

THE JOY OF SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

I received an email from a snowbird friend of mine who went north about a month ago. It reads like this,

“Pastor Cliff I was a little concerned when you first advised me on how I might be a good witness to my grandkids this summer. You recommended that I make time for creating great memories with them. So, we’re renting a cabin on a lake for a week. No problem.

Then you suggested memorizing Scripture. Ugh! I’ve never memorized Scripture before in my entire life! But I took the ten verses which you recommended and I learned them inside and out. You said, ‘God will give you the openings to use these effectively at just the right time.’

Wow, were you ever right! I’ve had three great conversations with one of my grandsons and one excellent conversation with my granddaughter. I never thought they would care to listen, but they did! And the summer is only just beginning...”

My friend added a P.S. *“There is something wonderful happening inside my heart because of these Scriptures. I’m already memorizing more!”*

Those words are music to your Pastor’s ears!

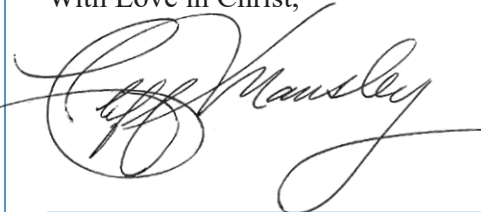
Chuck Swindoll once wrote, *“I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture... No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified.”*

I couldn’t agree more with Chuck Swindoll’s words!

Friends, I want to challenge you this summer to begin memorizing the word of God. Consider the following tips that may assist you with memorizing: 1) Choose one passage a day read it & repeat it ten times a day, 2) Memorize with friends who can test you, and 3) Pray that God would help you to treasure His Word in your heart.

You’ll find 11 Scripture verses below that I recommend we (me too!) memorize together this summer. Please feel free to challenge me along the way!

With Love in Christ,



VERSES TO MEMORIZE

1. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. ISAIAH 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

3. 1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4. ACTS 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

continued →

5. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

6. PSALM 73:25-26

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

7. MARK 8:35-36

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

8. ROMANS 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us,

who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

9. 1 PETER 1:13

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

10. EZEKIEL 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

11. PSALM 27:4

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

GROUPS ON HIATUS FOR THE SUMMER

Sharing & Caring Group

Pastor's Bible Study

Sunday Morning Small Group

Sharpshooters Club

Choir & Bell Choir



A collage of game-related items on a dark blue background. At the top left, there are several playing cards, including a King of Spades and an Ace of Spades. To the right is a green board game spinner with a yellow pushpin. Below these are three wooden blocks with the letters 'G', 'C', and 'C' and numbers '2', '3', and '3' respectively. The text 'Continuing through the Summer' is written in a white, cursive font. The words 'GAME DAYS' are written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. At the bottom, there is white text: 'Join us for fun and games on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ 1PM' and 'Bring along your favorite games and snacks to share.'

Continuing through
the Summer

G₂ C₃ C₃

GAME DAYS

Join us for fun and games on the
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
of the Month @ 1PM

Bring along your favorite
games and snacks to share.

TUESDAY MORNING

— PRAYER GROUP —

MEET US IN THE PRAYER ROOM, EVERY TUESDAY AT 9:45 AM

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Richi's Diner



JUNE 5TH - 8 AM



FINANCE TEAM CORNER

	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	Difference	%
Unrestricted Contributions	145,460.00	129,446.00	16,014.00	12.37%
Total Operating Expenses	119,130.71	119,267.34	(136.63)	-0.11%
Capital Improvement Expenditures	16,482.07	0.00	16,482.07	
Total Expenditures	135,612.78	119,267.34	16,345.44	13.70%

As you can see, Actual Unrestricted Contributions are much higher than the budget. This is good news!

We wish to thank you for your kind generosity.

As you can see, we have spent very close to the budget for actual Operating Expenditures. Again this is good news! You might be thinking “Oh, this is great, we are ahead!” However, that is not entirely true.

We have also spent almost \$16,500 on Capital Improvements. These items are not included in our Operating Expenses. So, our Total Expenditures actually exceed our Operations Budget.

