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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | APRIL 2026

April arrives brimming with the promises of Spring and laden with the reminders of history. Our country is in the midst of celebrating the 250th anniversary of its independence as we speak. The festivities began in earnest last year on April 19th with the commemoration of “the shot heard round the world” at the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Days from the time I’m currently writing, North Carolina will stand supreme amongst her fellow colonies by being the first on April 12 to declare her independence from the British crown, setting the stage for the events to follow in Philadelphia’s summer heat. Sadly, April is also a month in which some of the ugliest stains in our nation’s history are writ large, as we will also commemorate on April 12 the firing on Fort Sumter and the launch of our bloody civil war. The casualty figures of that war were astronomical. The battle of Shiloh in April 1862 would produce 23,000 casualties, more than all previous wars combined in American history, and there were still at least 20 more Shiloh’s to be fought over the next three years. The historian Shelby Foote has stated that the reason for such high casualty numbers is that “the weapons were way ahead of the tactics.” Grievously, this is one of history’s enduring lessons, repeated in every conflict without fail. It’s a lesson we repeat in everyday life as well.

Corporately, the adage that the average American church is better prepared to reach the 1970s rather than the 2020s is often true. Our strategies have had immense difficulty keeping up because the rate of generational change is so rapid that it’s hard to catch a breath. For instance, our Catholic brothers and sisters have been reporting record numbers of converts in their 20s and 30s over the last several years. These converts report being drawn to the liturgy, tradition, and theological depth that they find in Catholic worship. The same is true of other branches of Christianity that offer these elements of worship. Yet this is the exact opposite of what church growth consultants have argued throughout my career. What has changed? The “weapons” have clearly shifted, even though we may only see it slowly in our local contexts, and the question becomes how we will respond. What other areas have the weapons changed in our society, and require tactical reassessment?

How do we apply this individually? Well, how often do we apply the old tactics of faith? How often do we seek God’s approval by doing the works of faith rather than resting in the providence of grace? How often do we feel hopeless in our battle against some sin and think it is all-conquering rather than ingesting the confidence that comes with knowing that Christ’s resurrection has conquered all those things that would beset us? Easter is not some annual commemoration; it is a declared reality that the war is over. We are to clothe ourselves in the reality of Christ’s victory, armed now with those powerful weapons of unconditional love and abounding grace. To do anything less is to lose ourselves in a conflict that need not be fought and will only result in unnecessary heartache and sorrow. Christ is risen; he is risen indeed! Rejoice! Give thanks! Sing the song of victory.

Grace Abounds,  
Marc

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Mon., Wed., Thurs.		Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
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, April 1	Noon	ROMEOS at Southbound Sandwich
Thursday, April 2	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 3	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 4	10:00 a.m.	Spring Fling
Sunday, April 5		Easter Sunday
Monday, April 6		Office Closed
Wednesday, April 8	9:00 a.m.	Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, April 16	10:00 a.m.	Nomination Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 23	11:00 a.m.	SIA Event



He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.

- Matthew 28:6a

Easter is my favorite holiday of the year. Many people say that Christmas is their favorite, or their birthday, or the first day of March Madness. But, for me, nothing tops the experience of Easter.

On that first Easter morning, everything changed. Jesus' disciples and followers went from depression to rejoicing - at least, once they finally were convinced He had risen! They went from demoralized and dejected to empowered and energized. Because of their encounters with the risen Lord, they became a force that changed the world - a change that still impacts lives over 2000 years later.

We often find ourselves in places where we sense a deep need for change. Perhaps we feel that our lives have become stale and that our best days are behind us. Maybe we look around us and long for the healing of a ruptured relationship, either with a person or with God. Maybe we look forward and see nothing positive on the horizon.

The message of Easter can still change everything! Christ died on the cross and rose again. And if He could defeat sin and death, then He has the power to overcome anything and everything that we face. He can empower us and energize us, just as He did them. No matter who or where we are in our lives, He can use us to impact others - and who knows how that impact can change the future!

I hope that, during this Easter season, you will experience an Easter kind of change in your life. Don't forget - the same Jesus who died for you and rose again is with you now. He is with you, and He is for you. Let His love and His power flow in you, around you, and through you, to make an impact on others.

Happy Easter!

Dale

# Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY	MARCH 29, 2026
MAUNDY THURSDAY	APRIL 2, 2026
GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL 3, 2026
EASTER SUNDAY	APRIL 5, 2026

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND WE ARE THRILLED TO HOST OUR ANNUAL SPRING FLING (EASTER EGG HUNT) ON SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH, FROM 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM. TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS, WE NEED YOU! WHETHER YOU'RE A MASTER OF THE GRILL OR A CHAMPION OF THE BOUNCY HOUSE, THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU TO SERVE. PLEASE SIGNUP ON OUR BULLETIN BOARD.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK WILL BE THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY AND EPALS WILL BE TAKING FLOWERS TO THE EPES TEACHERS. WE NEED 65 BUD VASES FOR THE FLOWERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY TO DONATE PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE MISSIONS ROOM.



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS SEEKING CANDIDATES TO FILL POSITIONS THAT WILL OPEN ON DECEMBER 31, 2026. IF YOU BELIEVE SOMEONE'S LIFE EXHIBITS THE QUALITIES OF BEING A TRUSTEE OR A DEACON, PLEASE EMAIL THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, [nominating@groveparkchurch.com](mailto:nominating@groveparkchurch.com), SO THAT THEY CAN BE CONSIDERED.

### MINISTERS ON CALL FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

BOB WEBSTER	APRIL 2-APRIL 5
BOBBY ANDREWS	APRIL 9-APRIL 12
MIKE BOULDIN	APRIL 16-APRIL 19
EDDIE CANADA	APRIL 23-APRIL 26
DAVID MCMILLAN	APRIL 30-MAY 3

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

JAXON BOGART	APRIL 05
CATHY MARTIN	APRIL 05
JAZMINE BOGART	APRIL 07
DONNA MOORE	APRIL 07
JASON BOGART	APRIL 08
SUSAN HUDSON	APRIL 13
BENNIE KIDD	APRIL 14
LOUISE MCGHEE	APRIL 15
HOWARD MARTIN	APRIL 16
ED WILLIAMSON	APRIL 17
KATIE OVERBY	APRIL 18
JOYCE HAYES	APRIL 21
SCARLETT RUTTER	APRIL 25
JESSICA RUTTER	APRIL 25
MARY ETTA KING	APRIL 27
SUSAN MASSEY	APRIL 27
RANDY JOPLIN	APRIL 30

