

# THE GRAND COMMUNICATOR

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



Mid-Summer Edition

July - August 2024

Editor – Joan Miner



## Pastor's Note

In the month of June, I offered a class at Grand Learning called Questions Forum. The idea behind the class is that there are people in our community who have questions about God, the Bible, or the church. These questions deserve to be heard and given fair discussion leading to answers.

I have long suspected that a large number of people in our community are like this. Almost certainly, more than half of our community is not actively attending a church. The average age in our community is 80 and the average lifespan in America is 80. If someone has spent their whole life without approaching spiritual topics, it seems likely that these questions would come to their minds now.

I also expect most of these people would find searching for answers, difficult. Who would they ask? Many would be embarrassed to ask. Others think it would be rude to bring up their doubts or ideas that seemingly contradict faith. Certainly, there are people who delight in attacking these ideas, but a far larger group don't ask because they do not wish to be confrontational. Others would feel intimidated talking with a pastor and don't know who else could answer their questions.

No matter how difficult the question is it should be the church's goal to answer their questions. I don't always know the answer, but often I do. Other times I can find it with some research. Perhaps you know some people with questions? Let me make an offer. I will buy a snack and listen to their questions. If you can call them and call me and work out a mutual time and place, we can meet over coffee, or donuts, or ice cream, or whatever works. I will buy, but I want both you and them to be ready to meet with me.

Maybe the largest group, and hardest to help, is the number of people who were disappointed or angry with a church related person in their past. Let me address that question in brief. It happens all the time, even though it shouldn't. However, the idea that, if the church was true, the people in the church wouldn't make these mistakes, that idea just doesn't hold water. The church is not a gathering of perfect people, or else nobody would qualify. Jesus designed the church to be a gathering where imperfect people can get better together.

I am sorry for all the hurts of the past. But don't let those hurts convince you that you don't need God, can't gain anything by attending church or that the Bible doesn't have life changing good news. God is the answer, and He will grow you into the solution through a solid church and Biblical instruction.

Notice I said grow you into the solution, not magically change you all at once. You will still have to struggle with sin, and so will the other church members. This is where the offenses of the past came because we are all still growing. Leaving because of them is like saying you expect church people to be perfect. This is simply not how God works.

## *Welcome Our New Member!*

*BJ Homchick*  
*Joined May 12, 2024*



---

## **Greetings in the Name of the Lord!**



Summer is a great time! Yes, I know it gets rather warm here, but God has blessed us with air conditioning and that makes it all better. We need to remember that something happens when the people of God gather. God has promised that when 2 or 3 gather He will be with us (Matthew 18:20). I want to encourage you to attend each of our activities here at Grand Community Baptist Church. I am planning on leading a Bible Study entitled, “The Seven Churches of Revelation” beginning on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We will meet on Thursday mornings for 9 weeks. We will be using Dr. David Jeremiah’s book, “The Seven Churches of Revelation” and be watching his video Bible Study. Please sign up so that we will have enough material for those who want to be a part of this study.

Another event to put on your calendar is Vacation Bible School! It all happens the week of September 9-13 beginning at 5:00 pm with a light meal and ending about 7:00 – 7:30 pm each evening. Our theme this year is “Breaker Rock Beach” and we will be reminded about the difference between the lies (or half-truths) of culture and God’s unchanging truth. Join us for this exciting Bible Study, crafts, recreation, missions and all the wonderful fellowship!

I am looking forward to watch what happens when God’s people gather over this summer. God is at work. I am expecting God to do great things. Let us be found faithful!

In His Service,  
*Brother Gary*

## **The Lunch Bunch**

The Lunch Bunch has had a wonderful Spring full of luncheons. The Summer will find us keeping cool and hydrated/fed at Betty’s Rooste in July and Babbo’s in August. The Rooste is well known for homemade food and fabulous desserts. Babbo’s is new to our group but has been requested. At our Outback luncheon in May, two of our first timers won the restaurant gift card door prizes. We were all as pleased as they were. Mark your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and dine, laugh and have fun with this special arm of your church family.

