

TWELVE KEYS TO A GENUINE PRAYER LIFE

I recently visited the church where I worshiped in seminary forty years ago. It's an old New England church that has been in existence for 325 years.

The floorboards creaked a bit as I went to a familiar spot near the front of the sanctuary. Kneeling down, my mind drifted back to the hundreds of prayers that my friend and I lifted up to the Lord on that very spot.

Deloris, sixty years my senior, was one of the most godly women I've ever met. Five days a week for two years we met at 6 a.m. for prayer. I learned a lot during that time.

When I glance back at my prayer journal she offered twelve keys to an effective prayer life. I hope that they will encourage you in prayer life as well.

FIRST, she insisted that authentic prayer is always from both the head and the heart. Remember that God the Son, regularly slipped away to spend time with God the Father. He took quiet time alone with the Father seriously and so should we.

SECOND, the spiritual battles of life are daily and very real. Stay on your knees. That's where you meet God the most and hear Him the best. *"Don't just jabber away, listen carefully."* When you pray for others don't just pray for aches and pains, pray for souls!

THIRD, Deloris reminded me that the Lord's Prayer was intended as a model for prayer not a ritual. Pray by expanding each of its components and you will not finish in an hour.

FOURTH, know to whom you are speaking. Prayer is a conversation with God, and every conversation should begin by addressing Him by name. We pray to the Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

FIFTH, praise Him. Praise God for who He is... His awesome qualities and characteristics. Try listing the ones you know... add to that list as you discover more. Praise opens our hearts to heaven's gates.

SIX, thank Him. God loves to see that we have grateful hearts. Thank Him for answered prayers and impossible situations overcome, the healings and the grace. List ways God's shown His care for you. You'll soon see an abundance of blessing in your life!

SEVEN, ask for God's will. Jesus modeled a heart of obedience and submission in the Garden of Gethsemane. Only hours

before His crucifixion, prayed, *"Father, not my will, but yours be done."* In a world where right and wrong are frequently confused and the future so uncertain, one thing we can know with absolute certainty is that God's plan for those who love Him is absolutely good and perfect.

EIGHT, say what you need. The Bible says, *"You do not have because you do not ask God."* So never hesitate to ask. Your Father in heaven delights to give you good gifts.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven
our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.**

Matthew 6:9-13

continued →

NINE, ask for forgiveness. If you feel your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling, take some time to check your heart.

TEN, pray with a friend. There is power in agreement when we pray in Jesus' name. Make finding a trusted prayer partner one of your goals this month or come to Tuesday morning prayer at 9:45 a.m.

ELEVEN, Pray the Word. One reason I loved listening to Deloris pray was because for every need or situation, she would claim a scripture of promise. *"The Word of God has power and is our great spiritual weapon. Pray the Word, Cliff Pray the Word."*

TWELVE, memorize Scripture. The most important key to a vibrant prayer life is to understand our spiritual

authority in Christ as explained in the Scriptures. The only way to do that is to become intimately familiar with the Bible. Even a few minutes a day in the Word of God will add strength and authority to your prayers.

Dear friend, a steady life of prayer is what makes you a real person, a whole person, a peaceful person, a joyful person, a person of passion, a person of purpose and a person who shines with the love and light of Christ. That's why I love praying with you and for you.

With Love in Christ,



MISSIONARIES IN RESIDENCE

We are excited to announce the arrival of Dr. K. Clement and his wife Sathya this past week. After a circuitous journey from India they landed safe and sound here in Phoenix.

Although the Clements are not employed by Grace Community Church the Elders have voted to confer upon them the honorary title of "Missionaries in Residence."

The Clements come to us during a time of extraordinary persecution and turmoil in India. They have little with them but the clothes on their backs. It is their hope to return to India as circumstances permit.

In the meantime, the Clements will be staying in a home not far from the church. They will also be worshiping with us and, as time permits leading classes, Bible studies & prayer groups.

While the Clements will continue their ministry work in India via the internet, they will also assist with an international ministry at Arizona State University among other things.

Please be sure to welcome the Clements to Grace Community. And feel free to invite these friends to dinner. They have very interesting life stories which are highlighted by an extraordinary faith in Jesus Christ.



Housewarming Donations Needed

We will be placing a board in the lobby with items that our missionaries will need to set up their home here in Surprise. Each item needed will be printed on a separate tag. Please select a tag for any items you would like to donate. The items do not need to be brand new, just gently used.

