

alive' the truth of His saving grace. It is, therefore, imperative that we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to go before us, be with us, and come after us in bearing witness of our Resurrected Lord. "*HE IS RISEN!*" is good news for "zombies," such as we were until the Holy Spirit introduced us to Jesus and 'made us alive.'

"He is Risen, Indeed,"  
*Ed*

## ELDERS AND DEACONS...

**Elders / Board Meeting**  
April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday—6 pm  
[American Way Campus]



## LADIES CIRCLES....

**Dorcas Circle  
Meeting**  
April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday – 10:30 am  
Lunch at Olive Garden – 11:30 am



**Adelphai Circle  
Meeting**  
April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday - 6 pm

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

## MISSIONS UPDATE

Grace Christian Church has been blessed to continue supporting 14 missions. Five are supported monthly and 9 are supported on a rotating basis throughout the year. In addition several other local missions are regularly supported through donations of collected items.

Recent reports include the following:

- Kay Cook reported that 216 individual snack items were delivered to the Ballard-HV "Hospitality Snack Cart".
- Robert Thompson reported that 15 packages of wipes were delivered to Andrew Johnson School for their "Clorox / Lysol Wipes Supply".
- Jeff Arrington reported that our current inventory of soap stands at 302 bars. We continue pressing toward the 1200+ bars to be delivered to the Sullivan County Jail Ministry in December.
- Agape Women's Services reported that the baby bottles we filled in January and February totaled \$946.15!

As a final thought.... The work of missions begins and continues as a prayer proposition. Let us always remember to adorn our financial support, collections / donations, and hands-on involvement with prayers for God's Spirit to empower the work, multiply the fruit, and save souls for His glory!

## \*MISSIONS QUOTE\*

"As the culture finds Christianity stranger and stranger, we will find that the strangest thing we have to say is, 'JESUS SAVES'."

[by Russell Moore – in Onward: Engaging The Culture Without Losing The Gospel, 2015, p. 111]

## EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 13<sup>th</sup>  
(Sunday – 11 am)  

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE  
[Sermon – “Palm Sunday: ‘The Lazarus Factor’”]  
(John 11:47-57; 12:1-2. 9-19)
- April 16<sup>th</sup>  
(Wednesday – 1 pm)  

EASTER EGG STUFFING  
[NOTE: No S.A.L.T., Bible Study]
- April 17<sup>th</sup>  
(Thursday – 6 pm)  

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
[Special Music by Cody Shivers]
- April 19<sup>th</sup>  
(Saturday – 1 pm)  

EASTER Egg-STRAVAGANZA  
[All Children Invited]
- April 20<sup>th</sup>  
(Sunday – 10 am)  

EASTER BREAKFAST  
[Biscuits – plain, w/sausage, w/ bacon – will be provided. A food sign-up sheet for additional items will be in the fellowship hall in April.]
- April 20<sup>th</sup>  
(Sunday – 11 am)  

RESURRECTION DAY SERVICE  
[Sermon – “The Great (-est) ‘Impact Point’”  
John 2:18-22 / John 12:12-16 / John 20:1-10, 19-21 / Acts 5:27-32)]

Ladies  
Spring Tea  
May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday – 1 pm

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Mother's Day  
May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday – 11 am

Graduate  
Recognition  
Sunday  
May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday – 11 am

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Christian education opportunities are available across the full range of GCC ministry programming. Those include the following:

### SUNDAYS

- Adult Sunday School (10 am)
- Morning Worship (11 am)
- Children's Church (11 am)
- Evening Worship (6 pm)
- Grace Cadets (6 pm)

### WEDNESDAYS

- S.A.L.T. Bible Study (6 pm)
- Grace Cadets (6 pm)

The next big event on the Grace Cadets calendar is “The Easter Egg-Stravaganza” on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Karen Cradic, Children's Director, has planned a fun-filled afternoon featuring an Easter Egg Hunt, devotion, and refreshments. Young people are encouraged to invite schoolmates, friends, and neighbors.

For the Easter Egg Hunt, we are receiving donations of candy and trinket items. Thanks ahead of time for your help. In addition, Karen will need adult volunteers to assist. If you are interested and available, please contact Karen at church or via the contact information listed in the “Grace Cadets News” column.



