

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – June 2021

PASTOR'S CORNER

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

It is gardening season – and it hasn't been an easy one. My family has just a couple small beds in our backyard so that Jonathan and I can dabble in the dirt, but I have friends who are serious gardeners and farmers. And, to a person, they have one gripe: they need rain! I hope by the time this comes out, of course, that their prayers have been answered, but when I went to my small plot this morning and turned on the hose for a few moments of spray, the ground was bone-dry and the plants were barely clinging to life.

And yet, growth is happening.

The same thing happens in our own lives as we follow Christ. Often, we have had many hands at work in the garden of our soul. Somewhere, maybe in the distant past, maybe in recent memory, a preacher or a teacher or a friend introduced us to this Messiah named Jesus. We experienced a change in our perspective and our allegiance, committing ourselves to our new Lord. Then, across many years or even decades, other people watered us, nurtured us, tended our souls. (I try to be one of those people for you, by the way)

Sometimes, the nourishment flows from our Sunday school lessons and sermons, our private devotions and the friendships we have, even from speakers and preachers we like to listen to on television or on a podcast. It is incredible to be in that time of abundance. Other times, the water seems to be a dribble and the spiritual food seems to not taste so good or fill us up so much. Those drought times can be so frustrating and discouraging. Yet whether in times of abundance or times of drought, God can still cause us to grow. We can still increase our trust on Jesus, our ability to love and forgive, our capacity to sacrifice for others and treat those around us with compassion and grace. We can become more like Jesus – because God causes us to grow if we'll let him.

I don't know what sort of season you are in right now. Whether abundance or drought, I pray that God will care for the seed of faith planted deep within you, nourish it with many hands and hearts, and nurture your spirit so that it may flourish in wisdom, maturity, and faith.

In Christ,



Church Council Announcement on Masking at Grace Hills

May 20, 2021

Last week (5/13/21), the CDC changed its guidelines regarding the use of masks by fully vaccinated persons in the United States, stating that masks were no longer required for safety by those fully vaccinated. The next day (5/14/21), the governor of Virginia rescinded the mask mandate for the state, stating that while individual companies and organizations may continue to institute mask rules, and individuals may choose to wear masks, the legal requirement to mask in public settings and social gatherings was hereby rescinded.

We are grateful for the efficacy of the available COVID vaccines and rejoice that the efforts against the ongoing pandemic are being so successful. In response to these announcements from the CDC and the governor, the Church Council met on May 19, 2021, to discuss the next steps for Grace Hills regarding masking. *Continued on next page...*

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The Council looked at the current vaccination rates for Appomattox, discussed the circumstances of our congregation, and considered the concerns of those attending worship in-person. One very important factor was the current ineligibility of children under the age of 12 to receive any vaccine, and the reality that, though children 12-17 can receive the vaccine, those receiving a two-shot regimen are not yet fully vaccinated. The Council **unanimously** expressed a desire to protect our children from COVID, as well as encourage them to continue in safe practices until they are eligible to be vaccinated (which will, of course, be an individual family decision).

With this in mind, the Church Council is recommending the following practice at Grace Hills until children are eligible to receive the COVID vaccine and become fully vaccinated:

The call of Jesus to “Love your neighbor as yourself” and “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them” is a powerful one, and one that guides all we do as followers of Jesus. In light of this, Grace Hills Baptist Church requests that everyone who attends indoor worship services, or other indoor activities where children currently ineligible to receive the vaccine or who have not had time to become fully vaccinated are present, wear a face mask out of concern for our youngest brothers and sisters and to encourage them in their practice of safe behaviors.

Our congregation has been a blessing to our community by adopting safe practices and caring for others throughout this pandemic. Let each of us choose to continue this approach to protect and set the example for our youngest companions in the community of faith.

On behalf of Church Council,



Rev. Dr. J Adam Tyler
Chair, Church Council

FROM THE DEACONS

Welcome to June! During this month, we especially enjoy topics of summer fun, growing gardens (fertility), compassion (love), and unity (marriage). If you are reading the daily Bible posts, you are now in the book of John, where Jesus provides much guidance in growth, compassion, and unity. John 1:3 tell us All things were made through Him..

June is also the month we look forward to selecting spiritual leaders in the Church. Three people will be elected as new deacons for 2021-2024. Will you pray about stepping-up for service and love to God, and our Church?

