

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – October 2021

PASTOR'S CORNER

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

1 Corinthians 3:6

The fourth part of our church mission is, I believe, the one that undergirds the other three and makes them possible: to **grow** in Christ. Growth is an assumption of the Christian life, and fostering that growth is the purpose of any pastor, any Sunday School teacher, and any congregation. We do not begin our Christian walk fully grown, fully imbued with a mature faith and deep understanding of God. We do not start off knowing for sure how to respond to life with Christian love; we must develop that understanding over time and steady growth.

But we can choose to ignore the truth of this fourth area of mission in two distinct ways. First, we can neglect it. This is the approach that says that believing in Jesus is the end goal, the transaction we make with God: say some words, get baptized, and we are rewarded with eternal life. But Christian faith, true Christian faith, is more than a transaction. It's a relationship – and relationships grow over time. They become more involved, more fully realized, as time passes. Two people come to know each other more, and they start to become more like each other. This is what growing in Christ entails – and we neglect to our own detriment.

We can make a second error in approaching our growth as followers of Jesus: we can think that we're fully grown. The truth is, our walk with God is never fully done this side of death. We never fully understand Jesus, though we grow closer and closer to him over time. We never fully realize the full kingdom life until we pass into glory or Christ comes again. Paul himself, in 1 Corinthians 13, speaks of "seeing through a glass dimly." But if we assume we've "arrived" or "fully grown," we become conceited, arrogant, and unable to actually grow in Christian faith. We stagnate or even revert – and that has significant consequences for the other three areas of mission. We grow more disconnected from God, grow less caring towards one another, and disengage from the world.

This is something Paul understood. When he wrote to the Corinthian church, he saw a church that was, essentially, immature. Some people thought they were better than others, or more knowledgeable about the will of God. Others were divided over leaders, forming cliques that sniped at one another and wrestled for control. The well-off in the congregation looked down on the poor members. And Paul was dumbfounded – because the church thought it was healthy, it was vibrant, it was in the will of God. So in 1 Corinthians 3, he pulls few punches. He reminds them that God calls us to grow – and God causes us to grow. It is foundational to everything God would do through their church, and its foundational to everything God wants to do through Grace Hills, too.

The mission of the church is to **connect** with God, **care** for one another, and **engage** the world – but it cannot do it unless the church is committed to **grow** in Christ. May Grace Hills always keep this commitment at the foundation of all we do.

In Christ,



Pastor Adam

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FROM THE DEACONS

A popular credit card advertisement ends with the question: “What’s in your wallet?” If God came today, what would he find in our wallets?

Hopefully, He would see evidence that we rely on God as our number one choice. God would want to display our wallet because he sees our faith, our practices of faith through our actions, and a growing understanding of the scriptures. It is an indication we are trusting Him for our needs.

Nevertheless, He probably finds our wallet jammed with worries. The world pushes us toward trusting ourselves. Has self-sufficiency really tamed our minds? Looking toward ourselves piles on stress. It depletes us of our peace. Looking toward our Father to take care of us brings a very different outcome! The more we set our minds on Him, as our only source for all things, the less worries we have. He will fill us with an abundance of peace. Bottom line: “What’s in your wallet?”

Love in Christ,
Pat, Deacon Chair

🎵 🎵 MUSIC NOTES FOR OCTOBER 🎵 🎵

October 3rd is World Communion Sunday; the choir's music will be accompanied by Susan Manion on flute and by Susie Thomas on piano. We will present to you "God of Grace" as well as the Communion hymn "Jesus, at Your Holy Table". These will be taped the 30th of September, so you will not see Susan live on Sunday morning.

On October 24th, Brandon Loving will be live with us in worship. Several of you have indicated an interest in more contemporary Christian music for worship, and Brandon is one excellent source of those contemporary songs. Brandon always does an excellent job when he comes to sing and play in worship. One of the songs he will sing is a request of mine that he sang in outside worship last summer: "I Wanna Live Like That". We present that as a summation of Adam's series on fruits of the spirit.

Our choir continues to do an excellent job of preparing and recording music for every week. We are so thankful to have a choir that will be faithful to their task even in hard times.

Jefferson Choral Society will present a popular music concert October 17th at 4 p.m. in the Warehouse Theatre (downstairs) of the Academy of Fine Arts. Selections will include "What the World Needs Now", "What a Wonderful World", "Circle of Life" (Lion King), "All You Need is Love", as well as several beautiful sacred pieces, closing with "You'll Never Walk Alone". Holler at Nancy to get you some tickets; they are about \$20.

Keep a song in your heart, friends!
Nancy Williams

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN WORSHIP?

We are in a time of heavy emphasis on missions, the activity of our church that shares the gospel and meets the needs of people beyond our community. You hear lots of initials being spoken: BGAV is the Baptist General Association of Virginia, our larger organization of churches, and WMUV, the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia. The latter is a historic name, but suffice it to say this organization brings women and children together to pray for mission work, to support missions by giving, and to do mission/ministry work in their local communities.

Come to worship to get away from the loneliness of daily life. Come to share inspiration and to gain inspiration from prayer, music, scripture, and sermon. Come not to get your own way, but to find your way. Your seat is ready.

Nancy Williams, Worship Committee Chair

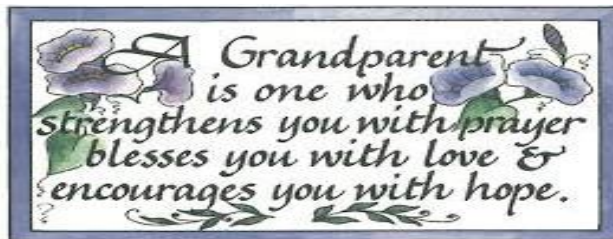
GRACE HILLS EARLY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Director: Leslie Galloway Bookkeeper: Lisa Dawson
Phone: (434) 352-2273 Email: gracehillselc@aol.com
Attendance: Full Time Students: 85 School Age Students: 50

Praying all is well with everyone during these unpredictable times.

This month we have been having lots of fun getting to know our new teachers and classmates! We have been busy adjusting to our new classrooms and learning our new schedules.

We celebrated Grandparents this month by making handprint crafts for our grandparents.



***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!***

GHELC dates:

ELC Council meeting: October 12th at 4:00 pm

ELC Chapel: October 4th and 18th at 10:00 am

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

Important Announcement: SENIOR FAIR 2021 Postponed!

Due to the prevalence of Covid during this fall season, the Senior Fair which was scheduled for October 19, 2021 has been postponed until the spring of 2022. Our guest speaker, Dr. Mike Valentine has agreed to work with us on a near date.

Remember that Good Neighbor will also be sponsoring the Centra Mammography Unit on November 29, 2021. To schedule an appointment, please contact Shirley Walton.

Highlighting the September work of Good Neighbor was the recognition of the local Sheriff's Department for their outstanding work in providing safety and protection in our community. Good Neighbor delivered box lunches and a letter of appreciation to the Sheriff's Department officers and staff on September 22.

We are continuing to seek furniture and appliances for two families in need. If you are able to help, please contact a member of the Good Neighbor Council.

We are so blessed to serve as a mission of Grace Hills Baptist Church.

Your Good Neighbor Team

Grace Hills Baptist Church

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