



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

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THE GRAND COMMUNICATOR

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Fall Edition

September – October 2023

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
Thursdays	9:45 am	Women's Bible Study, Ministry Center classroom

Pastor's Note



Several times recently I have seen a woodpecker fly across the church lot. It wasn't a Gila or Flicker the common woodpeckers in our area. I suspect it was a sapsucker, a nice bird to see, no matter which species it was. But I have missed every chance to identify it because I don't keep my binoculars as close this time of year.

I only step outside when I have someplace to go to. I am either zipping to and from my car or zipping between buildings. In both cases, I stay outside as briefly as possible. I could, of course, make different choices and loiter outside like I do at other times. 105

degrees. 110 degrees. No thanks.

I hate missed opportunities, but missing a bird is a missed opportunity I can live with. There are other missed opportunities nobody should take lightly.

The opportunity to show God how much you love Him and appreciate what He has done for you. This is why in person worship is important. Worship is an expression both of our Gratitude and God's worthiness of our praise.

The opportunity to have a loving, accountable church family. Accountable because there is no such thing as love without accountability. This is missed, even by attenders, when they keep the rest of the church at a safe distance away.

The opportunity to study and understand God's Word. Way too often people assume they know what the Bible says and are simply wrong. Joining with others to study the Bible is full of benefits you don't want to miss, and it's a next step in forming those meaningful friendships.

The opportunity to serve in the church. If Jesus has done so much for you, don't you want to do something for Him? Serving sounds like a sacrifice, but chances are good you will be the one to benefit the most. This is especially noticeable in as friendships with other believers reach fruition as we serve one another.

The worst opportunity to miss is eternity with Jesus. This is missed by assuming the wrong things about God's Savior and His plan of salvation. I would be happy to talk with anyone on this matter, but it is up to you to follow through and to give God top priority while there was still opportunity.

Women's Ministry

Hello Ladies! It may not feel like fall, but after all this is Arizona, and fall does come anyway! Our Thursday morning Bible Study is starting on September 7th at 9:45 AM. Our first session will be getting to know each other, getting our books, and a social time with a fun video and any morning munchies you care to share. We will be using a Lifeguide study book called Never Beyond Hope, which looks at six people of the Bible who seemed to step beyond where hope would end. But our God is a God of hope.

We are always looking for fresh new ideas that we can implement into our Women's Ministry fellowship. If you have any previous experience on ways to draw women into our fellowship and the fellowship of Christ please let me know and maybe we can start new things! See you in September! Evonne

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!



School is back in session. Routines are returning to normal. It is at this time of the year that my focus turns to Evangelism. I need to get out of the summer slump and get renewed in my spiritual life! Evan Roberts shared four things that turned the nation of Whales upside down. 1) Confess any known sin. 2) Obey the Holy Spirit promptly. 3) Put away any doubtful habits. 4) Confess Jesus Christ publicly. If you would like more confidence in sharing Christ, I plan to teach a four-week class on "Share Jesus Without Fear" on Fridays in September (15th, 22nd, 29th). Then on Friday, October 6th, we will be going out to Share Jesus Without Fear. I want to encourage you to be part of this evangelism training.

Pray & Go will begin on Friday, November 3rd, and continue on the 10th & 17th. We will take a break for Thanksgiving and resume on Friday, December 1st, 8th, & 15th. We have prayed for over 4,530 homes in The Grand Community thus far.

I want to thank Marie Miller and Linda Michelson for providing the Track Racks in the foyer. Take some tracts to hand out at restaurants, but also include a good tip to encourage people to read the tracts!

Chris and I enjoy serving the Lord with you. You are a blessing to us, and we thank you for the opportunity to serve with you.
In His Service, *Brother Gary*

Musically Speaking



Having grown up in a church kids' choir, I can still recall several of the cantatas we children did back then. One of them was a "time travel" adventure exploring the history of great hymns and songs of the faith, and included the lyrics, "The music of God's family is our heritage in history; the music of God's family is part of who we are."

Those songs that have stayed with the Church for decades, generations, or even centuries may sometimes become so familiar that we take their existence for granted. Yet they did not just pop into being from a vacuum. Instead, they were born from the struggles and celebrations of God's people. Some were written to address and correct doctrinal error at the time. Some were written as personal testimonies set to music. Some were written as a response to a specific circumstance or need.

Over coming months' newsletters, I'll be sharing some of these stories with you from various books and sources. It's my prayer that they will not only be enjoyable and a blessing to you, but will help impart a new understanding of and appreciation for these songs as you sing them in the future. They truly are "musical monuments" of who God is and what He has done!

In other news, the GCBC choir is about to return from their summer break, and preparation for the Christmas cantata is imminent! The choir will be having a "Cantata Preview Party" and kick-off potluck after the Sunday afternoon service on September 10th. This is also a great time for those potentially interested in joining the choir to visit, so please watch your bulletin for further details!

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

GriefShare

GriefShare will start the Fall session September 19th at 10:00 AM. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please consider joining us. This is a wonderful program that leads you through your grief. *Jeri*

Please Welcome Our New Members!



Aleta Ballou
Joined 7/16/23



Mui Schmidthans
Joined 7/23/23



Joel & Beverly Woodman
Joined 7/23/23



Prochua Lambert
Joined 8/27/23



Blake & Becky Kent
Joined 8/27/23

Missions Committee News

Scripture reminds us that Jesus will return one day to judge this "dark" and "anguished" world. As born-again, Christ-following disciples of Jesus, it is not only our privilege, but also our Lord's command to "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." Matthew 28:10-20. Following in Jesus' directive, your Missions team is honored to present the following missions opportunities:

Arizona Missions Offering September 2023

This year's theme is "Open Your Eyes". Each year our church participates in this offering to further the work of Arizona Southern Baptists to spread the gospel across our state. The offering is used to support such Ministries as Christian Challenge, Disaster Relief, Hispanic Ministries, Planting and Revitalizing Churches, Student Ministries and investing in pastors and ministers in crisis. Our 2023 goal is \$4,000. Look for bulletin inserts with offering envelopes weekly during September and please prayerfully consider the call to "Open Your Eyes", hearts and prayers in support of this missions opportunity to meet and exceed our goal!

October Love Church Halloween Outreach

Our sister church, Love Baptist on W. Glendale Ave. in Phoenix, has resumed their Trunk or Treat Halloween community outreach, which is planned for October 31st. Our candy collection for this event will commence on October 1st and end on October 22nd. A collection box will be provided in our church lobby for donated candy. Please prioritize your prayer support for the attendees, both believers and pre-believers in anticipation of this outreach!

November Missionary Visit

Dr. Doug Derbyshire will be returning on November 19th to minister to us through God's Word. He will also update us on the Thai Country Trim (TCT) ministry established in Baan Pho, Thailand. Thanks to the generosity of our GCBC community, we were able to contribute \$5,900 last year to assist in the start up of the TCT worship and ministry center. Dr. Derbyshire will share current progress, as well as upcoming short term missions planning at TCT. We will want to extend our love and gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Derbyshire, by means of a love offering that day. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity!

From Your Deacons

The Deacons have prepared a list of eligible men for the church members to vote on. You will be receiving this list in the mail shortly. Please nominate six men from the list and return your ballot to the church. There will be a ballot box in the foyer.

We have Dutch Vander Maten, Kent Edwards and Hugh Flisyn retiring at the end of the year.

We, as deacons, wish to thank you for your continued support and prayers, and for the opportunity to serve you as a church.

Thank you, *Hugh Flisyn, Deacon Chairman*