

# THE *COMMUNICATOR*

Volume XXXIV No. 05/06

May/June, 2025

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## KEVIN'S KORNER

Luke opens the book of Acts (1:1-11) with a story that's both a homecoming and a homegoing. From God's vantage point, it must have seemed more like a homecoming. Here comes the risen Jesus, returning to where it all started. He comes back to his heavenly home to participate fully in the glory of God. He takes his place at the right hand of God, where he gets to rule with the Creator of the universe.

Meanwhile, back on planet earth, it must have seemed more like a homegoing. There goes Jesus, making a dramatic exit. Remember that the risen Christ had given his disciples one last round of instruction on the subject of God's kingdom. But now the time has come for them to say farewell to their Lord. "He was taken up before their very eyes," says Luke, "and a cloud hid him from their sight" (v. 9).

Sometimes we focus so much on Christ's resurrection that we neglect the importance of his ascension. We lose sight of the fact that God not only brought Jesus up from the grave but also took him up to the life of the world to come, where Jesus now reigns with God over a redeemed world. And our job as believers is to bear witness to God's reign, to announce that Jesus is Lord, so that others can share in the salvation that God has worked through Christ. That's our mission, our reason for existing as a church.

One of the reasons we have this mission is because God has not disclosed the details of his own long range plan. When Jesus' disciples asked him to give them a more precise schedule about the coming of God's kingdom, Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority" (v. 7). So we know that God's project of redemption is underway. We know that he has promised to bring it to completion. But the specific timetable is out of our hands. What is in our hands is the opportunity to work in the here and now in ways that testify to the good news of God's kingdom.

As Jesus was ascending, two angelic witnesses ask, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (v. 11). So Christians are not commissioned to be full-time sky watchers. On the contrary, as we wait for our Lord's return, our eyes are to be focused on the challenges, needs, and opportunities that surround us in the present. There are souls to be saved, injustices to be righted, peace to be made, suffering to be alleviated, and problems to be solved.

Maybe this is one of the reasons why the up-to-heaven story of Jesus' ascension is immediately followed by the down-to-earth story of the church choosing a replacement for Judas (1:12-

26). Notice how quickly Luke takes us from staring at the clouds to staring at other people, real, live human beings who identify themselves with Christ and are part of this community of witnesses placed in the world to spread the gospel. This community needs to get itself organized for the unfinished business of God's reign. So the community gathers, prays, seeks, and decides. Matthias is chosen to replace Judas. It's these daily, ground level choices and commitments that will have to be made if the church is going to work out its witness in the world.

Here in the life of Grace Baptist Church, we continue to participate, day in and day out, in the ongoing story of God's redemption of the world through our Lord Jesus Christ. We always have been, and always will be, a community of hope. We're a forward-looking fellowship, led by the Spirit into more of what God has promised. Christ reigns! Let's continue to proclaim this and practice this, until he comes.

Faithfully,

Pastor Kevin

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell

**The Deacon of the Month for May:** *Will be announced weekly.*

May 1 is May Day!

National Day of Prayer is the first Thursday in May. This year it's on May 1.

May 6 is National Nurses and Teachers Day

Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day. **Happy Mother's Day** to all mothers, grandmothers and great-grand mothers.

Saturday, May 17 is Armed Forces Day.

Memorial Day is May 26. Our church office will be closed.

**The Deacon of the Month for June is Ronnie Strickland.**

The week of June 1, the Newsletter Articles for the July/August issue are due. There are very few special days happening in those hot summer months. Please turn in your favorite summer time recipes to share.

June 6: D-Day – The allied invasion of Europe (1944).

June 14: Flag Day – Please display the American Flag proudly.

Sunday, June 15 is Father's Day, the day we honor our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grand fathers. **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

June 19, 1865: This is the day known as Juneteenth. On June 19, 1865 in Galveston, TX, the news from the Union Army troops came to tell the slaves that they were free. It's been observed in communities and states as a holiday, but officially recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.

Summer begins on June 21.



## THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

### *About Mothers and Fathers*

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I (God) comfort you..." Isaiah 66:13 (NIV)

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father..."  
Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)

"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."  
2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NIV)



## CONDOLENCE

The Grace Baptist Church family offers their deepest sympathy to the family, the church family, and many friends of Richard Gold. Richard went to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

The memories of his life, his dedication to his church, his many accomplishments, and his poetry will live on forever. He is best known for his service as deacon for the church and for his work with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief of Maryland/Delaware.

