

ELDERS AND DEACONS...

Elders / Board Meeting
March 11th
Tuesday—6 pm
[American Way Campus]



LADIES CIRCLES....

Dorcas Circle Meeting
March 11th
Tuesday – 10:30 am



Adelphai Circle Meeting
March 13th
Thursday - 6 pm

[All ladies are invited to participate in either or both circles.]

“BUTTERBEAN AUCTION”



March 18th
Tuesday—1 pm

Everyone invited!



[For more information about the “Butterbean Auction” and /or to donate items, you may contact “Butterbean Auctioneer” Lisa Darnell at (423) 782-0963]



**“POT LUCK”
FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

March 26th
Wednesday – 6 pm

[If able, please bring food, desserts, and drink items to share.]

MISSIONS QUOTE

“Where Christian men and women are prepared to take up and carry forward and commission of the obedient and suffering servant, the issue is not in doubt: The nations will come to His light”.

[by F.F. Bruce, 1910-1990; in
The Spreading Flame, 1958, p. 418]



MISSIONS UPDATE

The current GCC portfolio of missions support includes 14 missions. Five are supported monthly and nine are supported on a rotating basis throughout the year. In addition, several other local ministries are regularly supported throughout the year.

During the months of January and February, GCC has participated in the yearly Agape Women's Services "Sanctity of Life Outreach". AWS is one of our five monthly supported missions. At the evening service on Sunday, February 23rd, AWS representative Candace Bennett shared an update about their work in Johnson City. By God's grace AWS is making a huge impact by extending the love of God to soul-searching women and men regarding unplanned pregnancies. Through AWS the lives of babies are being saved and committed into the care of parents who made the Biblical decision to love their child even as they are loved by God. And God's love is being demonstrated by AWS from pre-natal to post-natal care. Bible studies are offered, counseling is provided, resources are offered, and support is extended to everyone God leads to the AWS staff and facility.

At the February 23rd service, GCC was blessed to donate an SUV-sized load of baby clothes, diapers, blankets, etc. to the AWS ministry. In addition, 23 \$-filled baby bottles were included. GCC is grateful to Suzanne Jeter for organizing GCC's participation.

Also in February, Jeff Arrington and Tony Tipton reported that the Sullivan County "1200 Bars of Soap" inventory is presently 222 bars... 978+ to go! Kay Cook reported that 186 individual snack items were delivered to the Ballad-HV "Hospitality Snack Cart". Lysol / Clorox wipes are being held in inventory until needed by Andrew Johnson School.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Christian education opportunities are available across the full range of GCC ministry programming. Those include the following:

SUNDAYS

- Adult Sunday School (10 am)
- Morning Worship (11 am)
- Children's Church (11 am)
- Evening Worship (6 pm)
- Grace Cadets (6 pm)

WEDNESDAYS

- S.A.L.T. Bible Study (6 pm)
- Grace Cadets (6 pm)

The next big event on the Grace Cadets calendar is "The Easter Egg-Stravaganza" on Saturday, April 19th at 1 pm. Karen Cradic, Children's Director, has planned a fun-filled afternoon featuring an Easter Egg Hunt, devotion, and refreshments. Young people are encouraged to invite schoolmates, friends, and neighbors.

For the Easter Egg Hunt, we will begin receiving donations of candy and trinket items on Sunday, March 9th. Thanks ahead of time for your help. In addition, Karen will need adult volunteers to assist. If you are interested and available, please contact Karen at church or via the contact information listed in the "Grace Cadets News" column.



GRACE CADETS NEWS

In Grace Cadets, we are continuing our study of couples in the Bible. The children have especially enjoyed learning about Bible characters that are new to them, and how those men and women worked together to share God's love and spread the Gospel.

Our Easter Egg-Stravaganza will be on Saturday, April 19th at 1 pm. As always, we appreciate the donations of candy and trinkets to go inside the plastic Easter eggs. Thank you for your generosity in providing a good outreach for our children's program and church.

