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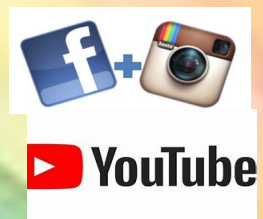
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Check us out on:

Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch

Instagram: grovesparkchurch

YouTube: YouTube.com/@grovesparkchurch



UPCOMING EVENTS:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Sundays | 5:00 p.m. | Family Night |
| Mon., Wed., Thurs. | | Devotional on Facebook Live |
| Tuesdays | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom Study Gospel of John |
| 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 |
| Sunday, March 2 | 6:00 p.m. | Deacon Fellowship |
| Wednesday, March 5 | 12:00 p.m. | ROMEOS @ Southbound Sandwiches |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Ash Wednesday Service |
| Saturday, March 8 | 2:00 p.m. | Matthew Byrd & Kenzie Culler's Wedding Shower |
| Sunday, March 9 | | Daylight Savings Time |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Finance Meeting (Zoom) |
| Monday, March 10 | 3:30 p.m. | Nominating Committee Meeting |
| Monday, March 17 | | St. Patrick's Day |

The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | MARCH 2025

I feel as if I would be doing malpractice if I failed to use this space to memorialize the fifth anniversary of the onset of the COVID pandemic. It does not seem possible that everything just shut down five years ago March 13, but it did. I have yet to comprehend how something can simultaneously seem so recent and so long ago. It is though how it feels to me. First, I want to pause before I offer further reflections and remember those who lost their lives in the initial waves of the pandemic. Our congregation felt the gravity of the virus immediately as first Harry and Ethylene Fitch and later Peggy Thompson fell victim to it. May their memory continue to be a blessing to all who love and knew them. More personally, I lost my dear friend Dennis McNeill to the virus and continue to feel his loss, particularly as those "Friday Night Lights" shine bright on football fields each Fall.

There remains much debate as to the cause and origin of the virus and it occurs to me that we will probably never truly know the full story. Our continued searching for these answers I feel serves no real purpose. The answers we seek will not bring our loved ones back. Furthermore, it pains me to admit this as someone who thrives on pursuing answers, but some things, even events of global impact, just happen and God intends for them to remain a mystery this side of eternity. Our ever urgent task in such instances is not found in looking back, but in formulating our response to the event in such a way that glorifies God and declares the inherent worth of our fellow image bearers both for today and tomorrow. I fear this is something that society failed miserably to achieve during COVID and I pray we do better when the next crisis inevitably arrives.

Conversely, I remain amazed and humbled by Grove Park's response to the pandemic. We exhibited a remarkable capacity to pivot and respond to the needs and realities of the moment in ways that many churches showed themselves incapable of doing. I was asked by colleagues throughout those challenging days how we did it and the only answer I still can offer is that we were obedient to the Holy Spirit's gentle nudging. How else can I explain our ability to become technologically savvy, explore and implement new ways to accomplish established ministries, and all while expanding our ministerial footprint. Even now as I write, I smile as I recall how God met every question with an answer whether it was through finding mask making materials, inspiring a world tour through VBS in a box, to yard signs that offered hope in a dark and hopeless time. Grove Park, I offer my sincere thanks once again for all you did during those ever-changing tension filled days.

I also would like to take a moment to challenge you to not let your ability to respond to a crisis through the strength and power of the Spirit to atrophy. While I sincerely pray that we never again face the challenge of a global pandemic, societal challenges remain constant. Societal polarization continues to increase and the tenuous hold on the truth exhibited in this post-truth age are ever increasing. The need of the Church to meet physical needs and be the prophetic voice of God's unchanging justice ethic grow by the moment. If our society is to ever heal and flourish again, the salve will come not from DC or Raleigh, but from disciples of Jesus fulfilling our role to model Jesus's life in our time. Accordingly, the challenges we face now are probably greater than the ones we faced during COVID. May we be as ready to face them as God is to enable us to do so.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise Him! Alleluia!
 Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,
 O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on Him cast your care,
 O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him! Alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One,
 O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below; O praise Him! Alleluia!
 Praise Him above, yet heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
 O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOPE BOXES



WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT WITH THIS OUTREACH MINISTRY. DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, WE ARE COLLECTING TOOTHPASTE, CANDY, AND SMALL TOYS.

ROMEOS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025 AT NOON
SOUTHBOUND SANDWICHES

The change to Daylight Saving Time on March 9 will provide a great service opportunity for youth groups and others to "Do a Good Turn" and make a difference in the lives of aging adults.

Make plans now to reach out to older adults in your church and community and give the gift of time.

Your acts of service may include:

- changing clocks
- checking for working smoke alarms
- installing new smoke alarms
- replacing burned out light bulbs
- cleaning gutters
- doing yard work
- enjoying fellowship



North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry
www.ncbam.org

You are invited to a Wedding Shower honoring Matthew Byrd and Kenzie Culler.

Saturday, March 8 at 2:00 pm.

*Grove Park Baptist Church
 108 Trail One
 Burlington, NC 27215*

*Matthew and Kenzie are registered at Target and Amazon.
 RSVP by text 919-742-0193*

Ministers On Call for the Month of March

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| March 6-9 | Mike Bouldin |
| March 13-16 | David McMillan |
| March 20-23 | Matthew Byrd |
| March 27-30 | Marian Brewer |

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 |

