

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE, may our stewardship at GCC be found ever faithful. Of course, a primary factor in such is remembering. Moreover, it is ‘remembering to remember.’ Remembering is one thing, but remembering to remember – yes, deliberately, intentionally, by design, on purpose – is another. When blessings abound, it can be tempting to receive and enjoy them mindlessly, forgetting their Benefactor. That’s the essence of what is often called “taking it for granted” which means forgetting to remember. So, in November, let us remember to remember Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, and GCC’s Anniversary. And in the remembering, let there be praise and thanksgiving to Him from whom all blessings flow. As the Lord said to Isaiah, so He says to us and to every believer: “Put Me in remembrance” (Is. 43:26).

On Purpose,

Ed

ELDERS AND DEACONS...

Elders / Board Meeting

November 12th

Tuesday—6 pm

[American Way Campus]



LADIES CIRCLES....

Dorcas Circle

Meeting

November 12th

Tuesday – 10:30 am

Lunch afterward at Olive Garden

Adelphai Circle

[No regular meeting

in November; see

“Ladies Craft Night”

below]

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



**THANKSGIVING / CHRISTMAS
“LADIES CRAFT NIGHT”**

November 14th

Thursday – 6 pm

at American Way Campus

[A sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. Ladies, please bring fabric scissors.]



“BUTTERBEAN AUCTION”

November 19th

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

“You can never pass through the day or approach God without gratitude. Thankfulness glorifies God and subdues our lower nature. Thankfulness is a duty and a delight prominent in the Bible. Thankfulness is the declarative mood of gratitude, a bright fire in the world’s frigid zone, a well of water in the desert. And, yes, thankfulness is a master force of soul-building and the greatest tonic faith has.”

[by Robert Green Lee, 1886-1978; from Thanksgiving sermon “Are You Thankful?”;
in Great Preaching on Thanksgiving, 1987, p. 86]

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

As end of year holidays come into view, so do special activities for young people. For the next two months Karen Cradic, Children's Director, will be emphasizing the themes of Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's not too early to mark your calendars for the Children's Christmas Program which will be on Sunday December 15th at 6 pm. Practices for the same have already been included in Grace Cadets meetings on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. For more information about Grace Cadets and/or Children's Church, please reference "Grace Cadets News" below.

Also don't forget that Christian education includes adults. The Adult Sunday School Class is taught by Janice Hill and Henry Funkhouser in the fellowship hall at 10 am. Wednesday. S.A.L.T. Bible Study meets in the fellowship hall at 6 pm. Of course, Christian education is a mainstay in Sun. morning services at 11 am and Sun.evening services at 6 pm.



GRACE CADETS NEWS

For November, in Children's Church and Grace Cadets we will be learning about being thankful every day. Followers of Jesus went through many struggles and still remained thankful. Paul, David, Daniel, and others will be our focus for the month. 1st Thessalonians 5:18: *"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of GOD in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

On Wednesday nights the Grace Cadets are already learning new music for the Christmas program on December 15th. We will have some practice sessions on Saturdays; keep an eye on the bulletin for practice dates and times.

All children and teens are invited to come sing with us as we lift our voices in praise.

Contact Karen Cradic for more info:

Home Phone #423-245-4273

Cell # 423-367-4756

Email: cradicbkaren@gmail.com

MISSIONS UPDATE

Everything the church does is related to missions. That includes our recent "Drive-Thru / Walk-Thru Hullabaloo" on Thursday, October 31st. The 400 treat bags distributed included several faith-prompting trinkets as well as a letter of appreciation inviting visitors to church. Our prayer is that some – even 1 – might respond.

Coming up in November and December are several outreach mission opportunities:

- "Operation Christmas Child" Shoeboxes are now available. The boxes, along with packing instructions, are located under the missions board in the fellowship hall. Boxes are due at the church by Sunday, November 17th. They will be delivered to a local Samaritan's Purse collection center on Monday, November 18th.
- In the next few weeks, the "Warm Tree" will be placed in the fellowship hall to commence collecting "warm items". Those include gloves, toboggans, scarves, and socks. The items will be delivered to Shepherd's Watch near Christmas.
- This year's "Weekend of Giving" will be on Saturday-Sunday, December 21st -22nd. On Saturday a pizza lunch will be served and gift bags distributed at Hope Haven Mission. [NOTE: gift bag items TBA]. On Sunday, GCC will host a Christmas Party at the Roller-Russ House. Supper, crafts, and gifts will be provided to the residents.

