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Office Hours:

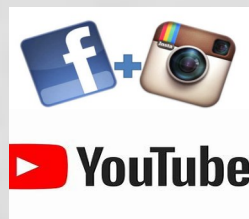
Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Check us out on:

Facebook.com/grovesparkchurch

Instagram: grovesparkchurch

YouTube: [YouTube.com/@grovesparkchurch](https://www.youtube.com/@grovesparkchurch)



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Mon., Wed., Thurs.		Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	Gospel of John Zoom Study
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club
Sunday, February 2	6:00 p.m.	Deacon's Fellowship
Wednesday, February 5	12:00 p.m.	ROMEOS @ Southbound Sandwiches
Sunday, February 9	4:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting Zoom
Thursday, February 13	11:00 a.m.	SIA Valentine Celebration
Sunday, February 16	6:00 p.m.	Quarterly Church Conference



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2025

It may sound odd to you, but I find myself thinking about death often these days. Some may assign it to the rambling thoughts of a mind and body in the throes of middle age and I suppose that may be partially true. Yet, I cannot ascribe it solely to the continuous march of time. I think it has more to do with the fact that the continuous march of time has made me weary and fatigue has caused me to pause and ponder death from perspectives I haven't previously. More specifically, what issues cause me to needlessly expend energy trying to keep death at bay when the wisest course of action would be to allow time to have its say? I confess I waste tremendous energy and time attempting to breathe life into dreams that are now nothing more than idylls, traditions that have become antiquated, prescribed actions and habits that no longer match reality, and the list goes on. It occurs to me that I would be better served to just let these things pass in order, that I might be fully present and in the present.

The problem I keep facing though as I seek to let go is multifaceted. I think to myself that by not achieving this dream or that hope that somehow I have failed, something that is an anathema to someone as competitive as I am. So, I keep pushing and in so doing miss one of the key tenets of Scripture, that my timing is not God's. Abraham is a prime example of someone who tried to get ahead of God and aren't we still dealing with those consequences as the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac battle it out. What I perceive as failure and delay is simply a "not yet" to God. I must remind myself that part of living by faith, according to Hebrews 11, is dying in faith having seen things that are yet to be and laying groundwork for someone else to pick up the mantle and achieve the task. Furthermore, I occasionally feel that I must work to keep something alive as testament to its worth. This is a tragic falsehood. The worth of something is in the moment and often by trying to assign worth by prolonging something I am dishonoring it by heedlessly extending its lifespan for my benefit. I often hear people say that they wish to remember a loved one as they were in their prime. It seems to me that the same mindset should apply to some of my traditions and habits. By allowing something to die is not to say it was a waste of time or valueless, it is to esteem it so highly as to allow it to go out on top.

Finally, no less an authority than Jesus offered in John 12:24 that "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Death, Beloved, is never the end, it is simply a new beginning. When I struggle to breathe life into a matter, I only serve to resuscitate it, I have not resurrected it. Scripture holds that resurrection is something new, a far grander representation of what was. I do not want a resuscitated body on the great day of Resurrection, I want a new and vastly improved body. When I allow something to perish, I position myself for God's new best. The end of a dream allows me to move on to God's new vision for my life. The end of one form of service not only affords someone else to serve in a new capacity, but it frees me to serve God in a new capacity as well and feel new grace for that task. Beloved, as the new year is now in earnest, what do you need to leave in 2024 in order to experience God's best for you in 2025 and beyond? I urge you to join me on this new journey that together we might experience the new things God has prepared for us.

Grace Abounds,
Marc

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. - John 13:34

This is one of Jesus' best known but hardest to keep commandments. We are familiar with the Greatest Commandments (known as The Golden Rule) and the Great Commission (*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*), and they are hard enough to keep consistently. But this is a whole order of magnitude harder.

When we read the first part of His commandment - to love one another - we might think we're doing that ok. We're basically kind people and we don't go out of our way to hurt others, so we may believe we're doing ok. And don't get me wrong, we should be kind people who don't go out of their way to hurt others. But, if that's all we're doing, we're not doing enough.

It's the second part of the commandment that trips us up. "*Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*" Just as I have loved you. Just as I have loved you. Just as I have loved you. Just as I have loved you.

How has Jesus loved you? We could (and many have) preach sermons and write volumes without scratching the surface of how Jesus has loved us. Let's just list a few that come to mind (this is by no means an exhaustive list, but it's a start).

- He has loved you unreservedly.
- He has loved you unconditionally.
- He has loved you passionately.
- He has loved you sacrificially.
- He has loved you intentionally.
- He has loved you concretely.
- He has loved you inclusively.

Take a moment to chew on each of these ways that Jesus has loved you. Don't just breeze through them, but really think about them. What do they mean? What are some examples from Scripture that show each aspect of Jesus' love? What are some examples from your life of how you personally have known these?

Now remember Jesus' commandment. "*Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*" *Unreservedly. Unconditionally. Passionately. Sacrificially. Intentionally. Concretely. Inclusively.*

I've been a Christian for over 50 years, and I've still got a lot to learn about how to love one another as Jesus loved me. I suspect I'm not alone in this.

Love one another!
Dale



"Souper" Bowl Sunday

If you are pulling for Philadelphia, bring chicken noodle soup.

If you are pulling for Kansas City, bring tomato soup.

If you are only watching for the commercials, bring saltine crackers.



SIA VALENTINE CELEBRATION COME ONE-COME ALL LOVE ABOUNDS

JOIN US FEBRUARY 13TH AT 11:00AM FOR FUN AND GAMES. LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT NOON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

HOPE BOXES ARE COLLECTING SMALL TOYS THIS MONTH. PLEASE BRING ALL DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.



We will host our quarterly church conference at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, February 16, 2025. If you or a committee you serve on have any reports or motions to bring before the conference, please let the church office know as soon as possible.



MINISTERS ON CALL FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

FEB. 6TH-9TH	BOB WEBSTER
FEB. 13TH -16TH	MARIAN BREWER
FEB. 20TH -23RD	BETH CANADA
FEB. 27TH-MARCH 2	DEREK DENARD

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

REV. DALE CAIN	FEBRUARY 01
REV. MARC SANDERS	FEBRUARY 03
BENJAMIN KING	FEBRUARY 07
DANIEL KING	FEBRUARY 07
RANDY MCINTYRE	FEBRUARY 07
ALVIS OAKES	FEBRUARY 07
MYRTLE TALBERT (106TH)	FEBRUARY 10
RON SAPP	FEBRUARY 11
BOBBY ANDREWS	FEBRUARY 12
EARL HUDSON	FEBRUARY 17
KATHY SHAMBLEY	FEBRUARY 20
MARIE JONES	FEBRUARY 22
AUDREY SNIDER	FEBRUARY 27

As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain security of our facilities, we ask that if you are on campus and doors are locked that you make sure they remain locked. We ask all organizations that use our facilities to keep the doors locked while they are using the facility and it is incumbent upon us to help them maintain their security protocols which are part of their usage agreement. If you are on our campus while another organization is meeting, please do not allow anyone into the building unless the sponsoring group has approved, short of a fire. We diligently strive to maintain orderly function for all and never desire for this house of God to become a house of chaos.