

GRAND COMMUNICATOR

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The Community Church in the Heart of Grand



June - Fishing



Pastor's Note

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

A long time ago on the other side of the country, a deacon wanted to talk with me about a family problem. I knew what it was about. I thought it better to let him tell me, than I tell him. Yet he could be real quiet. Especially about a matter like this. So, he invited me to go fishing.

We sat on a boat together on Sandy Creek, mostly in silence. He occasionally talked about fishing, rather than talking about what was on his mind. He asked about my experience with it. He learned that I had never enjoyed it, mostly because I rarely caught anything.

He gave me the most amazing advice about fishing I have ever heard. Like a lot of good advice it doesn't sound like much until it's put into practice. He knew exactly where the fish were. I was a little surprised, the surface of the water gave no hints I could read. So, I 'took his bait' and asked him where the fish were.

He answered, "The fish are in the water."

I might have laughed, or I might have scoffed, but either way he pointed out how much of the time I had spent on the boat with my line out of the water. Checking it, changing it, chasing it. If I wanted to catch anything, I would have to put my line back in the water and patiently let it stay there. Sheepishly I did.

And sheepishly he began to talk about his problem. As we talked, we floated downstream under The Parkway Bridge. My pole suddenly bent erratically back and we both went silent. I reeled in the first fish and realized he had one on his line as well. We spent the next hour tied up there catching fish after fish. Later we finished the discussion on his fears and together we prayed them into submission.

Ever since I started taking his advice on where the fish are, I have really enjoyed fishing. The right line, the right time, the right prayers, all make the difference. But nothing makes the difference like keeping your line in the water.

Don't let the devil tell you that Jesus made Simon Peter into a fisher of men, but He only made you into a sitter of pews. Sitters of pews make Christianity boring, but fishers of men experience the adventure of serving the Most High God.

Every follower of Jesus Christ is called to be a fisher of men. The same God is at work in you as was at work in Simon Peter. Keep your line in the water and eventually you will feel that distinctive tug.

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Greetings in the Name of the Lord



We have been enjoying a wonderful study, *“Don’t Give The Enemy A Seat At Your Table.”* We have been invited by the Good Shepherd to dine with Him. But it seems that we are too busy doing things that we think we need to do. Maybe we need to be more like Mary who sat at the feet of Jesus and just enjoyed being with Him. If we are too busy to spend time with the Lord, maybe we have confused what is urgent with what is important. It is important to listen to the truth from God’s Word rather than the lies from the enemy.

Chuck Lawless shares “6 Lies of the Enemy that will Stunt Your Spiritual Growth.”

1. **Did God really say that?** This was the first of the lies ever told to mankind by the enemy. Eve was enticed by it as the devil tried to convince her that God’s Word could not be trusted.
2. **You are inadequate.** The truth is that God has equipped you to do all that He has called you to do.
3. **You will never be able to overcome that sin in your life. You will always be a sinner.** As children of God, we have been declared righteous and forgiven. We are no longer sinners. Nowhere in Scripture are we declared sinners after we are saved. Instead, we are victorious overcomers through the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. **You have to be perfect./ Sin is not a big deal.** Some of us buy into the lie that we have to be perfect in order for God to love us. But remember that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners, so we know this to be a lie. **Sin is not a big deal.** Jesus did not die on the cross to deal with something that was “no big deal.” The enemy likes to use both of these extreme views of sin to handicap our growth in Christ.
5. **You can’t trust God in all things. Some things you simply have to handle yourself.** How often do we try to handle things ourselves before taking them to God? And we make a mess of the situation.
6. **Fellowship with other Believers is optional . . .a good idea perhaps but not necessary.** Your relationship with God is a personal one, but that doesn’t mean God meant for you to be all on your own. In fact, He designed you for quite the opposite. We are called the Church and the Body of Christ for a reason. We are destined to work together in unity and harmony. Not only that but we NEED each other.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan. He quoted God’s Word. It is important for us to memorize God’s Word. *“Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You”* (Psalm 119:11).

