

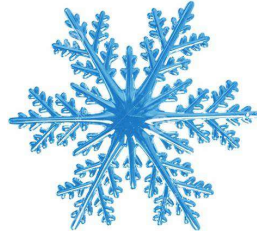
**ELDERS AND DEACONS...**

**Elders / Board Meeting**  
January 14th  
Tuesday—6 pm  
[American Way Campus]



**LADIES CIRCLES....**

**Adelphai Circle Meeting**  
January 9<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday - 6 pm



**Dorcas Circle**  
January 14th  
Tuesday – 11:30 am  
[Lunch at Texas Roadhouse]

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

**“BUTTERBEAN AUCTION”**



-----  
January 21<sup>st</sup>  
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]

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING W/ FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

-----  
January 29<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday – 6 pm  
-----

If able please bring food, dessert, and drink items to share

-----  
Following supper the 2024 Budget  
will be reviewed and the 2025 Budget  
will be presented and voted on.



## MISSIONS UPDATE

In December there was an abundance of mission activities at GCC. Twelve hundred bars of soap were delivered to the Sullivan County Jail Ministry in Bristol, TN. The soap was included in “Hope Bags” prepared for the jail ministry by Discovery Church in Bristol. The bags were then distributed to inmates and jail staff by Good News Global / Sullivan County Jail Ministry Chaplain, Kent Pugh.

Also in December 135 individual snack items were delivered to the Ballad – HV “Hospitality Snack Cart”. In addition, several blow-up mattresses, along with the “Warm Tree” items, were delivered to Shepherd’s Watch.

GCC was also blessed in December to host Christmas Parties for Hope Haven residents and Roller-Russ House residents. The parties included meals, personalized gifts, crafts, and lots of hospitality.

As 2025 begins, the GCC missions portfolio of support includes the following:

- The Broyles – MAF [monthly]
- Agape Women’s Services [monthly / seasonal donations]
- Good News Global / Sullivan County Jail Ministry – Chaplain Kent Pugh [monthly / seasonal donations]
- The Leonards – Baptist Mid-Missions [monthly]
- East TN Christian Home and Academy [monthly]
- The Parkers – Victory 44, Int. [rotating]
- Appalachian Christian Camp [rotating]
- Hope Haven [rotating / seasonal donations]
- Hope House [rotating]
- ETSU Christian Student Fellowship [rotating]
- Kingsport Community Ministries Center [rotating]
- The Floskis – Grace Network Int. [rotating]
- Heaven’s Bells Diaper Pantry [rotating]
- Ballad / HV “Hospitality Snack Cart” [monthly donations]
- AJS “Clorox / Lysol Wipes Supply” [quarterly donations]
- Shades of Grace [seasonal donations]
- Shepherd’s Watch [seasonal donations]
- “Operation Christmas Child” Samaritan’s Purse [seasonal donations]
- The Burreesses – Honduras Short-Terms [seasonal support]

In the month of January, Agape Women’s Services will once again be providing ‘Baby Bottles’ to be filled with monetary donations. On Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, an AWS representative will be present at our evening service to provide an update and to receive the \$-filled bottles as well as other donated items. Thanks to Mike & Suzanne Jeter we have a big head start on baby clothes.

Also in January, John & Bev Leonard with Baptist Mid-Missions will be returning to their field of service in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The Leonards have been on furlough throughout 2024. GCC was blessed to hear their report on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and to join their team as prayer and financial supporters.

In the spring the Burreesses will return to Honduras for another short-term mission. We will look forward to hearing about their experience later in the summer.

Be sure to check out the missions board in the fellowship hall. Jennifer Starnes keeps our board rotating, season to season, as a means of informing and educating the GCC family of faith about the most important work in the world – that is, building the Kingdom.

## \*MISSIONS QUOTE\*

“The task of missions is reaching all the people groups of the world so that the redeemed can be gathered in.... The implication of God’s worldwide purpose is clear: He aims to be worshiped by converts from all the nations, tribes, peoples, and languages”.

