

THE

COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXII No. 09/10

September/October, 2023

KEVIN'S KORNER

By the time we celebrate our church's anniversary later this month, we'll already be into the transition from summer to fall. Navigating from one season into the next is more than just a reminder that weather patterns change and the created world looks and feels different. Changing seasons also remind us that we inhabit time. We move through history. As our years come and go, we occupy different periods of life. And in each period, we need to be responsive to what God is calling us to be and to do.

The same is true for the life of a congregation. Throughout its 65 years of worship, work, and witness, our church has remained focused on and grounded in the faithful love of God, revealed most of all through Jesus Christ. This has given our congregation stability and durability across time. True, circumstances and contexts have changed at many points along the way. We've been through seasons of abundance and seasons of scarcity. Seasons of joy and seasons of sorrow. Seasons of clarity and seasons of confusion. Seasons of unity and seasons of disorder. Seasons of gain and seasons of loss.

The Teacher of Ecclesiastes, who spends a lot of time reflecting on what it means to be mortal, conveys wisdom this way:

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance, ...

From there, the Teacher goes on to spell out other "seasons" that mark our mortal existence, all with the assurance that God, who is sovereign, has not left us.

God has certainly never left Grace Baptist Church. When we gather for worship on September 17, we'll assemble to give thanks for and rejoice in the powerful presence of God, working in and through our congregation. Our guest speaker will be Curtis Bridges. Some of you know Curtis and his wife Tricia from their previous relationship with our church and our participation in their work of advancing the gospel. We look forward to renewing our fellowship with them and renewing our commitment to the future that God has for them and for us.

In his book, *How to Inhabit Time*, James K. A. Smith writes: "While minutes, days, and years carve up and measure the cosmic time of Earth's course around a dwarf star, for temporal creatures like us, the *season* is

perhaps the most natural form of timekeeping. The answer to the question "When am I?" isn't six o'clock or 2022; it is more like youth, middle age, chapter 3 of a life. The same is true collectively and communally, whether a marriage, an institution, or even a nation. To ask "When are we?" isn't a question of counting years as much as discerning a season, knowing what to expect, remembering that, in every season, we revolve around the Son" (pp. 123-24).

As we celebrate God's faithfulness across 65 years, may he help us discern our church's season, and enable us to respond to what he's calling us to be and to do at this time.

Faithfully,

Pastor Kevin

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell

The Deacon of the Month for September is Linda Norbrey.

September 2 is V-J Day, observing the day Japan signed a formal surrender in 1945, ending WWII.

We observe Labor Day on Monday, September 4. The church office will be closed.

Sunday, September 10 is National Grandparents' Day.

Patriot Day is observed on September 11. Flags should be flown at half-staff until sunset that day.

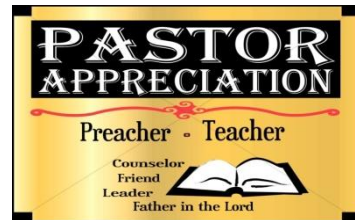
Grace Baptist Church is celebrating its' 65th anniversary on Sunday, September 17 with

special guest preacher Curtis Bridges followed by a fellowship meal.

Our national anthem was written by Francis Scott Key on September 14, 1814.

September 19 is POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Autumn begins on September 23, 2023.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

The Deacon of the Month for October has yet to be determined. The deacon election will take place on the last Sunday in September with a special called business meeting following the worship service. Two deacons will be rotating off.

We will observe Columbus Day on October 9th (a Monday Holiday). The church office will be closed.

October 16 is National Bosses Day.

October 24 is United Nations Day.

October 27 is Navy Day

Halloween is celebrated on Tuesday, October 31.



The Newsletter articles for the November/December issue will be due on Sunday, October 1.

THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

"For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love." Psalm 33:4-5 (NIV)

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DEACONS NEWS

There are two deacons rotating off this fall. The newly elected deacons will be determined on the last Sunday in September. Watch for bulletin announcements and the next newsletter edition.



