

being 'fugitives'. Their confidence comes from knowing that refuge in Jesus is ultimately and eternally "protected by the power of God through faith for salvation" (I Peter 1:5). Their confidence will be nurtured, supported, and encouraged by gathering with fellow Christian refugees in celebration and witness of the refuge they have found. Thus, 'being the church' comes full circle as Jesus' refugees share His life with each other and welcome others to His refuge.

Grace Christian Church has truly engaged 'being the Church' in that sense and it is a wonderful glimpse of the Kingdom. That glimpse appears to those who are lost in a world of alien disconnect and who are longing for a refuge of nurture, support, and encouragement as a 'diamond in the rough,' an 'oasis in the desert,' or 'a light in the darkness.'

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE together, please know that the family dynamic prevailing in our midst is full of heart-healing, life-lifting, and soul-strengthening for many. The Holy Spirit flows through the same to extend and apply the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks for "BEING THE CHURCH" as faithful refugees sharing and proclaiming, "The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble" (Ps. 46:1).

Fleeing to Jesus,  
*Ed*

### ELDERS AND DEACONS...

**Elders Meeting**  
May 10th  
Tuesday—6 pm

**Board Meeting**  
May 10th  
Tuesday—6:30 pm

[Both Meetings at the American Way Campus]

### LADIES CIRCLES....

**Dorcas Circle**  
May 10th  
Tuesday—10 am  
Lunch afterward at Italian Village

**Adelphai Circle**  
May 12th  
Thursday—6 pm

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

### "BUTTERBEAN AUCTION"

May 17th  
Tuesday—1 p.m.



\*Everyone invited!\*

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

*Dear Friends at GCC,*

*Thank you for your support in the loss of my brother, Aubrey.*

*It has been hard losing my baby brother. He was my "rock" during Marlin's illness and always kept me strong in my faith. Like Marlin, he served the Lord until God called him home.*

*I love each one of you dearly.*

*Karen*

## MAY DAYS to remember...

### “My Cup Runneth Over” Ladies Spring Tea

May 7th  
Saturday—1-3 pm

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Speaker—Dr. Angela Patteson

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\*All ladies invited\*  
[Wear your favorite hat!]

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### Mother’s Day

May 8th  
Sunday—11 am

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Sermon—”The Miriam Model”  
(Ex. 1:15-2:10 / 15:1-2a, 20-21)

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### Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 22nd  
Sunday—11 am

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Congrats to our GRADS!

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### Memorial Day—observed

May 29th  
Sunday—11 am

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Sermon—”Patriots: American and Kingdom”  
(Hebrews 12:1-4)

## GEMS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOREBEARS

“For all together we are God’s temple and individually we are each a temple. When our heart rises to Him, it is His altar... We sacrifice to Him the sacrifice of humility with the fire of fervent love”.

[by Augustine 354-430 A.D.; from City of God, 426 A.D., 10.3.19]

## MISSIONS UPDATE

The missions (and Christian Education) emphasis for April was the “EGG-Stravaganza” on Saturday, April 16th. There were 17 young people who participated in the day’s activities. The Adelphai Circle prepared the baskets that included a ‘resurrection message’. Janice Cobb, Rose Lane, Vicki Clevinger, and Gary & Kitty Beverly provided assistance. Elizabeth Winegar, Children’s Director, planned and coordinated everything.

The “After-Church Lunch” for Hope Haven residents was held on Sunday, April 24th. The hosts were Lisa Darnell and Kaye Tipton with assistance from Wayne Darnell, Tony Tipton, Gary Beverly, and Henry Funkhouser.

Donations of items for the Ballad-HV “Hospitality Snack Cart”, the AJS “Clorox / Lysol Wipes Supply”, and the Sullivan County Jail Ministry” 1000 Bars of Soap” continued in April

GCC continues to monetarily support 5 missions on a monthly basis and 8 on a rotating basis. In addition, the aforementioned local missions receive various kinds of monthly support. Of course all of our missions are regularly supported by prayer.

The missions bulletin board in the fellowship hall continues as a primary means of missions education, publicity, and update. The April feature was our “Easter EGG-Stravaganza” that included both an education and missions emphasis. Jennifer Starnes keeps the missions board current and creative.

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### \*MISSIONS QUOTE\*

“The real missionary is God’s own Spirit who, in His own way and time, uses us as He will our faltering witness.”  
[by Lesslie Newbigin, 1909-1998; from A Word in Season, 1994, p. 39]

## CADET’S CORNER



The Grace Cadets theme for the month of May is “Blooming for Jesus.” We will be talking about ways that we can grow closer, and becoming better Christians.