In His Service,
Brother Gary



Darrell Wiegman
June 11, 1942 – May 4, 2025



David Gorzel
January 10, 1948 – May 8, 2025

GRIEF SHARE

The Spring session of Grief Share was completed in April. We had 9 registered, most of the attendees are from the community. Some have attended our church and some have continued attending.

It is a very rewarding ministry as people move from being so broken with grief to finding joy again.

We are in need of more help, if you have lost a loved one and know the pain of grief consider joining the leader group.

Jeri

MUSICAL NOTES

The Music Department is taking the theme for our June Newsletter seriously. Many of our members have headed to cooler pastures as they plan to go fishing, boating, etc. Those who are left in the Arizona heat are happy to be in the cool church (made up of warm members).



The choir has the summer off (July and August), as far as choir rehearsals. However, those in town will still fill the choir loft on Sunday mornings to assist with the singing of the hymns. This is a great time for prospective choir members. Join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 in the choir room.

The Media arm does not take the summer off - they continue to provide us with excellent service.

The Grace Notes also rehearse throughout the Summer. Since all their repertoire is memorized, they need to keep current on all of their music.

Our musicians (piano and organ) continue to find joy in providing music for the congregation throughout the season. Neither seems to feel the need to "go fishin"!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pretend for a minute that you are a fish swimming in God's lake, and God wants you to be food for his church family. Each person attending GCBC is a fish.

Some fish last November, December, January approached the hooks extended by the Nominating Committee, and bit down... some nibbled tentatively, others swallowed wholeheartedly. Either way, these fish agreed to serve as food for our family, knowing that good protein is what helps a body grow....and all of us want Christ's church to grow.

So these wonderful fish, cleaned and seasoned well were prepared for serving. They joined committees and ministries. Everyone at the Business Meeting and in the whole church was ecstatic.

But some delicious looking fish wanted to stay in the refrigerator. They liked being on the committee platter but held back from the next step.

The rest jumped into the frying pan, walked into the oven, sizzled on the grill, and basked in the tantalizing aroma of their service to others. They agreed to be in committee leadership, attended as many meetings as possible, and completed every task asked of them. They worked hard on the phone, spoke to contractors, crunched numbers, researched missions, cleared calendars with our office staff, worked up menus, served and served their delicious selves until every job was done.

Then, because they were so giving of themselves, there was meat left over in their bodies for serving on other committees in the future. Some even spent time in the freezer, so as to be pulled out later for seafood chowder!

God is grateful for every fish we have in GCBC. Some did not accept the hook in 2025 but with prayer and willingness, they will in 2026. But remember, once there....once cleaned and seasoned on a committee....don't stay in the refrigerator! That's not enough! Get the jobs done so your protein doesn't go to waste! God needs every bit of you, and so do we!

Kay Plahutnik

MALE CALL NEWS FOR JUNE

Men, would you like to be a part of a small group studying the Bible but also sharing their inner thoughts with each other on a weekly basis? Well, consider joining **MALE CALL**. There are NO Fees! We meet every Monday morning at 8:00 AM in the Classroom next to the kitchen. We have prayer, discussion, and Bible study and are finished by 9:00 AM.

Men, if you have been *fishing* for a group of men you can trust and rely upon, this is for you! Our topics for the rest of the year (yes we meet all summer!) are Prayer, the life and ministry of Saul/Paul, and the letters Paul wrote. We also have fresh, hot coffee and some kind of homemade treat. So, are you coming or not?

John Elder,
Discussion Leader



The Lunch Bunch will be dining at Betty's Rooste in June. Come join us for delicious food and fantastic desserts. Many of our regular attendees have "abandoned" us for the summer - we miss them dreadfully but those left still enjoy sharing meals, conversations, and laughter.

In years before I took over the Lunch Bunch, the summer was dark for our group. Since some of us stay put all year round, I decided to continue Lunch Bunch for all 12 months. (November and December were also taken off previously.)