[by John Piper; from Let The Nations Be Glad!, 1993 /2022, p. 186-187]



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

A highlight of the 2024 Christmas Season was the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Under the most excellent leadership of our Children's Director, Karen Cradic, the program featured the GCC young people's musical talent. Vocally and instrumentally, they were superb. Their singing and playing with gusto and enthusiasm was contagiously inspiring. GCC continues to be blessed by Karen's ongoing Grace Cadets program on Sundays and Wednesdays at 6 pm, as well as by her Children's Church on Sundays at 11 am.

As 2025 begins it is a good time to be reminded that Christian Education is a primary emphasis in the GCC family of faith. In addition, to the aforementioned Children's Ministry Schedule, opportunities for learning together include the following:

- Sunday School (10 am)
- Sun. AM Service (11 am)
- Sun. PM Service (6 pm)
- Wed. S.A.L.T. Bible Study (6 pm)



## GRACE CADETS NEWS

I would like to thank everyone for coming out to the Children's Christmas program; the children did such a wonderful job, lifting their voices in praise. They have the most beautiful voices and I am so proud of each one of them.

This month and possibly for the year we will be studying great couples of the Bible in Children's Church and on Wednesday evenings. Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Ruth and Boaz, Mary and Joseph and many more. There are so many wonderful rich stories of couples serving God and obeying his commands.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for the Children's department. Every prayer is appreciated.

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 December. Those include GARY BEVERLY (Dec. 1), SAM PIERSON (Dec. 8), PHYLLIS JACKSON (Dec. 15), KAY COOK (Dec. 22), and PHYLLIS JACKSON (Dec. 29). Much appreciation to these volunteers for helping us commence each Lord's Day spiritually focused, fastened, and fixed on Jesus.
- Thanks to our PRAISE TEAM for leading the GCC ministry of music week after week. We are all beneficiaries of their preparation and presentation in every season. And, indeed, throughout the Christmas season the Praise Team ministry flourished for our edification, and for Christ's glorification. Special music included "Joy in Bethlehem" (Dec. 1), "Come Let Us Worship" (Dec. 8), "Bethlehem Morning" (Dec. 15), and "Bethlehem Manger" (Dec. 29). As always, thanks without end to LILY WISE, PIANIST and CINDY HARDEE, ORGANIST for their most excellent musicianship throughout the Christmas season which has involved "double duty"!
- Thanks to CODY SHIVERS for providing special music at our Advent Celebration Service on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. His God-given talent as a vocalist, pianist, and cellist helped us all commence the Christmas season "in the Spirit". To be sure, GCC looks forward to a return visit of Cody in the future. In addition, much appreciation to a host of volunteers whose participation brought together a wonderful service in the best "Hanging of the Greens" tradition. Participants included NICK BUSH, HENRY FUNKHOUSER, PATTY TURNER, KATHY HAKES, GARY BEVERLY, BOBBY COOK, KAY COOK, WAYNE DARNELL, LISA DARNELL, PHYLLIS JACKSON, NYKI BRIGGS, VICKI CLEVINGER and LILY WISE.
- Thanks to KAREN CRADIC and the GRACE CADETS for preparing and sharing the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. It was masterfully done and so full of Christmas spirit. Our young people are all musically talented and together the talent was just stellar. Program participants were EMILEAH STANLEY, ROB STANLEY, SAWYER STANLEY, EDWARD THOMPSON and ROSALIE ARRINGTON. Also many thanks to LILY WISE for providing piano accompaniment for the program.

