



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

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Monday-Thursday
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Check us out on:

Facebook.com/groveparkchurch

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Tuesday	11:30 a.m.	In Person Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (unless otherwise noted)
Tuesday, Aug 2	10:00 a.m.	A Joyful Noise Sunday School Class
Wednesday, Aug 5	12:00 p.m.	ROMEOS
Sunday, Aug 9	5:00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social
Sunday, Aug 16	6:00 p.m.	Quarterly Church Conference
Friday, Aug 21		Feed the Team (WHS v Cummings)
Friday, Aug 28		Feed the Team (WHS v Eastern Guilford)



THE MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | AUG 2026

Recently, I referenced Paul's instruction to the Philippians to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" during a Sunday morning sermon. I confess, as soon as it left my mouth, I began to wonder if I had used it correctly. After further reflection, I concluded I had, but it did send me down a grammatical rabbit hole that I thought I would share with you. You all know that I love words and language. There is so much beauty in the written word that it does not surprise me that we serve a God who uses language to convey divine revelation to us. The problem is that English is a very limited language. It simply is not as expressive as other languages. Even languages close to English, like Scottish, are better than our mother tongue. The Scots, for instance, have over 420 words for 'snow,' which is more than the Eskimos have. Recognizing the limitations of English was vital to work on Philippians 2:12.

We read "your salvation" and think that Paul is talking about us individually. Yet the Greek word used here is plural. In other words, we are to work out our salvation together. Indeed, as we read further in the next verse, we see "for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure," and the "you" there is also plural. Essentially, Paul tells us that we are to work out our faith together as God works in us together.

I'm afraid we don't think about faith corporately. Some of this is due to the nature of Baptist thought, in which we enter a relationship with Jesus on an individual level. Meanwhile, some of this is attributable to American society's emphasis on rugged individuality and accomplishing things through individual effort. Each of these aspects is important and should not be dismissed out of hand. Yet personal agency, superseding everything else, is not in keeping with the Biblical witness. Throughout Scripture, God deals with issues just as much, if not more, corporately as God does individually, and our recognition of this thought is key to having a vital faith.

When we think about faith corporately, our needs become secondary to the needs of both the corporate body and greater society. Sadly, church affiliation in modern society has become more about what we can get out of a church rather than the more crucial thought of what we can bring to a church to aid in its reaching our community. I believe this is at the heart of why so many churches are struggling in our country: individual Christians place too much emphasis on what they can get out of church rather than what they can offer. Our fore parents would be appalled at the phrase "church shopping" because of the individual emphasis it implies rather than focusing on the greater good of Christ's Church.

Secondly, because we look at everything individually rather than collectively, we fail to acknowledge systemic issues that hinder societal advancement. We hyper-spiritualize these issues by treating them as an individual "heart problem" rather than as something that needs to be tackled holistically. Yes, I readily acknowledge that if people tuned their hearts to hear from God, things would radically improve, but I also know that this cannot be the sole answer to improving things. The Biblical prophets did not simply say, get right with God. They said, "repent" while also addressing economic disparities, racial bigotry, and dysfunctional leadership systemically. If we are to ever change our world, we must expand our thinking. We must work out "our salvation" by discussing together the next best steps we can take, both corporately and individually. When we do this together, we discern what we must accomplish to experience on all fronts the "good pleasure" of God, which I suspect we all want to experience individually, as a church, and as a society.

Grace Abounds,
Marc



Happiness Retreat! What an experience! From the moment you arrive until the last goodbyes, you feel the love and presence of God in each session. The way everyone greets you, calling you by name, the hugs, all make you feel so special! You must really experience Happiness Retreat to fully understand!

On the first day, we have delicious dinner and afterwards we all assemble in the auditorium for a spiritual service consisting of singing and praising the Lord. Then we have one of the favorites! The Talent Show! John and Matt Evans have displayed their talents through the years with various offerings including: signing to Jesus Loves Me, displaying their art, and playing the keyboard or piano. Ben loves to sing and has performed to different artists ranging from Dolly Parton to Alan Jackson to Ferrell Terrell. Each church represented have shown a lot of talent from skits, dancing, poetry and singing. It's a wonderful night ending with ice cream in the dining room and lights out!

The second day begins bright and early with a delicious breakfast of eggs, bacon/sausage, grits and so much more ! After breakfast, everyone disburses into their classes. During these classes, the campers learn about Jesus and have craft time. The parents/chaperones group have their own special session where we share our experiences with our children and learn from each other. The past few years, we have watched a Christian movie and discussed what our take on it was during our second session.

The morning session culminates into a nutritious lunch leaving the afternoon free to choose from swimming, outdoor recreation such as Archery, learning groups and the Gift Shop.

After dinner on the second day, we meet for worship/vespers. You can feel the presence of God as you watch camper after camper going forth to be prayed with!

Once the worship service ends the Dance begins!! The members of Happiness Retreat make sure each camper has a good time, dancing to the music and ending in the cafeteria for a snack before bed.

The third day, after breakfast the campers attend the last session of class. We all meet back in the auditorium to watch a slide show of pictures taken during our stay. There is a lot of "ooing ", "awing" and "Look" as we point out pictures of our friends. I really can't say which session is our favorite as we love them all! From worshipping, learning about Jesus, crafts, the Talent Show, the dance to the picture presentations! It's all wonderful! We always come back from Happiness Retreat refreshed and eager to share our experiences with others! This year, we have a new venue to share the things we learned at Happiness Retreat. Ralph Scott Life services/Starpoint has invited our church to give a devotion to the clients at Starpoint. We are super excited to have this opportunity to share our love for the Lord with these wonderful people! We thank you for helping us share the joy of Jesus!

Jan Bouldin



Sundae Sunday
August 9th at 5pm we would love everyone to join us for ice cream. This is a churchwide event and we would love for you to bring a friend.



Our Quarterly Church Conference will be held on Sunday, August 16th at 6pm. Please plan to attend.

<u>Ministers On Call for the Month of August</u>	
July 30-Aug 2	Mr. Eddie Canada
Aug 6-9	Mr. David McMillan
Aug 13-16	Mrs. Shelly Sapp
Aug 20-23	Mr. David Stalls
Aug 27-30	Mr. Bob Webster

<u>August Birthdays</u>	
LaRae Bolick	August 04
Mark King	August 04
Dee Noah	August 10
Lynn Murchison	August 17
Bunnie Overby	August 17
Danny Overby	August 17
Arnetta Petty	August 19
Michelle Toy	August 19
Jackie Patillo	August 21
Jesse Medford	August 23
Krissy Szczepanski	August 26
George Owen	August 27
Pat Thompson	August 28
Makensie Byrd	August 31

