

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## Gingerbread Build Recap



On December 3rd and 4th, thirty-seven participants gathered in the church kitchen and Fellowship Hall for a delightful and creative workshop learning the art of building gingerbread houses. The event was led by Merry Spafford, a church member and former high school teacher with a passion for baking and design. Merry has even competed in the National Gingerbread Competition in Asheville, North Carolina, where she won the People's Choice Award in 2025 for her latest creation.

The workshop began with a morning session where eight women rolled out dough that Merry had carefully prepared in advance, following her detailed patterns and instructions. Together, they baked the structural components of the gingerbread houses and began exploring a variety of decorative options available. The process was repeated with another group after lunch.

The next day, these women returned and were joined by others to assemble the houses using royal icing and an abundance of candy for creative detailing. Beauty for Ashes also participated, and several of the women expressed how much joy and encouragement the experience brought them.

A few of the finished houses were later displayed in the Narthex during...

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...Sunday services, allowing the congregation to enjoy the participants' hard work and creativity.

During the workshop, representatives from Habitat for Humanity shared about the December offering and an upcoming home build in Loudon planned for 2026, helping connect the event to our church's mission partner.

This special event was a wonderful blend of creativity, fellowship, and purpose, leaving participants with both sweet memories and a deeper sense of community.



## Book Discussion Recap

On January 27, approximately 30 women gathered for a book discussion centered on *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis. This imaginative work sparked rich conversation as participants reflected on its themes of heaven, choice, and the condition of the human heart.

Throughout the discussion, the group considered what it means to orient our lives and minds toward God, exploring how our perspectives inform our spiritual direction. The imagery and insights from Lewis' writing encouraged both personal reflection and shared wisdom among those present.

## Women's Ballet: Tints & Shadows



On February 13, our church sanctuary was transformed into a place of beauty and reflection as the Enoch Ballet Dance Company presented "Tints and Shadows," a moving performance inspired by C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*.

The company, made up of approximately 15 talented dancers, brought the story to life through expressive movement and artistry. Their performance portrayed themes of light and darkness, choice, and the soul's journey toward God, inviting the audience to reflect more deeply on the spiritual truths woven throughout Lewis' work.

Around 70 people attended the event. Following the performance, attendees were invited to stay for a cookie fellowship, where they had the opportunity to meet the dancers, share conversation, and reflect together on the evening's message.

It was a beautiful night of worship through the arts, offering both inspiration and connection within our church community.



## Classy Christmas Dinner Recap

On December 16, the ladies of CCTV gathered for a joyful evening, setting our hearts on the true meaning of Christmas—the coming of Christ Jesus. The night was filled with elegance and warmth as everyone arrived dressed for the occasion, enjoying mocktails, a beautifully prepared dinner, and time together around the table.

As guests entered, they were warmly welcomed by table hosts who had thoughtfully decorated each table with creative themes. Each setting reflected care and intentionality, helping create an atmosphere that was both festive and reverent.

We had 134 women in attendance, including 13 women from Beauty for Ashes. In a beautiful expression of generosity, many CCTV ladies donated dresses and formal outfits to these guests. Their excitement was evident, with several of them even wearing their new outfits to the CCTV concert the evening before.

The event would not have been possible without the help of eight dedicated men who graciously served as servers and clean-up. Their attentiveness and willingness to support made the night run smoothly and allowed the women to relax and enjoy the fellowship.

Mary Beth Neuhaus and her musical crew did a wonderful job leading us in Christmas songs to set our hearts in the direction of Christ for our Christmas season.

Deb Thompson and her crew of women did a wonderful job entertaining and educating us with their fashion show. They had Diane Sloan representing Sarah, Sarah Detterman representing Pharaoh's daughter, Deb Marshall representing Deborah, Vickie McDowell representing Delilah, Betsy Robertson representing Esther, Donna Kuzdzal representing Mary, mother of Jesus, Debbie Allard representing the Woman at the Well, and Bonnie Ingraham representing Lydia. Not only did we get to see each woman's personality, but we learned why they dressed the way they did at that time. The sass and flair of some made us laugh while the regal humbleness of others gave us pause.

Overall, the evening served as a meaningful reminder to fix our hearts on Christ during the Christmas season while celebrating the gift of community God has given us through one another.





UPCOMING  
EVENTS



You are invited to an upcoming day of service on April 30 at Second Harvest in Maryville. From 9am to 12pm, participants will serve together in the food warehouse, helping support efforts to provide food for those in need throughout our community. Following the morning of volunteering, the group will gather for lunch at Olive Garden to enjoy connection and conversation. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve together making a meaningful impact.

CCTV Women's  
Ministry Retreat

Restoration: Streams in the Desert  
September 18-20, 2026  
Lutheridge Camp (Arden, NC)

Drop-in Info Session:

- Sunday, May 3 (after each service)
- Fellowship Hall
- Learn more about the retreat and pick up registration docs

Guest Speaker: Rev. Amy Andrews

*Save the Date*

Women's Retreat at Lutheridge Camp and Conference Center, Arden, NC  
September 18-20, 2026 | Theme: Streams in the Desert  
Speaker: Rev. Amy Andrews, Pastor of Cedarbridge Baptist Church in Greenville, NC

Join us for a special drop-in info session on Sunday, May 3 after each worship service. Additional retreat details are available online ([tellicochurch.com/womensretreat](http://tellicochurch.com/womensretreat)).



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**WOMEN'S TEA - BENEFITING BEAUTY FOR ASHES**



**"BE-U-TEA"**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 7**  
**2:00PM**  
**TELLICO JOE  
& COURTYARD**



**— Sign up in the Narthex on April 19 & 26. —**

Be-u-Tea is a charming garden party designed for fellowship and encouragement. The gathering will take place on May 7 at 2pm in the church courtyard and Tellico Joe. This delightful afternoon will feature light refreshments, and an opportunity to support our mission partner, Beauty for Ashes.

Participants are invited to bring donated supplies for the women served by this ministry. We will also hear testimonies from women of Beauty for Ashes, as they share powerful stories of hope, transformation, and God's faithfulness in their lives.

We hope to see you there!



**"Place and Spaces Women Meet Jesus"**

This women's summer study will take place on Wednesdays at 10am during the month of June in Room 1 A/B (Sunday School Room).

No registration or books needed other than a Bible. Come for an hour of interactive thoughts and study with Debbie Thompson.