I need to enjoy all of you during the summer and certainly during the holiday season of the year. Lunch Bunch is a joy. We get to know people who don't sit near us in church or folks who are not in our Sunday School class or in the musical aspects of the church. We identify as people who like to EAT, LAUGH, and SHARE warm times together.

Our signup sheet is in the foyer for 3 weeks before each event - the 2nd Tuesday of every month. The theme of "fishing" suggested an opportunity to go to a fish restaurant - while we considered Red Lobster, the prices scared us away. So, hopefully, you'll go fishin' with us at Betty's Rooste on June 10th!!

Virginia

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

As we enter the second quarter of 2025, our committee is blessed with new members who are willing to get involved with the many aspects of keeping our great campus running smoothly. The B & G Committee is a support mechanism for Kelli Ruiz, Facilities Manager for GCBC who relies on our expertise for support, advice and approval of vendor estimates for continued maintenance and implementation of new projects as needed for our facilities that are now over 20 (WC) and 10 (MC) years old.

In the first quarter of this year, regular annual maintenance has been completed for trimming of the Palo Verde trees, irrigation system repairs and upgrades, repairs and maintenance of all HVAC systems, fire suppression systems and other on-call visits for minor maintenance and operational needs. Also, a new handicap door was installed at the south entrance of the Foyer in the Worship Center.

Hopefully, by the time you receive the June Newsletter, two other major improvements will have been made as follows:

1. Installation of two new handicap door systems in the FH area of the Ministry Center.
2. Installation of new overhead LED lights and covers in the Worship Center Foyer and the back areas of the Sanctuary.

Memorial Garden Bench- the Family of Lorraine Hart and Barbara Payne made a donation to the church for a memorial bench and plaque to honor these two loved ones. The bench will be located in front of the Worship Center in an open area left of the south door to the Foyer. The bench will be placed on landscape pavers for better access. We thank our church landscape vendor, RJ Landscaping, for clearing that area of irrigation lines, donating and placement of the pavers at no cost.

The B & G Committee looks forward to serving GCBC the remainder of the calendar year in a way to honor the Lord as we use the great facilities we are blessed to have and serve him.

Ed Smith,
Chairman

Cookie Table News

I don't know what fishing has to do with the cookie table but here goes...

My husband Wally wanted to teach me fly fishing. I told him only if I shut my eyes and he sprayed me from head to toe with Off Bug Spray. Mosquitos loved me so he said he would. When you fish in Ohio there are a lot of bugs. He also said that I would have to get some boots, tall ones! I loved being with him so I agreed.

You know that to fish you have to have bait, something to make the fish come to your hook. With fly fishing it's all in the wrist. You flick the fly just above the water so the fish thinks it's a real fly. I got the hang of it very quickly and so we got a lot of Bluegill. By the time he cleaned them they were two bites and they're gone! But they were very good.

Why am I telling you all this...

Finding a good church like ours, was like fishing. I had to find the right location. Also when you witness you have to be able to listen to the other person. Sometimes, like fishing, you have to be very quiet. Fishing takes a lot of patience.

Sometimes the fish would see the bait and just swim right by. Other times they would fool us and make us think that they liked the bait but when we tried to pull them in, they were gone and we just got a nibble.

That is the way it is sometimes when you witness. You think you got them with the Good News and they don't want it. But when someone comes to the Lord because of Christ in you, it is 10 times better than fishing! There are no words that can express the joy you feel when you lead someone to our Lord.

Praise the Lord that I am still fishing. But I am a fisher of men and women. The phrase "I will make you fishers of men" is found in Matthew 4:19. I know if I am faithful in my walk with the Lord, he will take me to the right fishing spot so others can come to Christ. Also remember, God is the one who saves them. You bring them in and God will clean them and save them just like he did to me. Never take the credit, we can't save anyone.

Marie Miller
Cookie Lady

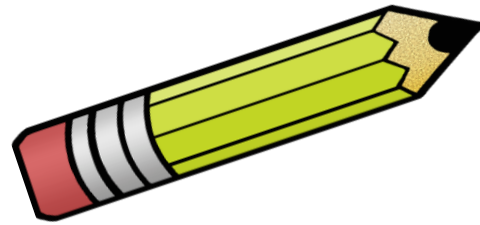
PS Don't worry, there will not be any fish cookies on the table. I don't fish for fish anymore.
I lost my boots.

