



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.

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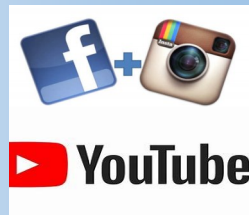


Check us out on:

Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch

Instagram: grovesparkchurch

YouTube: YouTube.com/@grovesparkchurch



The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | JULY 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service in person and Facebook Live
	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Mon., Wed., Thurs.		Devotional on Facebook Live
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
July 3	Noon	ROMEO's at Southbound Sandwich
	TBD	4th of July Outreach
July 4		Church Office Closed
July 18	9:00 a.m.	SIA Rudy's Theatre (Selma, NC)



One of the more obscure founding fathers that I pay particular attention to during theatrical depictions of those heady days in the summer of 1776 is John Dickinson. John Dickinson was a Pennsylvania delegate to the Continental Congress and a loyal subject of the British Crown. He is often depicted, rightly, as the principal opposition to those who advocated for independence. He refused to sign the Declaration of Independence, but interestingly enough upon his resignation from the Congress, immediately joined the Pennsylvania Militia as a brigadier general. He later went on to serve in leadership roles in both Pennsylvania and Delaware and was a signer of the US Constitution, where he assisted in drafting the First Amendment.

I offer you John Dickinson as a study in Romans 12:2 where Paul famously commands Christians to "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Dickinson allowed himself to be conformed to the world of his day. It was unfathomable for a colony to separate itself from the mother country as those revolutionaries were proposing. Some thought that breaking away from Britain meant repudiating the hard-earned past of those initial frontier settlers that had risked all in the New World. Many believed the rebellious patriots were opening up everyone to attacks from foreign adversaries and fear was rampant. What was missing among these thoughts and fears was a renewed understanding that times had changed and that God was opening up new opportunities for those who like the sons of Issachar "understood the times and what Israel ought to do" if only they allowed their mindsets and understandings to be renewed and transformed.

Beloved, the truth of the matter is that we live in similar times. The world is rapidly changing around us and while in some instances changing with them is conformity, we must remember that not all instances are and God is calling us to allow our minds to be transformed to meet this new day of mercy, to eat fresh manna, to receive today's answer for daily bread, to know the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. The Church has woefully been inadequate to such tasks throughout its history, but to do so now risks unknown dangers. Changing our mindsets and understandings is hard. One of the most difficult things I have had to do with my recent medical issues is transforming my mind to what I could and could not do. I understand the difficulty. Yet, we all should also know the sweet and refreshing blessing of being in the perfect will of God and seek that. May we take Paul's command to heart and seek the will of God through daily transformation. May John Dickinson serve as a lesson to us all, to allow God to transform us daily so that the later good we do will not be overshadowed by our earlier conformity to the world's present state of affairs.

Grace Abounds,

Marc

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence
(2 Peter 1:3)



This morning, while I was enjoying my breakfast, I watched the birds get their breakfast too (as I do most mornings). We have two bird feeders hanging from the chain-link fence in our backyard, just outside our kitchen's bay window. One feeder is outside the fence, and the other is just inside it. The two feeders are maybe 12 inches from each other, and they both contain the same type of seed.

If you take a look at the pictures, you'll notice that the outside bird feeder is empty. It's not because we don't put out food, but we have a few squirrels whose primary mission in life is to empty this bird feeder. They eat more bird seed than the birds do!

A couple of things to notice about the birds in these two pictures. In the picture on the left, notice how hard the cardinal is contorting his body to get the remaining bird seed. He's really twisting himself to get those crumbs. In the picture on the right, the house finch is looking at us as if to say, "Where's my food? You aren't doing your job!" These birds seem to be struggling with and complaining about the empty feeder.

Now, look again at the picture on the left. Notice anything in the background, in the top-right corner? It's the other bird feeder, just on the other side of the fence. And, if you look closely, the squirrels have left that feeder alone. It's full of seed, almost to the very top!

It amazes me that the birds in these pictures are struggling and complaining about the emptiness of this bird feeder, while just on the other side of the fence there's a full feeder that's just waiting for them to come and eat.

I'm sure you can already see where I'm going with this story. How often are we like these birds? We struggle to pick at the crumbs of life, and we complain that our needs aren't being met. All the while, God has already given us all we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3, above).

His blessings and His provisions are right there, waiting for us to experience them. But how often do we miss them, because we're not looking in the right direction for His hand? How often do we complain where we are instead of moving into His blessings?

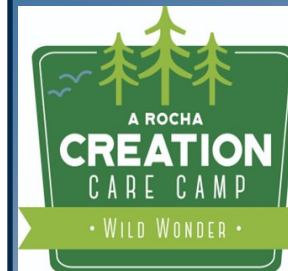
Today, let's learn from the birds. Let's be willing to stop struggling, to open our eyes, and to join God in what He is doing. That's where we'll experience His blessings.

Dale



Hope Boxes For Appalachia

This month we are asking for washcloths and poufs. If we have any couponers or bargain shoppers we still have a need for body wash and soaps. We are trying to hit our goal of 400 bags again this year. All donations are appreciated. Please drop items off in the Church office or in the purple bin located in the vestibule.



VBS

8/9/2024
6PM-8:30PM

8/10/24
9AM-1:30PM

CHILDREN
AGES 3-GRADE 5

REGISTER BY SCANNING QR CODE, VISITING OUR WEBSITE, OR SIGNING UP AT CHURCH

The Messenger

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, and only receive your monthly newsletter via email, please contact Angela at ahammack@groveparkchurch.com and she will remove you from our mailing list.

Ministers On Call for the Month of July

July 4 thru July 7

Deacon Benjy Overby

July 11 thru July 14

Deacon Caleb Warren

July 18 thru July 21

Deacon Matthew Byrd

July 25 thru July 28

Deacon Jason Bogart

July Birthdays

Joshua Bogart	July 03
Eddie Canada	July 04
Gail Shepherd	July 07
Jan Bouldin	July 08
Pat Helms	July 08
Frances Bennett (99)	July 09
Kenna Davis	July 09
John Moore	July 09
Kathy Fujiwara	July 10
Kim Cain	July 12
Gary Parrish	July 12
Jim Etheridge	July 13
Ann Kidd	July 15
Avery Miles	July 21
Alex Johnson	July 23
Matthew Byrd	July 24
Chloe Dunn	July 26
Brandon Kidd	July 28
Tiffany Dunn	July 29
Ken Davis	July 31

Please sign up TO HELP WITH OUR 4TH OF JULY OUTREACH, THE SIGN UP SHEET IS ON THE CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD.

JULY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Green Beans
- corn
- Black eyed Peas
- Baked Beans
- saltine crackers

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR BIBLE STUDY AND BOOK CLUB WILL BE RETURNING IN AUGUST.

Happy Birthday