In addition to the aforementioned seasonal opportunities, GCC continues with its year-round support of 13 missions – 5 monthly and 8 on a rotating basis. Also continuing is the 'donated items support' of the Ballard-HV "Hospitality Snack Cart", the Andrew Johnson School "Clorox / Lysol Wipes Supply", and the "1200 Bars of Soap" for the Sullivan County Jail Ministry "Hope Bags". Snack items and wipes are delivered as collection inventory allows and the soap will be delivered to Bristol the first or second week of December.

Everyone is invited to participate in these mission / outreach opportunities. Watch, look, and listen for details.

Thanks to one and all for being a missions-minded church.

MISSIONS QUOTE

"The culture of God's Kingdom does not silo itself away from the wreckage outside,
but is driven outward and onward by mission".

[by Russell Moore – in *Onward: Engaging The Culture Without Losing The Gospel*, 2015, p. 93]

THINKING ABOUT THANKING

→ THANKING OUR VETERANS... Sunday, November 10th

Morning Worship – 11 am
“Veterans Tribute”
Sermon – “Veterans For Jesus”
(II Tim. 2:1-4)

Evening Worship – 6 pm
Veterans Tribute
Video
[55 minutes]

→ THANKING OUR SENIORS... Sunday, November 10th

[See “Catered Lunch” below.]

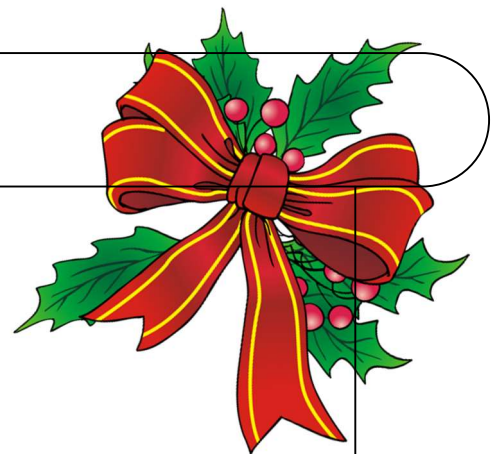
VETERANS / SENIORS TRIBUTE CATERED LUNCH
November 10th
(following the morning service)
Everyone Invited!

→ THANKING GOD... Sunday, November 24th

Morning Worship – 11 am
Sermon – “Thanksgiving Begets
Thanksgiving”
(II Cor. 8:1-11; 9:1-15)

Evening Worship – 6 pm
“Thanks-Living
Service”
with Kristi Rowe

DECEMBER A T E S



ADVENT CELEBRATION SERVICE

December 1st
Sunday, 6 pm
Special Music – Cody Shivers

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM
December 15th
Sunday – 6 pm
[followed by
“All-Church Christmas Party”
w/ snacks & goodies]

WEEKEND OF
GIVING
* Hope Haven
“Christmas Party”
[Saturday – December 21st]
* Roller-Russ House
“Christmas Party”
[Sunday – December 22nd]

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24th
Tuesday – 8 pm



DECEMBER SERMON SERIES
“Stable Faith”
(Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22)

