



18350 N. Goldwater Ridge Dr.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Pastor Chip Short, Senior Pastor
Dr. Gary Harr, Associate Pastor
Phone: 623-975-6262
E-mail: office@grandbaptist.com
Website: www.grandbaptist.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Sun City, AZ
Permit No. 114



THE GRAND COMMUNICATOR

Published by Grand Community Baptist Church --- The Community Church in the Heart of Grand

Early Summer Edition

May - June 2024

Editor - Joan Miner

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Magnify God, Proclaim the Gospel, Care for the Community!

The Church office is open Mon. - Thur. from 8:00am to 1:00pm

Please call if you have any questions or concerns 623-975-6262

Come Worship with Us

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Services

Bible Study at 9:00 AM ... Ministry Center

Worship at 10:00 AM ... Worship Center

Evening Worship at 4:00 PM ... Worship Center

Mondays	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study, Ministry Center Classroom
Wednesdays	4:00 pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, Worship Center
Saturdays	10:00 am	Women's Bible Study, Ministry Center Classroom

Pastor's Note



A few days ago I was watching a newscast when they reported that this coming summer was going to be hot, even hotter than last year. They spoke of how miserable it was going to be and how it would negatively affect everything from the homeless to tourism. Then they gave their evidence, which was that the Farmer's Almanac was predicting a 30% chance that this coming summer will be hotter than last year.

I laughed quietly and shook my head at the silliness of the whole report. If there is a 30% chance of being hotter, then there is a 70% chance of being cooler. That means it is more than twice as likely by their estimate that it will not be as hot. Yet they spun the whole thing to emphasize how terrible it could be.

Summertime in Arizona is like that. People anticipate the worst. They plan to be miserable. And of all the things you plan for, the negative ones are the most likely to come to fruition. Many people expect for as much as possible to shut down and for all non-essentials, and even some really important things, to be on hold until the weather cools down.

Even around the church, there is a real current towards doing less. But I don't believe we should follow that trend. God is still in heaven. Still on His throne. Still deserves to be praised. We should not back down. Yes it carries some minor inconveniences to be out in the heat, but so what. People need fellowship, even if the group is smaller. Others need to hear the gospel, and without a crowd it's easier to focus on them.

God can still change hearts, even in the summertime. But, He needs us to stay active in order to use us in His life-changing work. I think that the unchurched who stay here year round, might well be more open to hearing the gospel in the stretch of time when the streets, restaurants and social centers are not as busy.

And it seems to me that God is doing some remarkable things in our world. The University of Alabama recently had a mass baptism event. Notice this is not a Christian school. Other schools have seen their collegiate ministries increase greatly. We have also seen God moving in our church, in ways that I cannot explain other than pointing to God and saying He is moving.

Do we want to put God on hold? Nope. That would be unwise. So, those of you that are year rounders, keep coming, keep your scheduled events, keep witnessing and keep inviting. Then behind the scenes, keep studying, and keep praying - specifically to ask God to keep doing the things only He can do.

Welcome Our New Member!

*Mary Sobba
Joined April 7, 2024*



*Gary Krause
Joined April 14, 2024*



*Claire Brown
Joined April 14, 2024*

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!



Keep the main thing the main thing. What is the main thing for the Church? Jesus gave His followers the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV) *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”*

Jesus told us the main thing is sharing the *Good News* with everyone. We need to realize that our world has turned her back to God and is moving away from God as fast as she can. We must be sharing Jesus with the people we meet. If a person does not know Jesus, then they are destined to spend eternity in a place called “hell.” Somehow, we must step out in faith and begin sharing the *Good News* with the people we encounter.

Vance Havner said, “The last words of Jesus to the church was not the Great Commission. The last word of Jesus to the church was *‘Repent!’* and it was said to 5 of the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3. Ask God to give you the opportunity to share Jesus with someone today.

In His Service,
Brother Gary

The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch has been enjoying their 2nd Tuesday luncheons. Attendance has been great, enthusiasm even greater, and getting to know our church family socially has been a joy. April found us at Olive Garden, May will see us enjoying Outback Restaurant, and June will find us at Longhorn Steakhouse. Our Christmas luncheon is already booked!!! We are expanding our horizons to several new-to-us restaurants whose former restrictions held us back.

Complete with door prizes, mini scavenger hunts, and lots of smiles and laughs, this is a special group of people. Come join us as we spring into summer!!!

Virginia

IN MEMORIAM

Delores Thomas 3-6-2024 Henry Bush 3-9-2024

Fun, Food and Fellowship

Greetings once again from your sisters in Christ. We are ramping up for a fabulous spring, summer and fall. We have many going to cooler states to see family and friends, but want to let ALL know we will have a great time of gathering while they are gone and when they return.