A funeral service for Richard was held on March 21 in Port Orange, Florida, followed by burial at the Wildwood Cemetery in Bartow, Florida. At some point in the future, there will also be a memorial service at Grace Baptist Church.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Penny Gold's address while in NE:  
Harmony Court, Apt. 325  
1802 Wall Street  
Bellevue, NE 68005

Jordan Holder  
2958 Bridgeport Ave.  
Miami, FL 33133

## DEACON'S NEWS

The deacons of Grace Baptist Church are deeply saddened by the loss of one of their fellow deacons last month (Richard Gold). They want to give their deepest sympathies to Penny Gold (Richard's wife). Two other deacons will be rotating off, so in September there will be a deacon election to fill the three vacancies.

## CHURCH YARD SALE

**When:** June 7, 2025  
**Time:** Starting at 8:00 AM  
**Where:** At Grace Baptist Church

*Rain Date will be June 14, 2025*

**Mission:Dignity**  
**Sunday**  
**June 22, 2025**

**GIVE HELP. GIVE HONOR**  
**GIVE DIGNITY. GIVE TODAY**

*Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*  
Galatians 6:2 (CSB)

## GRADUATIONS:



### *Those Graduating from our church:*

**Bethany Holder** – Graduating from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Tourism Management

**Amalia Proper** – Graduating from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and a minor in legal studies

**Cody Zanakis** – Graduating from Leonardtown High School

## THE GRADUATE

By Richard Gold

Congratulations to the graduate  
You've finally made the cut  
Through many years you've worked  
Always new, never in a rut

This is a time of change  
When you start on a thing new  
In the coming life you will be tested  
To find what is good and true

Graduation is not a hurdle  
It is to the future a door  
Where there may be troubles  
Opportunities and much, much more

So remember what you've learned  
Remember, it will do you good  
For in the wide world  
There's what you can and what you should

Stick to the teachings of your mother  
Follow your father's way  
You will find as you live your life  
Much good dividend they will pay

## MINDY'S PEACE

By Mindy Adams

### In Honor of Mother's Day:

#### GUIDING STAR

By Mindy Adams

You listen when I want to talk.  
Yet, understand when I want to be alone.  
You let me learn and grow.  
Yet, you still consider me your baby.  
You let me choose which path to take.  
Yet, you point the right direction.  
You taught me to walk alone.  
Yet, you are always there to catch me if I fall.  
To me, my mother, you are  
My guiding star.

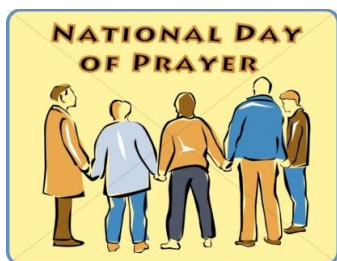
### In Honor of Father's Day:

Forever by my side  
Always ready to listen  
Tender and loving  
Helping everyone  
Ever mindful of my feelings  
Really important to me

Devoted father  
Arms to hug  
Dearly loved

## SUMMER IS HERE

Let's give a cheer!  
Summer is here!  
Time for some fun!  
Just feel the sun!  
Warm summer breezes,  
And allergy sneezes.  
Nice picnic lunches,  
And flowers in bunches.  
Let's give a cheer!  
Summer is here!



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is the first Thursday in May. This day was enacted by President Reagan in 1988. The most visible gathering is at our nation's Capital in Washington, D.C. All the branches of government are represented as well as the military. Thousands of events are held nationwide. Local volunteers hold a variety of activities ranging from prayer breakfasts, Bible reading marathons, concerts of prayer, rallies, church prayer vigils, student flagpole gatherings and observances held in sports stadiums.



## MAY DAY

The custom of celebrating May Day, May 1, can be traced to ancient spring rituals connected with fertility and growth. In 15<sup>th</sup> century England, May Day festivities were celebrated with dances around the Maypole and were also tied to the figure of Robin Hood, whom local youths impersonated in MORRIS DANCES and dramatic performances.

