



Gleaners Gazette

East Tennessee Gleaner’s Co-op Newsletter

ETGC EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Vance McCoy** (2012) – President
- Amy Backstrom** (2014) – Vice President/Community Coordinator
- Deb Breede** (2024) – Treasurer
- Melissa Rueff** (2024) – Secretary / UTG Coordinator
- Tim Davis** (2018) – Membership Coordinator

ETGC COMMITTEE TEAM LEAD MEMBERS

- Kim McCoy** (2012) – Board Advisor / Education Coordinator
- Linda Rhode** (2022) – Glean /Information Coordinator
- Roy Breede** (2024) – Traffic Control Coordinator

Upcoming Events

- 9/10/26: KitchenAid Stand Mixer Maintenance: Class Full
- 9/19/26: From Coop to Kitchen – [Register Here](#)
- 9/26/26: Just Dill With It - [Register Here](#)
- 10/24/26: Chili Showdown – Details coming soon

Spotlight on Leadership

Guiding Our Mission

MEET THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Vance McCoy (2012) - President
A co-founding member and developer, Vance McCoy helped establish ETGC in its early stages in 2012 alongside his wife, Kim. As President, Vance provides strategic direction for the board and oversees all organizational operations. Beyond his leadership role, Vance balances his commitment to ETGC with his own business, leading a monthly Men’s Fellowship, active church involvement, and family life on the Real McCoy Farm.

Amy Backstrom (2014) – Vice President
Amy Backstrom has been a member of ETGC since 2014, serving as Secretary for the last four years before stepping into her current role as Vice President. In this capacity, Amy supports the executive board and acts as our Community Development Coordinator. Her community involvement includes working as a licensed Real Estate Agent, a Nursing Professor, and active service on her church ministry leadership team.

Deb Breede (2024) – Treasurer
Joining ETGC in 2024, Deb Breede assumed the critical role of Treasurer at the start of this year. Deb manages our financial health, including budgeting, financial reporting, and fiscal oversight. Outside of her ETGC board duties, Deb works as a Medical Benefit Consultant. She finds joy in gardening, reading, cooking shows, and being active in her local church community.

Melissa Rueff (2024) – Secretary & UTG Coordinator
Melissa joined the ETGC in 2024 and serves a vital dual role as both Secretary and the Unable to Glean (UTG) Coordinator. Melissa ensures the accuracy of our official records and meeting minutes while leading all UTG initiatives. A certified Master Gardener, Melissa is also known for sharing her love of people through her exceptional baking and cooking talents, as well as serving in worship ministry for her church.

Tim Davis (2018) – Membership Coordinator
Tim Davis has been an active ETGC member since 2018 and serves as our Membership Coordinator. As the primary point of contact for new and existing members, Tim ensures our membership base remains informed and well-connected. In addition to his organizational skills, Tim worked for many years as Snack Research & Development Director for Flowers Foods. He fills his days with cooking and baking for his wife, spending time gardening and serving as ETGC Membership Chair. He is a very talented and gifted baker whose delicious recipes are a beloved treasure to all our ETGC members.



Spanish Bar Cake

Spanish Bar Cake

By Tim Davis



Raisin Mixture

- ¾ cup raisins
- ½ cup whole milk



Dry Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- 2 Tbs corn starch
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp nutmeg
- 2 ½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 ½ tsp allspice
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cloves



Wet Ingredients

- 3 large eggs (room temperature)
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 3 Tbs molasses
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 tsp almond extract



Frosting

- 2 ¼ cups powdered sugar
- 6 Tbs butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/16 tsp almond extract
- 2 Tbs whole milk



Optional Frosting Variation

- *Replace 6 Tbs butter with:*
 - 3 Tbs butter
 - 3 Tbs cream cheese



Pan Prep (Not in batter, but required)

- Flour (for dusting pans)
- Butter or oil (for greasing pans)