Contact Karen Cradic for more info:

Home Phone #423-245-4273

Cell # 423-367-4756

Email: cradicbkaren@gmail.com

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 13th
(Sunday – 11 am) PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
[Sermon – “Palm Sunday: ‘The Lazarus Factor’”]
(John 11:47-57; 12:1-2. 9-19)
- April 16th
(Wednesday – 1 pm) EASTER EGG STUFFING
[NOTE: No S.A.L.T., Bible Study]
- April 17th
(Thursday – 6 pm) MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
[Special Music by Cody Shivers]
- April 19th
(Saturday – 1 pm) EASTER Egg-STRAVAGANZA
[All Children Invited]
- April 20th
(Sunday – 10 am) EASTER BREAKFAST
[Biscuits – plain, w/sausage, w/ bacon – will be provided. A food sign-up sheet for additional items will be in the fellowship hall in April.]
- April 20th
(Sunday – 11 am) RESURRECTION DAY SERVICE
[Sermon – “The Great (-est) ‘Impact Point’”
John 2:18-22 / John 12:12-16 / John 20:1-10, 19-21 / Acts 5:27-32]



GEMS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOREBEARS

“At the beginning and at the end of the road we travel is the process of our transformation in Christ... Every progress in our life means a higher stage in our being transformed in Christ and participants in His holy life. This life means love – charity unconfined and unending towards God and one’s fellow persons. The index to our transformation in Christ consists in the measure of our participation in His love for God and for men”.

[by Dietrich Von Hildebrand, 1889-1977;
In Transformation in Christ, 1948. Pp/ 481, 486]

graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our worship leaders for the month of February. Those included KATHY HAKES (Feb. 2), JAMIE ABERNATHY (Feb. 9), ROSE LANE (Feb. 16), and PAULA KEITH (Feb. 23). Much appreciation to these leaders for helping us begin Lord’s Day services proclaiming the faith we mutually share.
- Thanks to the GCC PRAISE TEAM for working hard throughout the month to prepare and share special music for our Sunday morning services. Selections for February were “Lead Me Lord” (Feb. 2), “How Can I Keep From Singing?” (Feb. 9), “Be Strong” (Feb. 16) and “Keeper and Sustainer” (Feb. 23). The Praise Team’s commitment to the ministry of music at GCC resonates weekly as we are blessed by their sounds of praise and worship. In addition, thanks to our musicians, LILY WISE, PIANIST and CINDY HARDEE, ORGANIST for sharing their God-anointed talents at the keyboards.
- Thanks to ROSALIE ARRINGTON for sharing her most excellent solo rendition of “Jesus Loves Me” on Sunday, February 2nd. What a great blessing to be led by our young people in word and song.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF DEBBIE CHURCH, sister of our Brian Depew. Debbie passed away on Thursday, February 6th at her home. She was 68. Debbie’s life was defined by serving the Lord through helping others, supporting domestic abuse victims, and mission work in Nicaragua. Her faith in Christ remained unwavering throughout her illness. Debbie is survived by her husband Bobby Church, brothers Kenneth Depew and Brian Depew, sister Janice Townsend, son David Stump, stepsons Kenny Stump and Michael Stump, stepdaughter Penny Cochran, extended family, and friends. May all of Debbie’s family find peace and comfort in the strong grip of God’s grace.

