



# COMMUNITY CHURCH

AT TELlico VILLAGE



DECEMBER  
2023

*Cultivating  
believers, disciples,  
and servants  
to transform our  
community and  
world for  
Christ.*

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### Hope Amid Life's Challenges

Don't look now, but things are about to get hectic! As we embrace the festive spirit of the holiday season, it's essential to also acknowledge the challenges that this season can sometimes bring our way. Amid our celebrations, let us hold fast to the resilience and hope that sustains us during difficult times.

Recently, I listened to Walter Brennan's rendition of "Life Gets Tee-Jus Don't It," ([CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)) a song written By Carson Robison that was popular in 1948. Despite its somewhat dark perspective on life's challenges, that song struck a chord with me and made me smile. Life indeed has its tedious moments, especially as we navigate seasons of grief and loss.

Over the past 18 months, our community has experienced the loss of some dear friends and family members. These losses, paired with the losses of both my parents, have reminded me that we will all encounter challenges, and none of us will emerge untouched.

As we journey through this life, I want you to consider a couple of important questions:

**Where do you place your trust?**

**Where do you draw your strength and hope?**

In a tedious world chock full of uncertainties, where can we anchor our trust? As we journey through Advent and the anticipated birth of Jesus Christ, let us be reminded that our ultimate trust rests in the unwavering love and guidance of our Savior. Navigating life's challenges requires strength beyond our own. Let us turn to the source of everlasting hope, finding solace in

our faith, community, and the support we provide one another.

Roughly three millennia ago, it was King David who answered these same types of questions saying in Psalm 25:

***"To You, O Lord, I lift my soul. In you, I put my trust." He then says, "Show me your ways, O Lord. Teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me. For you, God, are my savior. My hope is in you all day long."***

During this Advent season which begins on Sunday, December 3, our sermon series will revolve around the "Good News" of Christ. As people of faith, we proclaim that God sent us the ultimate answer in a helpless baby, Emmanuel - God with us. Out of silence and darkness, God answered our pleas. No matter the circumstances, no matter the challenges, God IS with us, sharing love that will eventually bring us home to him. A child is born in the remote village of Bethlehem. And as that child grew and became a man, he promised that God will always be with us and that when he himself is gone, the spirit of God, the comforter, will be sent to all people.

Life does indeed get "tee-jus, don't it?" We are affected by forces and events we cannot control. Yet, we belong to a God who is faithful and unchanging, the God who brings light even into the darkest places and renews our strength. May the God of light and love be with you, no matter the darkness of the days ahead, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord at Christmas.

Blessings,

*Pastor Steve*



# CHRISTMAS

## AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH AT TELICO VILLAGE

Advent and Christmas are seasons that offer good news. The events from centuries ago unwrap a story of hope for the broken and hurting world in which we live. Whether you are hearing the good news for the first time or experiencing a fresh retelling, join us this Christmas season as we dive deeper into the Good News of a Savior!

December 3	9am & 10:30am
December 10	9am & 10:30am 4pm
December 11	4pm & 7pm
December 14	6pm
December 17	9am & 10:30am
December 24	10:30am 4:30pm & 7pm
December 31	10:30am

**Good News: 1st Sunday of Advent**

**Good News: 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**Community Church Christmas Program**

**Community Church Christmas Program**

**Service of Hope and Remembrance**

**Good News: 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Good News: 4th Sunday of Advent**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Worship Service**

### Good News



AN ADVENT SERIES



## Your Neighbors in the Pew: Tom & Joan Stridde

By Julie A. Best

It's good when you have found your niche, and Tom and Joan Stridde have certainly done that, both in our community and in our church.

Tom and Joan were born, raised, educated, and worked in Wisconsin. Joan is from a big family; she is the second of 11 children. Tom, on the other hand, is an only child. Joan was born in Clintonville, and raised in Marion, which is very close to Clintonville, WI. Tom was born and raised in Neenah, WI. They went to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. They both were music majors, and that's where the sparks happened. Music majors have to know a bit about many musical instruments, but flute was Joan's proficiency, and Tom played the clarinet and trumpet. They sat just a few chairs from each other in band. It was only natural that they became acquainted, and that acquaintance developed into something more eventually.

Tom says, "My dream was to be a band director, and I achieved that dream." He followed his dream for about six years and Joan taught music in their home. By that time, they had two children, a daughter and son, and he says, "We were starving teachers!" Well, not literally, probably, but he decided that he needed to change careers to be more beneficial to his family.

