

In our Easter Week worship, four opportunities will be provided to participate in Communion – Palm Sunday morning, Palm Sunday evening, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to join these special services as we continue **GROWING IN GRACE together**. And don't forget that the 'togetherness' part is also a primary part of Communion. In fact, the word 'Communion' is derived from the KJV and RSV translations of the Greek word "Koinonia" used in I Corinthians 10:16. It can be translated 'communion, fellowship, or sharing.' So the Lord's Supper is partaken of by a community of faith engaged in a holy moment that is the ground zero of what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ. It bespeaks of a spiritual relationship that transcends all others. To be one in Jesus is a sacred trust owing to His prayer "that they all may be one" (John 17:21-22).

Praise be to God for the wonderful spirit of friendship, familyship, and fellowship that prevails at GCC. Let us attend to such with humblest gratitude and greatest care. It is a gift that necessitates our utmost regard. See you at His table.

In Koinonia,

*Ed*

### **ELDERS AND DEACONS...**

#### **Elders / Board Meeting**

April 11th  
Tuesday—6 pm  
[American Way Campus]

### **LADIES CIRCLES....**

#### **Dorcas Circle**

April 11th  
Tuesday – 10:30 am  
(followed by lunch at Riverfront)

#### **Adelphai Circle Meeting**

April 13th  
Thursday – 6 pm

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

### **"BUTTERBEAN AUCTION"**



April 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]



### **GEMS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOREBEARS**

"I know the resurrection is a fact and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified that they had seen Jesus raised from the dead; then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned, and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 Apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible".

[by Charles Colson, 1931 – 2012 – from Colson's "Watergate and The Resurrection"  
shared by John Stonestreet on Breakpoint.com (April 2, 2021)]

## MISSIONS UPDATE

GCC currently supports 12 missions – 4 monthly and 8 on a rotating basis. In addition, several other local missions are supported through donation of individual items. Those include the Ballard-HV Medical Center “Hospitality Snack Cart”, and the Andrew Johnson School “Clorox/ Lysol Wipes Supply”. Also individual bars of soap are being collected and held in inventory until December when they will be delivered to the Sullivan County Jail Ministry for inclusion in “Hope Bags” distributed to inmates.

The “After Church Lunch” for Hope Haven residents was hosted on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The next Hope Haven lunch hosting will be on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

GCC was blessed by a surprise visit from missionary Phil Parker on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Phil and his wife Michelle serve with Victory 44 Int’l, a refugee and international campus ministry at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, VA and Ramkampaena University in Bangkok, Thailand. It was a wonderful opportunity for GCC to pray with Phil for his return to the Far East.

## \*MISSIONS QUOTE\*

“Our task in the present is to live as ‘resurrection people’ in between Easter and the final day of our Christian life, corporate and individual – (and to do so) in both worship and mission, as a sign and foretaste of the Kingdom”.

[by N.T. Wright – in Surprised By Hope: Rethinking Heaven, The Resurrection, and The Mission of The Church, 2007]

## CHILDREN / YOUTH & EDUCATION UPDATE

Christian education opportunities are offered multiple times a week at GCC. Sunday School, Sunday AM and PM services. Wednesday S.A.L.T. Bible Study, Children’s Church, and the Sunday and Wednesday PM “Grace Cadets” program all include a primary emphasis on Bible study.

The adult Sunday School class is taught by Janice Hill. All children’s programs are taught, organized, and administrated by Karen Cradic, Children’s Director. Sunday AM and PM services as well as Wednesday S.A.L.T. Bible Study are led by Ed Clevinger, Minister.

Coming up on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> will be our “Easter EGG-Stravaganza” from 1-3 pm. All young people are invited and encouraged to bring a friend. A most “eggs-alent” time is guaranteed from one and all.

For more information about children / youth ministry at Grace Christian Church, you may contact Karen at (423) 245-4273, (423) 367-4756, or cradicbkaren@gmail.com.



## GRACE CADETS

Remember to invite your friends to the EGG-Stravaganza on April 8, 1-3 pm. Bring friends with you on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday nights, too! We have lots of fun exploring God’s Word.

