



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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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays 5:00 p.m.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

November 1 7:00 p.m.

November 3

November 5

November 6 12:00 p.m.

November 10 6:00 p.m.

November 11

November 14 11:30 a.m.

November 17 5:00 p.m.

November 27 6:00 p.m.

November 28

Family Night

Devotional on Facebook Live

John Bible Study on Zoom

Facebook Prayer Meeting

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)

GPBC Book Club on Zoom

WHS Concessions

Time Change Fall Back

Election Day

ROMEOS @ Southbound

Quarterly Church Conference

Veteran's Day

SIA Thanksgiving Feast

Alternative Christmas Market

Proposed Budget Vote following Worship

Thanksgiving Eve Communion Services

Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed



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Visingsö is a narrow island that sits in the center of Sweden's second largest lake, Vättern. It was there that almost 200 years ago the Swedish Navy planted 300,000 oak trees. Similarly, they planted ash, elm, maple, beech, and silver fir among the rows of oak saplings to insure that the oaks grew straight up rather than spreading out. Such insurance was necessary as the Royal Navy knew the oaks they had planted must be straight in order to be suitable for constructing new naval vessels once the saplings reached maturity 150 years later. By now you may have done the math and had a laugh at their short-sighted far-sightedness. We would be wise to pause and see some lessons from our Swedish neighbors before we cast too many aspersions.

First, we would do well to ask ourselves what is planted around us to keep us growing straight and up though toward the heavens? Do we surround ourselves with friends, resources, and information that keeps us straight or allows us to grow as we please? I find it fascinating that it was a diversity of tree species that allowed the oaks to grow tall in order that their fullest potential could be achieved. Far too often, we fail to act similarly as we create echo chambers that affirm what we surmise and stunt our growth rather than challenging us to grow up. One of the most overlooked facts of Jesus's ministry is the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and thoughts represented in the 12 disciples who accompanied him on his journey and whom he tasked initially to build the Church. We should recognize that as this task now rests with us we should act similarly.

Additionally, I, like you I bet, remain amazed at the short-sightedness of the Swedish Navy. To be sure, they witnessed the remarkable changes in weaponry and tactics that had occurred during the recent Napoleonic wars, in which they had participated and it should be noted lost valuable forest lands as a result, hence the impetus for their oak planting. Such observations coupled with the burgeoning Industrial Revolution should have sparked some curiosity and investigation into how to resource and prepare for the future. Alas, this did not occur and the Swedes fell into one of history's great and sad maxims—armies prepare to fight their last war, rather than their next war. Unfortunately, the Church falls prey more often than not to the same maxim. We keep our head down and fail to see the changing dynamics and trends swirling around us. Regrettably, when we do look up it is most often to decry what we see rather than understand and respond gracefully. We keep planting oaks when we should be anticipating and preparing for ironclads and dreadnoughts. I recognize this appears an impossible task, yet it is incumbent on me to remind us that the Holy Spirit dwells in the life of every believer. The Holy Spirit, the agent which Acts 2 declares, empowers us to imagine and see things that have not occurred. The power to not be the Swedes of old is within us, will we recognize and seize it? If so, we will have much to be thankful for as we enter the future prepared by God to be relevant to situations and needs not yet known.

Grace Abounds,

Marc

“Out of the eater, something to eat;
out of the strong, something sweet.”
(Judges 14:14)

First off, let me confess that I am taking this verse wildly out of context. That being said...

As you may know, I am not a fan of change. I like to make a plan and then work the plan, and I’m not at all comfortable when things go sideways. When that happens, I have to change plans, and that doesn’t make me happy.

But, sometimes, being forced to change plans works out pretty well. Change can be a good thing, even if it’s not something I enjoy. Let me explain.

For many, many years, my family has taken a leaf-peeping trip in mid-October. We always take one of 3 routes, depending on how much time we have and what the leaf forecast looks like.

- Mount Airy to the Blue Ridge Parkway to Mabry Mill, if we only have time for a day trip
- Boone to Grandfather Mountain to Linville Falls
- Cherokee to Gatlinburg via US 441 (one of my favorite roads on the planet)

This year, after the destruction brought by Hurricane Helene, we had to change plans. Our usual places simply were not going to be possible. Instead, we went to Charlottesville and Harrisonburg, VA, and rode along Skyline Drive. All in all, it was a nice change. We didn’t know our way around, which was a little disconcerting, so we became friends with OnStar navigation. Along the way we saw beautiful views, some really nice colors, and even a little snow!

Friends, sometimes circumstances lead us to change our plans, and sometimes God changes our plans for us.

When that happens, stress levels may rise and we may become a bit uncomfortable. When that happens, I’m learning to take a deep breath, consider my options, and allow myself to be open to something new. Who knows? Maybe change isn’t such a bad thing after all.

Dale

SIA will be hosting our Thanks Feast on November 14th at 11:30am. We will provide the turkey, ham and drinks and just ask that you bring a side or dessert. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.



Operation Christmas Child boxes are in the Missions Room if you would like to participate. All boxes need to be returned by November 17th .

The Women’s Shelter is in need of 2025 calendars for their clients. This enables them to keep up with appointments, etc. If you have any that you will not be using, please drop them by the church office or leave on the table in the vestibule.



Alternative Christmas Market
Our ACM will be held on November 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Our market seeks to holistically address the two great commandments of loving God and loving our neighbor. We hope you will join us and let us assist you with your Christmas shopping.

Advent Devotionals:
The first Sunday of Advent is December 1st. Once again, we will have a book of daily devotionals available for reflection during the Advent season. These will be available on or before December 1st.

Ministers On Call for the Month of November

October 31-November 3	Jason Bogart
November 7-November 10	Mirian Brewer
November 14– November 17	Beth Canada
November 21– November 24	Derek Denard
November 28– December 1	Benjy Overby

November Birthdays

Bill Pinson	November 01
Julie Turner	November 01
Allen McKinney	November 05
Mable McKinney	November 06
Carol Williamson	November 07
Tucker Williamson	November 08
Nancy Murchison	November 16
Nancy Beck	November 21
Sue Ellen McKinney	November 25
Vivian Crawford	November 26
Linda Wood	November 26
Ben Bouldin	November 27
Miller Dunn	November 28
Sue Etheridge	November 29
Pat Sizemore	November 30



Alamance Chorale

Grove Park is pleased to host two Christmas Concerts by the Alamance Chorale to be held December 12 at 7:00pm and December 14 at 3:00pm. The concerts will be followed by a reception.