For more information about our growing children’s program, please contact Elizabeth Winegar [Children’s Director] - (423) 967-7366 or winegarelizabeth@gmail.com



## YOUTH ACTIVITY

All Teens and ‘Tweens (grades 4-8) are invited to a “Cookies and Crafting” Afternoon on Sunday, June 5th from 2-4 pm. You’ll enjoy a fun craft, delicious cookies, and the company of some good friends.

Think about who you would like to invite and be watching and listening for forthcoming details.



## graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our worship leaders for the month of April. Those include JOY ODUM (Apr. 3), MARCIA PHILLIPPE (Apr. 10), EDWARD THOMPSON (Apr. 17), and LISA DARNELL (Apr. 24). We so much appreciate their service to help us begin each Lord's Day focused on the great themes of our faith. A special shout out to EDWARD THOMPSON for practicing and preparing to lead the Easter Sunday response. Edward did a masterful job as the youngest to ever lead in that role! We are so proud of our Edward!
- Thanks to the GCC PRAISE TEAM for filling the Easter Season with special music to lift up the Name of our Risen Lord. Specials for April included "Sacrifice of Love", "Holy Is The Lamb", "He Lives" (Apr. 17), and "I Am The Resurrection" duet with Gary Beverly and Vicki Clevinger (Apr. 24). The Praise Team is led by VICKI CLEVINGER, LILY WISE-PIANIST, KAY COOK, and PATTY TURNER who select and organize music each week for Sunday evening practices. Unending thanks to the entire Praise Team for engaging the ministry of music with so much dedication and commitment.
- Thanks to a large cast of GCCers who led worship in various ways for our Good Friday Service on April 15th. The service was truly a soul-stirring centerpiece of the Easter week as we paused to consider "The Last 7 Words of Christ". The "7 Words" were led by PATTY TURNER, ROBERT THOMPSON, GAIL KERNS, GARY BEVERLY, JENNIFER STARNES, JIM DENNISON, and KAREN JAYNES. Musical medications were led by THE PRAISE TEAM, LILY WISE, VICKI CLEVINGER, and HOPE MCKINLEY. The Cross-Drapings were led by ROSE LANE and BOBBY COOK. TONY TIPTON led the opening response and JAMIE ABERNATHY led the closing prayer meditation. Grateful praise is extended to our Lord for anointing these participants in bringing together such a powerful service.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF AUBREY LINDSEY (Karen Jaynes' brother) who passed away on Saturday, March 26th in Texas City, TX. He was 73. His life was distinguished as a veteran of the United States Navy and by his greatest passion which was Christian music. His music ministry in the contemporary Christian band One Spirit and later with the Texas City Revelators bequested a decades-long legacy of Kingdom service that enriched churches, encouraged Christians, and saved souls. Aubrey's Christian character is 'writ large' in his entire family and carries on in his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. GCC lifts up in prayer Karen and her brother's wife, children, family, and friends. May they be filled with the peace and comfort of our Living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Prayers of praise are lifted for the Sunday, April 10th decision of MCKINLEY CALDWELL to place his membership with us at Grace Christian. We so much appreciate Mack's commitment to Christ and His love for the Church and the Word. Welcome, Mack, to the GCC family of faith.
- Thanks to the ADELPHAI CIRCLE for preparing the children's Easter baskets for the Saturday, April 16th "EGG-Stravaganza". Also, thanks to all the CANDY DONORS who enabled the filling of 500 eggs to hide. All the work and preparation was well worth it with a showing of approximately 10 children, 7 teens, and a large number of parents. Much appreciation to ELIZABETH WINEGAR for preparing and directing the event and to VICKI CLEVINGER for providing a special activity for the teens. Also thanks to JANICE COBB, ROSE LANE, and GARY & KITTY BEVERLY for assisting with everything to make it a wonderfully fun day for our young people.
- Thanks to EMMA BUSICK and BRADY DAVIDSON for their most enthusiastic service to distribute to the entire congregation copies of The Case for Easter on April 16th, Easter Sunday.
- Thanks to the WORKDAY HELPERS who did a "Spring Cleaning" of the church on Saturday, April 16th. Those included ROSE LANE, KAREN JAYNES, LISA DARNELL, JULANA MCCLELLAN, and TONY & KAYE TIPTON.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF CONNIE MONDAY (Mother of Lisa Keller and grandmother of Christopher Keller). Connie passed away on Tuesday, April 26th at her home. She was 82. Connie and her family have a long history with Grace Christian Church going back to the 1970's. Connie was a choir member and especially loved singing for the Christmas Cantatas. She spent her career as a local business woman and entrepreneur, specializing in women's fashion and apparel. Her business success was an extension of the McAninch Family tradition of starting and operating numerous Kingsport businesses including the Garden Basket, the McAninch Store, and the McAninch Apartments. Business was in Connie's blood. She was a wonderful mother to Lisa and grandmother to Chris, who provided impeccable care for her at home for years. Lisa has asked us to convey her thanks to all of you who have reached out and extended condolences to Chris and herself. They greatly appreciate the outpouring of support. She asked that we keep both of them in our prayers as they face the days ahead. GCC lifts up in prayer Lisa, Chris, and Connie's entire family. May they be filled with the peace and comfort of our Living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## graceFULLY-noted—continued