Many of you have confirmed your love for GHBC by donating to the Benevolence Fund. Monetary gifts of \$950.00 were received last month. We greatly appreciate your generosity, inspiration, and support. As a result, community needs have been addressed. Detailed records are on file and available.

A brief summary of our May Deacons' meeting follows:

- Tim Peterson's helpful devotional was thought-provoking as we shared answers to his question, "What if Jesus came today?"

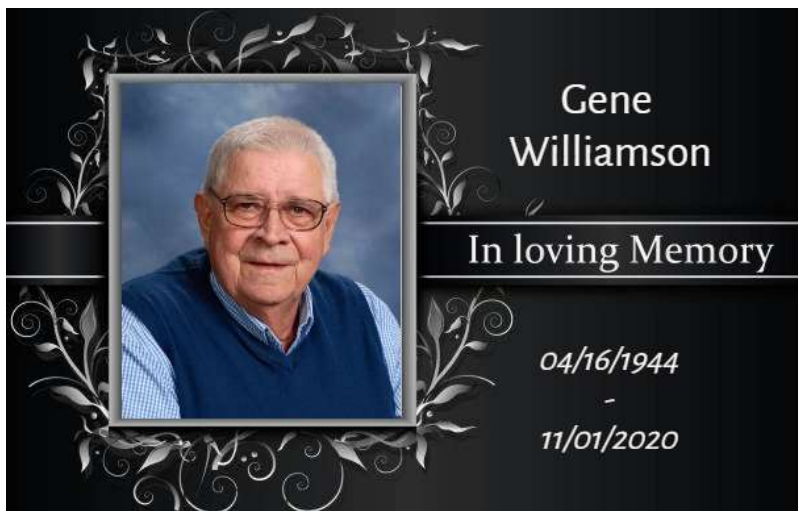
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- Pastor Adam led the training session on “Stress”. Spiritual growth continued as we indulged ourselves in self-evaluation using the *Holmes-Rahe Stress Test*.
- Suggested mission opportunities included transporting Seniors to/from Church and assistance with entering/exiting. Perhaps some of you would join us in these missions.
- Challenge for the month was to visit at least two (2) Church families, carry a small token and front-porch-sit for a while.

At each monthly Deacon’s meeting, we shared on the topic: *Deacon Leadership as related to growing our Church community*. We pray for the well-being of our congregation. Partner with us by rereading Colossians 3:12-14.

Love in Christ,
Pat and Nancy
Deacon Co-Chairs



Gene Williamson joined Grace Hills a few years ago to be with his friend Geraldine. Upon joining, he became a faithful member. Prior to his joining Grace Hills, he had been a faithful member of Fairview United Methodist Church in Lynchburg. From the time he was a young child, he attended Sunday School and earned a pin for perfect attendance. He also had a special affiliation with Gethsemane Baptist Church in Lynchburg.

As a young man, he served in the Navy during the Vietnam War on two battleships. He became a disabled veteran. As a sailor, he served as a postal clerk and was honorably discharged.

Gene served his community as a grocer. He owned Gene’s Market in Lynchburg and worked for Winn Dixie and Kings Market there. Then Gene became the meat manager for Wilbun’s Supermarket in Appomattox. At Wilbun’s, he became immensely popular with the community churches. They always called on Gene when they were planning special meals to furnish the meats and sometimes he even cooked the meats for them.

Gene had a fun loving and deeply caring heart. He loved music and dancing, particularly dancing with his special partner, Geraldine. They managed to dance all over Virginia and as far away as Alaska.

Gene was preceded in death by his wife and childhood sweetheart, Marlene. He is survived by two children, Gene Thomas (Tom) of Forest and Ann Margaret Farris of Alaska.

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

June 2021

It's time to celebrate! **Good Neighbor has been a mission of Grace Hills for 10 years!** Planning for Good Neighbor began in the fall of 2011! We are excited to share the story of Good Neighbor during June 2021. Thank you to the Good Neighbor Council and to this church on mission for Christ. It is incredible to reflect on the outreach of Good Neighbor in our church and community. We began as a resource center and have evolved into what is truly a ministry! Our work has been as small as providing a phone number and as great as nurturing a young mother and her children to independent living. Praise God for his blessings and guidance and for all of you who have provided the support, prayers, and constant caring. A special thanks to the Jamerson family for donating a location for the center during these ten years!

