

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – August 2021

PASTOR'S CORNER

August at Grace Hills is a wonderful time! We have things to celebrate as we look ahead to a new church year: deacon installation, folks serving in new ways through the nominating committee's work, and hopefully a less-restrictive fall as (again, hopefully) COVID becomes less prevalent. We also have things to celebrate as we look back: our church's anniversary and the service of many who helped lead our church and work for the kingdom over the past year in the most difficult of times. All of this comes against the backdrop of summer ending and school starting.

In this time of celebration and preparation, I'm reminded of an old song I learned as a child: "He's Still Working on Me." The chorus starts with the phrase, "He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be." That, to me, is what God is doing with all of us, and especially with us as a church. He's still working on us. He's shaping us, influencing us, teaching us, growing us into the sort of people and the sort of church he wants. We aren't there yet; we are a work in progress. As we look from one church year to the next, as we celebrate what has been and what will be, I want to encourage us to look for those signs of growth. We're not who God wants us to be yet – but my prayer (and what my eyes and heart tell me) is that we've grown. We're closer to God's plan for us than we used to be, and next year we'll be even closer. May we each continue to grow and mature as followers of Christ, and each do our part to help our church grow up in faith and purpose. And let us do so with grace, honoring the kingdom virtue that we chose to include in our very name, showing one another the favor that we have received from God and encouraging one another daily as we unite our hearts together in our common love for Jesus Christ.

"Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." Ephesians 4:15-16

In Christ,



On August 8, in worship, we will recognize our teachers and students as they prepare for the new school year. This will include a "blessing of the backpacks," so bring your new (or renewed) backpack so we can pray God's blessing on your student and the year ahead!

Blessing
of the
Backpacks!



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FROM THE DEACONS

We Christians are continuously striving for growth, and we know the foundation of our mature faith is the healing power of prayer. In addition, we know that we evolve in our faith with the support of other believers. In Colossians 4:2, we read: “Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart... so we can make a difference where you have placed us.”

Since May, every Tuesday evening during prayer service, our pastor has inspired us to understand more meaningful prayer and to achieve ultimate prayer experiences! These discussions and research on our own have led to spurts of prayer growth! Some notes are listed below. (These are only a few possibilities.)

- While praying, talk in everyday language throughout the day so that prayer is an integral part of our day. (I enjoy praying during the stops at red lights.)
- Some of us pray better with lists and requests and/or prayer journals. One example is spiritual healing prayers which exchange hurt for comfort.
- Post-Covid requires “newness” in our life, our church, and our community. “Father, I ask you for a fresh vision for what breakthrough would look like in our world. Forgive us for trying to fix ourselves. Your grace is sufficient to cover every broken place, every wound, and every heartache. Thank you for doing more than we can even imagine. Thank you for restoring every place of difficulty, every battle.....for your greater glory!”
- Read the Bible and pray over verses.
- Pray we will give our time, money and energy for God’s Kingdom. This may include praying for our community, neighbors, and those seeking Jesus. We must pray that we love our enemies. A sample prayer: “Father, whether I am aware of it or not, I know there are people in my life I feel angry toward or hurt by them. Give me the humility I need to forgive them, love them, and pray for them without expecting or seeking anything in return.”
- Pray for responsibility. Ask God to teach us how to withhold judgment on other people’s actions.
- Pray for hope and kindness asking God to help in recognizing what can be controlled (attitude, responses, feelings) and what only God controls.
- Pray for courage, obedience, humility, purity. We want our words, thoughts, and actions to please God.
- Praise, thank, and remember God’s love and grace for us.

We have our varied routine prayer practices. Acts:14 tells us to join together in prayer and in James 5:16 we read: “Therefore, confess your sins.....and pray for each other so that we may be healed.” Let’s be intentional in prayer and watch for God’s love in our life, our church and our community.

Love in Christ,
Pat and Nancy
Deacon Co-Chairs

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...Let us love one another.
1 John 4:7
August 2021

Mark Your Calendar: October 19, 2021 - SENIOR FAIR

“Living Your Best Life”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mike Valentine

Good Neighbor is excited to celebrate a season of post-COVID with the return of the Senior Fair on October 19th, 2021 at the Appomattox Inn and Suites. Dr. Mike Valentine will be back this year with information on heart health and ways to live our best life. We'll be providing more information on the program and registration procedures at a later time.

On November 29th, 2021, Good Neighbor will once again offer the Centra Mammography Unit at Grace Hills. To schedule an appointment, please contact Shirley Walton.

The past month has included outreach to our community through assisting a homeless individual with shelter, fully staffing the center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, assisting an individual with home water issues, and providing lunches for ELC workers. A small ramp was also installed for an individual to help with getting in and out of her home.

We express appreciation to those who have made recent donations to the Good Neighbor Designated Account.

Best wishes to each of you for a good month.

Blessings,
The Good Neighbor Team

🔊🔊 MUSIC NOTES ALL AROUND US 🔊🔊

You could hear children singing all over the church last week as we had Vacation Bible School from Monday through Wednesday. Although we sang masked, we made quite a sound. The children enjoyed review games and learning new songs and ringing the little bells. Vacation Bible School always bring such energy into the building!

If you missed our service on July 18th, you really missed fine worship. The Grace Hills Ringers rang "How Great Thou Art" and "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" and they did a fantastic job. Hand bells will take a break for a while, but choir will continue, getting ready for Susan Manion (flute player) in September with "God of Grace", and World Communion Sunday in early October, featuring special music.

We are going to lose Joyce Bennett, one of our original ringers, to her family in Florida. We will surely miss you, Joyce. Now those of you out there--if you are just itching to try ringing bells, let me know and we will set aside some time to get you acquainted with hand bells.

Keep singing and ringing!
Nancy Williams

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GRACE HILLS EARLY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Director: Leslie Galloway Bookkeeper: Lisa Dawson
Phone: (434) 352-2273 Email: gracehillselc@aol.com
Summer Attendance: Full Time Students: 72 School Age Students: 45

This month we have been having lots of end-of-year fun! We have been enjoying our last month in our classes before transition. While having fun, students have continued reviewing what they have learned this school year. Our Pre-K and School Age classes enjoyed VBS, so did the staff that volunteered.



GHELC had an end-of-year carnival with several waterslides, games, and carnival snacks.

Next month GHELC will begin its new school year; please keep our center family in your prayers for a safe, fun, and educational year.

GRACE HILLS YOUTH ON MISSION!



In July, Grace Hills Youth were hard at work on mission! They assisted with VBS, volunteered twice at Mac's Kitchen and painted 2 rooms at the Salvation Army's Center for Hope homeless shelter.

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