

THE GRAND COMMUNICATOR

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NOVEMBER 2024 Newsletter - GRATITUDE



Pastor's Note

My mind is on gratitude. Did you know that practicing gratitude is one of the healthiest things you can do - spiritually, mentally, and physically? The individual who is happier, more social, friendlier and more confident will always be an individual who knows how to practice gratitude.

The reality is that very few, if any, people practice gratitude naturally. The negative attitudes and expectations that are the alternative to gratitude are never constructive. But we have to train ourselves away from them.

Grateful November is a Facebook activity where every day in November you post one thing you are thankful for. Unfortunately, I am not a good Facebook user, many weeks not logging in even once. And besides, digital gratitude is far less effective than expressing gratitude out loud to a real person. So, for optimal results, don't post it, speak it.

Here is a sample of what my Facebook list might have looked like back when I tried to keep up with Thankful November. 1) I am grateful for God. 2) I am thankful for Jesus my Savior. 3) I am thankful for my salvation. 4) I am glad for the Scriptures. 5) I am privileged to be a part of His Church. 6) I am thankful to live in His creation. 7) I so appreciate my wife. 8) I am grateful for my daughter. 9) I am thankful for my son. 10) I am so pleased with my three Grandchildren. 11) I am blessed to live in America. 12) It is a privilege to serve God in ministry. 13) I appreciate living in a nice house. 14) I love living in my neighborhood. 15) I am grateful still for a new, or newish, car. 16) I am thankful for the many kindnesses shown me by my church. 17) I am thrilled with Arizona weather. 18) I am blessed with health. 19) One of my greatest joys is seeing God change lives. 20) I am thankful for humor. 21) I am encouraged by good friends. 22) I am grateful for steady income. 23) I am privileged to live in freedom. 24) I am hopeful because of God's promises. 25) I am thankful when my mind works and organizes well. 26) I am grateful for my coworkers. 27) I experience joy in music, art, and literature. 28) I am blessed by friendly society. 29) I am grateful for medical help. 30) I am uplifted by recreation. And finally, 31) I am thankful that election season is almost over.

Notice that every statement begins with 'I' or 'I am.' In some cases, this might be a sign of arrogance, but in this case, it is a decision as to whom I will be. Let's all choose to be thankful, practicing gratitude.

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Greetings in the Name of the Lord



God is good all the time! God has blessed us in so many ways. I want to encourage you to pray for one another as we enter another busy time of the year.

This month we have a lot of activities. Be aware that sometimes we can get so busy in our activities that we miss what God wants to do in our lives.

God wants us to spend time with Him. It is important to have a designated place where you meet with God each day. Read His Word, the Bible. Then make a special time for God to speak to you. My quiet time has become more meaningful when I am determined to spend more time with my Lord.

I want to remind you that we have Grand Community Baptist's annual ***Prophecy Conference*** coming **January 14-16, 2025**. We have enlisted the speakers: Dr. Paul Benware, Dr. Charlie Dyer, and Bruce Scott. Pray for this conference and make every effort to attend these three sessions each day from 9 am to noon.

I will also be teaching a class on "***When Worldviews Collide***" on **Fridays beginning on November 8th**. We will learn how Christianity is different than all other world religions. We will discuss at least six major differences.

Please sign up for this informative class on the signup sheet located in the foyer.

In His Service,

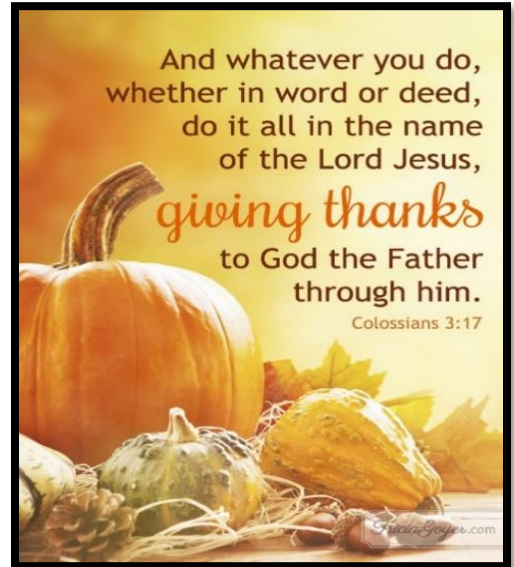
Brother Gary



Our New Member



Carol E. Brown
10/6/2024



STUDYING GRATITUDE

The word gratitude is used in the Bible 157 times.
Gratitude is also defined as thanks, used 72 times.

In Bible studies, through God's word, we get a spiritual meaning and understanding of these terms. Gratitude was first used in 1565, meaning above, used to give thanks to God. Christians need to remember we have a debt and obligation to give thanks to God.

