Just recently, I spent several hours reading about the multi-site church movement, with which I still have major qualms. As I pondered all of this and my unease with it, I was reminded of the words of Gamaliel in Acts 5, where he declared, “If this plan is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them.” Herein, I return to hope. The eternal existence of God, who is always doing what is right, gives me hope to stay the course and trust God’s work, even when I am dismayed. May we each hold on to the power of that hope and press on to that which God is calling us.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

I was watching an interview on TV recently, and the host asked a question made famous by James Lipton (a world-class interviewer): “If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?”

I was struck by that question. I didn’t get hung up on the “if Heaven exists...” part, but I focused on what I would like to hear God say to me.

For me, the answer came almost immediately. What I would like to hear God say is, “I’m glad you’re here.”

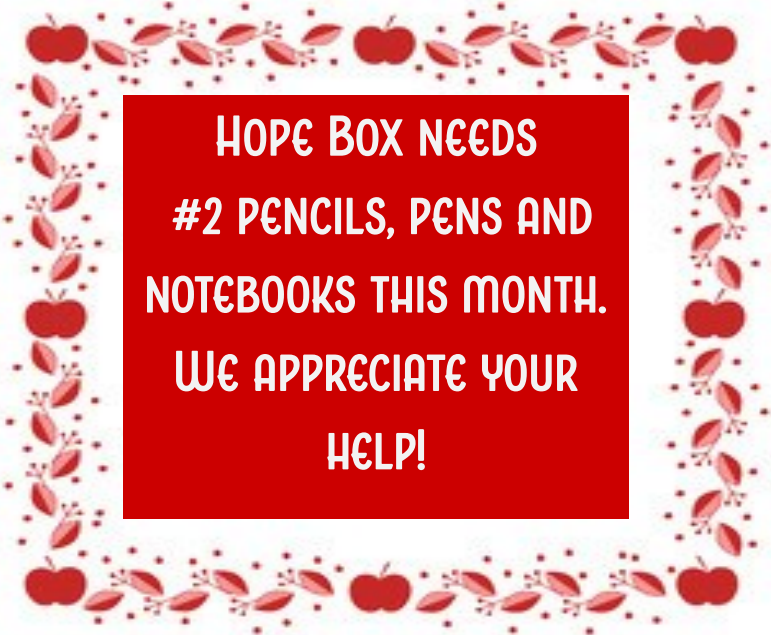
I could write page after page on this, but space does not permit. I’ll throw out two thoughts, and I hope you’ll take a moment to think through them.

First, I’m still trying to come to grips with the thought that God really does love me and wants to be with me. I’ve always felt God always looked at me with an air of disappointment. But nothing is further from the truth. The message of the Gospel is that God loves you enough to do whatever it takes to reach you, and He truly wants to be with you. (If you want to be truly challenged by the fact that God truly loves you, I recommend you read “The Ragamuffin Gospel” by Brennan Manning.)

Second, remember that God sees death very differently than we do. For us, it’s scary and we don’t want it. For God, it’s not the end of our lives but it’s us coming to be with Him. What a difference!

What’s your answer to this question? What would you like to hear God say to you when you get to Heaven?

Dale



Fall Festival

October 25th we will have our annual Fall Festival. We will need donations of candy and we will need members to volunteer for the event. More information to come.



North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) is a special offering received during the month of September that supports the ministries of Baptists on Mission, Church Planting, mission camps, associational projects and mobilization ministry

projects. Below is a link where you can see the many, many ways the NC Missions Offering assists ministries in impacting the lost for Christ!

<https://ncbaptist.org/article/offer-relief-for-today-hope-for-tomorrow=through-ncmo/>



Contact Marian Brewer if you are interested in helping with Operation Christmas Child.

Ministers On Call for the Month of September

September 4-7	Beth Canada
September 11-14	Derek Denard
September 18-21	Mike Bouldin
September 25-28	David McMillan

September Birthdays

Barbara Dodson	September 02
Bruce Joplin	September 05
Marcus King	September 05
Naomi Taylor	September 07
Dave Bolick	September 08
David Stalls	September 15
Benjy Overby	September 19
Glea Haithcock	September 20
Ann Hayes	September 20
Mike Bouldin	September 22
Robert Padgett	September 23
Joanne Griffith	September 28

