

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE together, let us be well-reminded that the Bible is not just a book to own or possess, but words that convey a message to be read, believed, endeared, applied, and shared. O that the Bible is not only the best-selling book of all time, but even more, the most read, best loved, and best lived book of all time. By the way, the BOMC primarily features contemporary fiction as their monthly selections. The Bible is the singularly peerless selection that is timeless and true every day, every month, every year, and every season always and forever. It is never just a book of the month; it is The Book of Life.

And all God's people sang, "*Sing them over again to me wonderful words of life....*"

Biblically,
Ed

ELDERS MEETING

April 14th
Tuesday—6 pm
[American Way Campus]



LADIES CIRCLES....

Adelphai Circle Meeting

April 9th
Thursday - 6 pm



Dorcas Circle Meeting & Lunch

April 14th
Tuesday – 10:30 am
[Lunch afterwards at Olive Garden]

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

THE ETERNALS In Concert at GCC

April 12th
Sunday – 6 pm



Be sure to invite family, friends, & neighbors!

BUTTERBEAN AUCTION

April 21st
Tuesday – 1 pm

[Everyone invited!]



[For more information about the "Butterbean Auction" and/or to donate items, you may contact Christian sisterhood. A special speaker will be announced in May.
"Butterbean Auctioneer" Lisa Darnell at (423)782-0963

"SPRING FLING"

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL

April 29th
Wednesday
6 pm

[Thanks for bringing food, dessert, and drink items to share.]
Everyone Invited!

LADIES SPRING TEA

May 16th
Saturday – 1 pm



All ladies are invited.

Feel free to wear your fanciest spring hats. The afternoon will include food, dessert, snacks, and of course, tea served in our glassware fineries. Be sure to save the date and join to share Christian sisterhood. A special speaker will be announced in May.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

May 17th
Sunday – 11 am

Please let us know if you have a high school, college, graduate school, professional school, vo-tech, or trade school graduate in your family. GCC would be honored to recognize them for their accomplishment. You may provide the above information at (423) 247-2691, office @gracechristiankingsport.com or via pew cards placed in the offering plate.

Also coming on the Sundays of May....

- May 10th – MOTHER’S DAY
- May 17TH – ASCENSION SUNDAY
- May 24th – PENTECOST SUNDAY
- May 31st – MEMORIAL DAY (observed)

MISSIONS UPDATE

The regular missions program at GCC continues with our support of 14 missions. Five are supported monthly and 9 on a rotating basis. In addition 3 local missions are regularly supported via donated items. The status of those for March is as follows:

- Kay Cook reported delivery of 315 individual snack items to the Ballard-HV “Hospitality Snack Cart”;
- Jeff Arrington reported that the “Bars of Soap” inventory for the Sullivan County Jail Ministry is 497 bars – 703 to go as we press on to 1200+; and
- Robert Thompson reports that 12 containers of wipes have been taken and 5 more are in the collection container pending delivery to Andrew Johnson School.

A special feature of the March missions calendar was the March 29th “Christ In The Passover” Demonstration led by Jews For Jesus Missionary Jacob Fruchtman. Jacob’s demonstration was full of educational insight and inspirational takeaways – the perfect beginning of The Passion Week.

In addition to the above, numerous mission-minded contributions are being made by individual members of GCC. Those include transportation, visitation, meals, domestic assistance, and material support. Moreover, the Dorcas and Adelpai Circles constantly attend to various outreach ministries. A primary contributor to both outreach and inreach needs is Ethel Busick. Be sure to thank Ethel for helping us all stay connectd. And don’t forget that a vital part of our ‘missions awareness’ is the missions bulletin board kept creatively-displayed and thematically relevant by Jennifer Starnes. Much appreciation to Jennifer for her servant’s heart.

For the times ahead, more mission activities are being planned. Watch, look, and listen for details.

MISSIONS QUOTE

“‘Not called’, you think. ‘not heard the call’ you say. Just put your ear down to the Bible and hear Him bid you go.... Answer Him whether you will join heart and soul to publish His mercy to the world”.

[by William Booth, 1829-1912; from collected writings published 1906/1960/2012]



GEMS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOREBEARS

“The thorn is one of the most cursed and angry and crabbed weeds that the earth yieldeth; yet out of it springeth the rose; one of the sweetest-smelled flowers, and most delightful to the eye. In likesign your Lord shall make joy and gladness out of the thorns of your afflictions; for all HIS roses have a fragrant smell.”.

[by Samuel Rutherford, 1600-1661;

From sermon excerpt on “affliction” – circa 1655 in Scotland;
in The King In His Beauty, 1955, p. 41]

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

At the publication of the April edition of GraceNotes, Adam McCloud and company are preparing for the Saturday, April 4th Easter “Egg-Stravaganza. Treat-filled plastic eggs have been prepared for the Easter Egg Hunt, beginning at 11 am. Other fun activities are also on the agenda. A full report will be included in the newsletter May edition.