graceFULLY-noted, continued

- Thanks to VICKI CLEVINGER for leading our thoughts on “Service Appreciation Sunday” (Feb. 9). Her devotion on “A Cup Full of Appreciation” was creatively captured by the cups of treats and goodies distributed to the congregation by ROSALIE ARRINGTON and MAKAYLAH GARNER.
- Thanks to CANDACE BENNETT for sharing a wonderfully inspiring update / report about the work of Agape Women’s Services. GCC is so blessed to be a partner with the noble work of AWS as they literally save lives, extend the love of God, and share the saving grace of Jesus. Thanks to ONE & ALL for a generous outpouring of support during these weeks of filling 23 baby bottles with \$ and donating a huge collection of baby clothes, blankets, diapers, etc. Candace’s SUV was full to the brim. Special thanks to SUZANNE JETER for shepherding GCC’s participation in the AWS “Sanctity of Life Outreach”. Her inventory, organization, and display of the items was so helpful to GCC and AWS.
- Thanks to the LADIES OF THE DORCAS AND ADELPHAI CIRCLES for helping with several sick and shut-in food needs throughout the month of February. Their preparation and delivery of these meals is a wonderful way to share the love of Christ in our family of faith.
- Thanks to BOBBY & KAY COOK, TONY & KAYE TIPTON, WAYNE & LISA DARNELL, PHYLLIS JACKSON, JANICE HILL, JANICE COBB, LOIS STARNES, KITTY BEVERLY, ROSE LANE, and NYKI BRIGGS for meeting various transportation and home assistance needs during the month of February. Their service is so much appreciated in these times of extraordinary challenges for so many.
- Thanks to KAYE TIPTON for keeping our floral décor in the sanctuary always fresh, changing, and seasonally apropos.
- Thanks to GARY BEVERLY, PATTY TURNER, and ROSE LANE for their assistance with the February newsletter folding, stuffing, stamping, and labeling. Teamwork gets it done!
- Thanks to LARRY MOORE and GARY BEVERLY for braving the cold and snow to repair the Oakdale House heat pump. Also thanks to Larry for replacing the timer mechanism that controls the parking lot lights. And all God’s people sang, “Stepping in the light...”.
- Thanks to GARY BEVERLY for his oversight of all the contractor quotes to replace the flat roof at the East Sevier location. For insurance purposes the life of the flat roof has expired and must be replaced this year. Vanderpool Roofing has already begun work and will be finished in a few days. Special thanks to one and all for so much generosity through tithes and offering in a season of increased expense.
- Numerous GCC VOLUNTEERS are attending to a multiplicity of ministry needs month to month week to week and day to day. Many thanks to the following for “Keeping on keeping on”:
 - Lisa Darnell [Adelphai Circle Leadership / Butterbean Auction]
 - Vicki Clevinger [Praise Team Director / Worship Leader / Adelphai Circle Leadership]
 - Lois Starnes [Dorcas Circle Leadership]
 - Janice Hill [Dorcas Circle Leadership / Adult Sunday School]
 - Henry Funkhouser [Adult Sunday School]
 - Wayne Darnell, Tony Tipton, Joie Kerns [House & Grounds Exterior]
 - Larry Moore & Gary Beverly [House & Grounds Interior and General Maintenance]
 - Kaye Tipton [Interior / Exterior Flowers]
 - Jennifer Starnes [Missions Board]
 - Jamie Abernathy, Jordan Arrington, Kitty Beverly [Tech Team Support]
 - Brian Brooks [Webmaster]
 - Kay Cook, Robert Thompson, Jeff Arrington [Local Missions item inventory and delivery]

.... In addition, thanks without end to our always faithful church staff (paid and unpaid) who provide leadership in the various ministries of the church:

- Kitty Beverly [Secretary, Administration, Media Arts]
- Karen Cradic [Children’s Director]
- Ethel Busick [Outreach / Inreach Assistance]
- Vicki Clevinger [Music Ministry Leadership]
- Lily Wise [Pianist]
- Cindy Hardee [Organist]

Welcome Rebecca Phillips!

A big GCC welcome is extended to Rebecca Phillips as she assumed the bookkeeping responsibilities of GCC beginning on Tuesday, February 18th. Kitty Beverly has been our acting bookkeeper for several years, along with all the other responsibility of church administration. The growing needs of the church have made administration and

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bookkeeping together a task so large that the time has arrived to separate the responsibilities. Rebecca comes to us with over 20 years of experience in local church secretarial, clerical, and financial support ministry. GCC is blessed to have her join our staff.

- Thanks to the entire GCC FAMILY OF FAITH for exemplary commitment to a Christian brotherhood and sisterhood mutually serving Christ and each other to the glory of God. As the hymn expresses....
“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above”.

To GCC:

First of all, I want to thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the great life that He gave Sandy and myself together.

To the members and friends of Grace Christian Church, I would like to say “thank you” for the prayers, cards, calls, flowers, and visits.

To Ethel Busick, thank you for your many calls and sending Sandy a card every week.

Ed, thank you for visiting Sandy every week for the last seven or eight months. Ed, your prayers and words to Sandy and myself were such a blessing. Sandy always loved it when “Little Eddie” (Sandy has called Ed that since he was in our Youth Group) came to visit.

May God Bless All of You,

Bob