MOBILIZING CHURCHES FOR MISSION

The **STATE MISSIONS OFFERING** is an over and above gift given annually by BCM/D churches which assists BCM/D churches that are seeking to obey the great commission by resourcing them with grants.

This is an incredible opportunity to collaborate with one another as we seek to ensure that every church is mobilized for mission in the BCM/D.

Give online at bcmd.org/get-involved/smo

BCMD BAPTIST CONVENTION OF MARYLAND/DELAWARE

Week of Prayer: September 10-17
Our Church's goal: \$1,000

GOOD THOUGHTS

Keep only cheerful friends – grouches pull you down.

Keep learning – learn more about computers, crafts, gardening, whatever; never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." The devil's name is Alzheimer's.

Enjoy the simple things. Laugh often, long, and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

Surround yourself with what you love – family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever; your home is your refuge.

Cherish your health – if it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

Tell the people you love, that you love them, at every opportunity.

MIRROR

My face in the mirror
Isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty,
The cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely
And so does my lawn.
I think I will not
Put my glasses back on.

MINDY'S PEACE

By Mindy Adams

September is here. September means kids back to school and most vacations are over. September also means the celebration of Labor Day, Grandparents Day, Church Anniversary, County Fair, and the remembrance of 9/11 (Patriot's Day). Also fall starts on the 23 of September this year. The weather is getting cooler and the leaves on the trees are starting to change colors. This is one of my favorite seasons.

October. A time to enjoy cool breezes, the changing of the leaves, hay rides, pumpkins, and Halloween. Also, October is Pastor Appreciation month. So let's give Pastor Kevin a big thanks for all he does.

OUR PASTOR

He listens to our cares and woes. He is always there to lend a hand. He comforts us in time of sorrow and celebrates our joys and happiness. He enlightens us with words of wisdom and teaches us the word of God. For all he has done (going beyond his job description,) for being our friend...We say THANK YOU Pastor Kevin Holder and God bless you.

GRACE'S RECIPE BOX

Wonderful Sweet Potato Soufflé

By Darlene Luttrell

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes
¾ cup white sugar
1/3 cup butter, softened
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
½ cup milk
1 cup flaked coconut
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup chopped walnuts
1/3 cup melted butter

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine the mashed sweet potatoes with the white sugar, soft butter or margarine, beaten eggs, vanilla and milk. Spoon into a 2-quart ovenproof baking dish. Combine the coconut, flour, brown sugar, chopped nuts and melted butter. Sprinkle over the top of the sweet potatoes. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes.

Shoe Peg Corn Casserole

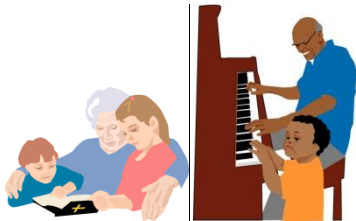
1 can French-style green beans, drained
1 can shoe peg corn, drained
1 can cream of celery soup
½ cup celery, chopped
½ cup onions, chopped
1 sm. Ctn. Sour cream
½ cup cheese, grated
Salt and pepper
½ cup (1 stick) butter
¾ roll Ritz crackers, crushed
1 sm. pkg. slivered almonds

Mix together green beans, corn, soup, celery, onions, sour cream, grated cheese, salt & pepper. Pour into large baking dish. Melt butter, mix with cracker crumbs and almonds. Put on top of casserole. Bake at 350° for about 30 minutes.



Grace Baptist Church 65th Anniversary 1958 – 2023

On September 17, we'll celebrate our church's 65th anniversary, giving thanks to God for His faithfulness in the life of our congregation. Our guest speaker will be Curtis Bridges. We look forward to renewing our fellowship with him and his wife Tricia. Following the morning worship service, we'll gather for a fellowship meal. The main course, drinks, and dessert will be provided by the church. Please bring side dishes that you would like to share with others.



