

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE together for 2022, let us redouble our commitment to trusting in and relying on Jesus. No other New Year's resolution is feasible or viable until it is first resolved: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding"* (Prov. 3:5).

That's ALL,

Ed

ELDERS AND DEACONS...

Elders Meeting

January 11th
Tuesday—6 pm

Board Meeting

January 11th
Tuesday—6:30 pm

[Both Meetings at the American Way Campus]

LADIES CIRCLES....

Dorcas Circle Lunch at The Chop House

January 11th
Tuesday—11 am (weather permitting)

Adelphai Circle

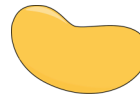
January 13th
Thursday—6 pm

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



“BUTTERBEAN AUCTION”

January 18th
Tuesday—1 p.m.



Everyone invited!

[For more info, contact “Butterbean Auctioneer” Lisa Darnell at (423) 782-0963]

CADETS' CORNER



All kids are invited to join our “Grace Cadets” in 2022! We currently have Children’s Church at 11 am on Sundays, and classes on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. We’re excited to see our classes growing and hope you will be a part of “Grace Cadets” in the new year!

GEMS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOREBEARS



“As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, unremembering delight, nor with the flight of impulsive thoughtlessness, but with the patient power of knowing that God will go before us. Our yesterdays present irreparable things to us,.... But God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ. Leave the irreparable past in His hands and step into the irresistible future with Him.”

[by Oswald Chambers, 1874-1917; in My Utmost For His Highest, 1935—Dec. 31st Entry, p. 272]

EDUCATION UPDATE

REVIEW....

The GCC Christian Education Committee is led by Thad Noto. Under his leadership we were able to resume most activities in 2021.. Those included the “Playing In the Sonlight” 1-Day VBS in July, the “Hullabaloo” in October, and the “Children’s Christmas Play” in December. Throughout 2021 the Adult Sunday School Class was taught by Carolyn Phillips. Janice Hill is currently subbing in that position as Carolyn recovers from surgery.

PREVIEW....

The Christian Education Committee is scheduled for a planning meeting in conjunction with the Membership Development Committee on Sunday, January 2nd, following the morning service. The “reviewed” items above, along with additional possibilities, will be discussed and, if possible, scheduled.

It is a prayerful pursuit that 2022 may offer additional opportunities to increase our Sunday School age/grade class offerings as well as increased attendance. Our current schedule for youth/teen and children’s ministry will continue in 2022. Children’s Church will be on Sunday mornings at 11 am. “Grace Cadets” [for children] will meet on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. “Root 2:7 Youth” [for teens] will meet on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 6 pm.

To inquire about educational class offerings or volunteer opportunities, you may contact the following:

- Thad Noto (423) 306-3866 thadnoto@yahoo.com
[Chr. Ed. Chair]
- Josh Lawson (423) 429-6930 joshapriltripp@yahoo.com
[Youth Minister]
- Elizabeth Winegar (423) 967-7366 winegarelizabeth@gmail.com
[Children’s Director]

MISSIONS UPDATE

REVIEW....

Throughout 2021 GCC continued supporting 13 missions—5 monthly and 8 on a rotating basis. In addition, the Ballad HC “Hospitality Snack Cart”, the Hope Haven “After-Church Lunch Hosting”, and the GNJPM “1000 Bars of Soap” Collection were continued throughout the year.

Several other mission projects were conducted in 2021. The Agape Women’s Services “Fill the Baby Bottle” Donation was held in February, the Hope House “Fill the Pew” Collection was held in October, and the Samaritan’s Purse “Christmas Child Shoeboxes” were filled in November.

Most recently the Hope Haven Christmas Party and the Roller-Russ Christmas Outreach were both held on Sunday, December 19th.

PREVIEW....

In January, GCC will collect socks for donation to Shades of Grace. A collection container is in the fellowship hall. Also, don’t forget that the “1000 Bars of Soap” Collection resumes again in January. We need another 1000 by the first of December, 2022. In February GCC will once again participate in the “Fill the Baby Bottle” Donation for Agape Women’s Services. The bottles will be available at the beginning of the month. Don’t forget to check out the mission bulletin board in the fellowship hall. This month’s feature mission is GRACE NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (Curt & Marci Floski).

MISSIONS QUOTE



“The process of movement toward (being) the missional church will be rooted and shaped by intense engagement with Scripture. It will subject all the church’s structures (and functions) to Biblical scrutiny”.

[by Darrell Guder in Missional Church, 1998, p. 247]

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING
AND
FELLOWSHIP MEAL**



January 26th
Wednesday
6 pm



Everyone is invited to bring food, drink, and dessert items to share.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Please mark your calendars now for our **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**, to be held on March 2nd at 6 pm.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please be reminded of our “Snow Schedule” plan in case of icy conditions:

If we are unable to have morning services due to snow or ice, we will post messages on Facebook, the church website, and the church answering machine.