graceFULLY-noted

- Thanks to our October worship leaders for helping us commence morning services with hearts, minds, and spirits prepared for worship. Those include HENRY FUNKHOUSER (Oct. 6), SAMUEL PIERSON (Oct. 13), BECKY EDWARDS (Oct. 20), and NYKI BRIGGS (Oct. 27).
- Thanks to the GCC PRAISE TEAM for leading the ministry of music at GCC. Their contribution to morning services is invaluable. Their faithfulness to weekly prepare and share special selections is so much appreciated. Special music for October included “Worthy of the Calling” (Oct. 6), “Down From His Glory” (Oct. 13), “Grace Alone” (Oct. 20), and “Come Christians Join To Sing” (Oct. 27). Also thanks to our most excellent musicians. LILY WISE, PIANIST and CINDY HARDEE, ORGANIST keep us in tune, rhythm, and on key. Special thanks to MARCIA PHILLIPPE for sharing her superb acapella solo rendition of “How Great Thou Art” as the offertory on Sunday, October 13th.
- GCC prayers of praise are lifted for the safe and healthy arrival of ASLAN BRYNMORE LAUBE. Aslan was born to Ben & Emily Laube on Tuesday, October 1st at the Johnson City Medical Center. And guess what? Aslan was born on the birthday of her great-grandmother who is our own ETHEL BUSICK!
- Thanks to KAYE TIPTON for subbing as the auctioneer at our “Butterbean Auction” on Tuesday, October 15th. Much appreciation to Kaye for keeping the fun and fellowship going at this popular 3rd Tuesday event. As always, thanks to LISA DARNELL for preparing and leading the auction all year long. And, of course, a big “thank you” to all those who are constantly donating items.
- Thanks to ETHEL BUSICK, PHYLLIS JACKSON, KATHY HAKES, and ROSE LANE for representing Grace Christian Church at the Good News Global / Sullivan County Jail Ministry Annual Banquet on Saturday, October 19th. The banquet was held at First Presbyterian Church in Bristol, TN and included ministry reports / updates, former inmate testimonies, special music, and a delicious meal. Much appreciation to the ladies for being ambassadors of GCC’s interest in and support of the jail ministry.
- GCC is so thankful to once again join with our sister churches for the Fall Preaching Mission held on October 20-23 (Sun. – Wed.). Participating churches included FIRST CHRISTIAN, MORRISON CITY CHRISTIAN, BELVUE CHRISTIAN, INDIAN SPRINGS CHRISTIAN, and GRACE CHRISTIAN. The preaching, special music, worship, and fellowship combined for a wonderful week of spiritual refreshment, renewal, and revival. Everything came together to underscore, highlight, punctuate, and emphasize our theme of “More Power To You”.
- As the GCC prayer list reflects, the fall season has significantly increased the volume of outreach / inreach needs of so many. The needs have included food, transportation, visitation, and storm clean-up. A big thanks to GARY & KITTY BEVERLY, BOBBY & KAY COOK, WAYNE & LISA DARNELL, TONY & KAYE TIPTON, ETHEL BUSICK, ROSE LANE, PHYLLIS JACKSON, JANICE HILL, JANICE COBB, MARCIA PHILLIPPE for their tireless efforts to help meet the needs. In addition, much appreciation to several anonymous donors who contributed funds that allowed GCC to financially assist with the “Hurricane Disaster Relief” efforts in the Erwin, TN area. It should also be noted that the Appalachian Christian Camp (a local ministry of the Christian Churches) opened their facilities and grounds to house numerous families displaced by the recent storm. Shout outs to ACC!)
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF TOMMY THOMPSON. Tommy passed away on Thursday, October 24th at the Ballad Hospice House in Bristol, TN. He was 77. Tommy was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and a long-time employee at Eastman Chemical. His Christian faith and the support of his family and friends enabled him to endure years of all the struggles and challenges that go along with Crohn’s Disease. Tommy’s resilience, determination, and fortitude throughout commend his life to one and all as an enduring example of “Keeping on keeping on”. Tommy is survived by his wife of 51 years, our own Emma Thompson, extended family, and a host of friends. May the grip of God’s grace uphold the Thompson Family in the times ahead and may daily faith victory fill their lives.
- GCC prayers of condolence are extended for the FAMILY OF BARBARA LIGHT. Barbara passed away on Monday, October 28th in Leesville, Louisiana. She was 77. Barbara and the entire Light Family were faithful members of Grace Christian Church (formerly Oakwood Forest Christian Church) during the 1990s before moving to Texas and then Louisiana. Barbara was an R.N. and her career included longtime service in the Navy and here in Kingsport. She considered her career as a faith calling and through it she touched countless lives. Barbara is survived by daughter Beth Stull, Leanne Miller, and Lorlin Menard; grandchildren Alexzander Stull, Ezrael Menard, and Freyja Menard; sister Anne Flatt; extended family; and a host of friends, May the grip of God’s grace uphold the Light Family in the times ahead and may daily faith victories fill their lives.
- Thanks to KAREN ERWIN for sharing a sample “peridot” gemstone for the Sunday morning sermon on October 27th. It was a wonderful illustration for the beauty and blessedness that can be drawn from the depths of life by God’s grace.