Throughout March, Adam has kept our ‘Grace Cadets’ program on Sunday and Wednesday evenings in good order. The young people are enthusiastic and we all get to see them on the move as they join us briefly for food and snacks prior to S.A.L.T. Bible Study on Wednesday evenings. Also don’t forget that Adam leads Children’s Church every Sunday at 11 am. Be sure to see Adam’s “Grace Cadets News” column below.

Of course, Christian education is built into the entire GCC program. Opportunities to study and learn the Bible are a primary part of Sunday School (10 am), Sunday worship (11 am), Sunday evening (6 pm), and Wednesday “S.A.L.T. Bible Study” (6 pm). Everyone is encouraged to engage these opportunities on a weekly basis. The Bible says “whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).



GRACE CADETS NEWS

What a wonderful and full month it has been! Our Egg-stravaganza was a huge success, and it was such a joy to see so many families come together for fun, laughter, and connection. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special event! Easter itself was just as meaningful—celebrating the hope, joy, and new life we have in Jesus made it a truly unforgettable time for our children, youth, and church family.

As we look ahead, there are some exciting opportunities coming up for our Grace Cadets! We’re gearing up for a fun outing to play **Gellyball** on April 12th in Downtown Kingsport, followed by a day together at **Warriors’ Path State Park** on April 18th. These events are great chances for our kids to build friendships, have fun, and continue growing together as a group.

We’re also already looking forward to July and our one-day **VBS**, Level Up! This is going to be an exciting, high-energy day centered around growing in faith and leveling up in our walk with God. As we prepare, we’re hoping to incorporate some retro video game elements into the experience. If you happen to have any old retro gaming systems, controllers, or items you’d be willing to share or donate for decorations or activities, please let me know—we’d love to use them to help bring this theme to life!

Thank you again for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement. It’s such a blessing to see all that God is doing, and there’s so much more to come!

-Adam- 423-607-0715 or abmcccloud@gmail.com

CONDOLENCES FOR MARCH

The GCC family of faith extends prayers of condolence to the following families whose loved ones have recently “passed out of death and into life” (I John 3:14).

- The Family of Jackie Zwanzig (1948-2026)
[Mother of Tony Christian, Carla Dalton, Nicki Ellenburg, and Thelma Ford]
- The Family of Ruth Adkins (1928-2026)
[Mother of our own Marcia Phillippe]
- The Family of Sue Lizarraga (1953 - 2026)
[Sister of our own Nick Bush]
- Family of Joe Blakley (1942-2026)
[Brother of our own Judy Pomeroy and Kay Hammitt]

CARDS & LETTERS

Pastor J. Edward Clevinger & his lovely Wife,

We will never forget your kindness in the death of our brother John W. Branam & the kindness to his wife Joyce. To the wonderful ladies that provided the delicious food – we cannot thank you enough. It took a lot of burden off the family and out-of-town visitors.

Thanks for letting us use your church; it’s very well maintained & such a working church.

Thanks to all,

Mike & Marcella Stockton & Family

Good morning Vicki!

We're glad to announce the results of this year's baby bottle fundraiser! Thanks to your incredible generosity, **your church raised \$1,075.30!** This surpasses your previous year's giving! Thank you for your kind donations as well for your numerous material donations that will bless many moms to be! We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership and support!

Your contributions are vital in enabling us to serve women and men facing unplanned pregnancies, share the hope of Christ, and make a tangible difference in our community. The impact of your efforts extends far beyond what we can see, touching generations of families and empowering women to choose life. We are truly humbled by your commitment and blessed to partner with you. If there is any way we can be praying for or supporting you this year, please let us know!

Thank you again!
Jen and the Agape Team

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Dear Grace CC,

Thank you for sending the plant in memory of my sister. It brought comfort to our family during this difficult time, acting as a lasting, gentle reminder of your kindness & friendship. We love Grace CC & are so happy the Lord brought us here.

Love,
Nick and Lucy Bush
2026

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The family of Joe Blakley truly appreciated all the kind words, cards, prayers, and visits to him. They were all a source of comfort to the family. The red and yellow flower bouquet sent by Grace Christian was a beautiful gesture of your love in Christ. Again, thank you so much...

Judy Pomeroy and Kay Hammitt

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To my family at Grace Christian Church 

My sincere thanks for your prayers, notes, words of encouragement during the last several days. I'm improving and I know that God is working with you for that improvement. I love you all.

Thanks,
Larry Moore

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graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our WORSHIP LEADERS in the month of March for helping us commence Lord's Day services with hearts and voices in unison agreement to confess the faith we mutually share. Those were LISA DARNELL (Mar. 1), EDWARD THOMPSON (Mar. 8 & 29), PHYLLIS JACKSON (Mar. 15), and RONNIE GENTRY (Mar. 22).
- Thanks to the GCC PRAISE TEAM for selecting, preparing, and sharing weekly praise music for our Sunday morning services. Their musical leadership is a mainstay of our worship experience together. Special music for March included "I Saw The Light" (Mar. 1) and "I Believe In Jesus" (Mar. 8), "How I Love To Hear From You" (Mar. 15), "I'll Fly Away" (Mar. 22), and "Comes The King" (Mar. 29 – Palm Sunday). Also thanks to VICKI CLEVINGER for leading the praise team and congregational worship, and to LILY WISE – PIANIST and CINDY HARDEE- ORGANIST for sharing their most excellent musicianship at the instruments.
- GCC prayers of praise are lifted for the March 8th decision of ELIZABETH BRYANT to be baptized. Elizabeth made her confession of faith during the hymn of commitment and was baptized at the close of the service. Special thanks to LUCY BUSH, KAY COOK, BRIAN BROOKS, and GARY BEVERLY for helping with the baptism.

