# Paston's Pen

Remember His wondrous deeds which He has done, Psalm 105:5

On September 2, 2006, 10 families, 21 individuals, gathered in my living room and signed the Charter of Grace Harvest Baptist Church. Of those 21 members, there are nine still active. Elder Tom Cox, Penni Cox, Austin Cox, Crystal Hix, Steve Worley, Sheila Worley, Cathy Wells, and Pastor Mark Wells. The following is that Charter.

The Grace Harvest Baptist Church Charter God, who at various times, and in different ways spoke in times past to our fathers, revealing His glory, calling all people to salvation, and establishing His church, has now also spoken to us, expressing His purposeful intention to redeem His dearly loved creation through the ministry of the Grace Harvest Baptist Church.

We solemnly and joyfully accept His commission to reach out to the unsaved and the un-churched, disciple those who know the Lord, and minister to our fellow man. In all of our activities, we seek to become all things to all men, to win them to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and see them equipped by grace to be our multiplying fellow laborers in the global harvest.

We honor the work being done in many communities by Godly men and churches of good will, and gratefully align ourselves with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. We seek to express the truth that the diversities of global societies call the body of Christ, while remaining faithful to the scriptures, to find new and compelling ways to welcome into the kingdom of God those who are not reached by existing forms and congregations.

We prayerfully and carefully seek to be conformed to the image of Christ, trusting that the power of God, effective for salvation, will effectively give us the desire and ability to do His will. We eagerly submit to the discipline of the word of God, enlivened by the Spirit of God.

We will treasure God's word in our hearts as our protection against sin and live transparently with accountability to our God, our families, our community of faith, and our world. We will express the power of God transforming our lives as we connect with the unregenerate world around us, empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit to be kindly affectionate, fervent in spirit, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, steadfast in prayer and given to hospitality as we are God's channel of mercy to meet spiritual and physical needs of people and communities around the world.

We recognize that the family is a Divine institution that precedes the church. Therefore, our ministries and activities shall find foundation in our homes, and our families participating jointly in worship, prayer, transformational Bible study, and ministry.

In solemn assembly, we commit ourselves and our families to seek the holy power of God to express the intent of this charter in our daily lives, and through the life of our community of faith, the Grace Harvest Baptist Church.

Affirmed by the undersigned this Second Day of September, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Six:

# "... behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest" John 4:35b

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

"There is not one drop of real joy to be experienced apart from him. All joy is in the Lord." — Steven J. Lawson

Quote of the Week

Grace Gems

An almost Christian (James Smith, "The Way of Salvation Set Forth")

### "Then Agrippa said to Paul: You almost persuade me to become a Christian!" Acts 26:28

There are many who conclude that they are Christians, because they have been enlightened to see something of their state, danger, and deserved doom. But many are only lighted to Hell, for light in the mind — is not life in the soul. Hebrews 6:4, 10:20. A person may be awakened to feel, to tremble, to desire salvation — as did Felix and Balaam, Acts 24:25, Numbers 23:10. He may be reformed, and turn from open profanity to strict morality — as did some in Peter's day, 2 Peter 2:20. He may be assisted to do many things which are in themselves good, such as reading the Scripture, attending divine ordinances, engaging in prayer, and working miracles, Matthew 7:21-23, Mark 6:20, 1 Corinthians 13:3. He may experience God's power put forth restraining him, and keeping him back from sin, as did Abimelech, Genesis 20:6. He may humble himself before God, as did Ahab, 1 Kings 21:27-30.

He may possess joy and be exceeding glad under the Word, Matthew 13:20.

He may believe the Word, receive the testimony, and admire the preacher, Luke 4:22-29, 8:13, Ezekiel 33:31-32. He may be filled with zeal for Christ and his cause, like the multitude, John 6:15, 16; Matthew 21:8-11; Luke 23:18-23. He may be baptized upon a profession of faith, join a Christian church, and imitate the saints in his conduct — as did Simon Magus, Acts 8:13.

He may fill an office in the church, preach the gospel, and act consistent for a time — as did Judas; and yet Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place, Acts 1:25. He may be highly esteemed by others, be sound in doctrine, and suffer for the cause of Christ, and yet be destitute of the vital principle of saving faith — like Demas, Alexander, Hymeneus, and Philetus, 2 Timothy 2:16-18, 4:10-14, 1 John 2:15. He may have many excellent qualities, so that he may be admired and loved by others, like the rich young ruler in Matthew 19.

He may have all that has been named above — but ONE THING may be lacking, and he be found at last, merely an almost Christian.



Weekly Gatherings



#### **Bible Classes**

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



#### **Weekday Meetings**

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study 1st and 3rd Saturday Women of Grace | 9AM Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



#### **Family Groups**

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each



#### **Build the Body Teams**

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



#### **Youth Study**

Wednesdays @6:30PM Youth Study & Surge!



#### **Service Times**

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM Sunday School 9:30AM Children's Church @11:00AM Giving from service on 09/03/2023

 General Offering
 .6,631.98

 Building Fund
 .1,761.00

 Uganda Missions
 .335.00

 Benevolence
 .1.00

Total.......\$8,728.98 Attendance......213 Online......28

## 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
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