Let's unpack the power of gratitude in giving God thanks:

- Gratitude glorifies God. 2 Corinthians 4:15
- Gratitude helps us see God. James 1:16-17
- Gratitude brings peace. Philippians 4:6-7
- Gratitude draws us to God. Luke 17:17-19
- Gratitude puts us squarely in God's will. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Gratitude brings contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6-8
- Gratitude deepens faith. Psalm 136:1
- Gratitude leads to joy. Psalm 126:1-3
- Gratitude defies Satan's lies. Psalm 84:11
- Gratitude guards against envy. Psalm 138:1
- Gratitude helps us live in the present. Ecclesiastes 7:10
- Gratitude is a testimony. Psalm 105:1

Gratitude opens spiritual eyes and makes us realize God has given us far more than we deserve.

With Gratitude, Rick Webb



GRATITUDE

**TAKE A MINUTE!
A QUIET MOMENT.**

THAT MOMENT CAN REVEAL MANY THINGS.

We didn't have a lot growing up but appreciated everything we had. My parents and grandparents taught me you don't need money or riches to make a difference in someone's day or life.

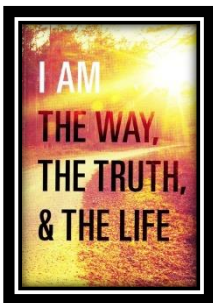
Showing Gratitude and appreciation is euphoric for both the giver and receiver.

On my daily errands I try to have a smile showing life is to be enjoyed. With Gratitude I pray that is what is perceived by my smile. In Gratitude I pray my smile made someone's day better. It's hard to smile back without feeling Gratitude as well.

It's the simple things God gives us to share that can turn the tide. Show Gratitude, appreciation and respect and love for one another.

In God's name always,

Diana Bowman
Personnel Chairman



What is a tract rack? A storage system for Christian tracts.

Our tracts at church are on the walls out in the foyer. Put your 'big' tip at a restaurant there. Or some other times you can't talk about Christ you can ask if they will read the tract.

Pastor Gary, Linda Mickelson, and Bev Woodman have donated most of the tracts. I read them to make sure they are appropriate. I put a stamp on the backs of them with our church name, address, and phone number. If someone reads it and needs any questions answered they can call the church.

Please check out the tract rack. They are there for the taking. I try to keep them filled. Marie Miller

COOKIE TABLE BLESSINGS

Our Cookie Table provides the perfect opportunity to be drawn into a conversation where no one is a stranger. Before and after our Sunday morning worship service the Cookie Table brings us together as a loving community. It also provides members with *the opportunity to greet new guests and help them feel welcome in our Church.*



Food and faith have gone together to enjoy since God formed humans from the soil. We enjoy all God has made for us. For Christians, the two also echo the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples and the example of the early church.

We serve well because we want our community to witness the same level of hospitality any one of us would give when having guests in our own home. *No one should feel they are a stranger in our church. “We see pieces of God in every face we encounter, and that mosaic makes up a whole of who God is to us.”*

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13



I am so grateful for the time that I have worked at the cookie table. But most of all I am grateful for all my helpers. Like most of us the body is not what it used to be. I am much slower. And my arthritis is not getting any better.

I started this with one of my favorite verses. I really live this verse every day. I cannot do anything without the Lord. Oh, don't get the wrong idea, I am stopping being the cookie lady. Not yet!

I want you to know, so you can pray for me and the outreach of the cookie table. Maybe you have never prayed for the cookie table? I would like it if you would add it to your prayer list. I am getting my list ready for next year, so if you can help, let me know. Maybe as a back-up. If you cannot help you can still bake or bring in store bought cookies.

Thank you, Marie Miller



The Lunch Bunch met at Olive Garden for the October luncheon with a record 45 attending! A great time was had by all - the food was yummy, and the fellowship was wonderful.

Nine years ago, I visited GCBC (and loved the church from day one). Lunch Bunch was announced, and I quickly signed up. Seated next to me at that first time was Lois Herson, who became my best friend until her death a few years ago. At another Lunch Bunch, I met Vivian Durland (this was before she married Richard), and we became close friends, and I was matron of honor at their wedding.

Why do I tell you this? Because The Lunch Bunch has been a very important part of my years in Arizona. When the group needed a new leader, I volunteered to take on the task. It's been a joy and honor. I've met people I might not have met (since they don't sit near the piano.) We have the greatest folks at GCBC!!! So - those of you who have yet to join our group, come and see if you don't meet someone who will touch your life....someone who shares a common interest...someone who makes you laugh.

November will take us to Outback and December's Christmas luncheon will be at Longhorn Steakhouse. The sign-up sheet is available in the foyer several weeks before each 2nd Tuesday. Come see what you've been missing. We've been missing YOU! Virginia King



Thanksgiving Potluck

Saturday, November 16, 2024

2:00 PM

Come join us as we gather for this special time of fellowship!

- Sign-up sheet for Thanksgiving Potluck is in the Church Foyer.
- Side Dishes and Desserts provided by our members.
- Turkeys (and gravy) provided by the Church.