If conditions allow, we will hold our service at 3 pm, since the sunshine usually melts the ice by that time and our “helpers” have time to clear the parking lot.

Grace Christian Church Family,

Want to Thank all of you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, during the time from April until this fall. I really appreciate all your concerns. The meals, flowers, visits meant so much to me.

I have learned from this past few months of not being able to do what I want—to be Thankful & Grateful for what I can do. I will never acquire patience but I am working on it.

Once again, Thank all of you.

May all of us be blessed with a much better 2022.

Thanks to my family for all they have done for me. I couldn't have made it without them. I love you dearly.

Thank You Ed & Vicki for your prayers and all you do for me.

Love to all of You,

In Christ,

Ethel Busick

graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our December worship leaders who helped us stay reminded that “Jesus is the reason for the season”. Those included KAY COOK (Dec. 5), LISA DARNELL (Dec. 12), ROSE LANE (Dec. 19), and PHYLLIS JACKSON (Dec. 26).
- Thanks to our GCC PRAISE TEAM for their wonderful selections of special music throughout the Christmas season. Those included “A Royal Nativity” (Dec. 5), “A Thousand Joys” (Dec. 12), and “I Call Him Lord” (Dec. 26). For the Children’s Christmas Play on Sunday, December 12th, the Praise Team provided back-up musical support complete with multiple ‘animal solos’ for the classic song “The Friendly Beasts”. On Sunday, December 19th, HOPE MCKINLEY and MARCIA PHILLIPPE shared beautiful renditions of special music. Hope sang “Mary Did You Know?” with Praise Team accompaniment and Marcia sang an acapella version of “O Holy Night”. Much appreciation to Hope and Marcia for sharing their musical gifts on Christmas Sunday.
- Throughout the Sundays of Advent our Praise Team Leaders, including VICKI CLEVINGER, LILY WISE, KAY COOK, and PATTY TURNER have worked double time to plan, prepare, and lead practices. Lily has spent hours each week practicing the dozens of musical selections that have been included for the last month. Blessing upon blessing to our wonderful Praise Team for faithfully proclaiming the “Good News” in song.
- Thanks to VICKI CLEVINGER for sharing on Sunday, December 5th, a creative and enlightening lesson on “God Bless Us Everyone”. Her expertise in Dickensian Literature deepened our understanding of the 1843 Victorian culture expressed in A Christmas Carol. Moreover, it helped us translate the same for spiritual application today.
- Thanks to ELIZABETH WINEGAR and the GRACE CADETS for their most excellent Children’s Christmas Play on Sunday, December 12th. This year’s play was entitled “‘Itter-Bits’ of Christmas”. The cast included children, youth, and adults. The children and youth were EMMA BUSICK, BRYLEE CORDELL, ROBERT STANLEY, SAWYER COBB, SAWYER STANLEY, EDWARD THOMPSON, ALYSSA FLORES, EMILEAH STANLEY, and ROSALIE ARRINGTON. Adult participants included BOBBY COOK, THAD NOTO, LILY WISE, and the GCC PRAISE TEAM. Shout-outs to Elizabeth for weeks of working hard to get everything scripted, organized, propped, practiced, and presented.
- Thanks to EVERYONE for making our “All-Church Christmas Party” on Sunday, December 12th so full of food, fun, and fellowship.
- Thanks to JEFF ARRINGTON, TONY TIPTON, WAYNE DARNELL, and BOBBY COOK for loading the 1000+ bars of soap collected throughout 2020 for the Sullivan County Jail Ministry “Christmas Treat Bags”. Jeff delivered the soap on Wednesday, December 15th to the treat bag assembly location at Discovery Church in Bristol, TN.
- Thanks to TONY TIPTON, WAYNE DARNELL, BOBBY COOK, GARY BEVERLY, and KITTY BEVERLY for setting up the Poinsettia Tree in the sanctuary. Gary and Kitty arranged all the poinsettias on Friday, December 19th. Much appreciation to all the POINSETTIA DONORS for sharing their memorial and honorary plants to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas.
- Thanks to the ADELPHAI CIRCLE for sponsoring the Hope Haven “After-Church Christmas Party” on Sunday, December 19th. The residents were profoundly blessed by a wonderful meal, new shirts, and loving hospitality. Much appreciation to the Adelphai Ladies for extending the best of Christmas giving and serving. In addition, several DONORS gave financial assistance to help the outreach. We are thankful for their generosity.
- Thanks to ROSE LANE, VICKI CLEVINGER, PHYLLIS JACKSON, ETHEL BUSICK, JULANA MCCLELLAN, GARY BEVERLY, and KITTY BEVERLY for providing a Christmas Party for the Roller-Russ House residents on Sunday, December 19th. Food was served, crafts were made, and gifts were given for a wonderful evening of sharing with longtime friends. Special thanks to ROSE LANE for making sure each resident had a personalized gift, to RUTH ADKINS for quilting each resident his/her own custom one-of-a-kind blanket, and to several DONORS who provided financial assistance. The residents were filled with gratitude and joy. Much appreciation to one and all for sharing. Also many thanks to the Roller-Russ residents for welcoming us into their home and lives.

