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Monday-Thursday
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Hour
Tuesday	11:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	In Person Prayer Meeting in Office Conference Room Zoom Bible Study (Psalms & Ruth)
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting Zoom Prayer Meeting Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
Thursdays	7:00 p.m.	Devotional on Facebook Live GPBC Book Club (Begins September 17th)
September 1	10:00 a.m.	A Joyful Noise Sunday School Class in the Fellowship Hall
September 2	9:00 a.m. Noon	Sanctuary Cleanup Romeo's at Southbound Sandwich
September 3	6:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting in Sanctuary
September 9	9:00 a.m.	Red Cross Blood Drive
September 11	3:00 p.m.	Feed the Team (Williams vs. Heritage High)
September 14	10:30 a.m.	Sisters In Faith Bible Study at Woods of Grove Park Clubhouse
September 15	2:00 p.m.	Budget Requests Due By 2:00 p.m.
September 17th	7:00 p.m.	GPBC Book Club
October 24th	TBD	Fall Festival



THE MESSENGER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2026

Much like James Taylor, I have been “going to Carolina in my mind” a lot lately. I suspect that some of you may be asking yourselves, “How is this different from any other moment in his adult life?” The answer is that this Fall makes 30 years since I first walked those brick paths as a Carolina undergrad. I am not sure what it is about the number “30,” but it always seems to cause me problems. My 30th birthday was difficult; just ask Eliza, and so this 30th anniversary has been rather bittersweet too. The plethora of memories that have flooded my mind these last few weeks of those days have exposed some understandings that the 18-year-old version of myself would have never understood. I thought I would share some of those with you this month.

For instance, while I was sitting in my 8 AM Calculus class on the third day of the semester, the National Weather Service issued its first advisory for Tropical Depression Six. I guarantee you I had no clue that the advisory was issued or that there was even a storm brewing in the eastern Atlantic for a multitude of days. I remember a lot of what I did that weekend, and watching the weather was not part of the experience. Yet, while I went out with friends in Raleigh and did laundry by myself for the first time (still amazed nothing became pink), a storm that would radically alter the skyline of my hometown and our family’s life began its slow march toward landfall near Cape Fear as Hurricane Fran. Such is life. Many of the storms we face blow in out of nowhere, and we can spend our lives living in fear of their sudden arrival and being hyper vigilant, or we can enjoy living our lives to the fullest as we go. I too often spend a lot of time worrying about what might happen and fail to look around and enjoy what is happening around me. I can pinpoint when that tendency started in my life — Hurricane Fran. Yet, “Rejoice in the Lord always...do not be anxious about anything,” Paul told the Philippians, and that is wise counsel for us as well.

Secondly, do not be afraid to try and learn new things. My 9 AM class was Classics 11—Etymology. If you ever wondered where I learned all my “big words,” it started here. I took the class because it sounded interesting and it fit a General College requirement. I never knew it would create in me a love of words and language that lasts to this day. This class is just one of many instances from that first year when I allowed myself to encounter something new and grow as a person. I think that the older we become, the more we think there is little new to learn, the more entrenched we become in how we see things, and the less we seek to allow God to blow our minds. Yet, if Lamentations 3 is correct and the mercies of the Lord are new every morning, that means that with God something new is always occurring, something never seen before. God is not static regardless of all the barriers we seek to impose on the divine. I must not simply be willing but eagerly look for what new opportunities God is setting before me and seize them as they are presented. Almost 50-year-old Marc is not as good at this as 18-year-old Marc was, and it is a place I continue working to return to. Can the same be said of you, Beloved?

Finally, Fall 1996 was an election year, and something that Bill Clinton often said that Fall keeps coming to my mind. While campaigning, Clinton continually remarked that “I have more yesterdays than tomorrows.” Back then, I had more tomorrows than yesterdays. The same is not true for me now; I strongly suspect, and so the comment strikes me differently. Beloved, James reminds us that “you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” We can pine away for the yesterdays, or we can make the most of whatever amount of water vapor we have left. I have been trying to recapture the hopes and dreams of 30 years ago and ask myself, what have I left undone? My assessment is that, while I have achieved many of them, I still have much more to do. So, while it is still day, I must be actively pursuing these remaining things and some new ones, because I know the twilight shadows are deepening. We should neither begrudge someone for doing this nor be content with failing to do it ourselves. What dreams do you still have that are left unfulfilled, and what can you do today to achieve them? I can’t go back and share all this knowledge with the kid with big round glasses, decked in everything Duck Head ever made. The person he became though can work to make it reality so that these lessons aren’t squandered. Will the same be said of you?

Grace Abounds,
Marc

The selection of our new book club selection has been difficult. There seems to be so many books that grabbed the gaze this time around. That being said, the official selection is “The Salt Stones” by Helen Whybrow. It takes us behind the scenes into the life of a working shepherd. The hope is to shine light on our role as sheep along with other insights. On a separate note, if anyone wishes to have a side discussion of the 19th Century novel, “The Damnation of Theron Ware” by Harold Frederic which deals with the travails of a minister in a new parish, please see Pastor Marc. The Frederic novel was the second choice for this time’s selection. Links to both are listed below.