OUR CHURCH MISSIONS SHOWS OUR GRATITUDE to GOD

What a joy to be a part of a church that supports missions in multifaceted ways. In cooperation with thousands of other Southern Baptist churches we are grateful to have both local and international ways to help people in need.

NATIONAL - During this season of Grand Community's missions giving, we help support approximately 3,600 international missionaries and through *Operation Christmas Child (OCC)* thousands of children's lives are touched.



Our goal for the *LOTTIE MOON Christmas Offering* is \$15,000.00. Our church has been very generous in supporting this on-going ministry and trust this year will be no different. God has been good to us, and we show that gratitude by giving to those in need. One hundred percent of the offering goes to the missionaries, none to administration.

LOCAL - Our Mission Committee has also responded to missionary Eric Gibbs of the Gila River Indian Community by providing a check of \$1,000.00 to help with their yearly "Christmas in the Villages" for the Tohono O'odham Nation children. Eric and his wife, Brittany, work toward that vision by planting churches, starting Bible studies, hosting mission teams, and meeting the community needs in numerous ways. Let's support our local missionary Eric Gibbs in helping the children of his community. You can learn more about his ministry at

<https://missionaries.namb.net/full/eric-gibbs>



To aid our local children during this Christmas Season, a Christmas tree will be placed in the church foyer, giving us the opportunity to make children's lives in the inner city of Phoenix brighter. Simply choose an ornament from the tree and then purchase a gift suitable for a boy or girl's age you selected. Return your gift for the child to the church to make their Christmas a special joy.

To help your understanding of each mission cause project there is a bulletin board in the foyer. Also feel free to speak with your Missions Team! How grateful we are be of service to God's kingdom.

God's Blessings, Cheryl Elder



Operation Christmas Child

The wrap up is coming for the 2024 OCC season!

Here is what is happening!

- ❖ The Project team is tallying the items donated from the October Pick-a-Gift promotion. The remaining items needed will be purchased with any available funds.
- ❖ The **All-Church PACKING PARTY** event will take place on **Saturday, November 9th from 1pm to 3pm**. We plan on packing 250 boxes of church donations! Come and join us.
- ❖ With the addition of the boxes packed by individuals in the church, there will be over 300 boxes this year!
- ❖ We will move all the packed boxes to the sanctuary to be commissioned on Sunday Nov 10th.
- ❖ If you are building your own box(es) and paying for the postage, **please have your completed box at the church by Sunday morning, November 10th**, before the Worship service.
- ❖ The week of November 18th the boxes will be taken to the local OCC collection site.

2023 OCC statistics from Operation Christmas Child:

- ✓ 10 million of the 11.3 million Shoeboxes donated in 2023 came from the USA!
- ✓ In the receiving countries, 118,000+ outreach events were led by trained local church leaders!
- ✓ More than 100 countries received shoebox gifts for boys and girls.
- ✓ Children who receive a shoebox are invited to participate in a 12-week discipleship program, "The Greatest Journey".
- ✓ From 2009 to today - of the 40 million+ who have enrolled in The Greatest Journey, 20 million+ children reported decisions for Christ from participating in the lessons.
- ✓ An army of 1.9 million+ volunteer teachers were trained in the discipleship program in the local churches worldwide.

Our shoebox gifts make an eternal impact for the Kingdom of God!

Mark the date!

December 7th at 12PM.

Details:

Sheila Jones, a well-loved speaker among our sister churches and events in Arizona, will give a presentation for us.



Grace Notes will sing a selection of Christmas tunes and there will be some group signings including a couple of Christmas carols.

Of course, there will be some fun as well. Invite your friends even now.

The table decorations—yes, we will have tables to decorate in Christmas themes of the birth of Christ, greenery, tea settings, Christmas colors, to name a few ideas. We do ask that Santa not attend this tea so we can honor Jesus, the real meaning of Christmas.

The tables will be set for 6 women each, some adjustments can be made. Stephanie has cloth tablecloths in red and green that you may use. Stephanie will do the washing of them afterwards-so please ask to borrow one or more and which color.

The food tables will also be decked out with cloth tablecloths and runners. We will need at least 10 tables decorated!

Your part is to come, bring friends, especially those who need to hear the about the real meaning of Christmas, bring a teacup set or mug for you and your friends (if they have one of their own-they are invited to bring it), then sign up for finger foods to bring and possibly a table to decorate as well. Pray that we will fill up all the tables with ladies. Even little young ladies are invited to enjoy a Christmas tea!

Friday, December 6th will be the time to set up tables from 10am- 3 pm. Saturday, December 7th, 9 am to 10 am is available if needed as well. If you request a cloth tablecloth, it will be waiting for you on the 6th.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer on November 10th for the finger foods you would like to bring, for a table or two that you would like to decorate, if you would like to borrow a cloth tablecloth, and more! For questions see Evonne or Stephanie.

Recent Events

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make our Open House a success!

