



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

108 TRAIL ONE
BURLINGTON, NC 27215

CONTACT US:

Phone: 336-227-2910
Fax: 336-227-7861
Email: office@grovesparkchurch.com

Online:
www.grovesparkchurch.com

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:30am - 3:30pm

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

Return Service Request

Check us out on:

[Facebook.com/GroveParkChurch](https://www.facebook.com/GroveParkChurch)

Instagram: grovesparkchurch



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat. Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Thursdays at 7:00 pm Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at 7:00 pm April 03 at 5:00 pm April 05 at 11:30 am April 06 at Noon	Noon Devotional on Facebook Live 1 & 2 Thessalonians Bible Study led by Pastor Marc GPBC Book Club Facebook Prayer Meeting Zoom Prayer Meeting Deacon Meeting Widow's Support Luncheon at Harbor Inn ROMEO's (Real Old Men Eating Out) Lunch at South Bound Sandwich Shop
April 10 at 10:00 am April 11 at 7:00 pm April 14 at 7:00 pm April 15 at 7:00 pm April 16 at 10:30 am April 17 at 10:00 am April 18 April 20 from 10 am—3pm	Palm Sunday Finance Committee via Zoom Maundy Thursday Service Good Friday Service Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunday Office Closed. Deacon George Britton on call. Red Cross Blood Drive at GPBC



The
Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
APRIL 2022

Spring for me is a season filled with memories. Some of them, like our wedding and Scout's birth, make me gloriously happy. Others make me homesick for another time and place, like how the sight of a fully bloomed azalea takes me immediately back to Enfield. Sadly, not all my memories are relished, as Spring has been the home of deep sadness and loss as we have spent so many Springs mourning the loss of cherished loved ones. There are numerous Springs that I wish could be wiped from my memory, the losses were so great. I rarely allow myself to walk through those memories for fear that even opening the door just a hair would unleash a torrent of emotions that would drown me in despair.

I have been reflecting recently on these doors and easing some doors open to that hair's breadth. What I discovered as I have done so has been enlightening and I thought may be helpful to some of you as well. First, I have been surprised to be embraced by the grace of God. It is easy to look back on some memories and see only darkness, particularly those memories involving the loss of a loved one. I confess some of those days seem to be absent even a whiff of God's grace and yet, as I ease open the door that is what I see first. It is not just the shadow of grace I see as it empowers me to open the door, but the fact that grace truly did enable me to make it through those heart wrenching days. God was truly present and more pointedly abiding throughout the difficulties. Sometimes we believe God is absent in past difficulties and that is part of why they were so hard. However, when we open the door there He is as He prompts a couple travelling on I-40 to pick up two random college kids broke down on the side of the road in pre-cell phone days. The couple did not know how much loss one of the pair had suffered that weekend, but God did and proved once more His grace was sufficient all the way back to Chapel Hill. Beloved, can you see grace as you open the doors of dreaded memories and more importantly can you allow its embrace to heal not only your past, but your present and future as well? When we do so we allow ourselves to be defined by our future and not the pains of our past.

Secondly, I have come to understand that being intentional in life is important but living in the mundane moment is key to many memories. We have attempted to be very intentional as Scout has grown up to create experiences she will remember long after we have departed this world. I think we would all do well and see more lives impacted by our witness if we lived life with greater intentionality. Yet, I have also become acutely aware that some of my fondest memories were stamped when I allowed myself to live in the moment. I do hope that Scout always remembers her first Carolina basketball game, but I hope even more she will remember sitting in my lap playing video games and knowing that she was deeply loved. It is in the mundane, the unplanned things of life, that we must learn to see God as we understand that He desires to be a part of our natural life, not just our intentional selves. It is discovering Him in the mundane behind some of the dark doors that has allowed me to throw them wide open without regard for the potential torrent of despair that could be unleashed. To be sure, if I can see God's blessing in the overlooked, then I can trust His watch care over the fully aware things of life.

Finally, I have discovered that opening the past's dark door is key to enabling my worship today. I recently had cause to fully plumb the depths of my first two bouts of depression. These are doors I never ever open I confess. Yet, as I explored these deeply troubling times, I became aware of how far I have come. I will not lie, I will always be fearful of having a reoccurrence of those days, but God has blessed me with things presently that I lacked then to assure me I will not be overwhelmed should that be the path I must once again trod. Eliza's presence alone changes my outlook on whether I will survive and for that I am thankful. Beloved, do you allow your past to make you more thankful for your present? Does it cause you to worship God with greater abandon and intensity? Our past too often limits us when it should be the key to greater freedom in God if we would only allow it to have such an impact. I cannot express how freeing it has been for me to air out some of these dark rooms of memory this Spring and I pray that my experience will enable you to do so as well for truly then we can all experience resurrection power.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

"Behold, I am doing a new thing..." (Isaiah 43:19). In this verse, God is telling His people (Israel) about a new work He is doing to bring them back to their homeland (The Promised Land).

