­**Pastor’s Corner** *“Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath’s day’s walk from the city.” (Acts 1:12)*

I don’t know about you, but I am living life in the “in-between.” On one side, the “before” side, we had life as it had been for weeks and months and years: gathering with our church family, getting together with friends, spending time at Baine’s Books and Coffee or other favorite local spots, going anywhere we pleased, doing things the way we had been doing them for a long time. On the “after” side, a side still not present, we will have a new reality, a new normal. COVID-19 has brought changes in how businesses run, how schools operate, how communities gather (or not, for the moment), and how families deal with all of that. Not everything will go back to what it was before all this happened. Life won’t be the same. So we live in the “in-between.”

If there is a time we need to live in the “in-between,” the season of Easter is a helpful one. For the disciples, the world had changed. It was going to be impossible to go back to what had been: walking with Jesus on the road, worshipping with the same understanding of God they had before, looking at the world in the same way they always had. With Good Friday and Easter, everything had changed. But the disciples didn’t fully know *how* everything had changed. Jesus had told them to wait for the Spirit to be poured upon them, and they did. Acts 1 tells us that after Jesus ascended, the apostles returned to the Upper Room with the other disciples.

What did they do there, in the “in-between”? *They prayed* – they were constantly in prayer. Prayer is so important in times of great change and uncertainty, because even if we aren’t at a time to do anything concrete, prayer helps align our hearts and our minds with God. *They prepared*. They didn’t know exactly what their ministry would look like on the other side of the Spirit’s arrival at Pentecost, but they knew they had a housekeeping matter to take care of: replacing Judas. They prayerfully considered who might be the best person to help them in this new reality*.* And finally*, they waited*. I’m sure in that fifty days, some of the disciples got restless. They likely wondered why they had to shelter in place for so long, why they couldn’t get out there and do what they thought Jesus wanted them to do. And yet, they did what Jesus asked: they waited. That can be the hardest part of the “in-between,” but it is the most important. If they don’t wait, they won’t experience what God has ahead for them.

Friends, in our “in-between” time, may we have the deep desire to unite our hearts in prayer, letting God’s love shape us and transform us into the likeness of his Son. May we have the wisdom to prepare ourselves and our church for what is next, whatever that may be. And may we have the patience to wait on the Lord, knowing that by his lead and the power of his Holy Spirit, amazing things can happen in and through us for the glory of God.

 Be well, friends,
 Pastor Adam
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**From the Stewardship Committee**

During these unprecedented times, we are having to look at new, and creative, ways to remain strong as a church.  Part of that is ensuring we remain strong financially so we can continue to do the work God has called us to do during these trying times and long after this crisis has passed.  Congress recently passed the CARES Act which is the $2.2 trillion stimulus package to help Americans weather this storm.  Part of this bill includes loans for small businesses to help pay their personnel and building expenses, and churches are eligible entities for this assistance. *Continued on next page…*

We are applying for a loan, and it will go through the approval process.  If approved, we are prepared to repay the loan (at an extremely low interest rate).  There is a good chance, though, that most, if not all, of the loan will be forgiven if certain criteria are met (e.g., retain the current church personnel).  In essence, the loan would then become a grant.

Thank you for your generosity to Grace Hills.  Please continue to give as you are able and see fit.  Your gifts enable our church to expand God's Kingdom in our community and around the world.  You can now give to Grace Hills online via the BGAV website (you can connect at https://www.gracehillsbaptist.com/connect-and-give).  Also, as always, you can mail your offerings to the church or drop it by the church office.  We are looking at other potential platforms for giving and will let you know if/when they are available.

Stay safe, and I look forward to worshipping with you in person again soon.
Josh Harrison, Stewardship Committee Chair
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

From the Deacons

We are moving into another month of the Coronavirus Pandemic. We so much miss seeing each other in the fellowship of Grace Hills. Most of us are growing weary of the social distancing, missing our friends and family, especially going about life as usual. We realize we must follow the guidelines in order to be safe. We are thankful for technology and all the good work our pastor and staff are doing to keep us “connected.”

*I personally give thanks for a Deacon Council dedicated to the servant ministry.* Deacons are making an effort to regularly contact their deacon families. We encourage you to keep us informed of needs, specific prayer requests, ways we can help you, or even calling if you want to talk.