The GN Council met in May with an agenda of ongoing and new needs. Actions included:

- Designating **June 16** as a 2nd Sandwiches for Seniors day. Boxed dinner will be delivered to those who previously received them. Would you like to be added to the list? Call Shirley Walton at 434-352-8135 or Sarah Slagle at 434-352-7716.
- Responding to a request to assist with a ramp for an individual with mobility concerns
- Providing a monthly lunch for the ELC employees
- Approving a donation for the ACHS football coach
- Continuing the Books for Brooks Program
- Supporting an individual who needed a new well
- Offering assistance to an individual with driver's license issues
- Following up on those with health concerns and family needs

We will begin fully staffing the center in June from 3-4 PM on Thursdays. Can you help? Please contact Janice at 434-660-4873.

Your prayers and support matter. Let us know if you need help or know someone who does!

Blessings,
The Good Neighbor Team

🎵🎵 MUSIC SPRINGS UP IN JUNE & JULY 🎵🎵

* **Bells of the Blue Ridge** has a free bell concert on Tuesday May 25th at 7:00pm on the grass in front of Snidow Chapel on the campus of Lynchburg University. The concert represents around the world travel, with music from many different nations. This is a very professional handbell choir, and our friend Maxine Hollinger is one of the ringers. **Bring your own chair!**

* **Jefferson Choral Society** presents "How Can I Keep from Singing?", a \$20 ticketed concert on **June 6th** at 3:00pm and 7:00pm in the Academy Center of the Arts' Warehouse Theatre (located at the corner of 5th and Commerce Streets in the Arts & Education Building). Music will include a Beatles medley, *Oh Susannah*, *O Shenandoah*, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, and nothing in Latin! Seating is bleacher style. *Continued on next page...*

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Jayne and Henry Enochs and Nancy Williams are part of this group. Visit academycenter.org or call 434-846-TIXX (8499) to purchase tickets.

* On June 13th, Brandon Loving will bring special music during the 10:00am GHBC worship service.

* Saturday, July 3rd at 7:00pm – “American Celebration” presented by Jefferson Choral Society in the upstairs mainstage theatre at the Academy Center of the Arts. This program will feature patriotic music. No ticket price has been announced yet.

Please welcome Lee Hendricks to our sanctuary choir. Lee has sung baritone in many other choirs. We are delighted to have him singing with us.

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: 83 School Age Students: 35

Praying all is well with everyone during these unpredictable times.

Some of what we have been learning?

- Infant classes have been busy playing outdoors with bubbles and balls.
- Tot's class has been talking about Spring and they worked very hard on their special Mother's Day projects.
- Two's had fun making a beautiful Mother's Day fingerprint craft.
- Three's classes have been busy this Spring! Red threes have been talking about bugs and gardening. The children are looking forward to watching their vegetables grow! Our Blue three's have been reviewing their ABC's and they are also working hard on their alphabet/number review book.
- Pre-K classes discussed Mother's Day and Memorial Day and they also learned a new bible verse “The Lord is good to all” Psalm 145:9. The children have also started working on their sight words for the summer to get ready for Kindergarten in the fall.



This month we celebrated our 2021 graduates with a parking lot graduation! Congratulations to all 24 of our graduates!

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!

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Congratulations to our graduates!



College/University:
Emily Bradley '20
Lauren McCall
Savannah Slagle
Ian Vesterlund

High School:
Benjamin Bankston
Sebastian Bromley
Tatum Harris
Simon Nolen
Ellie Peterson
Tyler Peterson

We're so proud of you!!

SPOTLIGHT ON YOU

Thank you for keeping in touch with our Spotlight individuals! Your calls, notes, and visits are priceless.

Spotlight on You for the week of May 30th—Our spotlight person this week is **Betty Gallier**. She is getting out a little now but would still appreciate hearing from you. Her address is 1752 Purdum Mill Rd, Appomattox VA 24522.

Spotlight on You for the week of June 6th—Our spotlight person this week is **Jean LeGrand**. She is staying safe at Babcock Manor and can now have visitors. Just call ahead and make an appointment. Her address to send cards is c/o Babcock Manor, 4151 Pumping Station Road, Appomattox VA 24522.

Spotlight on You for the week of June 13th—Our spotlight person this week is **Rick Darden**. He fell recently and was bruised but okay. He would love to hear from you. His address is Oakwood Health and Rehab, Att: Joseph R. Darden, Room 107, 1613 Oakwood St., Bedford VA 24523.

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Thank you so much for taking our survey! We appreciate all the helpful feedback. If you haven't filled one out yet, we will be putting some in the mail this week to many of you.

Grace Hills Baptist Church

gracehillsbaptist.com

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