

word salvation as the forgiveness of sins or the escape from punishment, it actually has a much more robust meaning for the writers of Scripture: "the simple and wholly adequate word for salvation in the New Testament is 'life.' 'I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.' 'He that hath the Son hath life.' 'Even when we were dead through our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ.'"

This is the human condition. FTT.

Thrive is a life word; a word full of shalom. Thriving is what life was intended to do, like a flower stubbornly pushing through a crack in the sidewalk. It is why we pause in wonder at a human being's first step, or first word; and why we ought to wonder at every step, and every word. Thriving is what God saw when he made life and saw that it was good. "Thrive" was the first command: be fruitful, and multiply.

Thriving is what human beings are made for; and pastors and churches too. Being fully alive, and curious, and fearless. Wide awake.

I remember a phrase in a book by Wallace Stegner years ago about a character experiencing an "explosion of growth," and wanting it so badly that I was jealous of a good friend whom I knew was experiencing it. Thriving is what I want; more than success or reputation or experiences or achievement.

Thriving is the joy I know when the level of my challenges reaches the level of my gifts, and I am consumed neither by boredom nor anxiety but simply grace. And it's because thriving is so God-ordained that the failure to thrive is so tragic.

I wonder how many churches—and how many pastors—would have FTT written on our charts, if only we could see them. For I believe it is FTT that beats down so many in ministry. It's not the lack of recognition, or success. We all know that there is no life in those imposters.

It's days and weeks and month of frozen smiles and forced pleasantness and artificial harmony and wondering if people think we're doing well. It's pretending to agree and listen and placate people we don't agree with or even like, and telling ourselves we do it because it's the pastor's job, when the truth is we do it from fear or ambition or habit. And then we feel drained and hollow and thin-souled.

I was talking to a friend today who used to work in the marketplace but now works at a church. She was challenged by the transition. It struck me that for many folks, their jobs are stress-producers, but the church is a stress-reliever. So they think to themselves, "If I could just work at a church, I'd get rid of my stress-producer and be forever at my stress-reliever!" What happens, of course, is that the church (when it is a job) becomes their stress-producer. Not only that, they've lost their old stress-reliever, since even when they come to church on Sunday they're coming to the job site.

So my job, even more important than preaching or leading, is to thrive.

Which means my life outside my work must be way deeper and bigger and more interesting than my work alone. Which means I need to monitor how much energy I have for family and learning and non-strategic friends and long walks by the ocean. Which means I need to monitor how good sin looks, because failure to thrive always has the effect of making sin look good.

For one day, I'm going to die. And most of what preoccupies and drains me now will recede into nothingness. But the dead in Christ will rise.

Which is to say, thrive.

Come, let us thrive together.

Join the Joy,  
Dr. Phil

**Missed a message?** Go to [www.grovetonbaptistchurch.org/sermons](http://www.grovetonbaptistchurch.org/sermons) to hear sermons by Pastor Phil.



*Your financial recovery can bring at home  
as you learn biblical and practical steps to financial freedom.*

**Free Preview**

**Sunday, February 12, 2012**

**5:00 PM--6:00 PM**

**Fellowship Hall—use door E.**

*Please call the church office if you need preschool care.*

**Sunday School /Adult Bible Fellowship Leaders**

**Breakfast and Celebration**

Saturday, February 4, 2012 8:30—10:30 AM

Preschool/Children/Youth Leaders

bring a breakfast goody to share.

*Meeting Focus: A special worship time devoted to becoming more dependent on God's leadership for our Sunday School  
Led by Pastor Jerry and Steve Surridge.*

**FYI Students**



**Indoor Beach Party**

Saturday, February 18, 2012

10 AM—4 PM

Church Fellowship Hall.

*Wear your aloha shirt and bring a beach towel  
as we escape the winter blahs!*

**Mark Your Calendar**

M-Fuge (Mission Camp) July 22—28, 2012 North Greenfield, SC  
\$50 deposit will reserve your spot. For students entering  
7<sup>th</sup> grade fall 2012 thru college age.

**Paid preschool workers** needed for Wednesday evenings, 6:45---7:15 PM. Potential candidates could work some or all of the available hours. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Apply in the church office with two references or contact Pastor Jerry at [Jerry.Frazier@grovetonbaptistchurch.org](mailto:Jerry.Frazier@grovetonbaptistchurch.org)

**Recyclables**

Thanks to all who brought in their Folgers Coffee Cans for the Sewing Guild Project. If you have one almost empty please bring that one in. We have almost made our goal. GBC came through again. Thanks,  
Mary Elizabeth Castles

**Needed for VBS—Start Saving Now**

- Empty (12oz) Gravy Jars with lids (need about 50)
- Aldi gallon milk jugs that have the 3" imprinted circles on 2 of the four sides of the jug

Put in East Hall mailbox shelf or give to Mary Elizabeth Castles.

**Birthday Celebrants**

February 1-15

1—Samuel Renzi

8—Kerry Nistle

3—Kelly Rains

9—Warren Trice

4—Glenn Corrie

11—Don Barnes

Bob Roby

Kyle Kitchen

Jacque Stone

12—Thomas Breedlove

5—Elizabeth Henry

14—William Briggs, Jr.

