

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE together, let us pause on February 14, 2023, to remember “Syracuse’s Valentine” a century ago. Again, Syracuse got it right because Paul Kyser got it right. But know why Paul Kyser got it right? Yes, he was a Christian. Paul was simply but profoundly following the One who got it right for us all. Jesus Christ stretched out His arms on a cross and said, “I love you this much.” Got love? If not, just follow Paul Kyser up the tracks from his railroad ‘crossing’ until you get to the †.

Blessed Valen†ines,

Ed

ELDERS AND DEACONS...

Elders / Board Meeting
February 13th [a change]
Monday—6 pm
[American Way Campus]

LADIES CIRCLES....

Adelphai Circle Meeting
February 9th
Thursday - 6 pm

Dorcas Circle
February 14th
Tuesday - 11 am
[No meeting; Lunch at Cheddar’s]



“VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY”

February 12th
Sunday – 11 am



“BUTTERBEAN AUCTION”

February 21st
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]

**“JOURNEY TO EASTER”
SERVICE**

February 22nd
6 pm



“THE BROTHERS THREE” GOSPEL MUSIC

with
Alan Greer
Jim Lumpkins
Jefph Campbell

March 12th
Sunday – 6 pm

Save the Date!
Everyone Invited!





FELLOWSHIP MEAL

March 29th
Wednesday – 6 pm



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

YOUTH, & EDUCATION UPDATE

The first month of 2023 has come and gone. Where did January go? As February arrives our Children's Church and Grace Cadets Program on Sunday and Wednesday evenings is spiritually prospering under the most excellent leadership of Karen Cradic. Karen joined the GCC staff in January as our Children's Director. An upcoming event on the Grace Cadet calendar is "Valentine Cookie Decorating" on Wednesday, February 8th at 6 pm. [For more info, see Karen's publicity below. Karen may be contacted at (423) 245-4273, (423) 367-4756, or cradicbkaren@gmail.com.]

The Adult Sunday School Class meets on Sunday mornings at 11 am. Janice Hill is the adult class teacher. The winter Standard Lesson Quarterly curriculum there is "From Darkness to Light".

In addition to Sunday School, don't forget that Christian education is a vital component of Sun. AM and Sun. PM services as well as the Wednesday S.A.L.T. Bible Study. Everyone is encouraged to engage these opportunities as a lifelong student of the Bible.



GRACE CADETS



The theme for the month of February for the Grace Cadets will be Love. Luke 10:27 says "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Love Him with all your strength and all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself".

We are studying God's word and hiding it in our hearts. The Cadets and I are getting to know one another as we study God's word and have fun along the way. We are also looking forward to Wednesday, February 8th; we will be decorating cookies for Valentine's Day.

I would like to say thank you to everyone here at GCC for the warm welcome and encouragement. I have left cards with all my information on the table in the fellowship hall, please feel free to take one and contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Home #: 423-245-4273

Cell #: 423-367-4756

Email: cradicbkaren@gmail.com

MISSIONS UPDATE

REVIEW...

GCC currently supports 11 missions – 4 monthly and 7 on a rotating basis. That is a change from 2022 as one of the rotating missions is being replaced. The new mission will be determined in the coming weeks.

On Sunday, January 8th, Lincoln Shelton and Philip Gray spoke for our evening service about the work of THRIVE Life Advancement Ministries. THRIVE is a life-coaching and counseling ministry to help individuals overcome obstacles on their life journey and move into Christlikeness.

Also in January, 42 pairs of gloves were delivered by Rose Lane to Shades of Grace for distribution to the homeless and displaced. In addition, GCC once again joined to participate in the Agape Women's Services "\$-Filled Baby Bottle Project". The bottles are due on Sunday, February 26th when AWS Director Beth Koszak will speak for our evening service.

Donations received in January for our regular local missions were as follows:

-86 individual snack items and a bag of mints were delivered by Kay Cook and Patty Turner to the Ballad Cancer Center;

-Jeff Arrington reports that 304 bars of soap for the Sullivan County Jail Ministry were received and are being stored at the American Way Campus; and

-Clorox / Lysol wipes are being collected for future delivery to Andrew Johnson School.

PREVIEW....

On Sunday, February 26th, Agape Women's Services Director Beth Koszak will speak for our evening service and receive the \$-filled baby bottles. Also being collected for AWS are items such as baby clothes, diapers, wipes, etc. Thanks ahead of time for participating in this sanctity of life event.

MISSIONS QUOTE

“Key images of the missional church are found in the Gospel’s descriptions of the people of God as ‘the salt of the earth’, ‘a light of the world’, and ‘a city set on a hill’. These images suggest that mission is not just what the church does; it is what the church is. Saltiness is not an action; it is the very nature of salt. Similarly, light or a city on a hill need not do anything in order to be seen. So too it is with God’s ‘people sent’. The visible, tasteable nature of their community is their missional purpose.”

