



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

108 TRAIL ONE
BURLINGTON, NC 27215

CONTACT US:

Phone: 336-227-2910

Email: office@grovesparkchurch.com

Online: www.grovesparkchurch.com

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BURLINGTON, NC 27215
PERMIT NO. 140

Return Service Request

Check us out on:

Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch

Instagram: grovesparkchurch

YouTube: YouTube.com/@grovesparkchurch



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | MAR 2025

“For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and those who increase knowledge increase sorrow.”

Ecclesiastes 1:18

The future of humanity is at an inflection point, the magnitude of which I am uncertain whether we fully grasp. Our news feeds are filled these days with stories about “AI” and the ever expanding role it plays in our lives. The artificial intelligence industry is a significant driver of the stock market’s rise, and, with it, a substantial portion of American wealth. In a matter of moments it seems, AI has woven itself into our lives as we rely on it to serve our every whim through Alexa on our counter or Siri on our phone. Many of us have enjoyed using AI to create funny images that we share with friends. Eliza and I recently took photos of all our books and loaded them into an AI program to create a spreadsheet of our library. Yet, we cannot lose sight of Qoholeth’s warning above from Ecclesiastes. What sorrows await us due to the increase in knowledge that AI currently affords and still promises? More pointedly, what role should the Church play in advocating for industry regulation so that the awaiting sorrow might be mitigated?

First, we would do well to look at the human costs of AI. We may not realize it, but much of the technology that runs AI is built by components that require mining in many parts of the world, where fair wages are unheard of, as workers toil under conditions equivalent to slavery. Cobalt is essential to the AI economy, and its extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which accounts for 50% of the world’s cobalt supply, is often carried out by children who work in deplorable conditions for little more than \$2 a day. This does not honor everyone as created in the image of God, as we are commanded to do when we love our neighbor as ourselves. Furthermore, how will our society enable people to work as the jobs they once performed are now done by AI? When you go to Bojangles’ drive-thru these days, you do not give your order to a human but to AI. How can people afford basic human needs if all the entry-level jobs they might have filled are now done by AI? We work, Scripture tells us, to remind us of our need for God’s grace. It’s harder to see that grace if there are no jobs to do.

Secondly, as stewards of God’s creation, we should ask ourselves about the environmental costs of AI. We have all watched as our electricity costs have exploded. The data centers required to run AI are at the heart of these increases. The data firm Cleanview recently reported that nearly 680 data centers are being planned in the US, requiring the energy equivalent of 186 large nuclear power plants. Where will we get the fuel to run these centers, and at what cost to creation? These centers also require substantial amounts of cooling water to operate. As drought conditions continue to affect vast swaths of the world due to climate change, where will we get the water to operate these plants, and will we do so in a manner that makes us faithful or unfaithful stewards of God’s gift?

Finally, how does AI impede justice rolling like a mighty stream across the world? The AI tech companies are small in number but gargantuan in the amounts of money they can spend on political advocacy. The nature of capitalist industry is to pursue profits, which I am not arguing against, but we should consider how that pursuit relates to the Biblical witness. When we see legislation being debated or even ratified, do we take the time to understand its impact in relation to Biblical justice? For instance, a February 17 report issued by the bipartisan NC Energy Policy Task Force found that 80% of Duke Energy’s projected electricity usage is attributable to data centers. It also reported that, under NC law, these data centers do not have to pay sales tax on their electricity use. How does this relate to our understanding of the Scriptures’ call for equity in business practices and treating the poor found in say Isaiah, Amos, or Zephaniah?

I am afraid I am space-limited and so cannot explore this as fully as I would like. I simply wanted to use this as an educational point to encourage us to bring our Bibles to the conversations around us. By doing so, we can work to mitigate the sorrow that Ecclesiastes warns us is ahead. I am happy to share some of the works I have been reading to learn more about AI, if it would help your studies. Beloved, the world is crying for our witness; we should meet the moment in our pursuit of God’s Kingdom here on Earth.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Tuesday	11:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	In Person Prayer Meeting Zoom Bible Study Isaiah
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting Zoom Prayer Meeting Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club “The Amen Effect”
Monday, March 2	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	Noon	Romeo’s at Southbound Sandwich
Thursday, March 5	10:00 a.m.	Nominating Committee Meeting
Sunday, March 8		Daylight Savings Time
Monday, March 9	10:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study Hosted by Beth Canada the meeting will be held at the Woods of Grove Park Clubhouse
Sunday, March 22		Kentucky Mission
Monday, March 23		Kentucky Mission
Friday, March 27		Grove Park Elementary School PBIS Celebration
Sunday, March 29		Palm Sunday

Ladies Monthly Bible Study

Monday, March 9th at 10:30 a.m. We will meet at the Woods of Grove Park Clubhouse.

You are welcome to bring a guest.

This month's topic will be:

"Noise! Noise! Everywhere Noise!"



Don't you just love to see God's hand move? Let me tell you about a few things we have seen God do recently:

1. We are going through the final stages of the application process to partner with Second Harvest Food Bank. Through this partnership, we will be able to purchase food for our Food Pantry at a greatly reduced cost, so we can expand our Food Ministry to reach more people. There is such a great need in Alamance County for this ministry, and God is making a way for us to do more to share His love with more people.
2. Our grant application was approved for a new emergency generator from Baptists on Mission. This came from their "Disaster Ready Church" Initiative, and it will allow us to serve the needs of our local community during widespread power outages. We have some implementation details to put in place, so keep an eye out for more information at a later date.
3. We have selected a new Church Accompanist, Ed Limon. Ed has decades of experience in music education and in leading worship through playing the piano and organ. He is also very fluent in Spanish and has a real passion for missions. His first Sunday will be March 1, and we look forward to serving the Lord together with him. And, by the way, please make sure to thank Janice Byrd and Kim Cain for their accompaniment during January and February!

These are just a few new things that God is doing among us. Let's keep looking for His hand and getting involved in what He is doing around, in, and through us!

Dale

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday 3/29/26

Maundy Thursday 4/2/26

Good Friday 4/3/26

Easter Sunday 4/5/26



We would like to welcome Ed Limón as our new Church Accompanist.

WE NEED TO FIRM UP OUR CHILDCARE SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE ON SUNDAYS. AN EMAIL WAS SENT OUT WITH A GOOGLE DOC FOR EASY SIGN UP. AS ALWAYS, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

Ministers On Call for the Month of March

March 5-8

Eddie Canada

March 12-15

David McMillan

March 19-22

Shelly Sapp

March 26-29

David Stalls

March Birthdays

Jerome Moore	March 02
Alton Apple	March 05
Karen Perry	March 06
Marian Brewer	March 08
Shelly Sapp	March 08
Ellen Andrews	March 11
Chuck Fujiwara	March 11
Patricia McIntyre	March 11
Karen Auth	March 12
Derek Denard	March 14
Rosemarie Goslen	March 14
Joy Byrd	March 17
Larry Canada	March 17
Caleb Warren	March 19
Gracie Williamson	March 19
Lindsay Denard	March 20
Betty Joplin	March 20
Howard Hayes	March 25
Shirley Bentley	March 26
Anne Latham	March 28

Happy Birthday To You!!!

