

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – April 2021

PASTOR'S CORNER *Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind. Proverbs 21:5 (The Message)*

I sit down to write this article on March 25th, the day each year when fans of the work of JRR Tolkien read from his works and encourage others to do the same. (Think “Dr. Seuss Week,” but with dragons!) As I read some select passages, I ran across this thought by one character in the story, roused to action by the evil encroaching upon his people: “We must not be hasty [...] for it is easier to shout *stop!* than to do it.”

The author of the proverb found at the head of this article would agree with the character in *The Lord of the Rings*: haste can lead us astray, but intentionality and sober planning can lead us where we need to go. Jesus himself told would-be disciples,

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.” (Luke 14:28-33 NIV)

Now, this may seem self-evident – we understand the value of planning in life. And it may also seem off-topic in this month where we observe Good Friday and celebrate Easter. Yet I think the Easter season, particularly *this* Easter season, is the vital time to think seriously about how we follow Jesus, both as individual disciples and as a community of faith.

For a year, life has been disrupted; that is true for our church, as well. Now, with rising rates of vaccination and lower numbers of serious COVID cases, we are excited about resuming many of the activities we deeply miss. I know I certainly am, and I’ve heard many in our congregation express those sentiments too.

Yet I believe we must heed the words of the wisdom writer of Proverbs and our Lord Jesus: take thought for what we do as we head into this summer of reopening and return. What are the safest ways to reengage with such vital things as Sunday school, congregational fellowship, and mission? How can we ease back in a way that takes, not just the desires of those who are vaccinated, but also those who have not been able to be vaccinated yet, into account? Furthermore, is there anything we need to reevaluate as a church? Are there any programs or ministries that need to look different on this side of COVID than they did before? Is God calling us into any new fields of harvest? And are we, collectively and as individuals, ready to recommit ourselves to the work of the kingdom in ways that we may have set aside for these past many months?

This is the Easter season, where we celebrate the God who brings new life in Christ, who changed the world and moved in new ways after the catastrophe of the cross and the joy of the empty tomb. In this season, may we move not with thoughtless haste, but with careful thought and compassionate hearts, eager to follow our Lord into a bright and hopeful future of both renewal and opportunity.

In Christ,
Adam

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FROM THE DEACONS

Where are you in our **Month of Prayer for Grace Hills Baptist Church**? As I attempt to make the April newsletter deadline, I'm reflecting on Lent and its meaning. Some people have sacrificed (given up) chocolate or coffee as a way of fasting during Lent. However, in the "Daily Lenten Devotional" by Society of St. Andrew, it clearly states: "Lent is a time of self-examination, evaluation, and sometimes drastic personal changes."

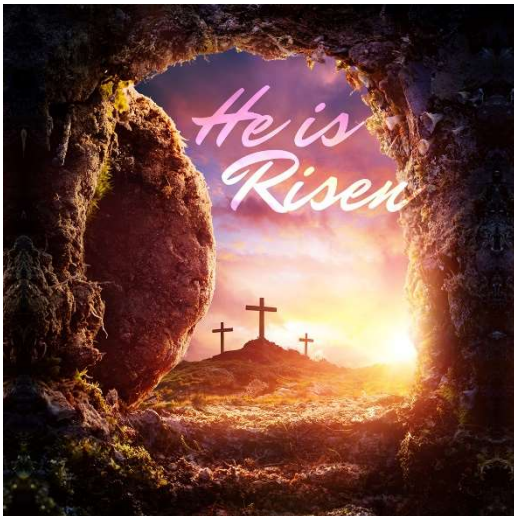
As we pray for our Church, our Pastor, and our members during these uncharted Covid times, we need to pull together and concentrate on the qualities we love about Grace Hills. Just as the Church focuses on the role of the Pastor, the Pastor achieves accordingly to the focus we (members) give to our role.

Church members, do we support our church by faithfully praying and participating in church ministries? Do we collaborate with our pastor for the well-being of each other and our Church? Do we acknowledge the benefits to our Church because of our Pastor's training and expertise? Do we communicate our love for each other within the community?

We read in Micah 6:8, *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?* Hear our prayer, O Lord, please give us spiritual vision and help us to live and walk in the Light.

Love in Christ,
Pat and Nancy
Deacon Co-Chairs

🔊 🔊 MUSIC NOTES FOR APRIL 🔊 🔊



Music is medicine, medicine for all of our weary souls and tired bodies. A favorite tune, perhaps an oldie from the sixties or a wonderful hymn, can lift the spirit and lighten the heart. We have suffered from not being able to sing in worship; come Easter Sunday, we will be worshipping outside and singing!

We plan, weather permitting, to meet in the pavilion behind the day care building to have outside worship Easter Sunday morning at 10 a.m., with hymn singing, live choir, and flowering of the cross. Plan to join us for this celebration of new life April 4th. Please also make a note of the Holy Week music and meditation broadcasts that will be posted on the church's Facebook page, with a meditation from Adam and music ranging from Susie playing to bells ringing and a quartet singing. The

Friday meditation will be held live in the sanctuary, just after the taping of the Sunday school lesson at 10:30.