[by Lois Barrett – “The Church As Apostle To The World”; chapter 5, p. 128 in Missional Church, Darrel Guder- editor, 1998]

graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our worship leaders for the month of January. Those included ROSE LANE (Jan. 1), KAYE TIPTON (Jan. 8), PATTY TURNER (Jan. 15), CHRIS BROWN (Jan. 22), and JAMIE ABERNATHY (Jan. 29) who helped us begin each Lord’s Day gathering with the testimony of our shared faith confessed to the glory of God.
 - Thanks to the GCC PRAISE TEAM for sharing their music ministry to set the tone for worship week after week. Special music for January included “Sing We Now of Christmas” with narration by Gary Beverly (Jan. 1), “Come Just As You Are” (Jan. 8), “I Love Thy Kingdom Lord” (Jan. 15), “Afflicted Saint To Christ Draw Near” (Jan. 22), and “Sing of His Love” (Jan. 29). The Praise Team is led by VICKI CLEVINGER, LILY WISE – PIANIST, KAY COOK, and PATTY TURNER. The hours of preparation and practice by the entire Praise Team are so much appreciated.
 - Thanks to RUTH ADKINS for sharing her inspirational words on Sunday, January 1st about “Being On Fire For Jesus in 2023”. It was the perfect testimony to commence the new year together.
 - Thanks to LINCOLN SHELTON and PHILIP GRAY w/ THRIVE Life Advancements Ministries for sharing with us on Sunday, January 8th their work to provide support and counseling resources for helping people overcome obstacles on their life journey and move into Christlikeness. May God richly bless and supply their work for the Kingdom.
 - Thanks to EVERYONE for donating 42 pairs of winter gloves to help Shades of Grace help the homeless and displaced. Special thanks to ROSE LANE for delivering the gloves on Monday, January 9th.
 - Thanks to the S.A.L.T. BIBLE STUDY CREW for staying late on Wednesday, January 18th to set up for the recent baby shower and fellowship meal. Great teamwork and job well done!
 - Thanks to the MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT and EDUCATION COMMITTEES for leading the joint meeting on Sunday, January 8th to plan the 2023 calendar of events. The meeting was blessed to have an outpouring of participants ready and willing to help.
 - In the past month the GCC family of faith has been deeply impacted by the passing of several members and member’s relatives. Prayers of condolence are extended for the following families:
 - THE FAMILY OF JODY WINEGAR. Jody passed away on Friday, December 30th. He was the husband of Elizabeth Winegar and father of Katelyn.
 - THE FAMILY OF MARY HOLMES. Mary passed away on Sunday, January 1st. Mary’s fulltime caregiver was Lorraine LeVar (daughter of the late James & Barbara LeVar).
 - THE FAMILY OF MCKINLEY CALDWELL. Mac passed away on Thursday, January 5th. His care and support was faithfully provided by Hope Haven Ministries (Joel Trigg, Director) and Andrea Robel of Asheville, NC.
 - THE FAMILY OF TERRIE BAILEY. Terrie passed away on Sunday, January 8th. She was the daughter of Jackie Bailey, sister of Renee Pertew and Alan Bailey, and mother of Daniel Kilgore.
 - THE FAMILY OF COOKIE BUSHONG. Cookie passed away on Saturday, January 14th. She was the wife of Jeff Bushong, mother of Amanda Morse, daughter of Marilyn Peters, Sister of Susie Rolen, Laurie Hill, and Randy Elam, and Sister-in-Law of Sharon Bushong, Sheila Shelton, and Greg Bushong.
 - THE FAMILY OF AUDRA HARMON. Audra passed away on Saturday, January 28th. She was the mother of Cindy Amyx and sister of Phyllis Arrington.
- GCC joins to support these 6 families with the encouragement that their loved ones live forever in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the times ahead for them be filled with His peace and comfort and may the Holy Spirit fill their hearts with faith victory.