Perhaps the worst of times brings out the best in us. We are blessed with a loving congregation which is reaching out to our community in numerous ways. In terms of financial support, our church is part of a food ministry for the children in the community. Benevolence funds provided an overnight stay and access to showers for a homeless couple travelling from south to north, trying to get home to an elderly family member. We continue to help those with medical needs, loss of jobs, and ongoing financial struggles.

The Deacon Council is a ministry of service and Christian love. Our work is an extension of all the other good things that are happening in our church. Please let us know if you are aware of those for whom we should pray, visit, or assist.

May the grace and peace of God and His great blessings be with you. Stay well and safe.
 Janice Marston, Chair
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

🎶 🎶 **MUSIC NOTES** 🎶 🎶

What fun to do the drive-in worship on Easter Sunday!  Have you ever seen such wind?   That huge effort at doing something really new was only possible because of a team effort.  I have the best team I have ever met in my Magnificent Seven Choir.  As you are aware, we can only have 10 persons involved in the "group" that presents worship.  So I am limited to seven dedicated singers, and I add Adam, and I sing in from the piano unless Susie is with us.  So far, I have not been able to get Lara to sing, but her work with children's moment and broadcast technician is essential to the production.   *Continued on next page…*

I was so proud of choir Sunday, as we sang despite the wind noise and the wind blowing music and robes and hair all around.  They have worked so hard to enhance worship experiences for you.  They are taking a much-deserved rest now, and we have soloists or small groups to share music with you.  Gene Williams appeared April 19th, and Bethany rang solo bells April 26th.  Brandon Loving will sing in streamed worship May 3rd and more plans will be announced as we get into May.

Thank you so much for remembering my sister-in-law Glenna Bennett with memorial gifts from choir and from church.  Those gifts went to the mission fund of her church, First Baptist Church of Gainesville, FL.  She was a dedicated church woman all her life, and your gifts helped to honor that.

Stay well and keep singing!

Nancy Williams

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

The call for all of us to be good neighbors in this time of “social distancing” has not changed. In fact, when we see each other less often, we are reminded of so many who are alone and struggling with health and social needs. When we know of little else we can do, we can love one another.

During this past month, we have checked phone messages at the center. However, we also continue to respond to the needs of individuals and families. These include requests for food and transportation to work. Thanks to your contributions to the Grace Hills food closet, we were able to provide food to those in need. We are working on the transportation need. One loving member of our church loaned a car so that a family could get to work and the grocery store. Good Neighbor continues to address this need in helping to find a more permanent solution.

We do not know how long this pandemic will continue. We ask that you join with us in prayer for those who are ill, lonely, experiencing financial struggles, and dealing with significant changes in life. We also pray for a time of “normalcy” for all of us.

If you are seeking help or know someone in need, call us. If you want to help in efforts to reach others, you may use a direct cell phone number (434-660-4873) as an immediate contact. The Good Neighbor Council and volunteers will continue to communicate on a regular basis.

We pray God’s protection and blessings for wellness and safety for all.

*Prayer: Father, help us to always realize that we are on a mission for You.* Blessings,
The Good Neighbor Team

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Children in Action

Even though the Children in Action are not able to meet together, we are preparing for our next mission project. You can help us! We will be learning how water is vital to life and how missionaries help spread the “living water”. We will be collecting our loose change and such for the WMU Pure Water Pure Love project. Please go to the following link to learn about this worthwhile project:
 **http://wmu.com/?q=article/support/national-wmu/pure-water-pure-love**

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:***

* Infant classes have been busy learning to wash their hands while singing.
* Tot’s class learned about shapes; the heart was their favorite.
* 2’s class learned the letter U for Uppity Umbrella Bird.
* Red 3’s class have been busy little bees making Spring crafts.
* Blue 3’s class enjoyed sensory play by adding different colors to shaving cream in Ziplock bags. They also did a science experiment where Ivory soap expand to look like snow.
* Pre-K classes have been learning different Bible Stories:
* Be ye Kind “one to another”
* Resurrection Week

***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 in May: Council meeting on the 12th at 4pm;
 Closed on the 25th.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grace Hills Youth Group

The Grace Hills Youth Group is continuing mission work during this time.  We made goody bags for the staff of the Early Learning Center.  We appreciate these essential workers!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **Grace Hills Baptist Church**

gracehillsbaptist.com

PO Box 807 (for mail) **(434) 352-8847**
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

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
John 14:27