We have purchased the following Capital Improvements that are not included in the Operations Budget:

Rock for the Front Landscape Bed on Mountain View Blvd. (with the Sign (approx 1/3 acre)	2,114.16
Shelves for Storage	867.91
1 New Air Conditioner	13,500.00
	16,482.07

Look for our next update in the August Newsletter.

- The Finance Team



WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation. - Psalm 100

The first verse of this Psalm could read “Make a Joyful Noise.” I prefer the action of ‘shouting with joy’ rather than making noise. Most of the references to ‘noise’ in scripture relate to war, revelry and unholiness.

So I ask, should we have noise in worship? Of course not. None of us wants to worship in the midst of noise. Thanks to the donations to the “Sights and Sounds” campaign, we were able to purchase and install the new sound board allowing our worship to be a beautiful joyous experience rather than a frustrating, distracting noise-filled event.

Now it is time for a few of you, along with me, to join a team of **‘trained and mentored’** sound technicians. Ken Marshall has already trained Patti and me in some of the basics, but we have other responsibilities on Sunday mornings. He is willing and available to get a team of individuals trained and mentored. Having a team of trained technicians is essential to allowing the pastors and music leaders to focus on their primary responsibilities. It has also been greatly appreciated by the performers that have been participating in the concert series.

If you have an **ENGINEERING MINDSET** - you are qualified

If you have a **MUSICIANS EAR** - you are qualified

If you have a **TECHNICAL MINDSET** - you are qualified

If you work in the **MUSIC FIELD** - you are qualified

If you can hear **WITHOUT THE AID OF A HEARING DEVICE** - you are qualified

If you can **ARRIVE BY 9:00 AM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS** - you are qualified

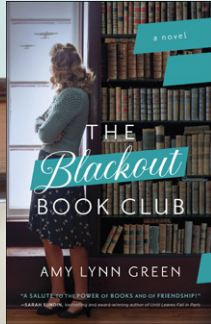
If you don’t feel this is for you, maybe you have a child or grandchild that would be interested in learning this skill and getting hands-on experience. Maybe you know someone in college working on a career in sound or music engineering. Talk to them and then let me know. There will be a clipboard in the lobby to sign up.

Let’s do this together! Let’s do this with thanksgiving in our heart as we enter His sanctuary for praise!

Michele Southerland, Music Director

Women's

BOOK CLUB



In June, the book to be discussed is *The Blackout Book Club* by Amy Lynn Green. They will meet on Thursday, June 8th at 10:00 am.

In July, the group will be reading *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple. The group will meet on Thursday, July 13th at 10:00 am.

Thank You!

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat upon a chair.
Perhaps you packed a box,
If so, I knew you were there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words
That only a friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
You just prayed that day.
Whatever you did to console my grieving heart,
I thank you so very much for your part.

Blessings,
Randy Bice

Randy Bice's new address:
18103 Village Parkway E., Bonney Lake, WA 98391



WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

There is a scam going around that has affected many churches and charities, including ours.
PLEASE KNOW THIS...

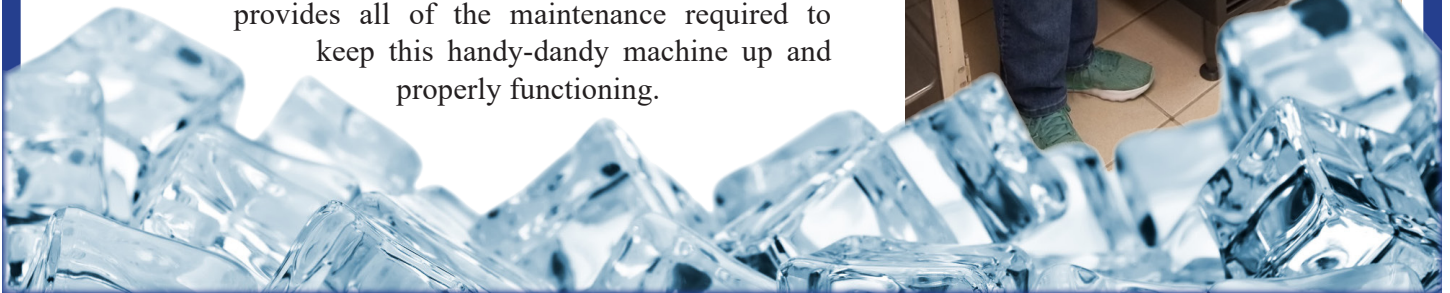
1. Your pastor will never ask you to purchase gift cards for any reason. The church will never contact you and request gift cards (or other purchases) of any kind, especially not through email or text messages.
2. If you have any doubts about an email or text message you receive please contact Pastor Cliff or the church office (623-975-9038). Never call a phone number provided in a potentially phony email or text message.