All of these are wonderful opportunities to let the joy, the Scripture, and the music of this season bless your life. Keep singing and ringing until we can all sing and ring together!

Nancy Williams



There is so much to say about Joe Foxwell! In 1927 he was born in Deltaville, close to the water. He served his country in the United States Navy for three years, during World War II. He worked at the shipyard for a while, and later joined the Virginia State Police in 1951, seeming to find his life's work there. For a time, he worked on the drug investigation team, and then as Assistant Special Agent in Charge. Joe loved his work.

He was especially proud, says Lois, of his time as an investigator of missing persons cases, especially the "cold case" of a child who had been missing for five years. Joe solved the disappearance and brought closure to the grieving parents. He retired from the State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation in 1984, after 33 years of service.

Whatever Joe was doing, he gave it his all. We have seen him working in his yard or running on the treadmill at the gym, even at age 92, and we have wished for his stamina and endurance. His friends testified to his incredible cooking, especially his stew (for which he was known as the "Stew Master"), to his love of hunting, fishing, and golfing. Two of them said they wanted "to grow up to be like him." He was a friend you could count on.

Many of those who knew him well agreed that he was a great guy; there will never be another Joe Foxwell", they said. He called Appomattox "The Garden Spot of the World", and was very happy living here. He and Lois were charter members of Grace Hills. He was a regular in Sunday school and in worship, and was happy to grill burgers, plan a stew, or serve pork chops to the Wednesday supper crowd--anything to serve his church family. Thank you, Joe; you are certainly missed.

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

April 2021

Good Neighbor is moving into Spring with many good things happening:

- The Good Neighbor brochure has been revised and reprinted. Copies are available in the church foyer. If you can help us in getting these out to others, please help us share this brochure.
- The email for Good Neighbor is changed to **ghgnc@aol.com**.
- We are making daily calls to check on a member who has special health needs.
- A monthly lunch is being provided to ELC workers in appreciation of their dedicated efforts during COVID times.
- We are continuing the *Books for Brook* Program which will include mailing books monthly to a child who does not have access to reading materials in the home. Thanks to Sarah Slagle, Laura Peterson, and Lucianne Warren for donations of books.
- For the March 17 *Sandwiches for Seniors at Home* Program, we provided and delivered sandwich box dinners for approximately 20 at-home seniors in our church and community.
- We will begin staffing the center one afternoon per week in April.

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

Blessings,
The Good Neighbor Team

GRACE HILLS YOUTH



We will be hosting a socially distanced **Easter Egg Hunt** and Easter activities on **Saturday, April 3rd from 2:00-4:00pm** for our Grace Hills children and the children who attend the ELC. We are collecting individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs until March 28th in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. We also need several volunteers to help at various stations (contact Lara Peterson if you are available and willing).

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GRACE HILLS EARLY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Director: Leslie Galloway Bookkeeper: Lisa Dawson

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Temporary Attendance: Full Time Students: 84 School Age Students: 36

March Happenings: This month we have been busy celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. We read lots of Dr. Seuss's books and made lots of Dr. Seuss's crafts. We had a Dr. Seuss spirit week which included dressing like Dr. Seuss, wacky clothes, and pajama day.

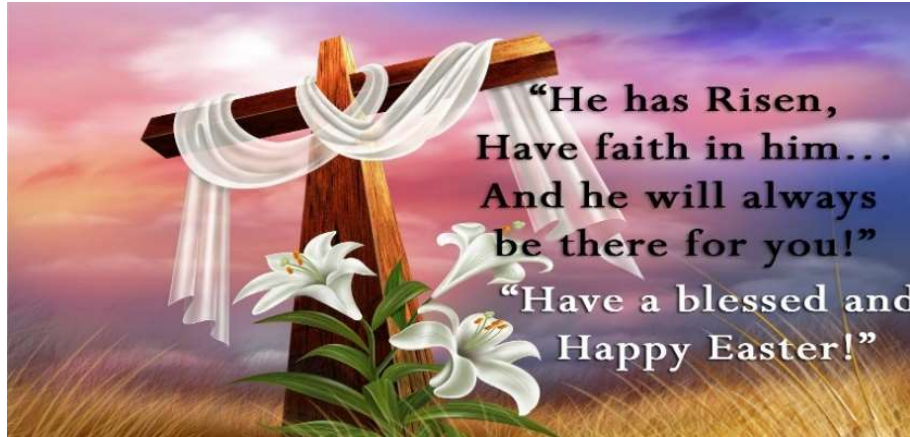


Grace Hills ELC friends have been enjoying the beautiful weather, playing outside and taking nature walks discussing God's creations.

Pre-K classes also learned about The Good Samaritan and their memory Bible verse, "We love him, because he first loved us" 1 John 4:19.

Each month, all of our Preschool classes learn different colors, numbers, shapes, and letters to prepare them for the next class. Each class also has monthly Bible Verses!

April calendar: ELC is closed Monday the 5th; the ELC Council meeting will be on the 13th at 4:00pm.



Grace Hills Baptist Church

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"He is not here, for he has risen!" Matthew 28:6 Happy Easter!!!