

# GRAND COMMUNICATOR

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



**APRIL "New Life in Christ, Resurrection Living"**

## What's Inside

Page 1: Pastor Chip's Note
Page 2: Pastor Gary's Note
Page 3: Celebration of Life New Members
Page 4: Musical Notes
Page 5: Lunch Bunch Cookie Table
Page 6: Missions News
Page 7: Beware of Scammers
Page 8: April Calendar
Page 9: May Calendar
Page 10: Cover



## Pastor's Note

**In the birding world, these are great days. Spring is full of wonderful surprises. Sometimes that means the return of a bird that migrated away last fall, other times it's the passing through of a bird that is rarely seen here, or it might be the discovery of a nest with the hatchlings of some common species.**

**On a recent bird walk, the group noticed a hummingbird nest. On that particular day the hummingbird was frenetically dashing to and away from the nest. There is a nearby owls' nest that is rather famous. I was happy to learn of a hummingbirds' nest nearby that was also being used this year. As I tend to walk past the owls' nest regularly, I added a stop at the hummingbirds' home.**

**About a week later I found momma hummingbird feeding babies. All I could see of the babies were upward pointed mouths, but I could clearly see momma standing high on the rim and pointing her beak straight down into those open mouths. I had never seen anything like this before, or since. It's even possible that the babies are already fledged.**

**New life is always exciting, owlets and . . . hummerlets? Whatever a baby hummingbird is called.**

**But despite how much I love nature, and birds, for new life to be really exciting it would be new life in the Kingdom. Seeing people saved and baptized. Seeing new members commit to the membership of the church. This is a more exciting and eternally relevant form of new life. Seeing the church grow, both in numbers and in excitement, that is where my greater joy is found.**

**This type of new life was made available by Jesus in His own death and resurrection. When Easter approaches on April 20 we will remember and celebrate the event that created the born again, new life in Christ which empowers the kingdom and the church. Don't miss celebrating this event, and don't miss the beauty of new life all around us.**

**But most of all don't miss what it means to you as an individual. If you have never understood what the cross and the empty tomb have to do with you and your eternity, don't wait until Easter, but make an appointment with Gary or I, so that we can show you how to experience this new life for yourself.**

---

## Greetings in the Name of the Lord

---



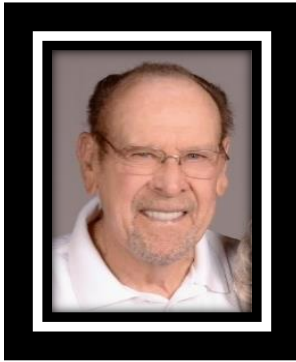
This time of the year always causes me to contemplate my own life as I review the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. I realize that Jesus came to die for my sins. I think about the life that Jesus lived. He lived a perfect life. Jesus spent 30 years preparing for 3 years of ministry. On the other hand, I spent 3 years preparing for 51 years of ministry! Jesus was tempted in all ways common to man and he never sinned. I have been tempted in many ways, and I must confess that I have messed up so many times. One of my favorite verses is 1 John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* I am thankful that God not only forgives our sins, but He also forgets our sins (Psalm 103:11-12).

At this time of the year, I recall 2 Corinthians 5:21 – *“For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* Jesus came to die for each and every person on this earth. But salvation is not automatic. Matthew 7:21 – *“Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord; shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”* It is my job as well as your job to be sharing the Good News – that a person can be made right with God by admitting that they have sinned. They need to believe that Jesus is God's Son, and that Jesus can save them. Then they need to confess their sins to God and invite Jesus to come into their life and heart to become their Lord and Savior.

At this time of year, we especially celebrate the fact that Jesus arose from the dead and He is alive forever more! Let us come together to celebrate what God has done in each of our lives. Pray for our Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday and for our Easter Services.

In His Service,  
*Brother Gary*





*James Cooper*

*February 15, 1939 – March 14, 2025*



*Sandy Pittaro*

*May 9, 1941 – February 21, 2025*

---

## *New Members*



*William and Charlsa Tew*

*Joined March 16, 2025*



*John More*

*Joined March 16, 2025*



*Mike Polley*

*Joined March 16, 2025*

## **MUSICAL NOTES**

The Music Department has been hard at work polishing the Easter cantata which will be presented at the morning service on Palm Sunday, April 13th. We're looking forward to singing In Christ Alone, a vivid and touching story of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.