May Day was later designated as a labor holiday celebrated by parades, demonstrations, and speeches by labor unions and political parties. May Day parades are often prominent displays of military strength.



Mother's Day began in Grafton, West Virginia by Anna Jarvis in 1905 after the death of her mother. The first Mother's Day commemoration was held in the former Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Grafton which is now the international Mother's Day Shrine.

## Father's Day

Father's Day began in Spokane, Washington by Sonora Smart Dodd on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June in 1910. She got the idea from a Mother's Day sermon in 1909 and wanted to honor her dad who had raised her.

Roses are the Father's Day flowers:

Red to be worn for a living father and white if the father has passed away.



## RECIPE BOX

### Raisin Honey Drops

¾ cup of honey  
¾ cup sugar  
¾ cup butter or margarine  
1 egg  
2 cups sifted flour  
1 tsp each salt and cinnamon  
½ tsp soda  
2 cups uncooked rolled oats  
1 cup seedless raisins

Cream honey, sugar, butter, and egg. Sift together flour, salt, cinnamon, soda. Stir into creamed mixture. Add rolled oats and raisins. Drop by heaping teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheet. Bake on upper shelf in oven preheated at 375° for 12 to 14 min. till lightly browned. Cool on racks. Makes about 4 dozen.

### Orange Pineapple Cake

By Cynthia Frye

Yellow cake mix  
4 eggs  
1 very large ctn. Cool Whip  
1 box vanilla instant pudding mix  
½ cup oil  
1 can mandarin oranges with juice  
1 large can drained crushed pineapple

Combine cake mix, oil, eggs and oranges with mixer until oranges are fine. Grease and flour 3 (8-inch) cake pans and bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until tests done. **Topping:** Blend together Cool Whip, pineapple and pudding mix. Frost cake. Keep in refrigerator.



## POETRY CORNER

Poem by Rachel A. Gold from her book

### **"Glimpses of My Life"**

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#### **Mur**

She is a loving, happy pet  
And also is a cutie  
She is a most important cat  
A lady and a beauty

When we go out and then return  
She meets us at the door  
She is so glad to see us back  
And we say "Hello, Mur!"

She thinks this spacious house is hers  
And here she lets us stay  
Sometimes she wonders and feels sad  
That we should go away

She thinks that we should always be  
Here in our proper place  
To ever hold and talk and then  
Exchange a swift embrace

Poem by Richard Gold from **"The Wall and Other Poems"**

#### **CATS**

Cats, cats, cats, cats  
I have cats that live with me  
They beg for attention and food  
And drive me up a tree

But ere I love them  
And treat them as my own  
They show they love me  
And call my house their home



Penny Gold	05/10
Jeannie Strickland	05/10
Angelina Zanakis	05/10
Clement Tita	05/21

### ***Anniversaries Of the Month***



Willis and Susan Proper	05/02
Dan and Amber Krivitsky	05/24
Don and Diane Bazzle	05/27



Kendra Heinbuch	06/02
Jerry Coombs	06/09
Patricia "Trish" Sams	06/20
Nadia (Tamukong) Tita	06/21
Geri Webb	06/21
Samantha Jones	06/23
Leah Smith	06/23
Sheila Scott	06/25
Riley Mitchell	06/30

### ***Anniversaries Of the Month***



**JUNE**

Mamusa Sesay & Ayodele Warburton	06/10
Ed and Pam Weimer	06/20
Pastor Kevin and Debby Holder	06/30

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY**

May 2 Stampin' Up at 6:00 p.m.  
 May 3 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 a.m.  
 May 4 Lord's Supper  
 May 10 Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.  
 May 11 Mother's Day  
 May 14 through May 20 Pastor Kevin will be away. He will return to the office on May 21.  
 May 17 Armed Forces Day  
 May 26 Memorial Day (Closed)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE**

June 1 Lord's Supper  
 June 1 Church Council Meeting after service  
 June 6 Stampin' Up at 6:00 p.m.  
 June 7 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 a.m.  
 June 7 YARD SALE starting at 8:00 a.m.  
 June 11 Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
 June 14 Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.  
 June 14 Rain Date for Yard Sale  
 June 15 Father's Day  
 June 19 Juneteenth (closed)  
 June 21 Summer begins

#### **Every Sunday:**

**Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.**

**Morning Service is at 11:00 a.m.**