

342 Macedonia Church Road
Sparta, NC 28675

The following story gives us a glimpse into our history and our Christian heritage. America was built on Christian principles and our leaders prayed for God's guidance.



During the dark days of the American Revolution, when the Continental Army had experienced several setbacks, a farmer who lived near the battlefield approached Washington's camp unheard. Suddenly his ears caught an earnest voice raised in agonizing prayer. On coming nearer he saw it was the great General, down on his knees in the snow, his cheeks wet with tears. He was asking God for assistance and guidance. The farmer crept away and returned home. He said to his family, "Its going to be all right. We are going to win!" "What makes you think so?" his wife asked. "Well," said the farmer, "I heard General Washington pray out in the woods today—such fervent prayer I have never heard. And God will surely hear and answer that kind of praying." And the farmer was right! It happened because Washington put his hope in God.



PRAYER: Lord Almighty, we praise You and Your holy name today, as we celebrate our right to live as a free country. Without You we are nothing, and so ultimately, our freedom and independence are Yours, dear Lord. It is You who is our true leader, for it is You who will lead us into paradise. May we never forget that we are Your followers first and foremost. Our mission in our mortal lives is to praise Your most holy name. Let all our actions be directed by Your will. We know as we live in Your we live generously in Your blessings. Our history has proven that. We pray that this nation remembers and returns to revere You every day of our lives. This country is Yours to lead until the end of time. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Operation Christmas Child

We are collecting and will be collecting items all year for shoe boxes. A drop-off box is in the vestibule of the church for your donations. The next packing party will be announced soon.

... small
is the
gate and
narrow
the road
that leads
to life,
and only
a few
find it.

Matthew 7:14

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."
- George Washington

Contributors:
Belinda Hiemstra
Janice Alexander

A House of Prayer

"... for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7).

Every Wednesday afternoon, 4:30 - 6 pm the church doors are open to anyone who wants to spend time in prayer. Come and go as your schedule allows. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone willing to help host a day of prayer. This person will be in charge of unlocking and locking the doors.

thanks!

to all who played a role in this year's Vacation Bible School program.

from cooks to greeters
from teachers to drama roles
from song leaders to game directors
and the list goes on.

AND a HUGE THANKS TO Steven and BriAnne Hall, this year's directors. We love you and appreciate all you do for our church and our children's programs.

This is My Story: Steve & Deb

Steve and Deb have been here in Sparta about one year. They are from NH. This move has been quite a culture shock as you will see as you read on. In NH they were without a church for a long time. It is the least churchd state in the country and there are VERY FEW true Biblical churches there.



Steve & Deb Wolfe

Several years back they visited family in Cary with no idea this part of the state even existed! Then they had the opportunity to travel the Parkway to pick up their youngest son from college. They fell in love with what they were seeing and decided to explore Ashe County with an eye to retirement. God had other plans. When they booked their first trip to visit/research, the only place they could find to stay was in Sparta. They did briefly visit Ashe but fell in love with Alleghany. After driving almost every road in the county that first week they knew - This was home! God provided land for them to purchase, and they were sure God was saying, "Go." Their hope was that Steve could keep his job and work from home. They confidently say, they were coming to NC with or without the job because they were certain it was God's will for them to move. Talk about seeing God at work. Two days before closing on the sale of their house in NH, Steve's company gave the approval to allowing him to work from home permanently.

When their building plans fell apart, they began to feel very desperate. Still, God proved His faithfulness by providing them with a lovely rental home. Now they are waiting for God's provision in finding a builder and His timing for the next steps ahead of them.

Steve and Deb have been married twenty-six years; they have four children currently living in four different states. The youngest two children were completely home-schooled and are now college graduates working in their chosen (and God gifted) fields. Steve works from home (engineering), for a company headquartered in the Boston area. Deb stopped working outside of home in 1997, became a homeschooling mom, and had a quilting business in NH. Homeschooling is Deb's passion, and she loves to "talk shop" about being at home with your family.

When asked if there was a major event in their lives where they saw God at work, they gave this response. "There have been so many events where we know God was at work in our lives - when you look for God's fingerprints you can see them. Usually in hindsight, but often in the process as well. It never gets old to see God answer prayer and direct the course of things in your life."

They give God praise for bringing them to Alleghany County and especially for Grace Church. They wonder if local folks realize what a warm and welcoming place this is. They came from the Northeast where everyone is conditioned to keep isolated, "independent", distant, and "cold" - to a place where people are kind, open, friendly, warm, and loving; and to a church group that prays for them, offers to help, gives words of encouragement, and makes TIME to sit and visit.

"It was easy for us to see the people at Grace were shining with Jesus' love and their prayer support is astonishing," Deb shared. "While this might sound sad, we have felt more love from this community in our first year here, than we did in all our years in NH. (And I'm sure there will be some who may say, 'Bless their hearts,' as they read that statement.)"

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Men's breakfast on July 16th @ 8:00 am
Talent Show on August 27th



Why aren't there any Independence Day knock knock jokes? Cuz freedom "Rings"



The Church is Growing, Growing, Growing

in more ways than one.

Our building is scheduled for construction to begin in the near future - an addition to the our building for more seating in the sanctuary, more class rooms and other needed facilities.

Zack and Summer Hall are the proud parents of a new baby girl,

Oakley Grace Hall

born June 30, 2022



ELDERS

Joel Stamper 336-813-2929
Daryl Simpson 336-359-8327
Steve Mason 540-424-8007
Tim Stamper 336-770-6654

DEACONS

Kathy Abernathy 336-200-1357
Tammy Mason 540-845-5474
Winkie Clifton 336-363-9189
Randy Miles 336-657-2036
Darryl Evans 336-467-4486
Grady Morris 704-239-6659
Dale Jones 727-244-0095
Mark Parker 704-641-1615

The
wages
of the
righteous
is life,
but the
earnings
of the
wicked
are sin
and death.

Proverbs 10:16(NIV)

"Freedom is the last, best hope of earth."

- Abraham Lincoln