Our choir is growing!!! We welcome back several members who have been away for awhile, and have several other new members. At the service on March 23rd, we needed to add some chairs to the choir loft. What a joy!!! Our Media arm has been busy making sure the lyrics of the music are available for the enjoyment of the congregation and making sure the sound system is properly working. We so appreciate this group .

We're hearing of some really nice voices singing the hymns in the congregation and encourage you to step forward into our choir rehearsals - Sunday evenings after the 4-5 service, 5-6 pm. Many folks have previously sung in a choir and feel that a certain age might preclude them from enjoying this wonderful expression of praising our Lord - but please don't let anything stop you. Drop in and see what a marvelous time we have at rehearsals. Right now we're facing a time when some of our snow birds are heading out - if you're one of them, join us on line while you're gone - but if not, come join us in person. Singing in a choir has the added benefit of everyone having the same goal - the closeness and unified effort is amazing.

Phil Carr

---

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

---

As I write this article, all 5 committees and the many ministries in our church are staffed with the volunteer servants of Christ that we need. For many, serving is choosing an area of particular interest...a banking or controller background serving on the Finance Committee, or adult children serving in the mission field might lead to a member wanting to serve on the Mission Committee. For others, the matter of serving Christ is left in His hands...being called to serve where there is a need.

Whatever brings our volunteers to a decision, there is new life in Christ when service begins. We, on the Nominating Committee, know that God will forge the abilities we need when we think we are lacking. We sincerely thank the many servants who answered the call of leadership in our church. May you find joy in the commitment; may you find companionship in the work, and may God bless you mightily. Kay Plahutnik, chairman.



**The Lunch Bunch will be dining at Out Back Steak House in April - the 8th to be exact - 11:30. Outback is located on Grand Avenue. Come join us for a special Easter season time together. Many of our snow birds will be leaving shortly and we treasure the chance to break bread with them before they leave.**

**In May we will be dining at Rio Mirage, and after that, Angela's Kitchen and Betty's Roost will find us enjoying some great food and even better friends. Sign ups are always in the lobby several weeks before the event - but please mark your calendars. We always have a few who don't show up and tell me they forgot. One thing for sure - we won't forget YOU!**

**Virginia King**

---

## **COOKIE TABLE NEWS**



It was hard for me to write this newsletter article. For four or more years I have been putting two in a bag for Sandra Pittaro. They were her favorite cookies and the only ones she would eat. Whenever we got low Linda or I would buy more so we would never run out.

One year we mistakenly gave her moldy cookies. Little did we know the summer heat made the cookie cupboard too warm so mold was growing on the cookies. She brought them back to show us and we dumped all the cookies in the cupboard with her there to see. She was a good sport about it and she, Linda and I had a good laugh. Needless to say, we no longer use the cupboard for cookies in the summer!

Linda and I both miss Sandy. She was a special lady and a joy to serve. We hope you feel the joy when people serve you.

Marie Miller – Cookie Lady

## Missions News



Annie Armstrong North American Mission Offering and Week of Prayer will occur during the month of April. 100% of funds given to the Annie offering will go to our missionaries in the US and Canada: 80% to church planting, 13 % to evangelism and compassion ministry, 3% to sending and leadership, 4% to Missions education.

Our goal this year at Grand Community Baptist is \$10,500. Please pray about what you will give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in April. Then pray for our 3000 North American missionaries, their families and churches this month and beyond. Watch for the Annie videos during Sunday morning and evening services to get to know some of the missionaries, their services area and their needs. See where God is working to spur on New Life in Christ, Resurrection Living!

## Mission Committee News

What gently used items can mean to a person... clothing, a blanket to sleep on and more. In Warren's case, he was homeless and went to Love Baptist Church's Wednesday night free meal and the opportunity to get some needed items one week a few months ago. He met and spoke with Pastor Adam Henry during the meal. Warren, a Christian, by background realized how far he had slipped away from God after meeting the people of Love who attended to his physical and spiritual needs. He went to detox inpatient setting that weekend, then to the VA Medical Center Substance Use Disorder program. He is open to the people of Love Baptist that helped him and asked the Pastor to visit him while at his VA program.

Through your generous undesignated offering to missions, the Mission Committee is able to give to Love Baptist Church for special needs- such as their food pantry funds, Thanksgiving food baskets for food insecure families and children's Christmas event of a party which allows for the sharing the story of Jesus and passing out of Christmas gifts for the children to whom they minister.

As a church, we give each year to their back-to-school needs for the children at Love Baptist and gifts through the Angel Christmas Tree emphasis. Then, of course the First Sunday Share, where we can give gently used items on the first Sunday of the month to help Love Baptist minister to their own members/attendees and to people like Warren. Through these various avenues of giving, our church helps another local church impact their community and potentially to lead others to new life in Christ.

