­**Pastor’s Corner**

The season of Lent has begun at Grace Hills, and indeed throughout the Christian church. Soon we will celebrate Easter, that day of great joy and hope, the most important day on the Christian calendar. It is so important that the church historically has taken the 40 days to prepare for its annual celebration of Christ’s resurrection through the season of Lent. It is marked by simplification of life, self-imposed discipline in the areas of prayer and repentance, and a deep reflection upon our relationship with God.

Why do we do this each year? Why does the church embrace this season of contemplation and seriousness? Why, before we reach the most joyful and celebratory moment in the story of Jesus do we set aside weeks to ponder and repent? Sister Joan Chittister helps us grasp the importance of Lent to the individual and to the church:

“Lent is a call to renew a commitment grown dull, perhaps, by a life marked more by routine than by reflection. After a lifetime of mundane regularity or unconsidered adherence to the trappings of faith, Lent requires me, as a Christian, to stop for a while, to reflect again on what is going on in me. I am challenged again to decide whether I, myself, do truly believe that Jesus is the Christ – and if I believe, whether I will live accordingly when I can no longer hear the song of angels in my life and the star of Bethlehem has grown dim for me. Lent is not a ritual. It is time given to think seriously about who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out….Lent is the period in which, learning to abstain from adoring at the shrine of the self, we come to see beyond the divinity we have made of ourselves to the divine will for all the world.” (Joan Chittister, *The Liturgical Year*, 111 & 113)

May God speak to us this Lent and call us back to him. In Christ,
 Adam

From the Deacons

Hunger is real. Hunger exists here in Appomattox. A benevolence call to Grace Hills several weeks ago is an example. A young couple with two children called to ask for food. They had been referred to our church by a local agency. The husband had recently lost his job. The couple had no working car. Thanks to the recently established food closet at Grace Hills, we were able to immediately deliver food to this family. Your love shows.

Deacons at Grace Hills are actively at work focusing on benevolent needs, including attention to heat and electrical calls and special medical needs.

Deacons also assist with ministry needs within the church. Last month, Nancy Williams and Jamie Davis served as Deacons of the Month. During March, Joyce Bennett and Janice Marston are Deacons of the Month. All deacons are participating in outreach through the deacon family ministry efforts. If you are aware of needs or if you have a need for visitation, please let your deacon know.

*From the Deacons continued…*

At the request of Church Council, during the February meeting deacons discussed communication at Grace Hills. Identified were numerous strong efforts to communicate.  New or additional ways to reach the church and community with information were identified. The report will be shared at the March Church Council meeting.

Ministering to the grieving was the topic of deacon growth.  Adam provided training from the book **Crisis Ministry,** which deacons are currently reading.

A responsibility of the Deacon Council is to support and assist the pastor in ministry.  We are proud of Adam’s ministry at Grace Hills and his service as President of the BGA. You are encouraged to join in daily prayer for our pastor.

The Deacon Council is a ministry of service and Christian love.  If you are aware of those for whom we should pray, visit, or assist, please contact any deacon.

May the grace and peace of God and His great blessings be with you.

 Janice Marston, Chair

🎶 🎶 **MUSIC NOTES** 🎶 🎶

Palm Sunday Worship, April 5th, is always unique; this year's Palm Sunday will include four anthems that will take us from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem all the way to the pathos of "How Deep the Father's Love for Us".  Getting ready for all that music and for Easter Sunday is a labor-intensive task.  We have been engaged in that work for several weeks and will continue to prepare.  I appreciate the choir's dedication to singing in worship.  They are so faithful to Thursdays and Sundays.

The children will sing and ring March 1st, sharing "Surely It is God Who Saves Me". The Grace Hills Ringers will present music in worship sometime in March also.

Thank you to parents and children, bell ringers and choir singers who give valuable time, and to Adam and Susie who work so ably with us in worship planning and presentation.

Keep on Ringing and Singing!