For God, doing something new is not anything unusual; in fact, this is His standard operating procedure. He is always doing new things, in order to bring His people (you, me, and everyone) to our homeland (relationship with Him now, eternity with Him someday).

This time of year, we are particularly aware of so many new things around us - new flowers to look at, new baby bird chirps to listen to, new pollens to sneeze with. After being apart for a couple of years, we're seeing new faces in our community. You're even seeing a new face in the pulpit (and thank you so much for the opportunity to serve).

While we're seeing all the new things going on around us, let's make sure we're intentionally looking for the new ways God is working to bring His people home. Be careful, though - once we see the new things He's doing, He'll expect us to join in!

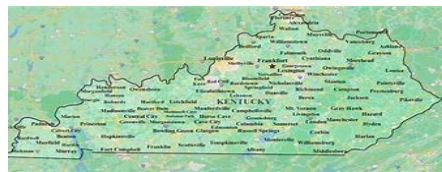
Dale



Hope Boxes

We are taking Hope Boxes to Appalachia again this Spring after our Covid hiatus. We will be delivering to Wallins Elementary School and they will pass them out to the students due to Covid protocols. If you have boxes from our previously scheduled trip, please bring them by April 14th. If you'd like to make a box and need direction or have any questions, please see Eliza Sanders.

Thanks you for helping us once again bring hope to Appalachia.



Holy Week Services

Mauudy Thursday	April 14th at 7:00 pm
Good Friday Tenebrae	April 15th at 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday	April 17th at 10:00 am

We will observe the Table of the Lord during our Mauudy Thursday service. If you will be worshipping from home and would like Communion elements delivered to you, please let the church office know by Sunday, April 10th.



Ukrainian Relief

Russia's war in Ukraine continues. Crippling sanctions have been imposed against Russia but the violence continues. Many of us are watching from afar and wondering how we can help the Ukrainian people whose homes, cities, and lives are being destroyed before our eyes. If you would like to give towards relief for the Ukrainian people, you may donate on-line on the GPBC website or place an offering in the collection plate. Please designate for "Ukraine Relief" and it will be directed to Baptists on Mission's work in this troubled region.

There will be a 'Prayer Vigil for Ukraine' on Sunday, April 3rd from 3-4 pm in downtown Graham. This is being led by First United Methodist Church, Graham.



Mark your calendar!

We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16th at 10:30 am.

We hope you will plan to join us! If you would like to help or have questions, please see Eliza Sanders.

Thanks for always showing up!

Burlington Community Blood Drive
Grove Park Baptist Church
 108 Trail One
 Burlington, NC 27215

Wednesday, April 20, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Make your appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Grove Park or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

COVID-19 Antibody Testing: Your donation may help some w/COVID-19. RedCrossBlood.org/AntibodyTesting

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:
 Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

Older Adults Ministry

Just because it is a month away, doesn't mean you need to wait until the last minute to call. CALL NOW, so we can start planning, because we are having a party!

It will be Cinco de Mayo, and we will be having a fiesta! There will be a Taco bar, and lots more!
So sign up now and bring someone new!

Register by calling 336-226-0249.

Thursday, May 5th
 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

"Life Can Be a Pill"
 Medication Interaction Safety
Guest Speaker
 Amanda Gates, Pharmacist

FBC Graham Baptist Church
 224 N. Main Street, Graham

Ministers On Call for the Month of April:

March 31 thru April 03	Deacon Marian Brewer
April 07 thru 10	Deacon Larry Dodson
April 14 thru 17	Deacon George Britton
Monday, April 18	Deacon George Britton
April 21 thru 24	Deacon Joan Smith
April 28 thru May 01	Deacon Earl Hudson

ROMEO's

We have a new lunch group, the ROMEO's (Real Old Men Eating Out). Their first lunch will be at Noon on April 6th at Southbound Sandwich Shop. Southbound is located at 3328 South Church Street in the Correct Time Plaza. If you are male and reading this, you qualify as a ROMEO, so make plans to join.

WIDOW'S / SINGLE WOMEN SUPPORT LUNCHEON

The Widow's / Single Women Support Luncheon will be on Tuesday, April 5th at 11:30 a.m. at Harbor Inn. All widows and single ladies are invited.

Please make plans to join us on the 5th of April.

(Our Known)
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jaxon Bogart	April 05
John Horne	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
Othello Traywick	April 14
Louise McGhee	April 15
Howard Martin	April 16
Ed Williamson	April 17
Katie Overby	April 18
Joyce Hayes	April 21
Joan Massey	April 23
Jerry Coleman	April 25
Jessica Rutter	April 25
Scarlett Rutter	April 25
David Snider	April 25
Mary Etta King	April 27
Randy Joplin	April 30