



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | FEB 2026

It might not feel like it, but we are on the precipice of Easter. I know, Christmas was just a second ago, it seems, but later this month we will observe Ash Wednesday and enter the season of Lent. I fear that Lent has become a season that we acknowledge with short-lived behavioral changes, divorced from spiritual introspection and accompanying long-term modifications. In other words, we will forgo chocolate for 40 days, say we have observed Lent, and enter Easter without the renewal and rebirth that proper Lenten observance is designed to foster. How can we make this Lenten season so meaningful that our "Alleluias" will erupt from our hearts on Easter morning?

First, it is incumbent on us to slow down and observe our environment and ourselves carefully. This is something I have been intentionally working on in my life over the last few months, and I confess it is difficult. Modern society is designed for speed, as people not only want things, but want them, whatever "them" happens to be, immediately, regardless of what that does to themselves, others, or the environment they inhabit. This speed also causes us to overlook things going on around us. The call to Lenten observance includes a call to settle our minds and observe. To that end, our Lenten Sundays will focus on what close observation can teach us about ourselves and our community.

Secondly, Lent is the season during which we are called, with greater intention than at other times of the year, to treat our souls as we would if we were going to the doctor for an annual physical. When I go for my annual physical, my physician does a battery of blood tests, an ultrasound to check for any changes in organ functions, and even gives me an eye exam, though I generally have already seen my optometrist. She also asks me a series of questions, following her standard question, "Do you have anything to report?" She does each of these tasks so that she can really know what is going on inside me and cause me to be honest about things that I may have wanted to keep secret or not even thought about. How often do we do something similar spiritually? I suspect that most folks, including myself, often pass through life thinking we are ok until all the sudden we aren't. Hence why David cries out in Psalm 139, "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Beloved, as we are called to a Holy Lent, let us examine ourselves, ask God to shine a light into the farthest regions of our souls so that we may know if there be any grievous way in us and take the appropriate actions to bring sweet relief to our souls.

Lent is more than chocolate and caffeine fasting. It's about baring our souls to God and welcoming, yes welcoming, God's adjustments. To change the world, we must first know what must change in us and do it. I look forward to seeing you at our Ash Wednesday service on February 18 as we begin our pilgrimage to the joy of Easter and begin this season of spiritual assessment.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Mon., Wed., Thurs.		Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesday	11:30 p.m.	In Person Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study on 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 "The Amen Effect"
Sunday, Feb. 1	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
Wednesday, Feb. 4	Noon	Romeo's at Southbound Sandwich
Sunday, Feb. 8		Souper Bowl Sunday
Monday, Feb. 9	10:30 a.m.	Beth Canada's Ladies Bible Study at Woods of Grove Park Clubhouse
Thursday, Feb. 14	11:00 a.m.	SIA Souper February Luncheon
Sunday, Feb. 15	6:00 p.m.	Quarterly Church Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 22	5:00 p.m.	Chili Cook-off



Thank you, Grove Park, for your commitment to Hope Boxes and providing the items that are needed all throughout the year for our Spring trip. This past year we delivered around 340 bags to students from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. This year to avoid deficits in March, we are going to post numbers and update regularly on social media and in the church foyer about items received. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

Hope Box items by month for 2026-2027
We need 350 of each item.

January-Hairbrushes and Combs

February-Bodywash and Deodorant for older students

March-Small Toys (\$5-\$10)

April-Volunteers Needed for the Trip

May- Toothbrushes

June-Toothpaste

July-Small Toys (\$5-\$10)

August-Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, Pencils and Pens, Notebooks

September- Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, Pencils and Pens, Notebooks

October-Bar Soap (no Irish Spring or other strong-smelling soap)

November-Washcloths or Poufs

December-Small Toys (\$5-\$10)

SIA - SOUPER FEBRUARY

February 12 at 11:00am

Lunch served at Noon

Katie Stalls will be speaking about Estate Planning



Sunday, February 22 at 5:00pm the Deacons will be hosting a chili cookoff. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

Quarterly Church Conference

We will host our quarterly church conference at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, February 15, 2026. If you or a committee you serve on have any reports or motions to bring before the conference, please let the church office know as soon as possible.



Grove Park Ladies

You are invited to a Bible Study, led by Beth Canada, at the Woods of Grove Park Clubhouse on February 9th at 10:30a.m.

Let Us Know

If you are a Grove Park member and do not receive the newsletter by email and would like the monthly financial statement mailed to you, please call the church office.

Deacons on Call This Month

1/29-2/1	Shelly Sapp
2/5-2/8	David Stalls
2/12-2/15	Bob Webster
2/19-2/22	Bobby Andrews
2/26-3/1	Mike Bouldin

February Birthdays

REV. DALE CAIN	FEBRUARY 01
REV. DR. MARC SANDERS	FEBRUARY 03
BENJAMIN KING	FEBRUARY 07
DANIEL KING	FEBRUARY 07
RANDY MCINTYRE	FEBRUARY 07
RON SAPP	FEBRUARY 11
BOBBY ANDREWS	FEBRUARY 12
EARL HUDSON	FEBRUARY 17
KATHY SHAMBLEY	FEBRUARY 20
WARREN PARKS	FEBRUARY 22
AUDREY SNIDER	FEBRUARY 27



Please join us every Tuesday morning at 11:30am for our in person prayer meeting. Meetings are held in the fellowship hall and we would love to see you.