In 1980, he had the opportunity to go into life and health insurance. The first few years were a struggle, but it was a good choice. They moved from Wisconsin to Illinois, and he eventually bought the agency. Joan worked right along with him for over 25 years and life was good.

In 2010, Tom had heart bypass surgery. The surgery was successful and he got along just fine. But Tom says, "When you have a major medical event like that, it changes you. I lost my ambition to work. I suddenly realized that there were lots of other things that I would rather be doing." At that point, he began the process of selling his agency.

They had known about Tellico Village for a number of years. Tom's aunt and uncle, Nancy and Chuck Stridde lived here, and they visited them in the fall of 2000.

Joan says, "It was after Tom's bypass surgery that we came to visit their daughter and family. It was March of 2011, and it was wonderful! We played golf and got a sunburn in March—that's a bit different from March in Illinois."

They bought a home with the intent of it being a vacation home, but in 2012, Tellico Village became their permanent home. Interestingly enough, both their children now live in this area: their daughter and son-in-law in the county outside of Loudon, and their son's family in Greenback. Their son has two little boys, and they spend lots of time at baseball and flag football games. The oldest grandchild lives in Indiana and is involved with many activities at her church.

Tom and Joan became involved in the church soon after they moved here. Joan says, "When I entered the sanctuary for the first time, I thought, 'this is where we need to be.'" And, we are so delighted to have them.

Tom coordinates our Shepherds Program, and Joan works right along with him. That is a huge commitment. They are at the church from 8:00-12:00 almost every Sunday, also at every Fine Arts event as well as the craft sales and garage sale helping to ensure that we as a congregation are safe and secure. Tom says, "I don't have a background in security, but it is an interest of mine." In addition to filling a much-needed task for our church, it certainly has its rewards. Tom is usually at the computer station near the Founders Chapel on Sundays. He says, "I have met and talked with more people since I have been a part of this effort. It's fun."

In addition to all their church involvement, Joan and Tom are avid golfers. Tom is also a woodworker and he enjoys fishing. Joan loves to read and walking in the neighborhoods. Tom and Joan, you certainly have found your place. We thank you for your commitment and for your time. God bless!



*When I  
entered  
the sanctuary  
for the first time,  
I thought,  
"this is where  
we need to be."*

*~ Joan Stridde ~*



# Endowment

## 2023 Grant Awards

The Endowment Team completed the endowment grant evaluation process for 2023, and we are happy to announce the following awards:

- **Loudon County Habitat for Humanity** was awarded \$22,113.50 for development costs for a new Habitat neighborhood in Loudon. This new development named Hilltop Hideaway will contain energy-efficient homes for 35 low-income families to purchase through the Habitat for Humanity program.
- **Young Life East Hills** was awarded \$22,113.50 toward the purchase of a 12-passenger van to transport students home from club meetings. Currently this is done by leaders in their personal cars and often requires multiple trips. They will also use the van for transportation for Young Life camp.

Janis Solack, a member of our Mission Team and the advocate for Young Life East Hills, said this about the grant award, "I cried tears of joy. I know this money will make a big difference in the number of students that can participate in the God-centered Young Life program and for that truth, I am thrilled and thankful."

If you would like to be a part of the ministry and outreach provided through the Endowment Fund, we encourage you go to [tellicochurch.com/endowment](https://tellicochurch.com/endowment) to learn more.



Christ caring for people through people

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

## The Firsts

By Jeannine Wolf

When someone is grieving the loss of a loved one or friend, the "firsts" come to my mind. The "firsts" are those important dates in our lives that were special with that lost loved one. Their birthday, anniversary, any holiday such as Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas but also Mother's Day or Father's Day. These days and others are harder to bear than the regular days of the year. These days hold special memories associated with these dates, but it also reminds us that when these days occur, we are unable to share with them and make new memories with our loved one and this makes us more sad.

Stephen Ministry realizes that those "firsts" can be hard when everyone else is celebrating. That is why in this holiday season, a special service is created with you in mind. The Hope and Remembrance Service will be held on December 14 at 6pm in the Founders Chapel. Come and find hope and peace in this holiday season. Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor who may be grieving, too. All are welcome. Contact any of our leaders with any questions or concerns about this service or any questions you may have about Stephen Ministry.