We appreciate your help in making them feel welcome.



FINANCE TEAM CORNER

	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	Difference	%
Unrestricted Contributions	229,928.40	209,369.00	20,559.40	9.82%
Total Operating Expenses	210,210.57	214,967.04	(4,756.47)	-2.21%
Capital Improvement Expenditures	16,482.07	0.00	16,482.07	
Total Expenditures	226,692.64	214,967.04	11,725.60	5.45%

Actual Unrestricted Contributions are higher than the budget. The above numbers are as of 7/31/2023.

We wish to thank you for your continued generosity.

Just a note about August, we have only received 57.3% of the August Budget.

We have spent almost \$16,500 on Capital Improvements. These items are not included in our Operating Expenses. They are also not included in the Joash Chest funding.

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
	<hr/>
	16,482.07

Look for our next update in the next newsletter.

- The Finance Team

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.

WE WALK BY FAITH & NOT BY SIGHT

Keith and Kristyn Getty along with Stuart Townend have written a beautiful song, *BY FAITH*.

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In ev'ry corner of the earth

By faith the mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

The words of this song have been a constant presence for me the past few weeks. Many of us have had times in our life when we've needed an extra dose of faith and trust and this song reminds me that God truly will provide for our deepest desires and needs.

Throughout the scriptures we can see God working in the lives of His people from Abraham to the OT prophets, and in His son, Jesus Christ to His Disciples and the many followers of Christ to this current day. As we learn this song, I hope that you will find a verse that speaks to you. We truly are the Children of the Promise.

I am looking forward to returning to regular worship rehearsals for our vocal and handbell choirs. Vocal choir meets 9:00-10:30 and Bell Choir meets 1:00-2:00 every Thursday beginning October 5, 2023. There is no experience necessary, just come to sing and/or ring.

Michele Southerland, Music Director



2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES

November 17, 2023, 7 PM – **AZ SWING KINGS**

December 8, 2023, 4 PM – **PARK PLACE BRASS**

January 12, 2024, 7 PM – **GOLD RUSH**

February 9, 2024, 4 PM – **GUITARS ON FIRE**, *Gal Drimmer*

March 8, 2024, 4 PM – **WOMEN IN SONG**

April 19, 2024, 7 PM – **BLACK RIVER JAM**

Sign-Up Online at GCC-EPC.com/events



WHY READ THE BIBLE?

The Bible Explains How to Share the Gospel...

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Not only is the Bible’s main message focused on the gospel, but the Bible also gives instructions for how to share the gospel with others. The verse quoted above is called the Great Commission, and it is one of the last statements Jesus made to His followers.

After hearing Jesus’ command, they preached in churches, shared about

Jesus with strangers and taught people from all backgrounds about Him. If you are a Christian and want to learn how to share the gospel, living out the Great Commission in your life is a good place to start.

The Bible informs us in our knowledge of God which strengthens us when we speak to others about the gospel.

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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Richi's Diner

SEPTEMBER 4TH - 8 AM

TUESDAY MORNING

— PRAYER GROUP —

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



SIGN UP NOW!

New Members/Inquirers Classes
will begin October 15th.

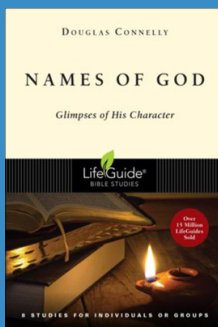
Everyone needs to be part of a spiritual family. Grace Community Church is a great place to call home!

The classes will meet at 4 PM at
the church on the following Sundays:

October 15th, 22nd, 29th & November 5th, 12th

**IF INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CHURCH
SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY TODAY!**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY



The Ladies Bible Study continues every week through September looking at the "The Names of God - Glimpses of His Character".

Monday Mornings, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Come and join us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

COOL WATER

We need people who are willing to pick up water from Costco or Sam's Club on a regular basis. Currently, our overworked staff is lugging all of the water in and its getting difficult to keep up. Please see Patti French if you are able to help.

SANDWICH BOARD SIGN

We need a volunteer who will put our sandwich board service time sign out every Friday and bring it in immediately after worship on Sunday. Please see Patti French if you are able to help.



Women's BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will meet on September 14th, at 10:30 a.m.

The book for September is *The Florence Legacy* by Lauraine Snelling.

