



# Grace Notes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2020  
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

## Pastor's Notes

### Mark Elkins

Beloved, I know it's hard to believe that everything that is going on today is God's will: a pandemic, a financial crisis, Christians not being able to gather together to celebrate His Son's sacrificial death and resurrection. But we must accept the Bible's truth of God's sovereignty, just as our forefathers did when facing trials, persecution, and even the normal setbacks of everyday life. The reality is that sometimes, God's plans simply don't match ours, even when ours seem good and godly.

Remember when Paul had planned repeatedly to head north into Asia to continue his gospel ministry, but the Lord wouldn't let him (Acts 16:6-8). Twice the Holy Spirit forbid Paul's entry, until he was left with no other choice but to head down to Troas, a seaport on the Aegean Sea. There, God gave Paul a vision to take the gospel to Europe and that is exactly what he did, making Lydia the first European convert in the city of Philippi. It wasn't that Paul's plans weren't good, they were; it was just that God's plans were better!

The key is that Paul didn't give

up when things didn't go his way. Instead, he remained faithful and prayerfully sought the will of God in his circumstances. And that Beloved, is exactly what I'm convinced that we have to do today. We must faithfully and prayerfully seek God's will on how we are to continue our mission as a church: To Glorify God by Worshiping Him, Loving One Another, and Making His Disciples. Remember, if Paul had his way, he would not have had the blessing of carrying the Gospel to Europe and of establishing the church in Philippi, with whom he shared a special bond of love throughout the rest of his ministry.

So, if God is preventing us from doing what we planned to do, what can we do to fulfill our mission? Well, for starters, God has forced us to develop a whole new series of live-streaming gospel opportunities (sermons, devotionals, AWANA story times, etc.) that we can share with all of our friends, family, and co-workers. Also, many of us have a great deal more time for dedicated prayer, which we can focus on our loved ones and especially the

## Upcoming Events

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Palm Sunday**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Good Friday Live-Stream**

**April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Easter Sunday**

**April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**

lost in our community.

But, as you know, I don't believe that I have all the answers, because God speaks to each of us individually as His children. So, please faithfully and prayerfully seek God's will on how you personally can glorify God during this difficult time. And over the next several weeks we will be spotlighting some of those ways on our various social media platforms, for His Glory & our good!

## Student Corner

Something special is happening this Sunday. It's Palm Sunday! It is a time of celebration. The people celebrated when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. They shouted Hosanna and waved palm branches. They were grateful for Him and for all the things He had done. So, this Sunday, let us celebrate and be thankful. We are living through a difficult and somewhat scary time. Children may be confused. They may be complaining. They may just be totally bummed. Let's encourage them. There are many ways to encourage a child, but for students of any age, honest, authentic, and persistent messages from adults that have credibility in their eyes are among the most powerful. Parents, when you are feeling bummed, just stop and take a minute to look around. See all the things you should be thankful for. When you start feeling sad about being home, be grateful that you have a home. When you are missing eating out, be grateful that you have food. When you are missing your friends, stop and thank God for giving them to you.

I have found comfort in James 1:2-4. It says: "consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything". WOW! That is the bright side!! Please continue to help your children learn their Awana verses. It is the highlight of my day when I receive a video from one of my Sparkies. Looking forward to being together again at GBC!

Blessings to all,  
Nandrea, Student Ministry Director



During this season of social distancing, we will not be having AWANA on Wed Nights. Some groups have set up plans that are in place to allow your child to say their verses, and/or enjoy lessons from home. If you have any questions, please contact AWANA Director, Carol Byrd, at (276) 229-6025, or contact your child's AWANA leader.

**Trek:** Leaders will be sending weekly memory verses and lesson to each trekker. Each trekker will then record the memorized verse(s), and text it in for credit. Please, encourage your Trek student to text back their verse(s) by Wed of each week.

**T&T Girls:** Girls, please continue to work through your books from home as best you can. Please send T&T Girls leader, Peyton Elkins, a video of you reciting your verses. Please call, text, or FaceTime her at (276) 229-1787.

**T&T Boys:** Each T & T boy has been assigned a listener to work with on your books and has their listener's contact information. Please continue through your books, and text a video reciting your verses to your listener. Carol Byrd will be in contact with listeners for updates. If you have questions, please contact Carol at (276) 229-6025.

**Sparks:** The leader of the Sparks age group, Nandrea Groves, has created a Private Facebook Group for Sparks. If you are not already connected in the Group, please send Nandrea your contact information at [nandrea75@aol.com](mailto:nandrea75@aol.com) or send her a friend request.