Jan Elliott • Carolyn Page • Lori York • Jeannine Wolf



## Wishing Well Care & Share

### ONGOING COLLECTIONS

- Caps and Lids
- Postage Stamps
- Cellphones
- *canceled; leave 1/4" edge*
- Eyeglasses
- Pull Tabs
- Ink Cartridges
- Toiletry Items (new; any size)

**Complete list available  
on the church website.**

**Helping Hands with Hygiene Program  
through the Family Resource Center  
for Loudon County Schools**

New items include: body wash, bar soap, shampoo and conditioner (or combined), deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, bath scrubbies, skin lotion, hair styling products

### Your help is appreciated in the following ways:

- Please put your items in the appropriately labeled baskets. There are two larger plastic bins in the open bin of the Wishing Well for caps and lids.
- Please only donate the items that are requested.  
*There are 3x5 cards in a stand on the top of the Wishing Well that list all of the collections on one side and the specifics for the cap and lid collection on the other side. Feel free to take one home with you as a reminder of what is acceptable.*
- If you bring your items to church in a bag, please sort the items and place them in the appropriate baskets.
- Please only donate the items that are requested.
- For those responsible for picking up the donated items for an agency, please clear out the basket(s) on a regular basis. If you are unable to do so, please ask someone to do it in your place.

**The Wishing Well Care and Share collection area is located under the grand staircase.**



# Guest Speaker

Dr. Cary Hilliard Sunday, December 17



Dr. Cary Hilliard was born and raised as the son and grandson of Baptist ministers in Southwestern Oklahoma. By God's calling Cary served for 28 years in pastoral ministry across the southern United States, including as senior pastor of churches in Texas, Georgia, South Carolina and Texas again. In 2019, God led Cary into ministry with Edify, an international ministry that partners with Christ centered schools in 14 developing countries (7 in Latin America and 7 in Africa).

Cary is an ordained Baptist minister holding a B.A. in Religion from Oklahoma Baptist University, a Master of Divinity from Truett Seminary of Baylor University, and a Doctorate from Gardner Webb University School of Divinity in NC. Cary loves empowering others to embrace a missional life through serving the poor. Over the years, he has served on a number of non-profit boards and on denominational leadership committees. Additionally, Cary has served as an adjunct professor and/or guest speaker for several institutions of higher education.

Cary has been blessed in marriage to his wife Kelli (for 28 years) since July 1995, and they have three children: Auburn (23), a 2023 graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma; Carson (20), a Sophomore chemical engineering student at Oklahoma State University; and Eden (17), a scary driving junior in high school.

## Memorable MOMENTS

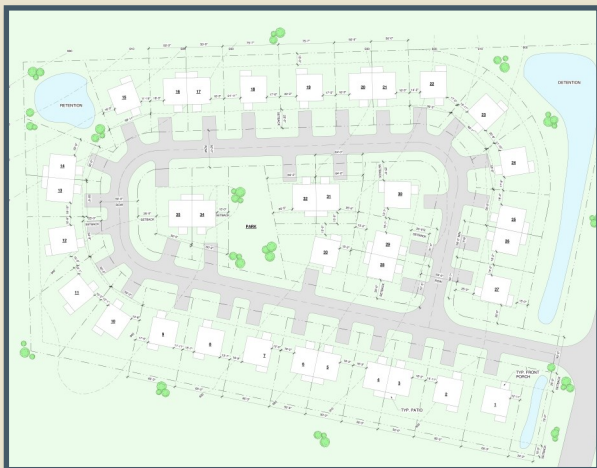
Pastor Steve and Kelli had the opportunity to attend the installation service of Rev. Jennifer Brown (former Associate Pastor at CCTV) in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on October 29. Jennifer is the Senior Pastor at University Baptist Church.



## 2023 Christmas Offering



Loudon County Habitat for Humanity celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. As a nonprofit Christian housing ministry, Habitat has built nearly 125 simple, decent, affordable homes in partnership with low-income families and community volunteers, and they have completed more than 130 critical repair projects. In addition to building on numerous infill lots, Habitat has developed three neighborhoods: Hidden Hills (6 houses), Harmony Heights (38 houses), and Hope Haven (54 houses). Through all these years, the Community Church has been a partner with Habitat. Our church members have served as founders of the organization, board members, committee members, and volunteers in construction and at the ReStore.