THE ICE MACHINE MAN COMMETH!!!

Big excitement has come to Grace Community Church! Yes, for the first time in the history of our congregation our leaders are proud to announce... drumroll please... WE NOW HAVE AN ICE MACHINE! Thanks to the "ice machine man" it was installed this past week.

Happiest of all is our wonderful Finance Administrator Patti French, who along with her brother Bill, has faithfully lugged heavy bags of ice to the church week after week for the past few years.

Not only will this new machine conveniently provide us with piles of clean ice for our activities, but it is much more cost effective too! Thankfully, the leasing company provides all of the maintenance required to keep this handy-dandy machine up and properly functioning.



Wedding
AT
Grace

Donna Smith and Jerry Willis were married at Grace Community Church. The ceremony of "Covenant Marriage" was officiated by Pastor Cliff Mansley at 2 p.m. on Saturday May 27th. Donna is the daughter of Terry and Vickie Tupker who are members of GCC. We rejoice in the uniting of Donna and Jerry in holy matrimony and pray for their many years of happiness!



JOIN US FOR A
**MOVIE
MATINEE**

6/29 AT 1 PM

**JOIN US FOR A FREE MOVIE WITH
POPCORN, SNACKS & BEVERAGES.**



JUNE 25TH BAPTISM SUNDAY

Few things are more beautiful than a person who has come to faith in Christ and is baptized.

June 25th, immediately following worship, we are excited to announce the baptism of Sandy Case who would like to publicly declare her commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Her baptism will be by full immersion and take place on the church patio. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

If you haven't been baptized and would also like to make a public commitment to Jesus Christ you are invited to meet with Pastor Cliff as soon as possible.



TRAIL LIFE UPDATES

TRAIL LIFE TROOP AZ #0001



TRAIL LIFE HOLDS SECOND COURT OF HONOR

After our first full year of operation Arizona Troop 1 held its second annual Court of Honor. With more than 30 boys and their dads we've seen an exciting year of accomplishments including: spiritual growth, hiking, camping, kayaking, orienteering, tools, ropework, fundraising, riflery, archery, cooking, first aid, citizenship, service projects, and so much more!

The Fox, Hawks, Mountain Lions, and Woodlands Trail Patrols earned a variety of awards. Two of our highest achieving boys from the Navigators Patrol earned the rank of "Able Man" which included a "Knighting Ceremony" with sword. Both of these boys earned their coveted "Hiking Standard"... a handsome hiking staff with attached medallions.

The members of Grace Community Church were shown a great deal of gratitude during this ceremony. Tim Tunnel was honored as our founding Committee Chairman. Patti French was honored as our Founding Secretary-Treasurer. Both of these friends have invested countless hours in this important ministry of our church. Pastor Cliff was also acknowledged for his ongoing service as Chaplain and enthusiastic song leader!

Our sister troop from American Heritage Girls joined us for a combined Court of Honor. Between Trail Life & Heritage girls we had over 90 young people participate in the ceremonies. Along with parents our audience included more than 260 people!



TRAIL LIFE WICKENBERG SHOOTING RANGE

The boys of Trail Life were invited by the Wickenburg Sportsman's Club to a day at the gun range on May 20th. Boys, young and old, were accompanied by their dads to discover the finer points of riflery. After an hour of instruction, every boy was given a trained sponsor to guide them in their first firearms experience (at least for most of them). Our very own expert marksman and range master, Pete Kosky, insured that the highest safety standards were used during this fantastic experience!



Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered ministry designed to build faith, character and skill as boys grow into Godly men.