Nancy Williams

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**Mobile Directory**

We’ve added our Lifetouch directory to our website! Find the link at **gracehillsbaptist.com/directory**

and use **Access Code: GHC04**. Grace Hills member addresses and phone numbers are listed.

Need to update your directory info? Let Ruth know! Email gracehillsbaptist@gmail.com or call the office, 352-8847.

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*…Let us love one another. 1 John 4:7*

Caring for those who call or come to the Good Neighbor Center is what Good Neighbor is all about. Often you make us aware of needs within the community or church family. Good Neighbor is a ministry of love and service, as well as outreach to the community.

During February, Good Neighbor has been able to show Christian love and kindness to several families and individuals in need. One of these individuals is alone in Appomattox, having recently moved here and knowing only a few people. She is a physically abused spouse who lives alone here. She called Good Neighbor seeking help. We are providing support through checking on her, visiting her in the hospital, and helping fund a dental need. We also are closely communicating with a family with household issues and other family needs.

During our monthly meeting, the Good Neighbor Council began initial plans for the September Senior Fair and considered a new program. Further planning and discussion will take place in March.

If you want to get involved, we welcome any and all. If you have suggestions, please let us know.

*Prayer: Father, help us to always realize that we are on a mission for You.*

Blessings,

The Good Neighbor Team

**Focus on New Members**

You have already helped us welcome Reggie and Lucianne Warren.  Their address is Box 310 Hancock Road, Red House, VA  23963.  Reggie is serving an interim pastorate in the Roanoke area, and Lucianne is leading the Children in Action group on third Sundays.

**Your Church Council at Work**

Your church council meets every month, usually on  first Sunday mornings at 8:45. In the regular meeting held February 2, we heard a number of facilities use requests, set a date to meet for discussing long range planning, and considered the report from a recent meeting of the security subcommittee.  Calendar dates are always shared, and each member of the council presents a brief report from his or her particular area of leadership.

Director, Nancy Williams

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**Seenager’s** will meet at Granny B’s for a Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, March 2nd at 9:30am.

Grace Hills Early Learning Center News
Director: Leslie Galloway Bookkeeper: Lisa Dawson Phone: (434) 352-2273 Email: gracehillselc@aol.com
Enrollment:        Full Time Students: 85    School Age Students: 35

***Some of what we have been learning?***

Infants classes have been busy learning their friends’ names and reading Good Night, I Love You.

Tots class have been learning the color Red and doing lots of Valentine’s crafts.

2’s class have been learning to spell the color Pink with a song.

Red 3’s class theme of the month was Love One Another.

Blue 3’s class have been learning about Noah’s Ark.

Pre-K classes have been learning different Bible Stories:

·         Peter Walks on the Water

·         Tax from a Fish’s Mouth

·         Jesus Loves the Children

 ***Each month all of our Preschool classes have colors, numbers, shapes and letters they work on to prepare them for the next class.  Each class also has monthly Bible Verses!***

* ELC council meeting: Tuesday, March 10th at 4pm
* ELC Chapel at 9:15am on March 2nd and 16th at 9:15am
* ELC celebrating Dr. Seuss’ Birthday – March 2nd – 6th

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**Grace Hills Youth will host Trivia Night** on Sunday, March 22nd at 5:00. Dinner will be served at 5:00 in the gym, and trivia will start around 5:30 in the sanctuary. Teams can consist of up to 6 people. Donations will be accepted for a summer Youth Mission Trip with Impact VA.  Contact Lara Peterson if you want to participate (942-1998 or lspeterson@acpsweb.com).

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**Grace Hills Baptist Church**

gracehillsbaptist.com

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4320 Pumping Station Road **ghbcoffice@yahoo.com (Monica)**
Appomattox, VA 24522-0807 **gracehillsbaptist@gmail.com (Ruth)**

Monica Ewer’s (Financial Secretary) office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am-5:00pm
Ruth Perry’s (Administrative Assistant) office hours: Tuesday and Thursdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