Home #: 423-245-4273

Cell #: 423-367-4756

Email: cradicbkaren@gmail.com

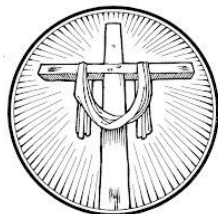


## **EGG-Stravaganza!**

**Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**1-3 pm**

**\*\*\*\*\*Crafts\*\*\*\*\*Games\*\*\*\*\*Egg Hunt\*\*\*\*\*Refreshments\*\*\*\*\***



## CELEBRATING “HE IS RISEN!” ...

- April 2 (Sun. – 11 am) – Palm Sunday Service
- April 2 (Sun. – 6 pm) – “Christ In The Passover” w/ Chosen People Ministries
- April 5 (Wed.) – No S.A.L.T. Bible Study
- April 6 (Thurs. – 6 pm) – Maundy Thursday Service
- April 7 (Fri. - 1 pm) – Preparation of “EGG-Stravaganza” plastic eggs
- April 8 (Sat. – 1 to 3 pm) – “EGG-Stravaganza”
- April 9 (Sun. - 10 am) – Easter Breakfast
- April 9 (Sun. - 11 am) – Easter Service
- April 9 (Sun.) – No Evening Service



## MAY DAYS ARE COMING, SO SAVE THE DATES...

### **“SISTERS IN CHRIST” LADIES TEA**

May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday – 1 pm

\*All Ladies Invited\*  
(More info to come)

### **MOTHER’S DAY**

May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, 11 AM

### **FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

May 31<sup>st</sup>  
Wednesday – 6 pm

[Please bring food, dessert, and drink items to share.  
And don’t forget to invite a friend or neighbor.]

### **GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday – 11 am

[Please let us know if you have a high school, college, or professional school graduate in your family. We would count it an honor to recognize them in our church family.]

## graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our worship leaders for the month of March who helped us commence each Lord's Day gathering with the right focus for worship. Those included JENNIFER STARNES (Mar. 5), KATHY HAKES (Mar. 12), BOBBY COOK (Mar. 19), and KAREN CRADIC (Mar. 26).
- Thanks to our PRAISE TEAM for sharing their ministry of music to set the tone of worship week after week. Special music for March included "We Bow Down" (Mar. 5), "Grace Alone" (Mar. 12), "Praise His Name" as a solo by Patty Turner (Mar. 19), and "Today" (Mar 26).
- Thanks to "THE BROTHERS THREE" including JEPH CAMPBELL, JIM LUMPKINS, and ALAN GREER for their gospel music concert on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Their trio harmony, musical selections, keyboard performance, and heartfelt conviction combined for a wonderfully blessed evening of worship at GCC. Being included in their schedule is so much appreciated. We look forward to a return visit hopefully in this year's calendar!
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF TERRY BOWERS. Terry passed away on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Ballad-HV Medical Center following a long period of declining health. He was 76. The theme of Terry's life was service. He served 3 years in the U.S. Army, 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, and 31 years as a security guard at HV Medical Center. That is a 54-year tenure in serving and protecting others in the likeness of Jesus. Terry is survived by his wife Shirley Puckett, son Randall Bowers, daughter Tammy Templeton and Elizabeth Campbell, 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 3 brothers, 3 sisters, and extended family and friends. Terry and Shirley were married at GCC on September 19, 2020. May the peace and comfort of our Risen Lord fill Terry's family for all the times ahead.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF ROY PETERS. Roy passed away on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Ballad-HV Medical Center following a brief period of declining health. He was 93. Roy was an exceedingly humble man who spent decades of life caring for his mother at home. He did so from the time following his military service in Korea all the way through a full career to retirement from the Kingsport Press. His enduring dedication is a wonderful example of Christlikeness. Roy is survived by sister Violeta Blankenship, nieces Pam Smith and Connie Baker, nephew Alan Marcum, and longtime exceptional friend and neighbor Shelby Lester. May the peace and comfort of our Risen Lord fill Roy's family for all the times ahead.
- GCC prayers of grateful praise are extended for the safe and healthy arrival of ELLA JUNE GARNER. Ella was born on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at Ballad-Bristol Regional Medical Center. Her parents are our own Cole and MaKaylah Garner. Her grandparents are our own Wayne and Lisa Darnell and Ritchie and Mary Carter Rose of Pulaski, TN. We rejoice in the miracle of new life beheld in Baby Ella and that God has delivered her to the care and nurture of such a loving Christian family. May God richly bless Cole, MaKaylah, and Ella – now a family of 3!
- Thanks to LOIS STARNES and JENNIFER STARNES for preparing and hosting the Hope Haven "After Church Lunch" on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Their Christian hospitality assisted by BOBBY COOK, KAY COOK, HENRY FUNKHOUSER, and SAM PIERSON, was a great blessing to the residents. Much appreciation for extending the love of Christ around the table. Special thanks to BOBBY COOK, GARY BEVERLY, and HENRY FUNKHOUSER for providing transportation to and from.
- Thanks to GARY BEVERLY for so diligently attending to the recent facility needs of our church properties. For March that included the City inspection of the back-flow pressure valve at the American Way campus, water heater replacement at the American Way Campus, gutter clean-out at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Oakdale house, and multiple insurance company property inspections for renewal quotes. All of these needs required lots of time scheduling, communicating, meeting, etc. So much appreciation to Gary for his willingness to see that very need was met.

