

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter - February 2020

Pastor's Corner *"The message of the cross is sheer folly to those on the way to destruction, but to us, who are on the way to salvation, it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18*

Growing up, I loved to learn. I was an avid reader, but I also was an engaged student. I loved hearing a guest speaker in class, I enjoyed having conversations with teachers about our lessons, and my favorite movies were history movies that taught something. Yes, I was a nerd...but I learned quite a bit about a lot of different things.

We live in a world that values knowledge. While we ourselves may or may not have enjoyed school or picking up a book or having an educational experience, we tend to appreciate the knowledge of those we rely upon. We want our mechanics to know how our car goes together. We want our doctors to be familiar with the incredible complexity of the human body. We want our leaders to understand the many different parts of the world that interact with one another so they can lead with wisdom and effectiveness. We value knowledge.

Sometimes, though, if we aren't careful, what we have learned from the world can crowd out the way that Jesus taught us to live. After all, if the world values certain things - and we know it by having heard it over and over - we may see Jesus teach something different and think his teaching is foolish or unwise. For example, the world teaches us to look out for our own self-interest, but Jesus teaches us to do for others what we would have them do for us. The world says to follow the strongest and the loudest, but Jesus pays special attention to the weak and the left out. The world says victory looks like triumphing over one's opponents, but Jesus says victory looks like dying for others. The message of the cross - the message of Jesus - is foolish from the world's perspective, but to those who follow Christ, it is the wisdom and the power of God.

We are the people of the foolish way of Christ. If we follow that way, we may not always understand why it is best - but we will discover that this way is the way of salvation.

In Christ, Adam

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

January 14, 2020

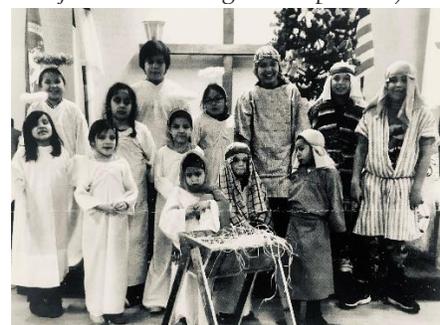
Thank you so much for the gift cards (\$200) you sent for Christmas. They were used to purchase items for the Christmas gifts that were given out on the Sunday of our Christmas Celebration.

Please enjoy the enclosed pictures that were taken at our Christmas celebration. We had a wonderful time. There were 102 children and 63 adults in attendance. Thank you for helping make Christmas special for our community.

In Christ,
Peter & Angela Adkins
Email: tipiwakan@aol.com
Cell: 701-471-7762

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(See Pastor's bulletin board for more and larger color pictures)



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FROM THE DEACONS

Deacons at Grace Hills Baptist Church are selected for the Deacon Council to serve as servant ministers, to administer the Benevolence Fund and Communion, and to assist the pastor in the ministry of the church. The Deacon Council is **not** an administrative board as is often the case in many churches. **Church Council** is the administrative council at Grace Hills.

During January, the Deacon Council focused on ministering to individuals and families experiencing health issues, loss of loved ones, and ongoing personal needs. Deacons will be making a special effort to reach out to these persons. Deacons also received training on hospital visitation. This month each deacon is challenged to meet new people in the church and share their Christian love.

In an effort to focus on **communication** at Grace Hills, the January Church Council asked the Deacon Council and the Personnel Committee to address the topic of communication. At the February meeting, deacons will focus on such topics as what we are doing well and what we might do to change or improve communication. The goal is to keep members informed about all aspects of ministry at Grace Hills. A report will be forthcoming. Your thoughts are valued. Please talk to any deacon about ideas and suggestions you want to share.

Jamie Davis and Nancy Williams will serve as Deacons of the Month for February. We appreciate Pat Torrence and Tim Petersen helping during January with reading scripture and assisting with the worship service.

Benevolence work recently has included assistance to several families and individuals in need. Please continue to let us know of those in need of benevolence efforts. We continue to pray for those experiencing great needs.

The Deacon Council is a ministry of service and Christian love. Please let us know if you are aware of those we should pray for, visit, or assist.

Blessings,
Janice Marston, Chair

Children in Action

One Sunday each month is dedicated to children's missions during Children's Church, called **Children in Action** and led by Lucianne Warren. We are learning about, praying for, giving to and doing missions. Our first mission project will be in February and we need the church's help and support. We are collecting toiletry items and assembling hygiene kits to deliver to the Good Neighbor Center to give out as needed. *There are receptacles throughout the church in which to place needed items: small sizes of toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, disposable razors, shaving cream, combs, nail clippers, pocket tissues, bar soap, washcloths, hand sanitizer, and chap stick.* We appreciate your support in this effort in helping our children learn, give, pray and do missions.

