

# Pastor's Pen

Are You A Box Store Member Christian?

*And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Acts 2:42*

What is the difference between being a Costco or Sam's club member and being a local church member? When we are members of the former, we go once a week or maybe more if we need something special. We bring our list and usually spend the same amount of time each week getting what we need and want. We may speak briefly to those that greet us, check us out, and go over our receipt when we leave. We are careful not to talk too much because we have busy schedules and need to get in and out. We leave and don't give the place a second thought until we return next week. We may even tell others how much better "our" warehouse store is than theirs.

The sad reality is that many professing Christians could put the name of their church in what I just described, which would be their weekly church experience. We are consumers at the local warehouse store, and the sad reality is we often treat our church as if we are customers looking to be served, encouraged, and sent about our way.

What a shame if we treat church like our local warehouse store. We come in on Sunday morning at 10:30 AM, sit down, smile, and properly greet the person next to us. We sing then, during the greeting time, we may speak to the person in front or behind us. We sing again and then spend 45-60 minutes listening to the sermon.

After the closing prayer, we get up and leave saying goodbye to the preacher or one or two other people. We get in our vehicles, drive off and never give the church or our fellow believers a second thought until it's time for church next week. God never intended His people to treat the local body like a warehouse store as if we were just consumers.

In the second chapter of Acts, Luke informs us that 3,000 were saved after Peter preached on the day of Pentecost. Then we are told what these new believers did as a result of that salvation, "*And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.*" In other words, they became the local church and didn't just go to church one day a week; it became a daily occurrence in their lives. Luke tells us, "*And daily devoting themselves with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2 46-47).*"

## Quote of the Week

"For a Christian to fail to participate in the life of a local church is inexcusable. In fact, those who choose to isolate themselves are disobedient to the direct command of Scripture."

-John F. MacArthur Jr

Being a Grace Harvest member does not mean you come to church when you have nothing else to do. It does not mean you walk in the door at 10:30 and leave without speaking to anybody week after week or expecting people to serve you. So, what does it mean to be a member of Grace Harvest or any other Bible-believing local assembly

First, we devote ourselves to the teachings of the shepherds and elders that God puts in spiritual authority over the local church, and we willingly submit to their spiritual authority ( Hebrews 13:17).

Second, we devote ourselves to fellowship within the body of Grace Harvest. Your fellow members are your spiritual family. There are more than 50 "one another" in the New testament. We should be committed to obeying them all. It means that you serve your brothers and sisters in Christ (Romans 12:4-7). It's not about you; it is about everyone else. Jesus is our example. He told the disciples that he did not come to be served but to serve ( Luke 22:27).

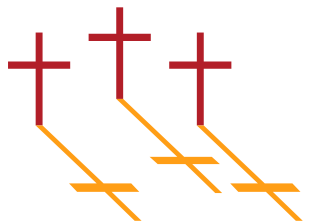
Thirdly, we celebrate the Lord's supper together. At GHBC, we commemorate the Lord's Supper twice a month. It is disconcerting when someone claims to be a believer and yet does not celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Finally, as a local body of members, we commit ourselves to individual and corporate prayer.

What say you, Christian? Do you treat your membership at GHBC like you do a box-store membership, or do you look at it the way God does?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old Testament  
New Testament  
Young Parents  
Young Adults  
Sunday Morning @ 9AM

## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
Every other Saturday:  
Women of Grace | 9am

## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,  
Patrick's and beginning 6/23 @ the  
Brown's

## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team  
and forgot to sign up, please contact the  
team leader at the appropriate email  
address.

## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study

## Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM  
Children's Church @10:30AM

### Giving from service on 7/10/2022

General Offering .....	6,062.15
Building Fund .....	756.00
Uganda .....	145.00
Benevolence .....	87.00
Total.....	7,050.15

Attendance .....	223
Sunday School .....	145
Online.....	25

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742  
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Jul 17, 2022

Welcome