



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

108 TRAIL ONE
BURLINGTON, NC 27215

CONTACT US:

Phone: 336-227-2910

Email: office@groveparkchurch.com

Online: www.groveparkchurch.com

Office Hours:

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



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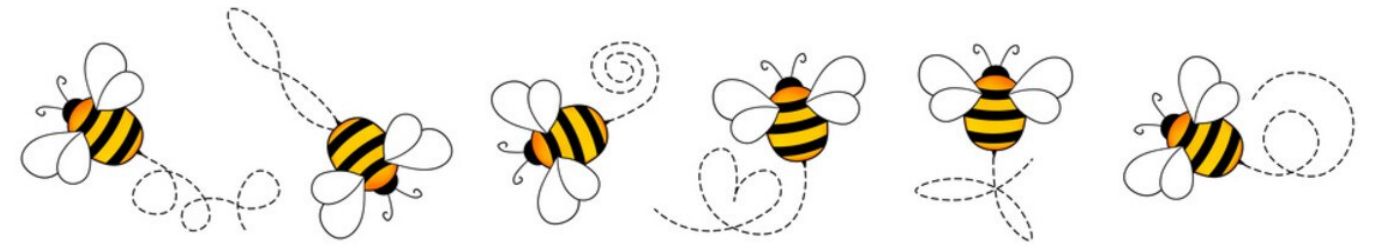


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The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | MAY 2026

Recently, I was outside one late afternoon, and though I knew it to be April, it did not feel like April. It felt more like early Fall, say late August or early September, around the time of the first football game of the year. It was a warm day, but not as warm as most late-August days in North Carolina. It was not a new sensation, either, I must confess. It had been occurring over the previous week, almost exclusively while I was driving into our community. It was the way the light shone through the lush green trees. It was warm, inviting, and I kept having to remind myself that it was April. My time displacement occurred so frequently that I ultimately started researching the sun's angles throughout the year. I discovered that the sun is at the same angle in April as it is in August. The temperature disparities between the two months often cause us to overlook this reality, but I suddenly had a resolution to my time displacement. It looked like August, it even felt like August to some degree, but the season was not the same.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,” writes Qoheleth in Ecclesiastes 3. I have always understood Qoheleth’s admonition to advocate for balance in our lives. It is human nature to bend one direction or another. We would prefer to spend our time laughing and dancing, but we are reminded that there are also times of weeping and mourning. Indeed, it occurs to me as I write this that weeping and mourning are each listed first in Qoheleth’s account, along with several other issues that we might deem disturbing, but which, if we are honest, we spend a disproportionate amount of time doing instead of laughing and dancing. Allow the seasons to flow naturally, Qoheleth appears to say, and do not get stuck in one when you should be in another. Allocate to yourself the time to heal, to love, to build up. Grant yourself the freedom to say goodbye and to plant something afresh.

Beloved, we are all in various seasons and stages of life. The very idea of permanence is a human construct that does not mirror the continual march of nature’s seasons. What stage are you in, and do you recognize it for what it is, or are you like I have been recently, thinking yourself in a different season? The different seasons require different protections, different foods, and different approaches. I do not greet the day in summer dressed as I do in winter, and I certainly don’t pack chili for lunch on those “cool” July days. We should always be in step with where God is in our lives so that we are properly prepared to meet that season, for in that season is our life and hope. So, what season are you in today, and how is God calling you to prepare for the moment?

Grace Abounds,
Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Thursdays		Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study on the Psalms
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 “The Serviceberry” (Begins May 14th)
Monday, May 4	6:00 p.m.	Zoom Finance Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 3	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Fellowship
Monday, May 4	6:00 p.m.	Zoom Finance Committee Meeting
May 4-8		Teacher Appreciation Week
Wednesday, May 6	Noon	Romeo’s at Southbound Sandwich
Thursday, May 7	10:00 a.m.	Nominating Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 10		Baptist Women’s Day
Saturday, May 16	6:00 p.m.	Welcome to Grove Park Dinner
Sunday, May 17	6:00 p.m.	Quarterly Church Conference
Sunday, May 24		Pentecost Sunday, Please Wear Red
Monday, May 25		Office Closed for Memorial Day

Hope Boxes are in need of toothbrushes this month. All donations can be dropped off at the church office.



God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

...
“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. - Psalm 46:1-3,10-11

This very familiar passage is one of my favorites. I love it because of what it says about God and about us.

What it says about God:

- 1. He is our refuge. He provides a place of shelter from everything that endangers or pursues us.
- 2. He is our strength. His strength is so far beyond ours. Why do we try to do things in our own strength when His is far superior?
- 3. He is always present. We may not always sense His presence, but He is there nonetheless. His faithfulness is greater than our senses.
- 4. He will be exalted over all. He is already over all, but so many don't acknowledge or even realize that. How I long for the day when He will be recognized by all for who He is!
- 5. He is with us. God is with us, and He is for us. He is on your side!