Elizabeth Bryant
(404) 984-8264

[Elizabeth will be moving soon, so we will publish her address in the May newsletter.]

- GCC prayers of praise are lifted for the March 15th decisions of LARRY & BRENDA JONES to place their membership with us. A big GCC welcome is extended to Larry & Brenda. Please add to your church directory the following:

Larry & Brenda Jones
534 Birch St.
Kingsport, TN 37642
(423) 367-1275 [Larry]
(423) 367-1276 [Brenda]

graceFULLY-Noted, continued.

- GCC prayers of praise are lifted for March 1st “safe arrival” of JOSIE NOELLE BATES. Josie was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to Kevin & Elizabeth Bates. Elizabeth is the daughter of Melissa Holly who is the daughter of our own Shelby Lester. That means Baby Josie is the great-granddaughter of Shelby! Praise the Lord for the miracle of new life and for sending Baby Josie to a wonderfully loving Christian family.
- Thanks to JACOB FRUCHTMAN w/ JEWS FOR JESUS for leading the “Christ In The Passover” Demonstration on Palm Sunday evening, March 29th. Jacob’s teaching was full of education and inspiration. Indeed, Jesus is ‘writ large’ in the Passover, all the Jewish feasts and throughout the Old Testament. Much appreciation to Jacob for helping us “see Him more clearly”, especially as we revisit the 3rd Cup of Redemption every Lord’s Day in Communion. Special thanks to HENRY FUNKHOUSER for his servant’s heart to do all the prep work of gathering items and making Passover “maror” and “charoset”. Job well done! Also thanks to GAVIN COLLETTE and SAM PIERSON for distributing the JFJ literature.
- Thanks to SCOTT TREADWAY for completing numerous repairs on the 2nd and 3rd Oakdale houses, as well as continuing with upgrades to the 1st Oakdale house. Scott’s work has been a ‘God-send’ to us at GCC.
- Thanks to GARY BEVERLY for working hard to paint portions of the storage building (behind the 1st Oakdale House). In addition, Gary assembled the base of the outside Cross, securing it in place. He also provided a ‘makeover’ to some of our “Egg-Stravaganza” game props. Much appreciation to Gary for constantly attending to outside and inside needs of the church, including all the contractor scheduling, meeting, and hands-on supervision. Gary’s constant service to the Lord at GCC is an indispensable part of our day-to-day week to week function as a church. Be sure to thank Gary personally.
- Thanks to PAULA KEITH, SUZANNE JETER, LUCY BUSH, ROSE LANE, and GARY BEVERLY for the team work to get out the March edition of the GraceNotes newsletter. Folding, stuffing, stamping, and labeling goes like clockwork with a GCC team of volunteers on the assembly-line.
- Thanks to KAYE TIPTON for her on-going attention to the floral décor in the sanctuary and to PAULA KEITH for keeping our outside planter box flowers groomed and manicured. Kaye and Paula work hard to keep us seasonally refreshed, thematically relevant, and worshipfully inspired.
- Congratulations to EDWARD THOMPSON for graduating from Taylor Martial Arts on Tuesday, March 31st with his “advanced red w/black belt”. Edward is now qualified to pursue the rigorous path toward “black belt”. Kudos to Edward for a job well done! Keep on keeping on!
- Thanks to everyone at GCC for loving Jesus, loving the church, and loving each other. Love always carries the day and the spiritual fruit it is bearing in our midst is a “foretaste of glory divine”. Thanks without end to the GCC STAFF (paid and unpaid) as well as the MANY VOLUNTEERS engaged in year-round ministry to support us all. Those include the following:

VOLUNTEERS

- 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]
- Nick Bush [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 / Missions Board]
- Jamie Abernathy, Jordan Arrington, Brian Brooks, Kaye Tipton [Tech Team Support]
- Kitty Beverly [Multimedia Arts]
- Brian Brooks [Webmaster]
- Kay Cook, Robert Thompson, Jeff Arrington [Local Missions item inventory and delivery]

STAFF (Paid & Unpaid)

- Kitty Beverly [Secretary, Administration, Media Arts]
- Rebecca Phillips [Bookkeeping]
- Adam McCloud [Children’s / Youth Ministry]
- Ethel Busick [Outreach / Inreach Assistance]
- Vicki Clevinger [Music Ministry Leadership]
- Lily Wise [Pianist]
- Cindy Hardee [Organist]

*[NOTE: Since the week of Easter was split between 2 months, the “graceFULLY-noted” column for this month does not include Easter week items. Those will appear in the May edition of GraceNotes.]