What is coming up next???

Ladies Appreciation Lunch

May 11, 2024 at 12 noon: Ladies appreciation Lunch: POTPOURRI. All of your favorite items with a palatable devotion from the heart of a servant. Signup sheets will be in the foyer.

Ice Cream Social

July 20, 2024 at 4pm Ms Karen Legg will be the point person for a yummy Ice Cream social following the Jay Cameron game day. Please be looking for the signup sheet to make a “ho-hum” dish of ice cream a fabulous mouth watering/brain freezing “I love you moment!!

Men’s Appreciation Lunch

September 29, 2024 following morning service: we will be honoring our men of the church “FISHERS OF MEN”. This was scheduled in June but many of our members will not be here to participate so we moved it to September. This will be a wonderful way to share good chili, (from the hottest kitchens to the seasoned with love kitchens) relish trays, desserts and of course the signup sheet will be in the foyer.

Car Show

October 26, 2024 another CAR show!! A time to once again minister to the neighborhood with a vroom vroom appeal. More on this event to come as it is now in the developing stages

Thanksgiving

November 16, 2024 at 2pm: We would love to celebrate “Thanksgiving” with each other. This will be a time of “true thankful testimonies” that we can just set aside an afternoon to say “Thank you God for blessing my country, my state, my family, my church, and saving my soul” We want to come together for just the thoughts of “I love you Jesus”. OH yeah there will be great traditional food for us food connoisseurs.

Your servants for His Glory: Ardy, Barbara, Becky, Debby, Georgene, Karen and Joy

**‘Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’**

Isaiah 41:10 NKJV

Building and Grounds

The B & G Committee in conjunction with Kelli in the Church office is responsible for the physical condition of GCBC facilities to assure a safe and economic environment for all church functions.

Through the first four months of 2024, the Committee reviewed and either confirmed or approved funding requests from Kelli for maintenance and/or improvements to various aspects of the church facilities. Some of the major items addressed included treatment for termites in the area above the janitor's closet in the Worship Center (WC) foyer, fire service system maintenance, plumbing repairs in WC bathrooms, all AC unit maintenance and filter replacement, door adjustments in WC and Ministry Center (MC) including two new door closures. The committee will continue to monitor the conditions of the facilities with Kelli and respond to the needs accordingly.

The Lord has blessed us with great facilities in which to worship together. **HOWEVER**, we do have another need and request the help of our congregation. The B & G committee is responsible for the position of "Facilities Access Manager". This position refers to the role of unlocking the church facilities around 8 am on Sunday morning and confirming all doors and lights are out in the facilities after the morning service. Also, the position includes unlocking the classroom in the MC on Monday evening around 6 pm for the AA group to meet and returning around 8 pm to lock the classroom door and check the lights. Kent Edwards has fulfilled these duties with the utmost dedication for the past year or more and will be taking a break this summer thus the need for one or more candidates to fill the need. The time required to accomplish the tasks is minimal and the position is compensated. If interested, feel free to contact me or the church office.

Carol Thompson and I filled in when Kent was away at different times. If time permits, we can arrange a meeting with candidates and include Kent and Carol if needed for more information. There is a job description available to help direct those who may seek more information. Although there is a need for late April into mid-May, the real need is from June 2 through September 2. After that time, we hope to address the position with multiple candidates so that the burden is not on one person to fulfill the duties.

Ed Smith, B & G Chairman

GriefShare

GriefShare started in January with a new updated program. Eight attendees completed the program in April. The next GriefShare group will start Tuesday, September 3rd at 10:00 AM. If you have lost a loved one, please consider attending. If you have a friend or loved one who had a loss, please recommend the GriefShare program.

Gloria Sandin will be joining Jeri Williams and Dottie Lingenfelter, as facilitators in September.

THE GRAND COMMUNICATOR

Published by Grand Community Baptist Church --- The Community Church in the Heart of Grand

Early Summer Edition - Insert

May - June 2024

Cookie Table News

Wow the Liberty Quartet was so good. They brought a lot of new faces to the cookie table. I put the word out to all my bakers that we would need extra cookies. My regular bakers asked if they could make extra and boy did they! We had one bowl filled with doughnut holes and the rest of the table was all home-made cookies. Every time I turned around I was handed another plate of cookies. I was overwhelmed. Praise the Lord!

I always thought that the cookie table was mine. I have been Cookie Lady for six years. But that Sunday I sat out by the table while the Lord was convicting me that it was NOT my table. It was the whole church's table. It belongs to all of us. Because of your generosity, you made it yours.

I am so grateful that the Lord is still convicting me. I praise the Lord that by your giving God can still show me his will in my life. I do realize that to be convicted you have to be in his Word every day, and in prayer. Your heart has to be right. Thank you cookie bakers.