<https://a.co/d/0gBRI7eV>
<https://a.co/d/0bb3ZnDO>

SUSTAINABLE ALAMANCE IS HOSTING TWO POVERTY SIMULATIONS HERE AT GROVE PARK FOR THE ALAMANCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT ON TWO CONSECUTIVE WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, OCTOBER 14TH AND OCTOBER 21ST.

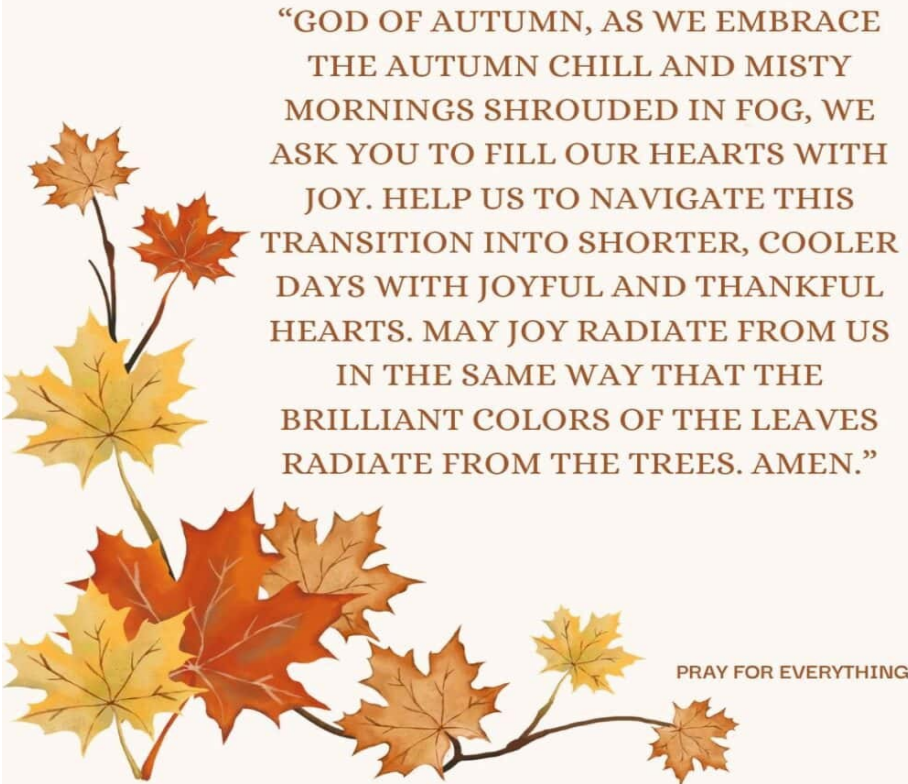
HOSTING THESE SIMULATIONS PRESENTS SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER. IT TAKES 33 PEOPLE TO RUN THE SIMULATION TO HELP SIMULATE EMPLOYMENT, GROCERY SHOPPING, AND NAVIGATING POVERTY. WE WILL ALSO NEED HELP OCTOBER 15TH AND OCTOBER 22ND PUTTING THE SIMULATION KITS BACK TOGETHER. WE WILL START AT 9 AM EACH DAY HERE AT GROVE PARK. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO HELP RUN THE SIMULATION, BUT STILL WANT TO HELP, PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER IS JUST AS NEEDED. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING ASSIST WITH THIS, PLEASE SEE EMILY FLACK.



WE WILL BE FEEDING THE WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM/BAND ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PREPARE THEIR MEAL OR HELP SERVE THE TEAM PLEASE CONTACT JANICE BYRD.

Fall Festival

October 24th we will have our annual Fall Festival. We will need donations of candy and we will need members to volunteer for the event. More information to come.



North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) is a special offering received during the month of September that supports the ministries of Baptists on Mission, Church Planting, mission camps, associational projects and mobilization ministry projects. Below is a link where you can see the many, many ways the NC Missions Offering assists ministries in impacting the lost for Christ!
<https://ncbaptist.org/article/offer-relief-for-today-hope-for-tomorrow-through-ncmo/>

Ministers On Call for the Month of August	
September 3-6	Mr. Bobby Andrews
September 10-13	Mr. Mike Bouldin
September 17-20	Mr. Eddie Canada
September 24-27	Mr. David McMillan



September Birthdays

Barbara Dodson	September 02
Marcus King	September 05
Naomi Taylor	September 07
Dave Bolick	September 08
David Stalls	September 15
Benjy Overby	September 19
Glea Haithcock	September 20
Ann Hayes	September 20
Mike Bouldin	September 22
Robert Padgett	September 23
Joanne Griffith	September 28

