­**PASTOR’S CORNER** *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

Psalm 119:105

As we enter month 6 of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can at times grow a bit restless and frustrated. Even though things are safer than they were, and more places are opening up, we still must be cautious. We still must limit our activities. We still must take safety measures. We’re doing this as individuals, and we’re doing it as a church, both to protect ourselves and, equally as important, to protect others. We are doing our part out of our love for those around us.

And, truth be told, it isn’t easy.

We’d much rather be able to do the things we love to do: get together with friends, go to the movies, cheer at a ballgame, visit in one another’s homes, go to church for Sunday school or Bible study or Wednesday night dinners. Unfortunately, the reality is we can’t – at least, not yet.

But what if we looked for the opportunity in this time of limitation? What if we used this time of necessary quasi-isolation to grow closer to God? One of the things I constantly hear is that we just don’t have the time to do the things that strengthen our relationship with God: consistently praying, consistently reading the Bible, consistently engaging in biblical study. Yet now we have the time – or at least, some of the other demands on our time are less.

For the fall, and probably beyond, we’re focusing on getting Bible reading at Grace Hills in 4 ways:

1. Daily Bible Reading: Have you ever read the Bible through? I confess, I haven’t – at least not from beginning to end. Starting at the end of August, we’re going to do that as a church. Over the next year, we will read together the Scriptures. There will be a daily Bible reading video and a monthly schedule of readings if you wish to do it offline. And by the end of next August, everyone who participates will have finished the Bible read-through!
2. At-Home Study: The Bible Project is a free online resource to study the Bible, and they offer a 22-week study you can do with your family or a group of friends. A weekly e-mail will include a short video, a short audio teaching, the Scripture passage being studied that week, and some discussion questions.
3. Sunday School: We have been having great Bible lessons on Sunday morning since we had to curtail in-person Sunday School in March. We will continue to offer these online teachings, and will be adding to them two or three questions for you to talk about with your family after viewing the video each week.
4. In-Depth Modules: In place of our weekly Wednesday night Bible study, we are currently offering online Zoom discussion-based studies. These will continue online, hopefully with an in-person option eventually, with topic-based or Bible-book-based material.

Additionally, we are continuing to develop youth- and children-specific options for learning and growing in faith this fall. Our hope is that, during these COVID days, we as a congregation will become more knowledgeable about the Bible and more transformed into the likeness of Christ.

 Be well!
 Adam

From the Deacons

Fall is in the air! Sunday worship is taking place in three ways- outdoors at 9:30 AM (weather permitting), in the sanctuary and on Facebook Live at 11:00 AM. It is so good to see everyone again! We continue to pray this coronavirus will go away or at least diminish soon. Now over six months into this new way of life, deacons continue to shepherd their families with Christian love and service.

The Deacon Council met in person in the church social hall in August. The focus of our meeting was on serving those in need in our congregation and community. Several individuals and families continue to struggle with short and long-term health and personal needs. Deacons are reaching out with benevolent assistance and caring. Approximately eight calls were received for help from the Benevolence Fund during the past month. Three individuals provided follow-up information and received assistance.

Thank you for your ministry as you have joined in the outreach and caring of the Grace Hills family. Many good things are taking place, including grocery shopping, mowing yards, visits, when possible, sharing of garden vegetables, cards, notes, phone calls, and other acts of kindness. More than ever, we need and value each other in these strange times.

Election of new deacons was a continued topic of discussion at our August meeting. We drafted a proposal which will be presented for your consideration at our next business meeting (hopefully September). Church Council reviewed and approved this proposal.

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

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

🎶 🎶 **MUSIC NOTES**  🎶 🎶

If you have not been in worship lately, you are missing some wonderful opportunities.  Outside worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays is fresh, filled with bird song and congregation singing, warm fellowship and inspired preaching.

Inside worship at 11 a.m. features testimonies about how folks are surviving the pandemic experience and how they are seeing God at work during these times of limitation.  We also have taped worship music from the choir, live handbell music (full hand bell choir on Aug. 30), piano meditations with narrations or slide shows, and inspired preaching, as well as warm fellowship. These are rich times of celebration and worship.  Take your pick and renew your in-person worship habit. Of course, the eleven o'clock worship is streamed live and saved on facebook so you can access it later to enjoy.  That might be your desire, and that is a fine option.

Blessings on you as you worship and study with us during this pandemic.
Nancy Williams

**

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

Celebrating the joy of meeting again in person, the Good Neighbor Council, in pandemic masks, gathered in the fellowship hall at Grace Hills for an August meeting.

Consideration of those with health and back to school needs was the main topic of discussion. The Council approved donations to two pending kidney transplant individuals in the Appomattox area. Also, Habitat for Humanity sought participation from Good Neighbor. A monetary donation was approved, along with the intention to provide snacks or a light meal for volunteers in the future. Concerns about children returning to school in need of school supplies, hygiene items, and snacks were all discussed. Action taken included a donation for snacks for primary school children, Also, the hygiene bags prepared by the Children in Action will be given to the middle school for distribution to students. We are checking on school supply needs at all schools and the best way to assist those children in need of supplies.

Also, we focused on several families with whom we remain closely connected. We continue to reach out to and pray for the Byer family and also a young family from West Virginia who may be moving to Appomattox.

Notifications have been sent to vendors regarding the cancellation of this year’s Senior Fair due to the Covid-19. We are hopeful we can hold this event in 2021.

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

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

**\*\*\* NEW FACEBOOK GROUP FOR MEMBERS \*\*\***

We have a new private group on our Facebook page so that we can stream business meetings. If you are a member of Grace Hills, please:

1. go to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gracehillsbaptist/,
2. find the **Groups** button and click it (
3. click **Join** for the Grace Hills Members Only group

Our business meeting on September 13th, after the 11am church service, will be live-streamed in this group, so that all members may remain connected to the mission and matters of our church.



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: 80    School Age Students: 40

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

***Last month all of our students were busy exploring their new classrooms and getting
to know their new teachers.***

 ***GHELC welcomed back lots of old friends for the new school year and a few new friends.***

September Dates: GHELC will be closed Sept. 7th in honor of Labor Day

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

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

**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 Ewers’ (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