graceFULLY-noted, continued

- Thanks are extended to so many who enthusiastically participated in leading the December Sundays of Advent as well as the Christmas Eve Service. A host of candle lighters, scripture and script readers, devotion sharers, poem reciters, vocalists, etc. helped make the season spiritually rich. Participants included GARY BEVERLY, PHYLLIS ARRINGTON, ELIZABETH WINEGAR, JULANA MCCLELLAN, JENNIFER STARNES, KAYE TIPPON, HENRY FUNKHOUSER, LISA DARNELL, LILY WISE, GARY PRICE, BRAD HUGHES, CHERISH HUGHES, KATIE CLIFTON, PATTY TURNER, VICKI CLEVINGER, WAYNE DARNELL, BOBBY COOK, BRYLEE CORDELL, TAMARA PRICE, and KAY COOK. Special thanks to KITTY BEVERLY for capturing the “just right mood” of every service via media arts. It was a major factor in our Christmas worship. To be sure, it is a major factor all the time—yes, an irreplaceable asset to worship each Sunday.
- Thanks to the staff and children at KINDERCARE for donating another abundant supply of canned / boxed food items to help us help others. Their donation enabled us to assist in stocking the food reserves at Hope Haven. The items were picked up and delivered on Wednesday, December 22nd. Our KinderCare Friends are the best.
- Prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF TERESA DENNISON. Teresa passed away on Thursday, December 23rd at Bristol Regional Medical Center following a period of declining health. She was 62. Our own Jim Dennison and all the family are lifted up in prayer by the GCC family of faith. May God’s peace and comfort fill their lives in this difficult season.
- Thanks to LISA DARNELL for planning, organizing, and hosting the “Butterbean Auction” all year long. The most recent one was Tuesday, December 21st. Lisa is an auctioneer par excellent!
- Prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF ELMO JOHNSON. Elmo passed away in Beaufort County, South Carolina on Tuesday, December 28th. He was 74. Elmo and Delsie were an integral part of GCC. Elmo served as a deacon and sang in the sanctuary choir. His life was well-lived as a consummate gentleman in all things. He was a successful businessman and business owner across multiple venues of entrepreneurial endeavor. Elmo was a decorated veteran of the armed forces, faithfully serving his country in Viet Nam. Of course, the defining characteristic of his life was Christian faith. Delsie and the entire Johnson Family are lifted up in prayer by the GCC family of faith. May God’s peace and comfort fill their lives in this difficult season.
- Thanks to ETHEL BUSICK for her service throughout the year as Outreach Assistant. Her visits, calls, cards, flowers, food, etc. strengthen the connections to and in our community of faith. We are grateful to Ethel for her labor of love, much of it in 2021 continued even while recovering from her own surgery.
- Thanks to a host of S.A.L.T. BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPANTS who bring food, snack, and dessert items to share every Wednesday evening. This added feature to our mid-week gatherings is a great bonus for our fellowship.
- Thanks to our TECH TEAM QUARTET who faithfully keeps the GCC technology support engaged and running smoothly. KITTY BEVERLY prepares and operates the weekly “PowerPoint”, JOSH LAWSON gives us “ears to hear” via audio, VICKI CLEVINGER gives us “eyes to see” via video, and THAD NOTO is our Webmaster who keeps GCC “present and accounted for” on-line. We are blessed to have this astute technology team.
- Thanks to JOIE KERNS for keeping our walkways free and clear of debris. His efforts are much appreciated.
- Thanks to BOBBY COOK for providing transportation to and from church, often multiple times a week. His servant’s heart to minister in this way has blessed numerous souls who may not otherwise be able to attend.
- Thanks to JENNIFER STARNES for keeping our mission bulletin board rotating w/ feature missions. Her efforts to help us be reminded and educated about our missions program is a great contribution to our spiritual life.
- Thanks to SHIRLEY NICHOLS who donated a wheelchair to GCC. Her kind gesture is so much appreciated.
- Thanks and thanks again to all GCCers who are constantly “getting the job done” in ways no one sees or knows. Everything is done by someone at sometime in someway. All of the giving, serving, contributing, donating, helping, providing, etc. are forever appreciated.