Marie Miller, Cookie Lady
623-546-2589
Linda McKendrick
623-398-4633



Volunteers Needed

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to fill essential committee positions. We need to fill these essential positions in Finance, Missions and Nominating. Please consider helping to fill them. Contact Marian Hunter at 623-512-3459.



Musically Speaking

Why do we sing in church? More broadly, why is music such a consistent part of what we do when we gather together weekly?

Some churches treat their music as little more than a warm-up act for the sermon. Others seem to view it like a weekly concert that's intended to get new

visitors in the doors, or a time of familiarity and nostalgia. But I believe there are many other vital functions church music plays besides only these, some of those functions being:

- Worship – First and foremost, our music is to be *to* and *for* our Lord. Worship is broader than just music, but when we do music, it must be as an aspect of our worship.
- Prayer – Sometimes the acronym ACTS has been used to give a model for our praying: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. A Christian song's lyrics can incorporate any or all of these types of prayers to God.
- Response & Interaction – A significant part of a church service is spent listening, but communication—even in our relationship with God—is a two-way street. Our singing is a way that we get to corporately respond to and interact with our Lord.
- Teaching & Reinforcing – When music in a church context includes words, those words should of course be communicating biblically sound truths. The hymns of the faith were a formative part of my upbringing and learning about God, and I hope they will be for my little one as well. But we adults aren't all-knowing either; we too still have much to learn about God and His Word, and our songs can help us with this. Speaking of which...
- Memorizing Aid – A song is how I first learned the 10 Commandments, and later how I memorized the Fruit of the Spirit. Perhaps it's how you have learned various Scripture passages too. There's just something about music that, for many of us, can help commit things to memory.
- Reminder – In the Old Testament, Israel had altars, monuments, and annual feasts as readily available reminders of what God had done for them. One such altar was Samuel's Ebenezer or "stone of remembrance" in 1 Sam. 7:12. Today, songs are one way we can incorporate regular reminders into our own lives. "Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come..." (from "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," by Robert Robinson)
- Testimony – Some songs, such as "Come Thou Fount," also serve as testimonies, providing opportunities to testify to others what God has done in our lives.
- Agreement – Generally speaking, our song lyrics are areas of theological agreement for us as a church, concepts that we are able to affirm together as shared beliefs.
- Aspiration – Sometimes a song's words or promises that we utter to God may sound so unattainable, we may wonder why we bothered saying them in the first place. "All to Jesus I Surrender"? But such songs lay out eternity-focused goals we aspire to; though we may never manage to perfectly achieve these goals in this life, lyrics like this can be a specific *type* of supplicational prayer, pleading with God to help us better love and follow Him.

(cont)

This coming Sunday as we once again exercise the joy and privilege of singing together, perhaps you might ask yourself about each song, "Which functions does this song serve in my life?"

In song for Him and with y'all,
- James Slaviero

Mission News

Thanks to the generosity of Grand Community Baptist Church members, we are able to support various missions and ministries locally, state-wide, and globally.

Love Baptist Church-

The ongoing monthly First Sunday Share will be collected on May 5 and June 2 in the designated area of the church lobby. Gently used textiles, furniture, toys, clothing, linens, household and kitchen items, working electronics and other useful items are welcome for donation. These donations provide needed essentials for our inner-city sister church members where distribution occurs on a weekly or as-needed basis within the community in which it serves. Our sister church was established as a mission church by North Phoenix Baptist Church in 1950. Upcoming events include: school supply collection in July, Trunk or Treat Halloween ministry in October and Angel Tree ministry in December. More information will be forthcoming at a later date.

Prayer Request-

The Missions Committee has been informed of a prayer request from an IMB missionary (Angel) whom we support, ministering in Nigeria as a teacher at the Baptist College of Theology. Please pray for the six missionaries still ministering there (out of 400.) Pray for the soybean and well-digging projects, the inflation rate, kidnappings, and for Angel's mother as she recovers from a recent surgery.

Arizona Baptist Children's Services (ABCS)-

The mission of the Arizona Baptist Children's Services is to provide hope and care to hurting children and families through Christ-centered ministries. ABCS ministries focus on providing practical help to meet physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Their goal is to share the love of Christ with each person with whom they come in contact. Those services include: an adult ministry, counselling ministry, food and clothing ministry, foster care ministry, parent aid ministry (working in association with the Arizona Department of Child Safety), pregnancy ministry and transitional program ministry. The Bridge Church partners with ABCS, serving the under-served. On May 19, a representative from ABCS will be sharing their ministry needs in our morning worship service at which time we encourage members to prayerfully consider giving a love offering.