graceFULLY-noted—continued

- Thanks to LISA DARNELL for her monthly leadership of the ‘Butterbean Auction’. Her preparation, organization, and “auctioneer-ation” create lots of fun and fellowship every third Tuesday. Also much appreciation to all those who continue donating items for auction.
- Thanks to ETHEL BUSICK for working to keep us “in touch”. Her calls, cards, and visits are a vital part of our outreach / inreach.
- Thanks to JANICE HILL for preparing and sharing most excellent lessons for our Adult Sunday School Class. Her faithfulness is a ‘God-send’. In addition, thanks to CAROLYN PHILLIPS for serving as Janice’s back-up and to HENRY FUNKHOUSER for ‘subbing’ on Sunday, January 8th.
- GCC prayers of grateful praise are lifted for the safe and healthy arrival of IRA JUDE SLUSS. Ira was born to parents Garrett & Sarah Sluss and to brother Garrison on December 14th. Ira is the grandson of Danny & Kim Hall and the great-grandson of our own Kay Hall. Thanks be to God that Baby Ira has been born to such a wonderful Christian family.
- Thanks to VICKI CLEVINGER and ROSE LANE for preparing, serving, and hosting the Hope Haven “After-Church Lunch” on Sunday, January 29th. Also, thanks to PATTY TURNER, BOBBY COOK, KAY COOK, KAREN JAYNES, ETHEL BUSICK, ANGIE VAN SELOW, CHRIS BROWN, TONYA BROWN, SAM PIERSON, and LILY WISE for helping host. The Christian hospitality extended each month by our hosts and hostess is a powerful witness and source of encouragement to so many who need the touch of Christian love and fellowship. Special thanks to BOBBY COOK for his transportation ministry extended multiple times a week to the Hope Haven residents. His servant’s heart to help in this capacity is a vital part of GCC’s support of Hope Haven and of residents’ opportunities to worship with us.
- Thanks to our team of ‘Local Mission Logisticians’ who serve monthly to inventory and transport donation items to various ministries. Those include KAY COOK and PATTY TURNER (Ballad HV ‘Hospitality Snack Cart’, ROBERT THOMPSON (AJS “Lysol / Clorox Wipes Supply”) and JEFF ARRINGTON (Sullivan Co. Jail Ministry “1200 Bars of Soap”). This team is so much appreciated for their ongoing commitment to serve. Also many thanks to one and all for constantly donating items. The items help us help others who help others.
- Thanks to JOIE KERNS for his weekly service to keep our walkway and entrance areas detailed and debris-free.
- Thanks to JENNIFER STARNES for keeping our missions bulletin board updated for our education and enlightenment about the GCC missions program. Her commitment is so much appreciated.
- Thanks to GARY BEVERLY for his remodeling work to partition the infant nursery for a new storage room. It is a much needed addition to accommodate our storage needs. Thanks without end to Gary for sharing his carpentry skills to serve GCC. His work now and always is a labor of love that blesses us all. [NOTE: The infant nursery will also be upgraded with new furnishings in the next several weeks. Watch, look, and listen for progress!]
- GCC congrats to BRENT FLORES, JR. who recently graduated with his welding certification from Northeast State Community College. Brent attained this certification prior to his high school graduation from Dobyns-Bennett which will be in May. He is one of a small number who literally completed a post-high school course of studies prior to high school graduation. In addition, he ran track and held down a 5-7 day a week job in the course of it all. Shout-outs to Brent for such an awesome accomplishment.
- Thanks to KAREN CRADIC for a wonderful January beginning to her ministry as the GCC Children’s Director. Karen is multi-tasking to provide age-graded curriculum and instruction simultaneously applied to multiple children within single-class sessions. Be sure to thank Karen for her leadership and to offer any needed assistance.
- Thanks to TONY & KAYE TIPTON for their mid-winter / pre-spring cleaning and sprucing up of our foyer and fellowship hall areas. Much appreciation for their commitment to Christ and His Church.
- Thanks to the GCC Tech Team for working every single week to ensure that our technology needs are met and that our services are supported. The team includes KITTY BEVERLY (PowerPoint design and operation), JAMIE ABERNATHY (PowerPoint back-up and audio support), VICKI CLEVINGER (Videography), and BRIAN BROOKS (Website administration and management). GCC is so blessed to have such a talented team sharing their skills for our weekly and yes, daily edification in Christ.
- Thanks to ONE & ALL for attending to everything big and small. Indeed, “there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit; varieties of ministries but the same Lord; varieties of effects but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (I Cor., 12:4-7). May Jesus Christ be praised!

GEMS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOREBEARS

“The Bible makes it very plain and clear that the whole essence of the Christian position is dependent upon the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what you call the ‘differentia’ of Christianity. That is the thing that separates the Christian faith from all other religions.... Christianity is Christ Himself. He is not only central, He is absolutely vital.... The Christian faith is entirely concerned about Him, who He is, what He has done, and what He has made available and possible for us.”

[by Martyn Lloyd-Jones, 1899-1981 – in God The Father, God The Son, 1996, pp. 245-246]

CARDS & LETTERS

*We deeply appreciate your expression of sympathy and love during this difficult time.
Your support means so much and will always be remembered.*

The Floski Family

*To the body of Christ at Grace Christian Church,
Your thoughtfulness was appreciated more than you know.
The family of Terrie Bailey wishes to thank the church for the use of the Fellowship Hall for
Terrie’ memorial on Sunday, January 22nd.*

The beautiful peace lily was so appreciated.

Renee Pertew, Jackie Bailey