Virginia

# IN MEMORIAM

Roger Stutzman ..... 5-31-2024

---



## Musically Speaking

First off, in case you hadn't heard yet—after a wonderful year with y'all that went by *far* too quickly, I will unfortunately be having to leave GCBC at the end of June due to a combination of several family needs and circumstances. We are heartbroken in having to make this decision; as I said on June 2nd when announcing this, our time with you has been a tremendous joy. I love you, and I love having gotten to serve alongside you. Thank you for that privilege, for the warmth and generosity you've shown my family, and for the words of encouragement you've blessed me with over the past few weeks.

In my last opportunity to share with you in a newsletter article, I wanted to wrap up what I began last time: “Why do we sing in church?” Believe it or not, there are still *more* reasons than the nine I mentioned in the previous newsletter, and even all this isn't a complete list.

- Biblical Command – Praising God through song is not merely *commended* in Scripture, but *commanded*—see Psalm 150 and Colossians 3:16 as just two examples!
- Expression of Unity – Singing together is an audible and physical expression of a spiritual truth: our unity in Jesus as a part of His Church.
- Expression of Harmony – Musical harmony, whether sung or provided by instruments, provides us a picture of relational harmony, interdependence, service, and each member of the Body having an important role.
- Loving God with *All Your Mind* – Whether your brain gravitates more easily toward facts and language, or toward artistic expression and music, congregational singing can bring both of these aspects together, assisting us in following Christ's exhortation in Mark 12:30.
- Encouraging One Another – Ephesians 5:19 mentions “speaking to *one another* in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” What we sing isn't just to and for God, but also for our brothers and sisters. Perhaps a fellow congregant is in such a painful season of life that they feel unable to do much more than sit there and let the sung truths wash over them, a healing balm to their wounded hearts.
- Preparing Our Hearts to Hear God's Word – Though I said last time that church music is more than just a warm-up act for the sermon, it is also an important opportunity for us to calm and focus our hearts on what the Lord has to say to us through corporate time in His Word.

- Music Is Enjoyable – While perhaps it isn't everyone's cup of tea, many people enjoy hearing or making music, and I believe that a God-ward enjoyment of His creation is one of the many ways we can praise Him.
- Singing Has Health Benefits – When God tells us to do something, should we be surprised to discover along the way that He also has our wellbeing in mind?!
- Practicing for Heaven – You may have heard the old joke that in Heaven, when preachers are finally retired, music ministers are just getting warmed up! ☺ Though I think there will be many ways for us to praise the Lord in Heaven, the book of Revelation makes clear that music will be one of them.
- Participating *with* Heaven – If saints who have preceded us into eternity are already singing God's praises, then when we sing, in a very real way we are already joining with them in their praise!

That being said, for now my song will be separated (locationally) from all yours—but praise the Lord, because of what Christ has accomplished for us we can still look forward to Someday singing together again.

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

### From Your Social Committee

Be Cool! Beat the Heat! On Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Grand Community Baptist Church's Ministry Center, join in the laughter and lots of conversation in a fun-filled afternoon of delicious ICE CREAM, with most of your favorite flavors and toppings. Don't stop. Keep the fun alive with plenty of laughter by inviting your adult family, friends and neighbors to enjoy the ice cream. Later at 2:00 PM, join the Game Day fun where at the same location, various games are played every third Saturday at the Ministry Center. Don't hesitate. Join in the fun! See you there!

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



**Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

**Psalms 133:1 NKJV**

## Mission News

### Operation Christmas Child (OCC) for 2024

Last year our church had a great restart of the OCC collection with 286 boxes built and shipped. The boxes the OCC project group were able to track went to the Philippines. We received an email from one small mission church showing some of our boxes being handed out to children at an outreach party. We hope to share some of these pictures with you soon.