What it says about us:

- 1. We do not need to fear. Sometimes it seems like the world is going crazy. But, no matter what happens, we don't have to be afraid. Even if the world isn't what it used to be or what it should be, God is still God.
- 2. We can be still. We may want to jump into crisis mode and start doing something...anything...to address the issue. But, sometimes we just need to stop and allow Him to work and to guide our actions.
- 3. We can know that He is over all. Nothing catches Him off guard, and nothing happens that is beyond His ability to use.
- 4. We are safe. No matter what threatens us, we are safe. What is the worst thing that can happen to us? Even if we suffer and die, that is only for a short time, and God will use it to prepare us for "an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

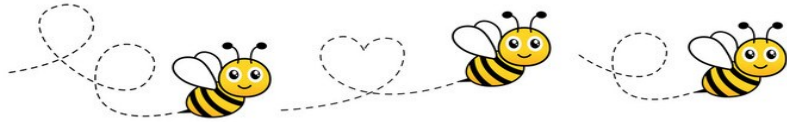
No matter where you are today, no matter what is going on in and around you, hold on to the truth about who God is and who you are in Him!

Dale

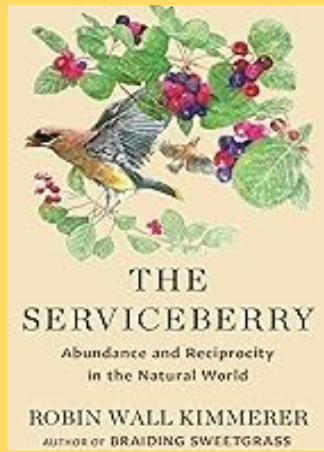


If you have graduates to announce in our June Messenger please contact the church office.

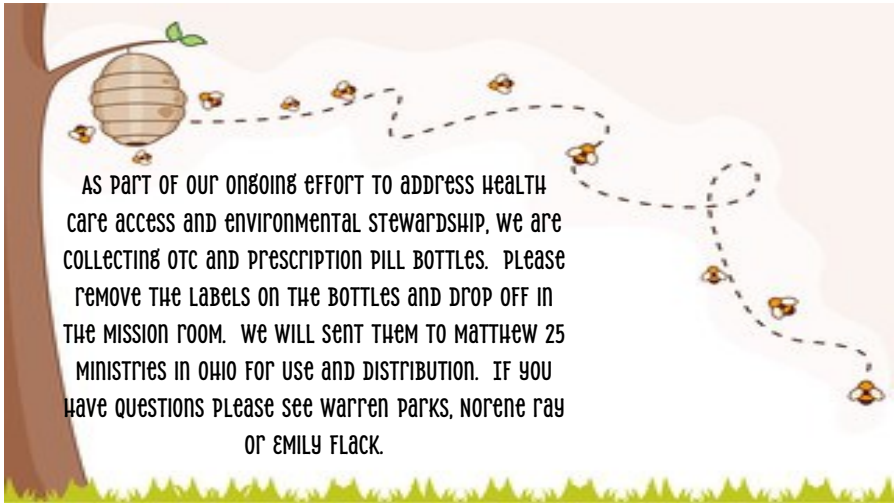
Our Quarterly Church Conference will be held May 17, 2026 at 6:00pm. If you are on a committee that has anything to report please let the office know. We ask that everyone plan to attend the meeting.



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS SEEKING CANDIDATES TO FILL POSITIONS THAT WILL OPEN ON DECEMBER 31, 2026. IF YOU BELIEVE SOMEONE'S LIFE EXHIBITS THE QUALITIES OF BEING A TRUSTEE OR A DEACON, PLEASE EMAIL THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, nominating@groveparkchurch.com, SO THAT THEY CAN BE CONSIDERED.



Our weekly Bible study will start again Tuesday, May 5th and our book club will start again Thursday, May 14th. Our Bible study will examine how to study and understand the Psalms. The book we are using is available on Amazon.



Ministers On Call for the Month of May	
April 30-May 3	David McMillan
May 7-May 10	Shelly Sapp
May 14-May 17	David Stalls
May 21-May 24	Bob Webster
May 28-May 31	Bobby Andrews

Happy Birthday

James Rudd	May 5
Tommy Forrester	May 9
Gene Willets	May 9
Jeanette Deutsch	May 10
Hazel Latham	May 10
Jevon Moore	May 11
David McMillan	May 12
Nathan Reich	May 19
Ron Hall	May 21
Ivey Toy	May 22
Rodger Roach	May 23
Judy Roach	May 25
Lynette Warren	May 28
Steve Shambley	May 31

If you have recently joined or have been visiting Grove Park we would like to invite you to our Welcome to Grove Park dinner on Saturday, May 16th. We would like to get to know you better and share some more information about us and answer any questions you may have. Please contact the church office to sign up.