

Grace Hills Baptist Church Newsletter – January 2021

PASTOR’S CORNER

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:1

Have we ever, in our lives, been so ready for a new year to dawn? Maybe those among us who can remember back to the early 1940s, where each new year, especially in 1945, promised an end to the horrific conflict of World War II. Since then, though, there has rarely been a year so full of difficulty and despair for so many people; individuals and families, even towns and communities, have wanted to seek hope in the promise of “next year,” but as a nation and a world, 2020 is the darkest year in a long time, and most of us are probably pretty glad to see it go.

At these moments of transition, especially between a year that has gone so wrong and a year we hope will go right in so many ways, it is good to pause and reflect on the Person who we trust no matter the challenges and joys of life: God. The Lord is King, Psalm 8 tells us – and that is true in 2020, and it will be true in 2021. Our Lord loved us in 2020, and he will love us in 2021. God desired good for us in 2020, and he will desire good for us in 2021. Jesus led us to be imitators of him in 2020, and he calls us to imitate him again in 2021. The Holy Spirit helped us face challenging times by uniting us together as a congregation in 2020, and it will help us facing whatever comes in 2021 by fostering our bond together in love. The calendar may change, and who knows what the year ahead will bring, but God is Sovereign – may we rejoice!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Adam

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵

Thank you so much, Grace Hills family, for the generous staff appreciation gift I received. Serving you is such a joy, and receiving a gift like that is special surprise and a heart-warming gesture of love. I am thankful for my very faithful choir members, who in 2020 endured summer's heat and spring's wind and the darkness of winter Thursdays to sing praises to God and encouraging worship songs to you. They are the best, being consistent in attendance to rehearsals all that time. And to my bell ringers--what a joy to ring with you this past week in worship. Thank you for doing so much to bring live sounds of Christmas to worship at Grace Hills.

If you missed this past Sunday (Dec. 20), you missed a feast of celebration. Maxine and Susie, thank you so much for great duet music on organ and piano, and bells, thank you for wonderful sounds of Christmas celebration. For the new challenges, opportunities, blessings, and joys of 2021, Lord, we thank you in advance.

Keep singing and ringing!

Nancy Williams

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FROM THE DEACONS

Happy New Year! Have you made your resolutions?

We begin 2021 with three newly elected deacons as we welcome Linda Lipscomb, Dennis Torrence, and Renee Wingfield. To each of them, we express appreciation for their willingness to be involved in this servant ministry. They will join with Josh Harrison, Tim Peterson, Nancy Williams, Joyce Bennett, Jamie Davis, and Pat Torrence, who will continue to serve. Linda Mays, Hank Davis, and Janice Marston rotated off the council at the end of December. We thank them for their important work during the past three years.



During November and early December, there were twenty requests for assistance from the Benevolence Fund. Families are experiencing great needs due to COVID and related effects and sought help with rent, food, electric and water bills. Available funds in the Benevolence account are being disbursed regularly. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

We also recognize the challenges and stress of our teachers and schools. In response, we are providing coffee for teachers at the local schools on a rotating monthly basis and coffee cards periodically to those in our church who work in the schools. Deacons will also be connecting with their families with a special Christmas remembrance during the next several months. Your donations make it possible for us to reach out in Christian love to our friends in need.

The important ministry work of the deacons is to care for our families at Grace Hills. Recently, a member passed away. Also, several of our members are facing serious illnesses. We join in sympathy and prayers of healing for these individuals and their families. Also, this month we will be making an effort to contact, and when possible, visit as many shut-ins as we can. If you know of someone in our church or community who would appreciate a visit or other assistance, please let us know. The pastor and deacons are also willing to provide communion for our at-home families.

The Deacon Council is a servant ministry of service and love. The Church Council is the administrative leadership council. All of us together are leading the way for good in our church. Please let us know if you are aware of those for whom we should pray, visit, or assist.

May the grace and peace of God and His great blessings be with you. Stay well and safe.
Janice Marston, Chair

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

Happy New Year!

During this entire year of 2020, the Good Neighbor and Information Center has been extremely busy serving in a mission in the church and community. Here is a brief summary of what's been happening recently:

During the past month, Good Neighbor has served more than 100 individuals and families. This includes:

- Providing the Centra Mammography Unit at GH for the 9th consecutive year serving 12 individuals
- Delivering pies to the homes of 15 shut-ins or at-home members
- Sponsoring monthly lunches to the staff of the GHELIC of approximately 20
- Providing lunch to workers at the local Habitat house for approximately 15
- Maintaining regular outreach through the Friday Friends program to 5-10 individuals
- Teaming with the Missions Committee to provide Christmas for Jamie Davis' class at APS with party items and gift bags for 10 children
- Distributing the hygiene bags from the children's mission group to 4 schools
- Assisting with personal support to more than 25 individuals and families in need through food, financial responses to emergencies or unexpected health and household situations, referrals to services, and maintaining contact with 3 families on an ongoing basis.
- Meeting with a new family experiencing change and considering moving to Appomattox.

We thank the GH Good Neighbor Team and the Grace Hills Baptist Church Family for their work and ongoing commitment to this mission. What happens as a result is often something we cannot put into numbers. Many of these families and individuals look to Grace Hills as the church that shows Christian caring and as the people who truly love them unconditionally.

Blessings,
The Good Neighbor Team



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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.



December Happenings:

This month we have been learning the true reason for the season with our Shepard David!

We had so much Grinchmas fun with different Grinch games and decorations.

Each month, 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

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