**If you would like to participate in this project—there are several ways to do so.**

- 1) Pray that the needed supplies and funds are obtained, that the children and families receiving the boxes are greatly impacted by the Gospel and the local churches grow.
- 2) Build your own box, the cost is roughly \$25 for the supplies in the box, and then \$10 for shipping. Tip: take the items out of the wrapping they come in, to allow for better packing. Many countries do not have waste management and the packaging materials are hard for them to handle. Several people enjoy packing their own boxes and covering the shipping as part of the gift to the child(ren).
- 3) Build a box on-line, the cost is \$25 for the supplies and the shipping cost. To locate the GCBC goal page, go to [Samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline](http://Samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline), at the bottom of the page search for Grand Community Baptist Church and follow the prompts. You can pick items to put in this box paying the cost at the end of the process.
- 4) Help the OCC project group build as many boxes as possible through the donation of needed items and funds.

For the items—the Pick-a-Gift board will be available in July. The idea is you pick one or more tags and purchase the items listed on the tag—then turn in the items to the designated area by the end of July.

For the funds—to ship 200 boxes the shipping is \$2000. For items needed that are not donated, we would need funds to purchase the items.

**The OCC project group would love to hit the 300 box mark between those building their own boxes and the ones the church puts together. 1 out of 7 children, who receive an OCC box and hear the Gospel presented, give their hearts to Jesus! 300 boxes would be potentially be 43 children receiving Jesus with the possibility of family members also accepting Jesus!**

## Cookie Table News



Hi Cookie Lovers,

As you know by now it is heating up outside, so don't put those oven's on. There are a lot of store bought cookies out there and they are very good. I went to Costco this week and was amazed how many cookies choices they have and they all look amazing. When you're at the store don't forget to pick up a package for the coolie table.

We could also use donut holes, cakes or anything you think the cookie eaters will like. I can always use sugar free and gluten free treats.

Stay cool and stop at the cookie table for goodies and fellowship.

Thank you in advance for your time, talent and generosity as you continue to fill the cookie table with goodies.

Marie Miller, Cookie Lady  
Linda Mackendrick



---

## Volunteers Needed

The Nominating Committee is still on the search for members to volunteer. We need your help with Building & Grounds, Nominating, Missions, Finance and Personnel. The positions will be for 2025 thru 2028. Please consider volunteering because these committees are essential to the function of Grand Community.

Thanking you in Advance for your consideration,  
Marian Hunter  
Nominating Committee Chairperson

## GriefShare

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.



## Missionary Speaker

On Sunday, July 28 we have the privilege of hosting and hearing from Angel, an International Mission Board missionary assigned to West Africa. Angel is from Arizona and has served the IMB for over 25 years in her current location. Come and learn much more at the event.

Since this is an uncommon opportunity, we are scheduling it at a time when we can invite other churches. We are also using the event to enjoy some fellowship together.

The Schedule for that night will be that the 4:00 pm Service will take place at the regular time. We will then host a potluck, at 5:00 pm. If you come for the potluck please bring a dish to pass with a little extra to share. Then at 6:00 pm we will have Angel report about her ministry, followed by a chance to ask questions. In addition, we will take a love offering that evening for mission work in her region.



## Music Candidate and Called Business Meeting

It was sad to have James Slaviero announce he would be leaving us, but we are also excited about the new opportunity that the Lord has given us. The search committee would like to present a candidate to the church, immediately. To give members the best chance to meet him, he will be leading the service on two successive Sundays, July 7 and July 14. We may be able to arrange some additional get to know the candidate opportunities in this time frame as well.

At the end of the service on July 14 we will have a called business meeting where church members can vote yes to accept the candidate or no to decline. In today's world there is not a large number of possible candidates, and this candidate is extremely well qualified and very experienced with traditional music. Therefore, the committee is acting as quickly as is reasonable to move forward.

The candidate is Phil Carr. He is already well known to many of our people, having served as interim leader prior to James and was known to the church prior to that as well. Please do your best to attend both days he is coming to candidate as well as the business meeting on July 14 to cast your vote, if you are a member.





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



*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