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">LEGEND</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">Worship & Study</div> <div style="background-color: #f4cccc; padding: 2px;">Group Meetings</div> <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: #e6e6fa; padding: 2px;">GCC Rehearsals</div> <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px;">Other Groups</div> </div> </div>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion	Labor Day <i>(office closed)</i> Men's Breakfast at Richi's Diner 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	"Sparkle Day" Cleaning Day 9:00 AM - NOON Parkinson Support Group 3:00-4:30 PM	Worship Rehearsal 9:00 -11:00 AM Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship Service 10:00 AM TRAIL LIFE SUNDAY	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Game Day 1:00 PM	Worship Rehearsal 9:00 -11:00 AM Women's Book Club 10:30 AM Deacon's Meeting 2:00 PM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Session Meeting 1:30 PM	Worship Rehearsal 9:00 -11:00 AM Sharing & Caring 10:30 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM Finance Team 10:00 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship Service 10:00 AM	Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Meeting 11:00 AM	Prayer Gathering 9:45 AM Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM Trail Life 6:00 PM	Game Day 1:00 PM	Worship Rehearsal 9:00 -11:00 AM	TOPS Meeting 8 AM - 10 AM	

THE CAPUTOS MOVE TO SURPRISE!

John and Jan Caputo visited Surprise for six months last year. Everyone was sad when we said “good-bye” as we didn’t know if we would see them again. By the wonderful provision of God, the Caputo’s have sold their home in Bath, New York and will be moving here permanently. HURRAY!!!



The Caputo’s will have a need to purchase a quality used car. If you know of anyone who is wanting to sell one of their vehicles please contact Pastor Cliff or Patti French as soon as possible!

Sharing & Caring



SUPPORT GROUP

The Sharing and Caring support will start meeting again this month on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10:30 a.m.



CROSS WALK

We are starting a “Cross Walk” in the church office hallway. If you would like to donate an attractive or unusual cross for the wall please see Holly or Patti in the church office.

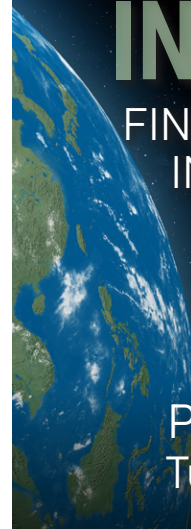
ROOF UPDATE

Great news! We have completed needed repairs on the front half of the roof here at the church. We have also cleaned and repositioned the solar panels. This includes the full replacement of four inverters. By God’s grace this will save another 20-30% on our electric bills. Many thanks to everyone who generously contributed to the Joash Chest Fund to insure the completion of this necessary project!



THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS

FINDING FAITH & HOPE IN A FALLEN WORLD



Pastor’s Bible Study
Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

IS YOUR PICTURE IN OUR PHOTO DIRECTORY?

If your photo is not currently featured in our GCC Photo Directory, please send us a photo that we can include. The directory is a great tool for new members and guests to get to know who’s who.

Email photos to grace@gcc-epc.com.

APOLLO VILLAGE MINISTRY COORDINATOR

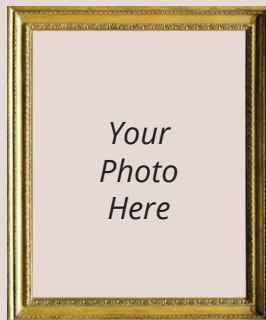


Grace Community Church recently commissioned Tom Merritt to serve as our very first Ministry Coordinator in Apollo Village. Tom (married to Connie) will assist with organizing Bible Studies, fellowship events and basic “pastoral care” with our friends in Apollo Village.

Apollo Village is located eleven miles from our church building and Tom will help to ensure that we have a strong ministry presence with our many friends who live there. Please pray for Tom, the church and our friends of Apollo Village.

MEN'S WALL OF FAME

Okay men, we're looking for pictures of you from your younger years... military, little league, scouts, in shape or out of shape, in your leather jacket or leisure suit, with hair, long hair, bad hair or no hair... it can be a serious or funny picture. Help us out. We need your framed picture for the “Men's Wall of Fame” the moment you walk in the men's room. Every other room in our church is so serious... it's about time men have some fun with the room dedicated to their name!



LIFE GROUPS

Here at Grace Community, we are organizing Life Groups that will meet together for fellowship and spiritual growth outside of Sunday Morning.

