

## KEVIN'S KORNER

In his 1980s book titled *Megatrends*, futurist and social analyst John Naisbitt wrote about some of the primary patterns emerging in Western society. He highlighted the importance of a society characterized by both "high tech" and "high touch." In his words, "The more high technology around us, the more the need for human touch." During the past three and a half months, we've relied even more on high tech. We've stayed connected via our church website, email, and text messaging. Some of you may have even tried your hand at video conferencing on Zoom or another meeting app.

During the coronavirus pandemic, we've taken Grace Baptist Church online. But that's different from becoming an online church. We're still, first and foremost, a community that gathers physically. We come together as real people in a real place, to worship, work, and witness. Over the past two to three weeks, we've begun to reassemble, live and in person. The high tech is still with us. In fact, we now probably utilize it even more in our worship service. But at least the high tech is blended with the high touch, though even that is limited by masks and social distancing. We're currently in this strange zone between the way things used to be and the way we hope things will be somewhere down the road.

The church is no stranger to living in between. Our identity and mission are set between Christ's first coming and his second coming. On the one hand, we look back and remember what God has accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. On the other hand, we look forward to what God will complete when Jesus returns to reveal the fullness of

God's kingdom. Our life together in Christ is a combination of memory and hope.

The Holy Spirit is the one who sustains our hope and keeps it alive. On the Sundays before we reopened our church, I tended to focus my sermons on the gift and work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is Jesus' way of being with us, guiding us and empowering us as we participate in his ongoing mission in the world. That mission hasn't changed or stopped at any point during all the sickness, social unrest, and economic distress. Though separated and scattered, we've still been following Jesus, proclaiming and practicing the gospel. COVID-19 has simply been the new territory where we've been living out our calling.

Travel back in time with me to March 22. That was the first Sunday we were unable to gather, just as stay-at-home orders were getting underway. In my sermon, "Where Two or Three Are Gathered," I closed with this reassurance:

In many ways, the coronavirus pandemic has isolated us from one another. But the good news is that social distancing isn't an issue for Jesus. No matter the circumstances, he draws near, comes close. Nothing keeps him from proximity to us. He enters this network of relationships called Grace Baptist Church, and occupies this communal space that we share with one another. Whether you and I are face to face or online, Jesus knows that we can't be the church without him. He has been, is now, and will be, with us. So be assured that whatever unfolds in the days ahead, he will hold our congregation together, strengthen us, and sustain us.

Days, weeks, and months have passed since then. Now it's early July. Jesus has faithfully kept his promise: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20b).

Faithfully

Pastor Kevin

## FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell, editor and church Administrative Assistant

The Deacon of the Month for July is Jerry Coombs.

On July 2, 1926, the U.S. Army Corps was established.

On Independence Day, Saturday, July 4, 2020 our nation will celebrate its 244<sup>th</sup> birthday. This day commemorates the formal adaption of the Declaration of Independence by Congress on July 4, 1776. The Day Care will be closed on Friday, July 3 for the Independence Day holiday.

We commemorate the end of the Korean War on July 27, 1953.

On July 28, 1914, World War I began.

The Deacon of the Month for August is Steve Norbrey.

August 1 is Air Force Day.

August 4, 1790 the U.S. Coast Guard was established.

August 7, 1782 the Purple Heart Medal was established.

August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered, ending WWII.

August 19 is National Aviation Day.

The articles for the September/October newsletter are due by the first Sunday in August (Aug.2). These articles could include school, anniversary celebration, Halloween, Columbus Day, special calendar of events. (Hopefully there will be school and special events). I will also need fun articles and recipes to be added. Thanks

**I'm sorry for such a short newsletter this time and did not have the opportunity to get any recipes or new ideas.**

## JULY/AUGUST NEWS FROM THE DAY CARE CENTER

By Amy Shumpert (assistant director of the Day Care Center)

Due to the COVID-19 closure, our teachers and preschoolers sadly missed out on our annual/traditional Commencement celebrations to end the school year. Last month, we created and mailed post cards to each child to let them know that they are missed and we have thought of them and prayed for them, and their families, often. Parents have offered such positive feedback, kind words, messages of appreciation, and generous donations and prayer for our staff, families, and Grace Baptist Church and Day Care Center! All of our Pre-K "graduates" will soon receive their promotion certificates and special notes from their teachers as they were recently prepared and mailed. Congratulations, Pre-K graduates-Class of 2020! Your future in Kindergarten awaits you!