## graceFULLY-noted, continued

- Thanks to all GCCers for bringing plenteous portions of snacks and goodies to share at our ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY following the Children's Program on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Most of all thanks for bringing friendship, fellowship, and family-ship to share around the tables.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF PEGGY TREADWAY. Peggy passed away on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at Ballad-HV Hospital. She was 96. Peggy, along with her late husband Jay, daughter Lee, and son Scott were long-time members of Grace Christian Church (formerly Oakwood Forest Christian Church) since the mid-70s. Over the course of her long life, Peggy also contributed greatly to First Christian as well as to the founding of Colonial Heights Christian. Peggy's career was established as a well-known and much-loved teacher in the Sullivan County School System with over 30 years of service. Perhaps most noteworthy of all is that Peggy possessed a faith-sustained determination and resilience that distinguished her as an example par excellence of "overcoming", "Keeping on Keeping on", and "never giving up". Time after time she persevered in multiple health struggles and recovered over and against the statistical odds. But faith knows no odds, so Peggy dug deep and endured. Peggy is survived by daughter Lee Blackledge, son Scott Treadway, granddaughter Kensie Blackledge, several nieces, nephews, and cousins, including our own Mary Morris, Susan Hall, and David Hall, extended family, friends, and several decades of former students. May victory in Jesus uphold Peggy's family in all the times ahead.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF SANDY PERRY. Sandy passed away on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at LifeCare of Gray. She was 80. Sandy, along with husband Bob, son Phillip, and daughters Robin and Becky were longtime members of Grace Christian Church (formerly Oakwood Forest Christian Church) since the 1960s. Sandy was active in every aspect of the church, especially the choir, ladies circle, and children's / youth ministry. Her personality endeared her to one and all. Sandy was exceedingly kind, gracious, loving, and compassionate. Being a wife and mother were the mainstays of her life. Her Christian faith enabled her to cope, deal, and rise above and find faith victories all along the way. Sandy has left an indelible mark of the abiding virtues of "faith, hope, and love" (I Cor. 13:13) in this world, on her family, with her friends, and among her church. Sandy is survived by husband Bob Perry; son Phillip Perry, daughters Robin Brickey and Becky Mizer; grandchildren Rachael Bowers, Holden Perry, and Madison Perry; great grandchild Londyn Bowers; as well as extended family and friends. May victory in Jesus uphold them in all the times ahead.
- Thanks to EVERYONE for sharing their "memorial / honorary poinsettias" to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The poinsettias' bright scarlet hue just beautifies like nothing else. Special thanks to GARY & KITTY BEVERLY for setting up the poinsettia tree and arranging the plants. Also special thanks to HENRY FUNKHOUSER for faithfully keeping the plants watered and the leaf residue cleaned up.
- A big GCC welcome to NICK & LUCY BUSH who placed their membership at GCC on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Christmas Sunday. Praise the Lord for connecting the Bush's with the GCC family of faith. Nick and Lucy's presence and service are already a vital part of our congregation. Please add to your church directory the following:  
Nick & Lucy Bush  
1305 Dupont Drive  
Kingsport, TN 37664  
908-553-7921
- Thanks to all GCCers for donating all the items and providing financial assistance for our "Weekend of Giving". Much appreciation to HENRY FUNKHOUSER and VICKI CLEVINGER for hosting the Hope Haven "Christmas Party" on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, much appreciation to ROSE LANE, KATHY HAKES, PHYLLIS JACKSON, WAYNE DARNELL, LISA DARNELL, TONY TIPTON, KAYE TIPTON, JULANA MCCLELLAN, HENRY FUNKHOUSER and VICKI CLEVINGER for hosting the Roller-Russ "Christmas Party" on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Special thanks to ROSE LANE for her willingness to gather all the information and to spend all the time shopping to ensure that each RR House resident received personalized gifts. In addition, a big thanks to RUTH ADKINS and MARCIA PHILLIPPE for delivering the blow-up mattresses and the "Warm Tree" items to Shepherd's Watch Ministries. A big GCC shout-out to EDWARDS, TIPTON, & WITT INSURANCE AGENCY for providing fruit bags to area churches for deliverance in the community. Thanks to JENNIFER STARNES for picking up the fruit and delivering it with assistance from TONY & KAYE TIPTON. Praise the Lord that GCC was able to extend so much Christian love, hospitality, and goodwill during the Christmas season.