Missions News

This month we will collect school supplies for Love Baptist Church's assistance to their students, 24 children and 16 youth.

The following is a list of supplies they are requesting. Please have the items back by **Sunday, June 15th** and place your donations in the box located in the foyer.

- Backpacks
- Pencils, Crayons
- Copy Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Rulers
- Erasers
- Kleenex
- Hand Sanitizers, Clorox Wipes
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Bags or Cases
- Black or Blue Ink Pens
- Highlighters
- Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Notebooks
- Dry Erase Markers for White Boards



Women's Saturday Bible Study

This Women's Bible study will take June and July off. Watch for the next study in August/September. The women, who attend the study, plan on meeting a couple times for a meal during June and July.

The last study this spring was on the Queen of Sheba. We enjoyed the study and want to share some info with you. Did you know she is mentioned both in the Old and New Testaments?

Some facts about Sheba, the Queen from the South, and historical context about this queen and her area. Her story is noted in both 1 Kings 10:1-12 and in 2 Chronicles 9:1-13. Chronicles contains some of the history of Israel in genealogical and narrative fashion. Likely Sheba was from what is now current day Yemen. She would have traveled between 1200 to 1500 miles to meet Solomon in Jerusalem. Her massive load of gifts for Solomon would have included a huge entourage to manage and protect the caravan. The gold alone was 4.5 tons (9,000 pounds). The travel one way was likely 2 months to get to Jerusalem then 2 months there as camels are known to need at least that much time to recover and regain their physical strength and then 2 months home. Can you imagine the amount of time in preparation of the items then packing for all people, animals, and gifts for this massive undertaking? She also had to prepare her kingdom to function while she was gone.



Her motive for this travel: 1 Kings 10:1 she “heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD. She came to test Solomon with hard questions”. It is thought she may have also wanted to work out some trade deals as well for her people. Solomon was the richest king likely of all time. Blessed by God at least at this time in his life. He asked for wisdom and knowledge in governing his people and the LORD gave it to him and more. A thousand years after Solomon, his clothing is mentioned in the New Testament (Luke 12:27 and in Matthew) and still we are talking about it 2000 more years later. Can you imagine his wealth? The Bible notes the Sheba was overwhelmed by Solomon's vast wealth and she attributed his wealth to the LORD.

Sheba met with Solomon over the months, she and the people and animals she brought were guests of Solomon's and by custom, he would have housed them in some way. Sheba gave him her massive gifts at the end of her visit, and he would have given her parting gifts per custom.

Women's Saturday Bible Study (continued from page 10)

Interestingly during the stay—Sheba praised Solomon's God. She came from a multiple god pagan culture, but she settled on the One True God during her stay. The proof- that she praised God, she used God's name He gave Moses to address Him, Yahweh, written as LORD. Then Jesus mentions her in Matthew 12:42/Luke 11:31 as being present at the judgement. “The Queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed, a greater than Solomon *is* here.”

It is thought that she took Yahweh back with her to Yemen and spread the news about God. The proof of this-- there has historically been Jews in Yemen area until their emigration, called Operation Magic Carpet, which occurred in June 1949-September 1950. Now, Yemen belongs to the Islamic culture.

Another interesting set of verses: Solomon's dedication prayer for the temple is recorded in 1 Kings 8:22-61. Look at verse 41-43. “As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name—⁴² for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple,⁴³ then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.” Sheba visited sometime after this and sought to know about Solomon's God.

This info on Sheba was supplied by the Bible and gleaned from the study by Liz Curtis Higgs, “It's Good to Be Queen, Becoming as Bold, Gracious, and Wise as the Queen of Sheba”. This study includes 9 pages of references from the Bible and scholars. A few verses can have a lot to say in God's Word.



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



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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