- Thanks to KAYE TIPTON and LISA DARNELL for hosting the “After-Church Lunch” for Hope Haven residents on Sunday, April 24th. Much appreciation to them for extending the love of Christ in Christian hospitality, Also thanks to TONY TIPTON, WAYNE DARNELL, GARY BEVERLY, and HENRY FUNKHOUSER for graciously assisting with the meal.
- Thanks to BOBBY COOK for his servant’s heart to provide transportation multiple times a week to the Hope Haven residents. His on-going commitment to offer this ministry is a huge help to GCC, Also thanks to GARY BEVERLY and HENRY FUNKHOUSER for assisting Bobby while he was out of town and at the hospital with his wife.
- Thanks to the ADELPHAI CIRCLE for sponsoring the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 17th. Much appreciation to all for bringing breakfast food items to share. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing together.
- Thanks to JEFF & PHYLLIS ARRINGTON for helping with meals and visitation. Their outreach is so helpful and much appreciated.
- Thanks to ETHEL BUSICK for continuing to manage the outreach ministry of calls, cards, and contacts. Her work to keep us connected is serving the GCC family of faith wonderfully well.
- Thanks to BRIAN BROOKS / CLEAN EXPRESS for cleaning our sanctuary carpet. It looks great, smells fresh, and furnishes our sanctuary with the feel of new carpet.
- Thanks to TONY TIPTON, WAYNE DARNELL, and DAVID HALL / HALL EXCAVATING for all the hard work to renovate and refurbish the lawn and landscape area around the church sign. The work is continuing, but the hardest part is done. David’s excavation of the area with his equipment to extract stumps, roots, and bushes saved weeks of labor. Thanks without end to David.
- Also be sure to thank now, all year long, and ahead of time, Tony and Wayne as they have once again commenced the 2022 season of mowing, trimming, pruning, and mulching. The lawn and grounds of 2 GCC campuses involve hours of work each week throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Tony and Wayne’s servant’s hearts have saved us many dollars.
- Thanks to GARY BEVERLY for completing plumbing work on the Oakdale resident house. GCC is so blessed by Gary’s constant attention to church needs big and small.
- Thanks to JOIE KERNS for being so diligent to keep the GCC walkways and entryways clean and debris-free each and every week.
- Thanks to all the S.A.L.T. Bible Study CHEFS, BAKERS, and CULINARY ARTISTS who weekly share food, snack, dessert, and drink items for our fellowship time. It is a wonderful bonus for our mid-week gatherings.
- Thanks to KITTY BEVERLY for her labor of love to keep our worship services supported by creative graphic arts. Her work supplies a visual component that enhances the tone, mood, flow, cadence, and impact of our weekly worship experience. Be sure to express your appreciation to that lone figure high up in the balcony.
- Thanks to JAMIE ABERNATHY for helping keep the GCC Praise Team ‘audio-teched’ for special music. Sometimes she is that 2nd figure high up in the balcony. Be sure to thank Jamie.
- Thanks to our delivery people who distribute items collected for mission projects. KAY COOK & PATTY TURNER deliver snack items to the hospital, ROBERT THOMPSON delivers antibacterial wipes to Johnson School, and JEFF ARRINGTON counts, stores, and delivers soap collected for the Sullivan County Jail Ministry.
- Thanks to our Adult Sunday School teachers CAROLYN PHILLIPS and JANICE HILL, for their dedication to our Sunday School program. Their hours of preparation are very much appreciated.
- Thanks to THAD NOTO who serves as our webmaster, lending his technical expertise to our website and social media pages. Thad delivers an accessible, informative online presence for GCC.
- Thanks to JENNIFER STARNES for keeping GCC missions-minded and missions-reminded through her creative displays in the fellowship hall. Be sure to thank Jennifer and check out the bulletin board.

