



I haven't put away Christmas decorations yet. I decided to let the Christmas lights twinkle a little bit longer. I like to give the wise men time to find the baby Jesus as I nibble on the last of the Christmas cookies and sip the last of the wassail before I begin the "**Work of Christmas.**" I keep going back to what Pastor Greg posted on his Facebook page.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers,
 To make music in the heart.

reviewing 2020, I am encouraged by the Women of Grace and the work they continue to accomplish in the name of Jesus even though Covid has strewn rocks along the path attempting to discourage and stunt the "**Work of Christmas.**"

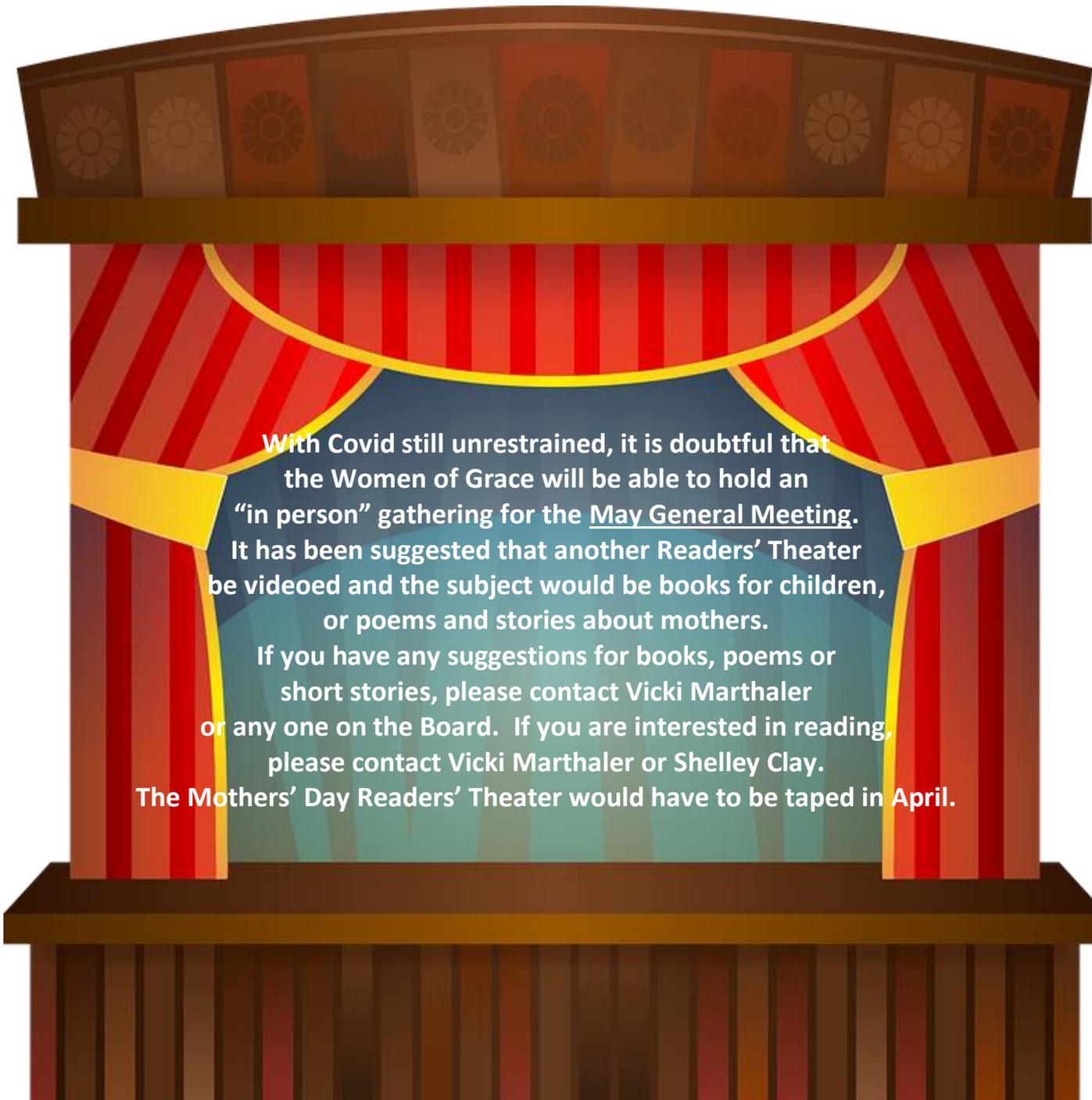
The Quilters continue to quilt. The Prayer Shawl ministers continue to knit and crochet. The Circles continue to Zoom or connect in other safe ways so that they can support one another. Choir members continue to sing. Musicians are not silenced. Grace Women continue to serve on the council and on various committees. Women work creatively to support Living Waters Food Bank and Abundancia as they work to meet the needs of those facing food insecurities. The Altar Guild continues to "guild" away! Many women have boldly shared a bit of their faith journey through our "Gathering Grace" episodes on YouTube with the hope of refreshing a daunted soul. A women's Readers' Theater narrated heart-warming stories which were videoed for YouTube giving the annual Christmas Tea a new venue. A WELCA Tote Bag/Patch Fundraiser is on-going to bolster the coffers so that the women can continue their important tradition of contributing to worthwhile community charities. Food donations were generously given to support the work of Hope House in North Carolina where girls rescued from human trafficking can find a safe place to heal and be restored. And these are just the highlights!