## GRACE CADETS NEWS

Our Easter Egg-Stravaganza will be on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. It's more than just an egg hunt - there will be lots of activities for children of all ages.

Donors have shown amazing generosity in bringing in candy, trinkets, and items for the Egg-Stravaganza. Please also support us with prayer and consider volunteering for the event. We aim to provide fun while featuring resurrection-themed crafts and activities. *"But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'"* (Matthew 19:14)

Contact Karen Cradic for more info:

Home Phone #423-245-4273

Cell # 423-367-4756

Email: [cradicbkaren@gmail.com](mailto:cradicbkaren@gmail.com)

### graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our worship leaders for the month of March. NYKI BRIGGS (Mar. 2), NICK BUSH (Mar. 9), BOBBY COOK (Mar. 16), PATTY TURNER (Mar. 23), and ETHEL BUSICK (Mar. 30) provided the important leadership needed to commence our Sunday morning worship services focused, fastened, and fixed on the faith we mutually share.
- Thanks to the GCC PRAISE TEAM for faithfully engaging the ministry of music to enrich our worship and praise life each Sunday morning. March special music included "There's Room At The Cross For You" (Mar. 2), "Have Faith" (Mar. 9), "Who Can Satisfy My Soul Like You?" with solos by Patty Turner and Vicki Clevinger (Mar. 16), "You Are The Potter" (Mar. 23) and "I Surrender All" (Mar. 30). As always, much appreciation to LILY WISE, PIANIST and CINDY HARDEE, ORGANIST for their most excellent musicianship on the instruments. Special thanks to MARCIA PHILLIPPE for her vocal solo rendition of "The Old Rugged Cross" with congregational accompaniment on the chorus. It was the perfect ending for our service on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF JEAN CARR. Jean passed away on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ballad-Holston Valley Hospital. She was 96. Jean was the mother of our own Darrell Carr and grandmother of Joe. She was a longtime active member of Grace Christian Church (formerly OFCC). Jean was the consummate Christian woman of faith, hope, and love. Like Jesus "she did all things well" (Mk. 7:37). Her humility, wisdom, compassion, patience, and integrity endeared her to one and all. May God's grace supply comfort and peace to Darrell and Joe for the times ahead.
- GCC prayers of praise are extended for the safe and healthy arrival of EVERETT COLE GARNER. Everett was born on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at Ballad-Bristol Regional Hospital weighing 7 lb., 8 oz. He was welcomed by parents Cole & MaKaylah Garner, big sister Ella Garner, grandparents Wayne & Lisa Darnell, grandparents Ritchie and Mary Carter Rose, extended family including aunts, uncles, and cousins, as well as his church family. GCC rejoices to behold the miracle of new life. May Everett Garner be blessed all the days of his life to the glory of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Thanks to all GCCers for bringing heapin' helpins' of delicious food and dessert items to share at our Potluck Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. With the added blessings of a full fellowship hall, plenty of good-humored laughter, and teamwork assembly line to get everything cleaned up and set up in good order, it was an absolutely wonderful occasion for our family of faith.
- Thanks to ROSE LANE and GARY BEVERLY for their help with the newsletter in February. Their jolly, good-natured assistance makes a seemingly mundane task most enjoyable.
- Thanks to SUZANNE JETER for her gracious service to provide a "deep-cleaning" of our church kitchen. Much appreciation to her for a job well done.
- Thanks to JOIE KERNS for donating 2 books from "The Corrie Ten Boom Series" in memory of his mother, Ina Kerns. The books will be included in our GCC library.
- During this continuing season of increased needs concerning food, transportation, doctors' appointments, home assistance, etc., the GCC family of faith has rendered meritorious effort to serve each other. So thanks to ONE & ALL for the selfless outpouring of love and compassion that is blessing numerous souls. In addition, numerous GCC VOLUNTEERS are attending to a multiplicity of ministry needs that are a part of our day to day, week to week, and month to month church program. Many thanks to the following:

**graceFULLY-noted, continued**

- Lisa Darnell [Adelphai Circle Leadership / Butterbean Auction]
- Vicki Clevinger [Praise Team Director / Worship Leader / Adephai Circle Leadership]
- Lois Starnes [Dorcas Circle Leadership]
- Janice Hill [Dorcas Circle Leadership / Adult Sunday School]
- Henry Funkhouser [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 Board]
- Jamie Abernathy, Jordan Arrington, Kitty Beverly [Tech Team Support]
- Brian Brooks [Webmaster]
- Kay Cook, Robert Thompson, Jeff Arrington [Local Missions item inventory and delivery]

Also, thanks without end to our always faithful church staff (paid and unpaid) for the leadership they provide in various ministries of the church:

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



**GEMS OF WISDOM  
FROM OUR FOREBEARS**

“Now let the heavens be joyful  
Let earth her song begin.  
Let the world keep triumph  
And all that is therein.

Invisible and visible  
Their notes let all things blend.  
For Christ the Lord hath risen!  
Our joy that hath no end.”

[by John of Damascus, 8<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. –  
Excerpt from “The Day of Resurrection”]

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generous  
donation of Clorox wipes for our school. We  
appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Hope you all have a glorious day!

Sincerely,

The Johnson Elementary School Family

Good morning Vicki and Grace Christian –

We're glad to announce the results of this year's baby bottle fundraiser! Thanks to your incredible generosity, **your church raised \$946.15!** This is incredible – and the most your church has ever raised – not including the material donations! We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership and support. You all have really touched our hearts this year.

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!

Leslie, for the Agape Team

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for the donation of snacks for the patients at the cancer center.*

*May the Lord richly bless you for your thoughtfulness.*

*Sincerely*

*Staff and Volunteers R.C.C.*

To Grace Christian Church,

I am, like many of my generation, a product of movies. To see Charlton Heston portray Moses and watch the Red Sea part spoiled me a bit to expect a miracle of a blessing to always happen quickly.

Since I have been able to return to church, I have had several members of our church family say they are happy to see me and that I am a miracle. More than anything, I am certain that being on multiple prayer lists has had a great deal to do with my recovery. Having mercy from the Lord is the main reason I am able to return to Grace Christian Church and I am very grateful for the prayers on my behalf. I have thought about this for a while and a lot of what has happened in my life during my illness could seem miraculous to people.

First of all I am very fortunate to have been given a wife that was not just willing to provide care, but knew what kind of care I needed because of her experience in nursing. She did not just manage care at home but managed bills, insurance, messages from doctors' offices, scheduling tests, scans, therapy, translating to me later what the doctor was trying to say, feeding me through a tube that broke in the middle of the night and getting it fixed at 2 am, getting me up multiple times at night. Showing remarkable patience she put up with my shortened temper, drove me to my treatments, and, more than that, held my hand when I was getting a scan that made me so nervous I was tempted not to have it done. If all this were not enough, she was also taking care of a 6 year old granddaughter, our home, all the business of our home, and our cocker spaniel.

I have had the blessing of being born in a country that has huge advantages for patients in terms of equipment, medication, hospitals, highly educated doctors with specific knowledge of difficult to cure diseases. I have had the blessing of nurses that were very skilled in providing care for cancer patients and therapists that had specific training in helping people during and after treatment. All of these people were strong Christians and kept an amazing cheerful attitude doing work that must be difficult to witness.

I have had the blessing of health insurance so many can't have. Moreover, my wife had taken out a policy for cancer years ago that I thought was unnecessary.

My son helped moving me when I could not move myself. My grandsons and my son-in-law moved furniture to help me be comfortable at home. My daughter helped taking me out of town for treatment. The list of blessings gets very long to try to recall their source and I am sure to have forgotten some of them. I have also mercifully forgotten a lot of my treatments and the times I was unable to speak or eat or sleep very much.

I am painfully aware that there are many others, some members of this church, that have had much more difficulty than I have had during the past year. But the one thing I was certain I wanted to relate from this experience was recalling Romans 8:28 "All things work together for good for them that love God and are called according to His purpose". The learning I have had, in addition to being thankful to so very many people, is if you are a Christian and you want to see a miracle, look in a mirror and like me remember what a labor of love it had to be for Jesus to be willing to be our salvation.

In Christ,

Jeff Arrington