graceFULLY-noted, continued

- Thanks to VICKI CLEVINGER and GARY BEVERLY for providing and arranging the outside decorations for this fall season. They are a festive addition to the outside décor and are reminiscent of the “Harvest Hock Cart” we talked about in the Sunday morning sermon on October 20th.
- Thanks to JENNIFER STARNES for setting up the “Operation Christmas Child” Shoebox Display and featuring the same on our fellowship hall mission board. Much appreciation to Jennifer for shepherding this mission outreach and making it available for GCC’s participation.
- Thanks to a HOST OF GCCers for an outpouring of help and service to once again host the “Drive-Thru / Walk-Thru Hullabaloo”. On Wednesday, October 30th, an assembly line of volunteers met to prepare 400 treat bags. Those volunteers included NICK BUSH & LUCY BUSH, CARL & DENISE ORDWELL, BOBBY & KAY COOK, MIKE & SUZANNE JETER, GARY & KITTY BEVERLY, ROBERT & MARYBETH THOMPSON, PATTY TURNER, CHUCK OLSON, PHYLLIS JACKSON, KATHY HAKES, NYKI BRIGGS, ETHEL BUSICK, RUTH ADKINS, MARCIA PHILLIPPE, EDWARD THOMPSON, ROSE LANE, DAVID MCREADY, KAREN ERWIN, SAM PIERSON, and VICKI CLEVINGER. On Thursday, October 31st, the bags were distributed from 5-8 pm. Volunteers included MIKE & SUZANNE JETER, GARY & KITTY BEVERLY, KAY & BOBBY COOK, ROBERT & MARYBETH THOMPSON, CHUCK OLSON, KATHY HAKES, PATTY TURNER, ROSE LANE, VICKI CLEVINGER, SAM PIERSON, PHYLLIS JACKSON, and DAVID MCREADY. Much appreciation to one and all for pitching in to get everything done!
- Thanks to TONY & KAYE TIPTON for their “green thumb work” to keep the flower planter box fresh and seasonally apropos. It’s a blessing every week to see it in both coming and going... That makes it a double blessing!
- Thanks to KAY COOK, PATTY TURNER, ROBERT THOMPSON, and JEFF ARRINGTON for attending to the storage and delivery of all the “donation items” received at GCC for various ministries. The logistics work of these volunteers is a mainstay of GCC’s support of these ministries. Of course, the ongoing donation of ONE & ALL makes it possible.
- Thanks to HENRY FUNKHOUSER and JANICE HILL for their teamwork in preparing and presenting weekly lessons for our Adult Sunday School Class. Their efforts and excellent teaching are so much appreciated.
- Thanks to WAYNE DARNELL, TONY TIPTON, and JOIE KERNS for graciously serving to keep our exterior lawn and grounds groomed, trimmed, mowed, pruned, and detailed. Their service is a ‘God-send’.
- Thanks to LARRY MOORE for repairing the timer on the building exterior lights. Much appreciation to Larry for his consult, input, and hands-on labors to meet house and ground needs.
- Thanks to LEEANN BROOKS for serving as our “Go-To Administrator” for Christmas Poinsettia orders. Her attention to the details of ordering and compiling the commemorative information is a huge help, making everything go smoothly.
- Thanks to the “SUNDAY ON MONDAY” YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS at Colonial Heights Christian Church for donating bars of soap to help GCC with the Sullivan County Jail Ministry soap collection. We are grateful to our sister church for their generous contribution.
- Thanks to ETHEL BUSICK for continuing to edify the GCC family of faith via the ministries of inreach and outreach. Her efforts to keep us in-touch and connected are a vital part of our spiritual health.
- Thanks to KAREN CRADIC for “Keeping on keeping on” to serve our children / youth via Grace Cadets and Children’s Church. Her loving leadership is the perfect fit for nurturing young people in the Lord.
- Thanks to KITTY BEVERLY, JAMIE ABERNATHY, JENNIFER STARNES, JORDAN ARRINGTON, and BRIAN BROOKS for their service and commitment to meeting the technology needs of the church. The support they provide is a major part of our weekly worship and on-line presence. Be sure to thank our ‘Tech-Team Quintet’ and don’t forget to look in the balcony.
- Thanks to the entire GCC FAMILY OF FAITH for sharing and serving to get everything done to the glory of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. May His blessings abound to one and all.



Thank You!

Dear Grace Christian Church Members:

Bobby and I and my family wish to say a heartfelt thanks for the flowers, cards, and spoken thoughts on the passing of my brother. Our Church Family always goes up and above the calling when someone is in need of prayers. We are fortunate to be a part of a "Loving Family."

Thanks!

Bobby & Kay

Many thanks to all of you who have prayed – and still pray – for me. Your calls and cards have blessed my soul. I love my church family!!

Karen Gaynes

Your thoughtfulness means so much more than words can say. Thank you all for the prayers and beautiful flowers.

Tommy Thompson Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thanks so much for the "Pastor Appreciation" gestures of love and support. To be sure, you are appreciated and loved by us. Sharing friendship, familyship, and fellowship with you at GCC is a forever treasure. And through you the Lord adds to that treasure daily. Blessings to one and all.

*In Christ,
Ed & Vicki*