- 1. Raisin Prep:** Combine ¾ cup raisins and ½ cup whole milk in a saucepan. Heat gently until steaming (not boiling). Remove from heat; let sit 10 mins to cool. Do not drain.
- 2. Dry Mix:** Whisk or sieve together: 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 cup granulated sugar, ½ cup dark brown sugar, 2 Tbs corn starch, ½ tsp salt, 1 tsp baking soda, ½ tsp baking powder, 1 ½ tsp nutmeg, 2 ½ tsp cinnamon, 1 ½ tsp allspice, ½ tsp ground ginger, and 1 tsp ground cloves. Set aside.
- 3. Wet Mix & Combine:** Whisk 3 large room-temp eggs, ¼ cup vegetable oil, 3 Tbs molasses, 2 tsp vanilla extract, and 3 tsp almond extract. Gradually blend in dry mix until incorporated. Fold in raisin/milk mixture.
- 4. Bake:** Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease and flour two 8.5” x 4.5” bread pans. Divide batter equally. Bake 35–45 mins until a toothpick comes out clean. Do not overbake.
- 5. Frosting:** Blend 2 ¼ cups powdered sugar, 6 Tbs butter, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 1/16 tsp almond extract, and 2 Tbs whole milk until smooth and fluffy. **(Variation: Replace 6 Tbs butter with 3 Tbs butter + 3 Tbs cream cheese.)**
- 6. Assembly:** Cool cakes completely. Place one cake top-side up; spread with thick frosting. Place second cake top-side down on top. Frost the top layer only. Comb frosting with a fork.

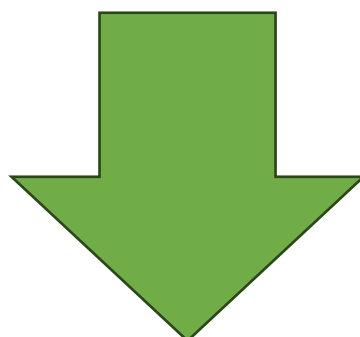
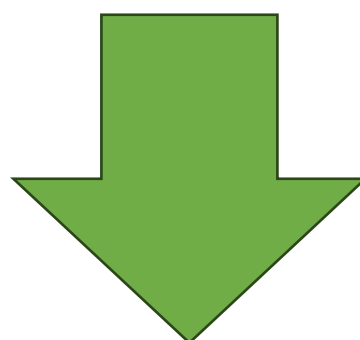
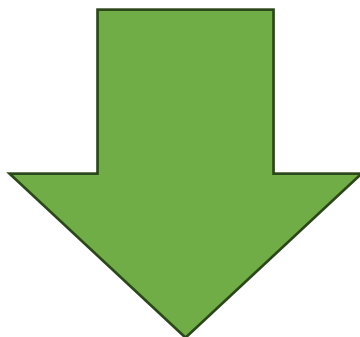
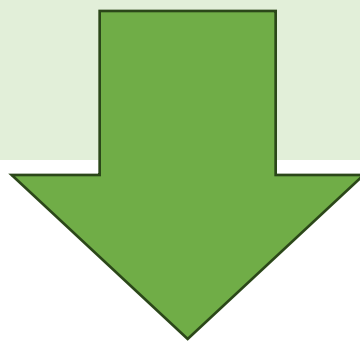
WRAP UP

If you are already an ETGC member, **THANK YOU** for being part of this wonderful volunteer community.

If you have been thinking about joining, please know that it isn't too late, but don't wait! You are more than welcome to step in and discover what it truly means to "Help people Help themselves." To get started, visit our website at ETGC.org or scroll over to our [ETGC Facebook page](#) for all the details on upcoming classes, registration, gleaning schedules, and many more events scheduled for the rest of the year.

Be sure to stay tuned for the next edition of the ***Gleaners Gazette***. Until then, bless the people who cross your path and savor the sweetness of every special moment. 🌱

P.S. – Take a look at the next page for our Chili Showdown preliminary information!!!



SAVE THE DATE

ETGC CHILI SHOWDOWN



Oct 24, 2026



11 AM to 3 PM



Redemption Church
Crossville



1st thru 3rd place
prizes and
bragging rights

100
DOLLARS
CASH PRIZE

FOR 1ST PLACE!

CHILI SHOWDOWN
★
CHAMPION

CROSSVILLE, TENNESSEE
2026

1st
PLACE



ETGC

EAST TENNESSEE GLEANERS CO-OP