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In this month of love, Good Neighbor is pleased to share the love which is a mission of our church. Please help us spread the good news of the following:

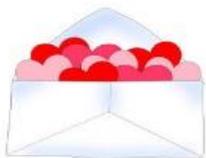
Do you know about “FRIDAY FRIENDS”? This is our second year!

- The purpose of *Friday Friends* is to provide outreach and support to newcomers to Grace Hills and to others who might benefit from church family communication.
- How FRIDAY FRIENDS works: Members of the Good Neighbor Council and other volunteers have agreed to make contact with individuals in the church and community on an ongoing basis. They will make phone calls, send cards, or visit newcomers to the church and others who might be alone or just benefit from these services.
- Who can be a FRIDAY FRIEND? There are no meetings. Everyone is welcome to participate. If you can make a phone call or contact and want to be a part of this effort, please contact any member of the Council or if you would enjoy being on our regular contact list, let us know. It would be great to have the entire church get involved in the Friday Friends effort!
- **HOW DOES GOOD NEIGHBOR WORK?**
 - Good Neighbor depends on phone calls and personal contacts to provide outreach and service. We staff the GN Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 PM.
 - Also, we have several ongoing efforts. Here’s what’s happening right now:
 - During January we worked with a family who experienced significant personal needs to get connected with the Community Food Bank and get several budget issues under control. We also facilitated a housekeeping issue they faced.
 - An abused woman sought our help. She said she knows only several people in Appomattox. She was hospitalized for health issues. We visited and are helping her connect with others to get much needed care.

Will you bring a **canned food item** to the first church supper of every month? Our goal is to have food available for those in need. Winter tends to be a major time for this concern.

- Thanks to Reggie and Lucianne Warren and to Bank of the James for generous donations.
- Welcome to Jimmy and Adele Beale as they work with Good Neighbor

We seek you continued prayers as we serve God in our church and community.
Blessings, The Good Neighbor Team



The Grace Hills Youth Group is hosting a **Senior Valentine Luncheon** on **February 16th** in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Baked potatoes, salad, and dessert will be served. RSVP to Lara Peterson (434-942-1998 or lpeterson@acpsweb.com) by Thursday, February 13th.

On Monday, **February 17th**, our **Seenagers** will attend a luncheon at Memorial United Methodist Church. Soup will be provided, bring a salad or desert. And compete for prizes in the “Game of Hearts”!

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GRACE HILLS EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Director: Leslie Galloway Bookkeeper: Lisa Dawson Phone: (434) 352-2273 Email: gracehillselc@aol.com

- ELC council meeting: Tuesday, February 11th at 4pm
 - ELC Chapel at 9:15am on February 3rd and 17th
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🎵 🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 🎵

New Choir Members!

We have welcomed Dixie McDowell and Jessica Jordan to the soprano section of sanctuary choir. What a delight to have these relatively new church members add their talents to our already gifted group of singers.

Just One Concert of Pops - Mark the Date!

The Jefferson Choral Society will present its "More Chart Toppers" concert Saturday, February 22, at 7:30pm at the Historic Academy Theatre in downtown Lynchburg. Songs will include "It Had to Be You", "In the Mood", "Chattanooga Choo Choo", "Good Vibrations" (Beach Boys), "I Believe," and many more. For tickets (\$20) call 434-846-TIXX (8499) or go to www.academycenter.org.

Composer Walt Harrar in February Choir Music

I found copies of "No More Night" in the music collection we received from Memorial Christian Church in Lynchburg and happily brought it to our choir, having heard Susie Thomas play it as service music several times. The composer, Walt Harrar, also wrote one of our favorite pieces from the musical "Shadow of the Cross", a piece called "We Remember You", which we will sing for Communion on February 2nd. "No More Night" will be presented in worship later in February. Walt Harrar was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1948. He studied church music at University of Southern California and got his Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in California. He planned to be a pastor, but God led him into a career of writing music and singing. He became a session singer, doing commercials and live shows; he says he has sung with Roy Rogers and chatted backstage with Robin Williams, while working on worship music at the same time. What an exciting career! Enjoy along with us the music of Walt Harrar during February worship.

Keep on Ringing and Singing!
Nancy Williams

Grace Hills Baptist Church

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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