**Cubbies:** Cubbie Leader, Casey Elkins, has created a Facebook Group with weekly videos of the lessons and verses. Please send Casey a video of your child reciting the weekly verse through Facebook, Messenger, or by calling/FaceTiming her at (276) 229-2486.

**Puggles:** Parents, if you have any questions, please contact Ashlee Logan, at [howmomoils@gmail.com](mailto:howmomoils@gmail.com) or (276) 728-6671.

I truly miss the weekly interaction with all of our AWANA clubbers! I look forward to the day that everything is back to normal, and we can meet face to face again, and I'm proud of the progress that everyone has made so far. Let's keep it up even through these unusual times! Remember that this is a 2-way street, as children are learning verses to hide in their heart throughout their lives, they also serve as encouragement to the listeners who hear their verses! We have a wonderful group of adults and children in AWANA. I am keeping everyone in my prayers! Stay safe!!  
Carol Byrd, AWANA Ministry Director

## REFUGE YOUTH MINISTRY

The Refuge will be updating you weekly as we try and provide a lesson and content for your youth to learn from. We will have a weekly Zoom meeting on Wednesdays at 6pm with a lesson and will post content on our social media pages. Please message Zeb Hicks with any questions at (276) 233-1187.

# Announcements

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## GBC LIVE-STREAMING

As GBC services and activities are suspended during this season of quarantine and social distancing, be sure to join us for our Sunday Worship Services at 11am and Devotional Live-Streams on Tuesdays—Fridays at 2pm. You can tune in through our [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#). You can also access our live videos after they have finished airing.

## IMPORTANT CORONAVIRUS UPDATE & ANNOUNCEMENT

[By Governor Northam's Statewide Stay-At-Home Order](#), ALL In-Person Church Activities have been Suspended. We will be live-streaming all Sunday Services and Devotionals throughout the week. We will let you know of any important updates and announcements through our e-mails and social media feeds. Please refer to [hisgraceforyou.org/coronavirus-update/](https://hisgraceforyou.org/coronavirus-update/) to find the latest updates, information about Coronavirus (COVID-19), and Grace Baptist Church's response.

## BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG UPDATE

Baby Bottle Boomerang Update! Our church set a new record this year by raising \$1730.88 through our Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who helped raise money for the Pregnancy Care Center of MHC! Please continue to keep the Pregnancy Care Center and all of the families they minister to in your prayers.

## ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

During this time of trial and separation we are doing all we can to limit our expenses (i.e. turning off the heat, delaying purchasing supplies, etc.), but there are many costs of ministry that continue, regardless of whether we meet face to face. Therefore, your continued partnership with our ministry is vital if we are to continue to fulfill our mission and see more lives and families experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. We encourage you to either use the convenience of our new Online Giving tool ([hisgraceforyou.org/giving](https://hisgraceforyou.org/giving)) or please mail your tithes and offerings to the church office at: Grace Baptist Church, PO Box 1108, Stuart, VA 24171.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

\*Event has been rescheduled\* GBC will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 29th. The Red Cross will be set up in the Fellowship Hall from 3-7pm. Please, pray about donating blood and help us to spread the word to others in the community about the Drive. The need for blood donations is **urgent** at this time due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Please e-mail [office@hisgraceforyou.org](mailto:office@hisgraceforyou.org) to sign up.

## POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

Our Church Clean-Up Day and Children's Choir practices have been postponed. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Maundy Thursday service have been cancelled, but we will have a Good Friday Service broadcasted via live-stream on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

# April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	2 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	3 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Joe Griffin	4
5 11am Sun Worship Service Live-Stream  Palm Sunday	6	7 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	8 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	9 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Josh Meggs	10 Good Friday Live-Stream Service  Taylor Barnes	11   Lucy Brown Casey Elkins
12 7am Sunrise Service 11am Sun Worship Service Live-Stream  Easter Sunday  Jada Hylton	13	14 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	15 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Austin Rorrer	16 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	17 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	18   Caden Heironimus Nancy Wood
19 11am Sun Worship Service Live-Stream  Virginia Burnett	20	21 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Wendy Buchanan	22 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	23 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Seth Reynolds	24 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Virgil Burnett Karen Matthews	25   Kendra Worley
26 11am Sun Worship Service Live-Stream	27	28 2pm Devotional Live-Stream	29 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Zane Hollandsworth	30 2pm Devotional Live-Stream  Zeb Hicks		

If you take a picture of you and/or your family streaming our Sunday Worship Service, and post it to social media, be sure to use the hashtag, #GBCTOGETHER2020 so that we can put the pictures together for a project!