8— Bobby Main

15—Alexandra Jones

This list is compiled from resident church members and members of Adult Bible Fellowship and Sunday School. If your birthday does not appear---please send your date (including year) to [info@grovetonbaptistchurch.org](mailto:info@grovetonbaptistchurch.org)

**Attention Ladies**

**Enjoy: A Thirst-Quenching Look at Philippians** - by Tianne Moon is a video-based women's Bible study of the book of Philippians offering an enduring biblical perspective on the meaning and source of true joy. The study will begin Thursday, February 9, 2012 meeting weekly for six weeks 7:00 PM--8:30 PM. Preschool care for children under four is available at no cost. Individual study guides are \$12.00 and may be purchased at the first session. Register and sign up for childcare on the church website or your yellow *Connections Card* on Sundays. For more info contact Rita Nolan.

**Grow Closer: God Loves' Broken People** NorthStar Church Network Bi-annual Women's Conference featuring Sheila Walsh and Natalie Grant hosted by First Baptist Church Woodbridge, April 21, 2012. Early Bird tickets are \$39 (includes lunch) if purchased by March 19, 2012. Contact Tammy Defrees for group ticket purchase information.

**"We Get Letters"**



To the congregation of saints at Groveton Baptist Church. Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement you sent for mom's memorial service. Groveton Baptist was mom's church home and family for a large part of her life and held a special place in her heart. I especially want to thank you, Pastor Phil and Larry, for the visits and loving care you showed her in her last days and months.

She was a remarkable woman of faith whom I was blessed to have for my mother. Again, thank you for blessing her life.

In His love,

Karen Viar and family (Audrey's family)



To my church family. Thank you for all the cards, emails and personal expressions of sympathy in the passing away of my mom.

Frank Reeves

**Who I Am In Christ:**

I am God's vessel. 2 Timothy 2:2

## Committee Assignments

**February 5, 2012**

**Counters Group 1:** Larry Adams, Barbara Adams, Jake Kishter, Betty Kishter and James Craten

**Ushers Group 1:** Nancye Campbell and Gene Blough

**8:30 am Usher:** Dottie Becker and Craig Arndt

**Extended Teaching Care Workers Week 1:** Welcome Desk: Peggy Grimm; Bed Babies: Janice Pritchett and Rose Wick; 15 Months to 4 years: Joyce Hearst

**Deacon of the Week / Offertory Prayer:** Mike Cockayne

**Flower Committee:** Susan Canaday

**February 12, 2012**

**Counters Group 2:** Bill Bonner, Bonnie Rice, Inez Ming and Beverly Medlin

**Ushers Group 2:** Albert Shaner and Marjorie Shaner

**8:30 am Usher:** Shirley Flath and Nee Allison

**Extended Teaching Care Workers Week 2:** Welcome Desk: Stephanie Otley; Bed Babies: Joan Roby and Sue Poff; 15 Months to 4 years: Dale Cherry and Danese Jones

**Deacon of the Week / Offertory Prayer:** Vic Marshall

**Flower Committee:** Ange Petit-Freres

**Groveton Baptist Church**  
 (Southern Baptist Convention)  
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 Fax (703) 768-9165  
 e-mail: churchoffice@grovetonbaptistchurch.org  
 Web: www.grovetonbaptistchurch.org  
 6511 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306

### Attendance Record January 15, 2012

Sunday School	158	8:30 am Worship	70
		11:00 am Worship	141

### Attendance Record January 22, 2011

Sunday School	138	8:30 am Worship	59
		11:00 am Worship	104

### Our Giving Record

	December 2011	Fiscal Year to Date
Budget Goal:	\$49,333.00	\$ 443,997.00
YOU gave:	70,847.00	405,230.00
	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Given to Date</b>
Lottie Moon Offering:	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,020.90

**Our Mission Is To:**

**Love people into the Kingdom of God**

**Our Purpose Is To:**

**Help the people of our community become committed followers of Jesus Christ by...**

- **Reaching non-believers with the good news of the Bible**
  - **Honoring God through worship**
  - **Connecting with other believers**
    - **Growing in discipleship**
    - **Serving through His church**

**What's Inside**

**Pastor's Notes**

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**GBC**  
Groveton Baptist Church



Volume 53 No. 03 January 30, 2012

6511 Richmond Hwy.  
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## PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

Please enjoy this article by John Ortberg published sometime ago in Leadership.

My wife first introduced me to those initials. Nancy was a nurse when I first met her. There were many parts of nursing for which she did not care. But she loved diagnosis. To this day there cannot be too many episodes of Grey's Anatomy or ER for her. (Oprah either, but that's another story.) She is constantly telling me her private diagnoses of people—even total strangers—based on their skin color. She can tell you how long you have to live if she gets a long look at your face and the light is good.

But of all the diagnoses I ever heard her discuss, FTT is the one that sticks in my mind. Those initials would go on the chart of an infant who, often for unknown reasons, was unable to gain weight or grow.

Failure to thrive.

Sometimes, they guess, it happens when a parent or care-giver is depressed, and the depression seems to get passed down. Sometimes something seems to be off in an infant's metabolism for reasons no one can understand, so FTT is one of those mysterious phrases that sounds like an explanation but explains nothing.

Failure to thrive.

I didn't know why it struck me as so unspeakably sad until I read Dallas Willard's *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, a book that has affected me more than any book other than the Bible, from which Dallas actually gets his best ideas.

Dallas writes that although we have tended to think of the