GRANDPARENTS DAY

By Mindy Adams

September 10 is Grandparents' Day!
Grandparents are sweet. They give you cookies and candy and then send you home with your parents. Grandparents are smart. They read to you and tell you about the old days. Grandparents are wise. They have been around a lot longer than you. They have a harder life than you. Grandparents are love. You can tell them things you wouldn't want to tell anyone else. And no matter what you do they still love you. You can learn a lot of family history by talking with your grandparents. Grandparents are grand.

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT

By Debby Holder

(Repeated from 2001 issue of the *Communicator*)

It only takes a moment
For the blue to turn to gray,
For the sunny skies and whisper of clouds
To turn to thunder and rain.

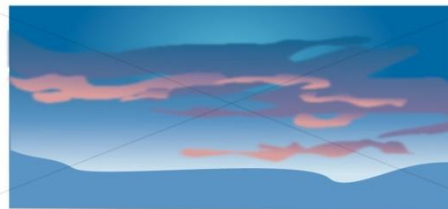
It only takes a moment
For a smile to pass from one's face,
For laughter and joy to disappear
And life's joy to be erased.

It only takes a moment
For one to choose a path
That brings destruction and death to others
And a nation's wrath.

It only takes a moment
To turn to God in prayer.
To trust Him when life seems filled
With so much pain and despair.

It only takes a moment
To replace confidence with fear
To turn to God who is waiting
To receive us as we draw near.

It only takes a moment
To change a world forever,
To understand we are not forsaken
When sheltered in the Love no force can sever.





Bob Curtin	09/08
Chip Cary	09/13
Richard Gold	09/13
Ava Maya Warburton	09/13
Keith Linville	09/15
Mamusu Sesay	09/16
Steven Jones	09/25
Ronnie Strickland	09/30



Sam and Jenny Boswell	09/06
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Victor Smith	10/03
Abe Jenkins	10/03
Dennis Janke	10/10
Oaklynn Strickland	10/13
Clenad Tita	10/16
Pam Weimer	10/17
Don Posey	10/22



Steve and Linda Norbrey	10/16
Darren and Leah Smith	10/17

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2 Fellowship Hall Reserved
 Sept. 3 Lord's Supper
 Sept. 4 Labor Day – Church Office CLOSED
 Sept. 8 Stampin' Up at 6:00pm
 Sept. 9 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 am
 Sept. 9 Movie Night at 6:00pm
 Sept. 10 thru 17 Week of Prayer & State Missions offering

Sept. 17 Celebrating Grace's 65 Anniversary. Guest speaker & Meal to follow.

Sept. 24 Church Council and Special Business Meeting – Deacon Election at 12:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 1 Lord's Supper
 Oct. 6 Stampin' Up at 6:00pm
 Oct. 7 Deacons Meeting at 8:00am
 Oct. 9 Columbus Day – Closed
 Oct. 11 Business Meeting
 Oct. 14 Fellowship Hall Reserved
 Oct. 29 Church Council Meeting at 12:30pm

Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Service: 11:00am

FOR LABOR DAY

Submitted by Faye Rogerson
(Author Unknown)

If a task is once begun,
Never leave it till it's done
Be the labor great or small
Do it well or not at all.



Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries in the Americas and elsewhere which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

In the U.S. we celebrate Columbus Day as a Monday holiday. (The second Monday in October.) In many Latin American countries is celebrated as "Dia de la Raza" ("Day of the Race") Not all U.S. States celebrate Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus is also celebrated in Italy, Spain, and various Little Italy's around the world.

OLD FOLKS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE

Old folks are worth a fortune:
With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth,
stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet
and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed – with Ben Gay. What a life.

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do – all the time. No matter where I am – in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen or down in the basement – I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?"

POETRY CORNER

THE FUTURE

By Richard Gold

The future is a blank page
With events both bad and good
We would that we did know
The actions to do we should

The future can be a pain
If we do not have a plan
If we choose to do nothing
Our foundation will be sand

The future is an opportunity
Of which we should take
For whether profit or loss
It is ours to make