## graceFULLY-noted, continued

- Thanks to the following ‘KEEPING ON KEEPING ON-ERS’ who are so faithful to continue serving in their ministries – yes, for the long haul:
  - LISA DARNELL [“Butterbean Auction” planner, organizer, and “auctioneer” on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays]
  - JANICE HILL [Adult Sunday School Teacher]
  - JENNIFER STARNES [Missions board designer and educator]
  - JOIE KERNS [Weekly detailing of church walkways and entryways]
  - KITTY BEVERLY [Tech Team – PowerPoint design / operation and Multi-Media Arts]
  - JENNIFER STARNES [Tech Team – audio support]
  - JAMIE ABERNATHY [Tech Team – PowerPoint back-up and audio support]
  - VICKI CLEVINGER [Tech Team – Videography]
  - BRIAN BROOKS [Tech Team – Webmaster]
  - ETHEL BUSICK [Inreach and Outreach Assistance]
  - BOBBY COOK [Transportation for Hope Haven Residents]
  - KAY COOK [Ballad-HV snack items inventory and delivery]
  - PATTY TURNER [Ballad-HV snack items inventory and delivery]
  - ROBERT THOMPSON [AJS Clorox / Lysol wipes inventory and delivery]
  - JEFF ARRINGTON [Bars of Soap inventory and storage]
- Thanks to PHIL PARKER w/ VICTORY 44 INT’L for worshipping with us on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> in preparation for returning to Thailand. Victory 44 is one of GCC’s long-supported missions. It was great to have Phil in our service and to pray with him on his return to the foreign ministry field.
- Thanks to CHRIS BROWN w/TOLLEY PAINTING for applying a fresh coat of paint to our exterior doors. They look great and we appreciate his most excellent work.
- Praise God for our GCC CHURCH FAMILY of brothers and sisters mutually supporting one another and mutually committed to serving Christ and His Kingdom. For now and always it’s for “Soli Deo Gloria”.

### CARDS & LETTERS

We have totaled up your church’s baby bottles and we are happy to share that Grace Christian raised \$641.69 this year! We are so thankful for your church’s support in this mission. Thank you for helping us honor the Lord as we love and serve well.

Thank you also for all of the amazing baby items that you collected! That will be such a blessing to the moms we serve. We appreciate you all so much!

Whitney (Agape Women’s Services)

*Thank you for the love you have shown by donating the baby items given with baby bottles. We can’t express how grateful we are for your continued friendship.*

*Agape Women’s Services*

*Church Family,*

*Thanks for all the prayers and the beautiful flower arrangement. It helped to brighten our day.*

*Roy Peters Family*

*&*

*Shelby Lester*