­**Pastor’s Corner** *“…we hear them proclaiming the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Acts 2:11b)*

It’s June! We are entering the summer season, a time each year where our rhythms of life change, maybe even slow down, where we devote time to being with friends and family we may not connect with during the school year or in busier times of the work calendar. This year, there’s a bit of extra hope as we enter summer: after a period of stay-at-home, we are moving into a slow reopening of our community and reconnecting with friends and neighbors. No matter how much of a homebody you are, I imagine we are all itching to get a bit closer to normal and to be with people we care about in safe ways.

As we enter this season, we do so through the gateway of Pentecost, the church’s celebration of the gift of the Spirit. On that day, the community of faith gathered together in the Upper Room suddenly was filled with a power. They were emboldened to tell the story of Jesus, and the Spirit opened the way for them to share that story with thousands of other people – people from all over the place, people from different languages and classes and nations. Those who heard were amazed, for they heard the Gospel – the Good News – in a way that they could understand.

In the summer months that are now at hand, we – you and me – are going to have the same sorts of opportunities. We have new ways of connecting with people that we have never used before, online and electronic connections that we are still learning about and growing comfortable with. They can be “tongues” through which we can share God’s story. We will have new opportunities to talk with people about things that matter, because COVID-19 has made them think about serious things. We will have new chances to model Christian love – in our speech and in our actions – to folks who wonder what difference God makes in our lives. And, if we take those chances and opportunities, we can help introduce someone who matters to God to Jesus his Son.

May this be a summer of wonder – and may we share the wonder of God with everyone we meet.

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

From the Deacons

We are experiencing a new normal in our lives. Using technology, for the past several months, we have been able to continue meetings, Sunday School and the Worship Service. We look forward with great anticipation to being together soon as a church family, even as we focus on everyone’s safety and well-being.

Deacons continue to minister to our congregation with Christian love and kindness. Regularly contacting families is one part of this *servant* ministry. We encourage you to keep us informed of needs, specific prayer requests, ways we can help you, or calling if you want to talk. We are blessed by the work that connects each of us to one another. *(continued next page…)*

Benevolence efforts continue to meet the needs of our church and community. During May, Grace Hills provided a secure place to stay for several nights to a family who lost their home in a fire, assisted with electric bills, food, personal, medical and family needs. Some funds were used to restock the food pantry in order to be able to respond to requests.

The Deacon Council is a ministry of service and 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
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

🎶 🎶 **CHOIR NOTES FOR JUNE: HYMNS ARE BACK!**  🎶 🎶

Church worship music has seemed to move away from hymns in the past thirty years, and it has moved towards longer and harder anthems.  Those are very worshipful, and we all have our favorites.  Next the trends moved on towards choruses for congregation, and trained soloists or small groups with praise bands.  Very nice in many ways, but not hymns.

Now the pendulum seems to be swinging back toward hymns, for several reasons.  New hymn writers are seeing the value of putting very meaningful but new words to familiar hymn tunes, thus using words that resonate with younger Christians but tunes that sound like "home" to those of us over 60.  Also, composers like Keith Getty are writing new hymn material and making it deeply personal for our faith but also sing-able, not too high, and memorable.  Lovely melodies with great words--**something we can all sing!!**

What is it that appeals to us about hymns? Familiarity, for one, but it takes more than that to make a hymn significant to us. Our best hymns, whether old or new, are sing-able. Their tunes offer enough repetition for any of us to happily sing along, and even to remember snatches of the hymn on the way out of worship. Words are important to our faith walk. The text of a fine hymn offers some repetition also, such that a large group of people may sing that text with some confidence, even if the hymn is relatively new. That is often accomplished by a chorus at the end of each verse.

Keith Getty first became popular, with his co-composer Stuart Townend, for the anthem "In Christ Alone" (2001). Keith was born in N. Ireland in 1974. Stuart is a British song writer/musician. Together they composed that anthem that was sing-able enough to become a favorite hymn, and also moving and challenging enough to be a stunning worship moment from the choir.  Keith has gone on to collaborate with others, including his wife Kristyn, and has made new hymns one of his fine contributions.  He popularizes these hymns over the Internet and has offered many of them to choir directors free as downloads.  Free!  That is the work of a true lover of music.  Our choir has done many Getty songs; favorites of mine, besides "In Christ Alone", are "Speak O Lord" and "God of Grace".  He gave us free the hymn "My Dwelling Place Is God Most High", which we have sung for you twice already.  What a marvelous stewardship to put meaningful words with lovely tunes and give them away for free, so that we all may praise God together in refreshing ways.

Stay well and keep singing!

Nancy Williams

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

Being a good neighbor has never been more important than in this time of “social distancing”. So many of you are sharing stories of helping one another or how others are helping you…shopping for groceries, bringing in the mail, calling or texting one another, and sending notes regularly. Together we are loving others.

Good Neighbor is continuing to check phone messages at the center. We are also responding to the needs of individuals and families. This month, these included requests for food and assistance with finding resources regarding electric bills. Good Neighbor also provided CARE boxes to our community’s first responders-the Appomattox County Rescue Squad, the Appomattox County Fire Department, and the Sheriff’s Department in recognition of the important work they do in being there when we need them. If you can, would you write a note to each of these organizations to encourage them, especially as they serve during this COVID-19 time?

We do not know how long this pandemic will continue or resurge. 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

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

**News from Appomattox Baptist Association**

During this time of closures and stay-at-home orders, your Appomattox Baptist Association has not stood idle. Despite the office closed to outside visitors, Carolyn Dolan has checked the phone messages and emails as she worked from home. She has kept in touch with those in need. On May 20th, she distributed 11 bags of potatoes (50 lbs) to her regular food bank recipients. The potatoes were brought from Gleaning for the World. Thanks Carolyn! Glenn Memorial continues to have their twice a month food distribution through the Red Truck Ministry. Last week, they even delivered to some older recipients who were afraid to come for pickup. Thank you, Glenn Memorial! Members from Rocks, Spring Creek and Grace Hills met at our mission apartment recently to prepare for a pastor’s family in June. Thank you to all who gave furniture, etc. and those who prepared the apartment. We are ready to welcome this family in mid-June! Our teams are all in touch by email or phone. If you feel led to serve, contact the ABA office. Thanks for your continuing prayers for our association during this pandemic. *Submitted by Linda Mays*



Grace Hills Early Learning Center News
Director: Leslie Galloway Bookkeeper: Lisa Dawson
Phone: (434) 352-2273 Email: gracehillselc@aol.com
Temporary Attendance: Full Time Students: 45    School Age Students: 20

*Praying all is well with everyone during these unpredictable times.*

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

Infant classes have been learning about body parts while singing Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes

Tot’s class have been learning about Spring while taking nature walks.

2’s class learned the letter W for Wackford Walrus.

Red 3’s class have been busy exploring insects.

Blue 3’s class learned to write their first names and working on their last names.

Pre-K classes have been learning different Bible Stories:

* Good Samaritan
* The Prodigal Son

 ***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!***

***For the Calendar: ELC Council meeting: June 9th– 4 PM; ELC Drive-In Graduation, June 11th, 6:30 PM***

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

**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

***“Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see.”
~ Hebrews 11:1 ~***