Habitat is now developing a new neighborhood in Loudon, and our church wants to be a partner in that project as well. Any of you who have built a house know that the development cost of the lot is a major cost of construction. Habitat's costs of development are no different, so this year our Christmas Offering will go toward the development costs for Hilltop Hideaway. By investing in this neighborhood, our church will be helping to provide energy-efficient homes for 35 low-income families to purchase through the Habitat program.

During the month of December, you may give online at [tellicochurch.com/](http://tellicochurch.com/) give or by check payable to CCTV with the designation of Christmas Offering on the memo line of the check. Please think about what having a home means to you and give generously.



**PLEASE NOTE:**

The church office will be closed December 25 & 26 and January 1 for the upcoming holidays.



## COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 10 \* 4PM  
**UNAVAILABLE**

MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 11  
4PM \* 7PM



Limited quantity free tickets are available in the church office.

## Cap, Sock and Mitten Collection

November 15-December 13

Drop off all new or handmade caps, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks at the Community Church at Tellico Village, the Tellico Village Wellness Center or Chota Rec Center.



## THE CANADIAN BRASS

TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 23  
7:00PM  
\$10



Tickets available starting January 2 at the church office.

"If you said the Canadian Brass represented the 'gold standard' among brass quintets, you'd be right on the mark. Aside from performing on 24K gold-plated instruments, the group, led by its avuncular tuba master Chuck Dellenbach, essentially put the idea of the brass quintet on the map." (*NPR Music*)



## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

FOR CAREGIVERS AND THE LOVED ONES THEY CARE FOR

TUESDAY, DEC. 12 - 3:30-5:00PM

CCTV Fellowship Hall ~ RSVP by Dec. 6 at the Church Office

CHRISTMAS MUSIC  
AND OLDIES  
with Ken & Carol Ellis



SOUP  
SANDWICHES  
DESSERTS



12 DAYS OF  
FAST FOOD CHRISTMAS  
with Kathy Kutschera

Hosted by the CCTV Congregational Care Team

## Service of Hope and Remembrance

THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 14  
6PM

FOUNDERS CHAPEL

## Spaghetti Supper

**PLEASE NOTE:**

There will be no spaghetti supper during the month of December.

The next spaghetti supper will take place on Thursday, January 18.



STARTING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

## Good News



AN ADVENT SERIES



# 4 WAYS TO GIVE



## MAIL

SEND YOUR GIFT TO:  
130 CHOTA CENTER  
LOUDON, TN 37774



## DROP OFF

BRING YOUR GIFT TO  
THE CHURCH OFFICE  
MON - THURS 9-4



## SUNDAYS

PLACE YOUR GIFT IN  
AN OFFERING PLATE



## ONLINE

GIVE ONLINE AT  
TELLICOCHURCH.COM/GIVE

## End of Year Giving

For a **personal check or cash donation** to be considered deductible in 2023, you must do the following: date the personal check in 2023, **AND** place your personal check or cash in the offering plate or dropped off at the office by noon on December 29. If a personal check is mailed, **it must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2023.**

**Therefore:** personal checks brought into the office in January (even if dated in December) will NOT be deductible in 2023. Personal checks mailed with a postmark in January (even if dated in December) will NOT be deductible in 2023. In both of these cases, the donations will be deductible in 2024.

For all **IRA Required Minimum Distributions, Qualified Charitable Donations or Stock Gifts**, please consult your financial advisor for the timing and deductibility of your gift.



## CULTIVATE

FAITH • FELLOWSHIP • FINANCES

*This is a reminder  
to submit your pledge form for 2024  
if you have not done so already. Thank you!*

## Finance Facts

### OCTOBER YEAR-TO-DATE 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME	\$1,702,472	\$1,624,540
EXPENSES (including mortgage principal)	\$1,523,108	\$1,631,811
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$179,364	(\$7,271)
Mortgage Principal Year-to-Date		\$191,144
Mortgage Interest Year-to-Date		\$54,419
Mortgage Balance		\$2,086,622
Endowment Fund		\$382,500

## Memorial Gifts Remembering...

### Barbara Brunson

Jean Giffin  
Alice Masur  
Bill & Shauna Oden  
Jeff & Sue Conklin  
John Smith

### Ed Morris

Bill & Emily Koepp

### Ron Souder

Jean Giffin

### Jerry Halkey

Martha Wilkerson  
Karen & Arlan Antony



## Thank You

Thank you very much for the kind note you sent. It certainly boosted my spirits and made my day. You are so kind.

