

The last day of April, Kathy and I returned to Spindale UMC for their Homecoming Sunday. On this particular Sunday every year, the end of the service is a solemn time to remember persons of the congregation who have died in the past year. While this is comparable to our All Saints' Sunday, I find it a powerful and reflective moment in the life of a congregation. Sure, we associate Homecoming with members past and present coming together, a former pastor returns to share the message, a delicious covered dish meal to complete the worship and celebration. But it also is a time of gratitude and thanksgiving for the pioneers of faith who came before us to establish this spiritual home at the corner of Tunnel and Beverly Roads that is so dear to us.

When Kirk Hatherly was associate pastor at Groce in 1996, he shared a prayer on All Saints Sunday. In a portion of his prayer so eloquently written, I hear the past and present coming together to form a continued path for the church's future.

"We thank you, God, for holding in your care those you sent ahead of us. They prepared a road, marking its pitfalls, and building shelters for our rest. Not always did they know who followed them, but they pressed on. Sometimes they stumbled, sometimes they hurt, but they always carried the light of Christ. Now we too journey that road. We are constantly reminded of their presence in things we see and hear, things we do and say, places we go. Just as those saints have done before us, we are preparing the way for those yet to come, and we are awed by the responsibility. Guide us and nurture us in our responsibilities to You and one another. Make us be for the world, Christlike in our word and deeds, and like the saints who have come before, help us to be remembered for the good fruits of our labor. AMEN."

Next Sunday, the 28th, the Groce Church family celebrates Homecoming Sunday! 2017 represents the 63rd year of ministry and mission in the East Asheville community and beyond. We look forward to having Rick Schilling, the Ministry Development Officer for ABCCM and a United Methodist pastor, preach at both the 8:30 and 11 0' clock services. Join us for worship, bring your family, and a food to share with your church family and friends!





HOMECOMING
Sunday

May 28

Our guest speaker will be Reverend Rick Schilling. We will have a covered dish luncheon in Asbury Hall after the 11:00 o'clock service.

2017 Graduates

If you have a son/daughter graduating from high school or college, we would like to get some information about them. We'd like to know from where they are graduating, where they are going to college or other plans, and their degree if graduating from college (and any future plans).



Please call the church office, 298-7647, by this Tuesday, the 23rd with this information.

Mark the Date

**Vacation Bible School
 July 30 - August 3**

There will be a nightly dinner for the children starting at 5:30 and VBS will begin at 6.

More information to come!



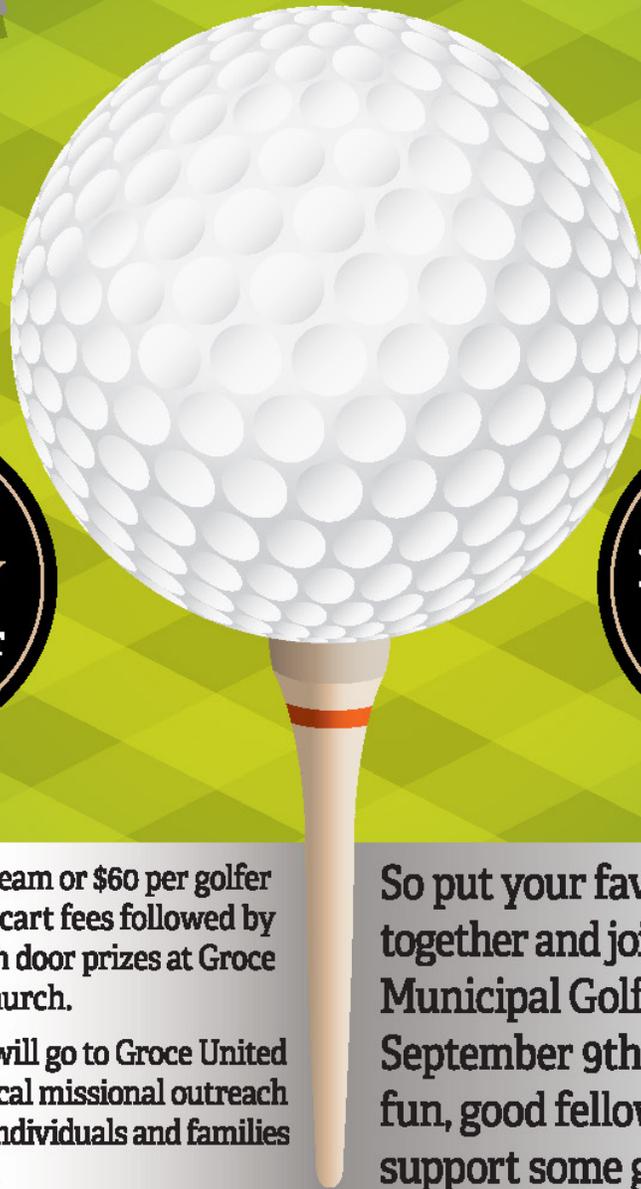
"Stop sitting next to your wife at church to give your ribs a chance to heal."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
 ©Bob Vojtko
 Reprinted with permission

GROCE UNITED METHODIST CHARITY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE (BEST BALL)



SEPTEMBER
★ 9 ★
SHOTGUN START
7:30 AM

ASHEVILLE
MUNICIPAL
★ GOLF ★
COURSE

Entry Fee: \$240 per team or \$60 per golfer including green and cart fees followed by an awards lunch with door prizes at Groce United Methodist Church.

Proceeds: Proceeds will go to Groce United Methodist Church local missional outreach programs to benefit individuals and families in the Asheville area.

So put your favorite foursome together and join us at Asheville Municipal Golf Course on September 9th for some good fun, good fellowship, and help support some great causes.

For more information or to register a foursome please call Groce United Methodist Church 828-298-7647 or John P. Smith 828-299-3993