2021 will be no different. The "**Work of Christmas**" will continue full tilt for the Women of Grace. So eat that last Christmas cookie, swig down the wassail and roll up your sleeves,ladies. The New Year is here and there is much "**Work of Christmas**" to do! Together is better! A blessed New Year to you!

Vicki Marthaler, President of Grace's WELCA

Looking Ahead to May, 2021

Rachel's Day is a World Wide WELCA event. It is a Sunday set aside to remember children, especially those who are faced with violence and abuse. It is to remember children with love and care. In the past, The Women of Grace have collected children's books that are sent to the Women's Correctional Facility in Swannanoa for the incarcerated mothers to be recorded as they read these books and then the recordings and the books are given to their children. The Women of Grace would like to continue this tradition and more information will be given in next month's newsletter.



With Covid still unrestrained, it is doubtful that the Women of Grace will be able to hold an "in person" gathering for the May General Meeting. It has been suggested that another Readers' Theater be videoed and the subject would be books for children, or poems and stories about mothers.

If you have any suggestions for books, poems or short stories, please contact Vicki Marthaler or any one on the Board. If you are interested in reading, please contact Vicki Marthaler or Shelley Clay.

The Mothers' Day Readers' Theater would have to be taped in April.

“GATHERING GRACE” EPISODES ON YOUTUBE

Go to Youtube.com

Search for “Gathering Grace, (name of person)”

Shelley Clay (June 23, 2020)

Diane Sellers (July 7, 2020)

Marie Mortensen (July 21, 2020)

Judy Stoltenberg (August 4, 2020)

Joy Kiefer (August 18, 2020)

Helen Just (September 1, 2020)

Susan Fitzgerald (September 15, 2020)

Phyllis Seibert (September 29, 2020)

Barbara Fountain (October 13, 2020)

Kelly Spangler (October 27, 2020)

Vicki Marthaler (November 10, 2020)

Jan Hoffmann (November 24, 2020)

Sallie Weber (December 8, 2020)

Gathering Grace 2020 (December 22, 2020)

Irene Syvertson (January 5, 2021)

Note the dates of release:

Rosaleen Dawes (January 19, 2021)

Beth Spencer (February 2, 2021)

Leah Scroggin (February 16, 2021)



We welcome you to share a bit of your faith journey. Please contact Shelley Clay or Vicki Marthaler or Judy Stoltenberg. As you view these faith stories, note that each person sharing tells her story in her own words, her own way. Jesus is a personal Savior and comes to us meeting our very individual needs. We would be honored to hear a bit about your story.