Jim Eriksson

## Fostering Joy Update

Thank you to all who sponsored a foster child this year from the Fostering Joy tree. This year 173 children were sponsored from the Community Church. Please drop off the unwrapped gifts at the Fellowship Hall on December 5th or 6th between 10am-2pm.

## Scam Alert

As we approach this holiday season, there are many predators who perpetuate fraudulent scams. Please be vigilant and only respond to CCTV staff from their church email address (@tellicochurch.org). If you receive a request for money for gift cards from someone at CCTV, please call the church office before responding.

## Stamp Ministry



Every year, thousands of used and new stamps are gathered, trimmed and sorted into categories. These stamps are packaged and mailed to wholesalers who buy the stamps for distribution to collectors. Stamps for Mission has been in place since 1972 and has provided over \$946,000 to children's ministries in 19 Latin American Countries to write and produce Sunday School curriculum.

Please gather cancelled stamps, new stamps and/or stamp collections. (All cancelled stamps should have a 1/3" frame when cut from an envelope.) There is an area in the Wishing Well located under the grand staircase to place them. Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference.



# COMMUNITY CHURCH AT TELlico VILLAGE

130 Chota Center • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865.458.1516 • [tellicochurch.com](http://tellicochurch.com) • [mail@tellicochurch.org](mailto:mail@tellicochurch.org)

## GENERAL INFO

**Worship Services.....** 9:00am & 10:30am

*Child care is provided for the 10:30am service.*

*Livestream each Sunday at 10:30am on YouTube*

*Visit our website to watch Sunday's service live.*

**Sunday School.....** Resumes in January

**Find us on Facebook.....** [facebook.com/tellicochurch](https://facebook.com/tellicochurch)

**Church Calendar.....** [tellicochurch.com/events](http://tellicochurch.com/events)

**Want to explore church membership?**

*Please call the church office for details if you are interested. You may inquire about membership and other spiritual matters.*

**Pastoral Care**

*Please contact the church office for your pastoral care needs.*

## STAFF

**Senior Pastor .....** Rev. Dr. Stephen Prevatte

**Associate Pastor .....** Rev. Devin Phillips

**Pastor of Worship and Music.....** Rev. Dr. John Orr

**Pastoral Resident.....** Rev. Hannah Perry

**Pastor Emeritus .....** Rev. Martin C. Singley, III

**Office Manager .....** Pat Ouderkirk

**Director of AVL .....** Rex Prather

**Director of Communications.....** Gregg Randolph

**Financial Assistant .....** Cathy Bradley

**Receptionist/Secretary .....** Candy Smith

**Facilities Manager.....** Jeff McDaniel

**Kitchen Coordinator.....** Lee Rook

**Organist/Accompanist.....** Andrew Duncan

The church office is open Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm and Friday, 9am-noon.

**BUS TRANSPORTATION** is available for the 10:30 service from anywhere in the village. If you wish to ride the bus, please call the church office by Thursday of the week you wish to use transportation.

## 2023 Council Voting Members



**Front (L-R):** David Brunson, Corp. Secretary & Trustee Team  
Bonnie Ingraham, Council Chair  
Judy Heard, Worship & Music Team  
Lynne MacConnell, Congregational Care Team  
Kaye Sandridge, Engagement Team

**Back (L-R):** Pat Welch, Mission Team  
Chuck Martin, Council Vice Chair/HR  
Peggy Welch, Treasurer & Finance Team

## Spiritual Support

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Monday at 7pm, Lower CLC  
Women every Friday at 11:30am  
Lower CLC

### Al-Anon

United Methodist Church - Loudon  
Every Tuesday at 7pm

### Caregiver's Support Group

(Includes Alzheimer's Support Group)  
2nd & 4th Tuesday of month, 1pm  
Fellowship Hall  
Lynne MacConnell

### Grief Support Group

Scott & Suzanne Duncan

### Guy to Guy

Chuck Hitch

### Hospitalization Support

Call the church office

### Parkinson's Support Group

1st Thursday of month, 1pm  
Lower CLC  
Kathy Milam, Peggy Crowder

### Pastoral Counseling

Rev. Dr. Stephen Prevatte

### Prayer Chain

Jan Elliott

### Prayer Shawls

**Knitters & Crocheters**  
2nd Monday of month, 11am  
Conference Room  
Jan Martin

### Stephen Ministry

Jan Elliott, Carolyn Page  
Jeannine Wolf, Lori York

*For more information please contact  
the church office (865-458-1516).*