## graceFULLY-noted, continued

- Thanks to ONE AND ALL for joining on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> to support our Christmas Eve Service. Attendance was fantastic and created an awesome sight to see all the candles burning in a “Unity Circle” completely around the sanctuary. Much appreciation is extended to all of this year’s participants who filled all the parts with excellence. Those included HENRY FUNKHOUSER, NICK BUSH, LUCY BUSH, KATHY HAKES, CHERISH HUGHES, BRAD HUGHES, SAM PIERSON, BRIAN BROOKS, TONY TIPTON, BRYLEE CORDELL, KATIE CLIFTON, KITTY BEVERLY, LILY WISE, and VICKI CLEVINGER.
- Thanks to ROSE LANE for subbing as the ‘auctioneer’ at our “Butterbean Auction” on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Much appreciation to Rose for keeping the fun and fellowship going in December. Also, many thanks to all those who continue donating items to be included in the auction.
- Thanks to GARY & KITTY BEVERLY, TONY & KAYE TIPTON, BOBBY & KAY COOK, HENRY FUNKHOUSER, NYKI BRIGGS, SAM PIERSON, LISA DARNELL, JANICE COBB, ETHEL BUSICK, PHYLLIS JACKSON, ROSE LANE, and JANICE HILL for serving to help meet the exponential increase of needs regarding transportation and visitation. Their servants’ hearts have been a ‘God-send’!
- Thanks to GARY BEVERLY for overseeing numerous maintenance needs in December. Those included plumbing work at American Way campus, heat pump replacement at the second Oakdale House, and contractor quotes for replacing the flat roof of the fellowship hall. Words are not sufficient to thank Gary for his service to the Lord at GCC. Be sure to express gratitude to him personally.
- Thanks to JANICE HILL and HENRY FUNKHOUSER for ‘tag-teaming’ to teach the Adult Sunday School Class in the fellowship hall at 10 am. Their teaching leadership is a vital part of GCC Christian education.
- Thanks to ETHEL BUSICK for her ‘communique-work’ to help keep the GCC family of faith connected. Her efforts bear the constant fruit of edifying our fellowship.
- Thanks to ROBERT THOMPSON, JEFF ARRINGTON, and KAY COOK for meeting the logistical needs of counting, storing, and delivering the various donated items to local missions. Their service is helping to extend the love of Christ throughout our community.
- Thanks to JENNIFER STARNES for helping keep GCC missions-minded via the fellowship hall mission board. Her rotating displays are an important aspect of the GCC missions program.
- Thanks to PATTY TURNER, GARY BEVERLY, and ROSE LANE for assisting with the task of monthly newsletter publication. Their work to fold, stuff, label, and stamp are a huge help.
- Thanks to JOIE KERNS for weekly detailing the entry / exit areas of the church. He keeps our weekly arriving and departing debris-free and looking good.
- Thanks to KITTY BEVERLY, JORDAN ARRINGTON, BRIAN BROOKS, JENNIFER STARNES, and JAMIE ABERNATHY for their work to support our morning worship, special services, and on-line presence through technology. Be sure to thank our ‘tech-team quintet’!
- Thanks to the entire GCC FAMILY OF FAITH for service to glorify God in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Your service to the Kingdom is literally the most important work in the world.



### GEMS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOREBEARS

“Christians are translated from the Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God’s dear Son. They belong to a different realm; though still in the world, their citizenship is in Heaven.... It is not that they do not have to suffer (in the world), but are taken out of it in understanding and in spirit – that is, put into the position of peace, rest, and safety.”

[by Martyn Lloyd-Jones, 1899-1981; from Seeking The Face of God, 1991, p. 163;  
excerpt from sermon preached at Westminster Chapel in London between 1939-1968]