We want everyone to find community, not only because life is more fun when we are together, but because we know faith deepens in new ways when we are in relationship with others who are pursuing Jesus!

Groups will begin meeting this Fall in October. Please share your interest in a Life Group by signing up on the clipboard at church or by contacting Deb Schmitt, Life Group Coordinator, at debschmitt3@gmail.com or 360-871-0851 (call or text). Deb will contact you to get the details needed to connect you with a Life Group leader.

GIVE & YOU SHALL RECEIVE

A Stewardship Devotional

“Use worldly wealth to gain friends ... so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” —Luke 16:9

In his parables, Jesus often uses controversial ideas and characters to gain the crowd's attention. In this story a corrupt financial manager becomes a sort of hero. The manager has wasted his master's resources. And when he is about to lose his job, he reduces the amounts owed by his master's debtors, to gain their goodwill. Then, strangely, the master commends the dishonest steward for his shrewd handling of his predicament. The word for “shrewd” here can also mean “wise.” The same word is used to describe the wise man who built his house on a rock (Matthew 7:24).

But how is this manager wise? Though he is disreputable, he finds a creative way to “save his own skin” by giving generously of his master's wealth. In a quirky way this parable reinforces Jesus' teaching “Give, and it will be given to you” (Luke 6:38). The manager greatly reduces the debts of his clients, and his generous actions gain him lasting friends who will surely hire him or provide for him after he loses his job. Likewise, Jesus' followers who use their wealth to benefit others for the sake of God's kingdom “will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

We might think Jesus was mixed up. Economics teaches that we have to preserve wealth to get ahead. But giving makes us wise and pleases God, who holds all wealth in his hands.

Lord, your ways are higher than ours. Plant within us your spirit of generosity. Thank you for assuring us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. In Jesus, Amen.

Sparkle Day

Volunteer to help us make the church sparkling clean.

Cleaning followed with lunch.



**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6,
9 AM - 12 PM**

**SIGN UP IN
THE LOBBY.**

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTISED?

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” – Romans 6:4

Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? The Bible tells us that every one of us must make a decision as to whom we will follow... either Jesus Christ or the world, the flesh and the devil. If you've made the decision to follow Jesus then we're taught that we must be baptized as an outward sign of Christ's inward work of grace. Please take time to visit with Pastor Cliff if you haven't yet taken the very important step of being baptized.





TRAIL LIFE SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 10TH

Don't miss worship services at Grace on Sunday, September 10th! This will be "Trail Life Sunday". Our Troop members will be assisting in the service and fellowship, and our Color Guard will be presenting the colors to open our services and retiring the colors at the closing of worship! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at worship and afterwards to show our support and encouragement for these fine young men and their families!

ARIZONA'S GRAND CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS



Our church is putting together an excursion to go see the *Celebration of Christmas* holiday show at Dream City Church in December. We have purchased 50 tickets and will be chartering a bus to take everyone to the performance.

Sign-ups will begin Sunday, October 1st. A sign-up sheet will be available in the lobby.

Step into the world of Christmas wonder at the *Celebration of Christmas*, a special holiday experience for all generations. Get ready to be captivated by a Broadway-style performance featuring live animals, a full orchestra, a live nativity scene, and aerial acrobatic stunts that will leave you in awe.

**THURSDAY
DEC. 14th**

\$45 per
person

Be at church by 5:45 PM

**Sign-ups Begin
Sun., October 1st**

Price includes ticket
for show plus cost of
transportation.



SPARE TOOLS NEEDED

Do you have any spare tools, nails, screws, or other handy items that might be useful around the church? We would be delighted to receive any tools which you may no longer need.

Please see Steve Paetz or Pastor Cliff about any donations you may like to make.



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.

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Marcia Gaskill.....	9/1
Aaron Gill	9/2
Art Paulsen.....	9/4
Diane Wilton	9/4
Louise Adams.....	9/8
Lowell Coulson.....	9/10
Bud Engstrom	9/11
Tim Mangin.....	9/11
Patti French.....	9/14
Jill Ruxer.....	9/17
Stephen Coffman.....	9/20
Terrence Tupker	9/26
Jerry Willis	9/27
Jerry Savold	9/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Margo Treller.....	9/5
Doug & Sherry Bennett.....	9/13
Terrence & Vicki Tupker.....	9/29




GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
*Passion for Christ
Compassion for People*

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

Website Address:
gcc-epc.com

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