

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – July 2021

PASTOR'S CORNER

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:13-16a, 22-23

July is a month for freedom! It is the month, after all, that begins with Independence Day, the celebration of the freedom we achieved in severing the colonial power of Great Britain in 1776. It is also the month that lies at the heart of the summer, in our culture a time of freedom. School's out, and many families take advantage of that academic freedom to have some vacation freedom, as well.

We love freedom, not just as Americans, but even more as Christians. The root of the Gospel is freedom – freedom from the power of sin, freedom from the power of death, freedom from hopeless despair. We revel in the ways the Good News of Jesus throws off the chains of oppression and rejoice in the freedom of salvation that we receive from Christ's death and resurrection. Freedom is an amazing centerpiece of Christian faith.

It is not, however, freedom to do whatever we want. The Bible doesn't say that, and neither did Jesus. Instead, as Paul highlights here in Galatians 5, our freedom is an empowerment of us to be more faithful. "Do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh," he says; instead, use your freedom to serve one another and love one another. This is not a freedom from responsibility, but a freedom to responsibility.

What does that responsibility look like? It looks like a life that is marked by certain things, fruit of the nourishing Spirit of God inside us. Love. Joy. Peace. Forbearance (patience). Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control. These are the things that the love of Christ causes to take root in us. These are the things that the freedom of Christ calls us to nurture. And these are the things we are invited to offer as our part of the work of our Heavenly Father – a life that embodies these characteristics.

My prayer is that, for each of us and for our church, this will be a summer of freedom – and one filled to overflowing with the bountiful harvest of the fruit of the Spirit.

In Christ,



FROM THE DEACONS

The members of your Deacon Council are happy to serve you at Grace Hills. You will find us ushering, welcoming, and distributing materials for Communion in the foyer on Sundays. We are also busy meeting together on second Wednesdays, listening to each other read from the Bible and share inspiration, studying various kinds of ministry needs from our *Crisis Ministry Handbooks*, and voting on use of benevolence funds. You have likely heard from us in the past month or two- a phone call, a note, or a visit. *Continued ...*

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – July 2021

In the middle of all that is going on in our world and in our community and in our families, our deacon hearts are focused on you-- and on our growing together to understand God's love and His mission for Grace Hills. Thank for you the privilege of serving. How are you exercising your ministry muscles in response to our work?

Love in Christ,
Pat and Nancy
Deacon Co-Chairs



When I think of Ann, I see her managing that wonderful church picnic we had at a James River State Park pavilion, along with her partner in hospitality magic, Carolyn Mayberry. Ann and Carolyn were long-time friends. I have a photograph of one of the Grace Hills ground-breaking services; beyond Wes speaking to the circled crowd with shovels in hand, you can see Ann and Donald, Carolyn and Jimmy standing together.

Carolyn reminded me that the Wednesday night meal activity began at Grace Hills for fellowship (of course) but mainly to furnish the new kitchen in the gym. The original committee included Ellen Jamerson, June Chenault, Paige Nolen, Linda Stewart, Carolyn Mayberry and Ann Ferguson. She said, "Ann was a good cook and we made everything we served. . . The fellowship was great and our purpose of furnishing our kitchen was fulfilled."

Ann was a good mother to son Tony and daughter Angie. She and Donald cherished four granddaughters and six great-grandchildren. She really loved being at home with Donald and her dog, but she lived in total anticipation of the annual trip to the beach with the whole family.

I found in the 2005 Mother's Day book an article that Ann wrote about her own mother, Mary "Charlie" Ranson, in which she said, "She was a firm but gentle mom who taught me very important values of life. I miss her every day." I am sure Ann's family feels the same way about her today. I certainly miss her.

Nancy Williams

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – July 2021



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

July 2021

Celebrating a Decade of Good Neighbor

Those of you who attended the June 20, 2021 worship service shared with Good Neighbor in the celebration of 10 years of the Good Neighbor Information and Help Center.

Perhaps the work of Good Neighbor can best be summed up in recent quotes. A once homeless single mother whom Grace Hills and Good Neighbor supported for seven years and has now achieved her goal of independent living as a family unit states:

“I’ve always thought there’s a light at the end of the tunnel but thankfully now it’s not from a train. You all have changed my life completely and I’m so thankful and love every one of you for everything you’ve done for my family.” JB

Three years ago, an abused woman came to us seeking help with broken dentures from a prior assault by her spouse. She can’t return to her home in another state for fear of being physically abused and hospitalized again. She keeps in contact with us. It is a reminder of the important work of Good Neighbor. She states:

“You are the only friends I have in Appomattox.” DH

Ten years ago, the idea of a resource center in the community was conceived in a Huddle group in response to the questions: “What is God saying to us? And what are we going to do about it?” Since 2011, Good Neighbor has become a “go to” place for those seeking assistance in the ways we first thought it might be. Through the years, God has guided us in Christian service to respond in ways no one could have imagined. Good Neighbor is a mission of Grace Hills Baptist Church as it extends Christian love to others who are our church family, our friends, our neighbors, and who were once strangers.

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

Blessings,
The Good Neighbor Team

🎵 🎵 MUSIC ROLLS US INTO SUMMER 2021 🎵 🎵

We have had a feast of wonderful music these past few Sundays in June, with Derrick Thompson returning to Grace Hills June 6th to sing for us, and with Brandon Loving leading in music on June 13th. The choir continues to polish and record music for Sunday mornings, like “Day by Day” for the 20th; the handbells are getting ready to ring in July. On June 27th, the choir will present “Nothin’s Too Hard for God” in keeping with Adam’s Old Testament sermon series.

Vacation Bible School will be held July 12th-14th; while there will not be a final joint worship that you can enjoy, we will be singing outside and celebrating God’s Rocky Railroad inside. Keep us in prayer, both workers and students, as we study and worship together on those days. *Continued...*

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – July 2021

Thank you for helping everyone enjoy Susie's prelude. The prelude is not preparation for worship; it is worship. It is clear to see that she puts a lot of work into it each week. Thank you, Susie.

On Saturday, July 3rd, the Jefferson Choral Society will present a patriotic concert at 7 p.m. in the main stage theatre at the Academy Center of the Arts in downtown Lynchburg. Included will be a John Denver medley, songs from the musical *George M!*, *America the Beautiful*, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, *O Shenandoah*, and the *Armed Forces Salute*, as well as more patriotic pieces. Tickets are \$20. Pick them up at the Academy ticket office or call 434-846-8499 to reserve yours. The main stage theatre is a beautiful venue for enjoying this sort of concert. I hope to see you there.

Keep singing and ringing!
Nancy Williams

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: 72 School Age Students: 45

Some of what we have been learning?

- This month we have been enjoying the beautiful weather. Infant and Toddler classes have been singing songs while playing outdoors.
- Two's had fun pointing out different color items while singing the color songs.
- Three's classes reviewed letters and numbers with flashcards. They also made a review book to take home and review.
- Pre-K classes had fun with sight word crafts and games, while also learning how to sound out their words. Their monthly memory verse is "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good." Psalm 106:1.
- School-age classes have been busy learning a skit "Daniel and the Lion's Den." They performed the skit for our preschool friends. This month we had a special program by Amazement Square "All about Dinosaurs" for our preschool classes.

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!

Grace Hills Baptist Church

gracehillsbaptist.com

PO Box 807 (for mail)
4320 Pumping Station Road
Appomattox, VA 24522-0807

(434) 352-8847
ghbcoffice@yahoo.com (Monica)
gracehillsbaptist@gmail.com (Ruth)