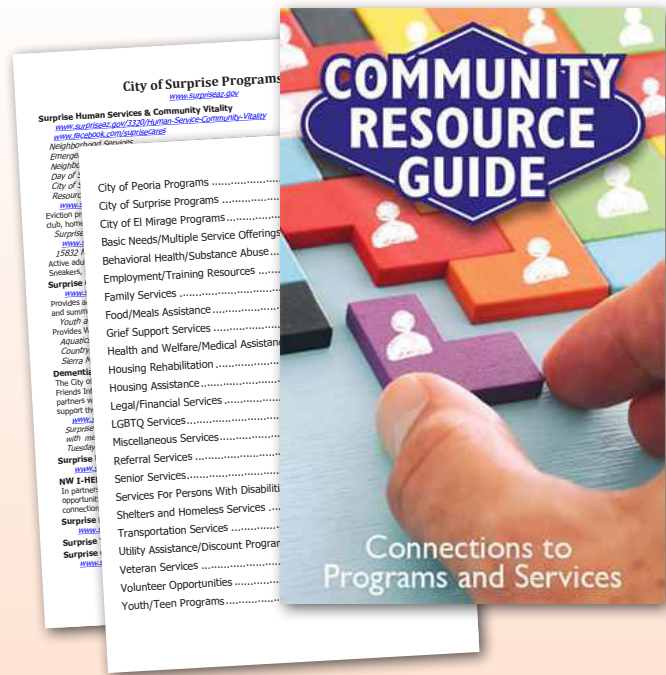
JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	3
4 Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion <i>Pentecost</i>	5 Men's Breakfast at Richi's Diner 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	6 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	7 Parkinson Support Group 3:00-4:30 PM	8 Women's Book Club 10:30 AM	9 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	10
11 Worship Service 10:00 AM	12 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	13 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	14 Game Day 1:00 PM	15	16 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	17
18 Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Father's Day</i>	19 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	20 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	21	22	23 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	24
25 Worship Service 10:00 AM	26 Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	27 Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM	28 Medical Training for Security Team 8:00 AM Game Day 1:00 PM	29 Movie Matinee 1:00 PM	30 TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDES

The City of Peoria, City of Surprise and City of El Mirage collaborated to create this quick reference guide to provide contact information for assistance with food, shelter, homelessness, domestic violence and many other local resources. This guide is intended to provide general information and is not considered to be all inclusive.

AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY



\$150,000
FINAL GOAL

\$100,000

\$75,000

\$50,000

OVER HALF WAY TO GOAL

MATCH MET

THE JOASH CHEST

We encourage you to make a gift to the Joash Chest Fund which will ensure that our ministry facilities are well maintained and upgraded. Please pray about how God would lead you in generous giving.



THIS FACILITY IS EQUIPPED WITH A HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM.

Please ask for a receiver
at the soundbooth.



PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests can be
submitted on our website at
gcc-epc.com/prayer-warriors

If you prefer, you can also
directly contact Pastor Cliff
(pastorcliff@gcc-epc.com),
the church office
(grace@gcc-epc.com),
or your assigned deacon.

You can also sign up to be
included in the prayer chain
at the webpage listed above.

JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Anders..... 6/3	Virginia Spencer.. 6/14
Jim Keinath..... 6/4	Collin Stewart 6/14
Sandee Sutton..... 6/6	Carol Jones..... 6/21
Jan Bundy..... 6/9	Dave PflEPSen..... 6/24
Jim Lee..... 6/11	Wayne Adams 6/29
Lillian Gill..... 6/14	Rose Kast 6/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Dorothy Gerych 6/9
Dave & Betti PflEPSen..... 6/10
Collin & Sherida Stewart 6/12
Larry & Barbara Laursen 6/14
Doug & Susie Ashburn..... 6/17
Lowell & Darlene Coulson 6/18
Jim & Gwen Keinath..... 6/24
Dick & Barbara Martin 6/25
Ned & Pat Davis..... 6/30
Jerry & Nancy Savold 6/30



**Evangelical Presbyterian
Church**

Rev. Cliff Mansley
Pastor

16165 W. Mountain View Blvd.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Worship Service Time:
10:00 a.m.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Contact Information:
Phone: 623-975-9038
Fax: 623-537-5565
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gcc-epc.com

E-mail Address:
grace@gcc-epc.com