## **Be Wary of Scammers!**

**This past week I had two people tell me that they received requests from some scammer claiming to be me. One of the scammers pretending to be me, had requested that the person purchase gift cards and promised reimbursement from the church. Thankfully that person called me to verify before spending any money. Scammers might also pretend to be a friend, or fellow church member.**

**If you ever receive a financial request, verify it. If it's in relation to this church, verify it by contacting the church. If we are raising money for a mission cause, we will make that clear in the services, events and/or publications, rather than unexpected text messages or emails.**

**If a friend contacts you this way, protect yourself, by looking up the contact of the person in the directory or some known source, and asking if it was really them. I suspect, it will not really be the person but a scammer pretending to be them. They found you were friends, neighbors or members on facebook.**

**As an extra hint, if they ask for gift cards, crypto currency, or similar non traceable funds, they are scamming. If they ask for funds to be mailed or transferred instead of brought to church, they are scamming.**

**Let's stay safe out there. And as one final request, if you are approached or have been approached by these scams, please let me know so that I can keep track of how to educate others about what to watch for.**

Grand Community Baptist Church  
 18350 N. Goldwater Ridge Dr.  
 Surprise, AZ 85374

# April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30am - EBA Team Mtg. 10am GriefShare	2 4pm Bible Study	3 9am Grace Notes	4	5 10-11:30 WBS
6 First Sunday Share 9am Bible Study 10am Worship	7 8am Male Call 9am Social Ministry 2pm Coffee w/Pastor 7pm AA	8 10 am GriefShare 11:30am Lunch Bunch	9 4pm Bible Study	10 9am Grace Notes	11	12 10-11:30 WBS
4pm Evening Worship 5pm Choir						
13 6:30am Sunrise Service 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Easter Cantata 2pm Deacons Mtg 4pm Evening Worship	14 8am Male Call 2pm Coffee w/Pastor 7pm AA	15 9am Finance Comm 10am GriefShare	16 9am Personnel Comm. 4pm Bible Study 5pm Missions Comm	17 9am Grace Notes 9am B&G Comm 10am Leadership 4pm Maundy Service Lords Supper	18	19 10-11:30 WBS
20 EASTER 6am Sunrise Service 9am Bible Study 10am Worship	21 8am Male Call 2pm Coffee w/Pastor 7pm AA	22 10am GriefShare	23 4pm Bible Study	24 9am Grace Notes	25	26 10-11:30 WBS 1pm Bible Study Workers Mtg
4pm Evening Worship						
27 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 4pm Evening Worship 5pm Choir	28 8am Male Call 2pm Coffee w/Pastor 7pm AA	29 9:30am Nominating Comm 10am GriefShare	30 8am Men's Breakfast 4pm Bible Study			



Grand Community Baptist Church  
 18350 N. Goldwater Ridge Dr.  
 Surprise, AZ 85374

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9am Grace Notes	2	3 10-11:30 WBS
4 First Sunday Share 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 4pm Worship 5pm Choir	5 8am Male Call 9am Social Ministry 2pm Coffee w/Pastor 7pm AA	6 10 am Griefshare Last class	7 4pm Bible Study	8 9am Grace Notes	9	10 10-11:30 WBS 11:30am Ladies Luncheon (Social Comm)
11 Mother's Day 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 2pm Deacons Mtg 4pm Worship 5pm Choir	12 8am Male Call 2pm Coffee w/Pastor 7pm AA	11 11:30am Lunch Bunch	14 4pm Business Meeting	15 9am Grace Notes 9am B&G Comm	16	17 10-11:30 WBS
18 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 4pm Worship 5pm Choir	19 8am Male Call 2pm Coffee w/Pastor 7pm AA	20 9am Finance Comm	21 9am Personnel Comm. 4pm Bible Study 5pm Missions Comm	22 9am Grace Notes	23	24 10-11:30 WBS
25 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 4pm Worship 5pm Choir	26 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	27 9:30am Nominating Comm	28 8am Men's Breakfast 4pm Bible Study	29 9am Grace Notes	30	31 10-11:30 WBS



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](mailto:office@grandbaptist.com)  
Website: [www.grandbaptist.com](http://www.grandbaptist.com)

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



**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

## 2025 APRIL NEWSLETTER

*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

#### Wednesdays

Bible Study & Prayer Meeting at 4:00 PM ... Worship Center