We must also take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Alexis Anderson (summer teacher's assistant) on her college graduation from Longwood University with a degree in Special Education. Ms Anderson will be teaching Special Education in the state of VA in the fall! Also, congratulations to Mr. Jaydon West (part-time teacher's assistant) on his recent graduation from McDonough High School! He will be attending Salisbury University in the fall.

As June should have brought the beginning of our summer program, we have been in contact with all families regarding our plans and on-going preparations for a possible reopening in the coming weeks. We are filtering through pages of new guidelines and regulations, so that a safe and healthy reopening can soon occur! Many prayers have been offered and answered during this pandemic, and we have faith that our God will guide and lead us through the next chapter here at GBDCC.

The classrooms will soon be filled with constant chatter, laughter & tears, singing and praising, summer bulletin board displays, artwork, and excitement! We are anxiously looking forward to our time spent together with friends. Cooperation, team spirit, friendship, love, respect, caring and sharing are daily lessons that will resume as we progress through the summer months.

Grace Baptist Day Care Center will be closed on Friday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday.

Our Day Care children have been invited, and some have already registered, to our neighboring Marbury Baptist Church's "V"irtual Bible School! This is a new & exciting event for our children to continue learning about God's love for all of us and to reconnect with one another in our community virtually.

Since we are still uncertain of what the next school year will look like for all of us, please continue to keep our staff, students and families in your daily prayers. We pray that everyone reading this is healthy and safe!

*Have a blessed SUMMER!*

## JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays:

Brandon Sams	07/05
Debby Holder	07/09
BJ Mitchell	07/12
Ann Hess	07/12
Diane Zanakis	07/13
Amber Wood	07/19
Dillon Propes	07/19
Connie Curtin	07/23
Jake Smith	07/28
Lyle Elder	07/30
Darren Smith	07/30

### Anniversaries:

Richard and Penny Gold	07/02
Chris and Cathy Rozar	07/03
David and Cathy Stouffer	07/05
Mark and Keishia Fells	07/12
Robert and Janet Tuck	07/13
Bob and Sharon Farncomb	07/20
James and Ann Hess	07/29

### Correction for last Newsletter –

Some of the Newsletters that were sent out for the May/June issue did not get the correction.

Birthday: Riley Mitchell (06/30)

Anniversary: Tyler and Destynie Starner (06/24)

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays:

Ann Wood	08/04
Willis Cayden Proper	08/06
Jordan Holder	08/12
Mia Fells	08/13
Tristan Sams	08/14
Amalia Proper	08/18
Rachel Proctor	08/20
Faye Rogerson	08/26

### Anniversary:

Ron and Jeannie Strickland	08/03
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## GRADUATES:



We would like to recognize our 2020 graduates and to congratulate them for their accomplishments and give our well wishes for their future endeavors.

Brandon Sams graduated on June 11th from La Plata High School and Robert D. Stethem Vocational School. Brandon earned merit awards for academic achievement as a Maryland Scholar and Career & Technical Education Program Completer for Interactive Media. Brandon will be entering into the College of Southern Maryland in the fall to earn an AA degree for Graphic Design and has future plans to finish his degree at Towson University. We are so proud! We would also like to thank everyone for all the prayers and support you have given him over the past 17 years.

*The Sams Family*



# JULY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon of the Month: Jerry Coombs			1	2	3 Closed for Independence Day	4 Independence Day
5 11:00am Morning Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 11:00am Morning Service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 11:00am Morning Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 11:00am Morning Service	27	28	29	30	31	

# AUGUST 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon of the Month: Steve Norbrey						I
2 11:00am Morning Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 11:00am Morning Service	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 11:00am Morning Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 11:00am Morning Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 11:00am Morning Service	31					