

# Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 480-982-9120

**FEBRUARY 2024**



Normally you see a message here from the me; it is after all, "from the pastor's desk." However, member David Nordstrom passed recently, as you know. Before then, he had shared some notes he made from his reading. The message below is one of his that I think you will find of interest. Please take time to read it. And if you have something to share sometime, please get it to me for possible publication.

## **"Acres of Diamonds"**

One of my favorite stories is Acres of Diamonds by Russell Conwell.

When Russell was in Baghdad, he hired an Arab guide who related this true story to him.

A Persian named Ali Hafed owned a very large farm in India. He was wealthy, happy, and contented. One day a Buddhist priest (one of the wise men of the East) visited the farmer. As they sat by the fire, the old priest talked of many things. He ended by saying, "A diamond is a congealed drop of sunlight." Then, he told Ali if he had one diamond the size of his thumb, he could purchase vast lands. And if he had a mine of diamonds, he would be rich as a king.

When Ali went to bed that night, he was no longer wealthy, happy, and content. No, he was poor and discontented because all he could think about was diamonds. He lay awake all night, tossing and turning.

The old priest had told him: "You will find diamonds in a river that runs through white sands, between high mountains." Soon, Ali sold his farm and set off in search of diamonds. He began his search, very properly to my mind, at the Mountains of the Moon, then Palestine, and finally Europe.

At long last, when all his money was spent and was in a rage, he stood on the seashore at Barcelona, Spain. When a great tidal wave came rolling in between the pillars of Hercules, the poor wretch of a man cast himself into that incoming tide and drowned.

Meanwhile, back at the farm Ali had sold, the new owner, while watering his camel in a shallow brook, noticed a curious flash of light coming from the white sands of the stream. He pulled out a black stone that reflected all the colors of the rainbow. He took the pebble into his house and placed it on the fireplace mantel.

A few days later, this same old priest came by for a visit. On entering the house, he saw a flash of colored light coming from the mantel, rushing to it, he shouted, "This is a diamond." "no," said the farmer. "It is just a stone I found in my back yard."

"But," said the priest, "I tell you I know a diamond when I see one." Together, they rushed out to the stream and in the white sand they found many more beautiful gems.

This was how the diamond mine of Golconda was discovered. The most magnificent diamond mine in all history, even excelling the Kimberly. The crown jewels of England and Russia, the largest diamonds on earth, came from this mine.

So what is the moral of this story? You might have something very valuable in your back yard or close at hand. I believe the Bible is your "acres of diamonds." It's God's treasure hunt. Ask God to speak to you from its pages. And he will be your guide in life.

Hard work beats talent every time and God can provide you talent when needed. Ask God for something great to do. After all, you're his child.

We have "only one life and twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." (C.T. Studd)

**God loves you and so do I!**

**Pastor Rick**



## January Average Monthly Attendance

Sunday Worship: ..... 87  
Sunday School: ..... 38  
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study: ..... 20  
Ladies' Bible Study/Life Group: ..... 6/6

## Ministries/Other Events Actual Attendance

Ladies' Breakfast Attendance: ..... 10  
Business Meeting: ..... 39



If you would like to have, or know of a church member who would like, a

visit &/or the Lord's Supper taken to them, contact the office, Lynne Basch, or one of the deacons.



**\*\*If you or someone you know needs prayer immediately, contact our Prayer Chain Chair, April Inman.**

**\*\*To add to our weekly prayer list, please get the info to the office by noon on Wednesday for the 3pm prayer meeting.**

### The church freezer has homemade casseroles and our pantry is open!

Do you or someone you know need help with a meal or two? Maybe someone that is ill and a visit with a meal and/or some groceries would make a difference and show them God's love?

You can minister to them in the name of Jesus through your church. Come by the

### GET INVOLVED

- **Sunday Fellowship** - coffee & donuts 9 am.
- **Bible Study** at 9:30 am.
- **Worship Service** at 10:45 am.
- **Ladies' Bible Study and Life Group** at 10am & 11:15am respectively.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study** at 5:30 pm.
- **Ladies' Breakfast—Monthly**: third Friday at 8:30 am.
- **Game Day—Monthly**: Third Tuesday at 1 pm (seasonal)
- **Volunteering Your Time**: The church needs your gifts and talents. See a need? Want to help somehow?  
Contact the office or the appropriate committee chairperson.

# Valentine's Day Facts

[HISTORY.com](#) works with a wide range of writers and editors to create accurate and informative content. All articles are regularly reviewed and updated by the HISTORY.com team. Articles with the "HISTORY.com Editors" byline have been written or edited by the HISTORY.com editors, including [Amanda](#)

**Discover the essence of Valentine's Day: delve into its true meaning, explore its rich history and origins and uncover intriguing facets of this annual observance.**

BY: HISTORY.COM EDITORS

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**Valentine's Day is celebrated every February 14 as couples across the globe honor their spouses, partners and sweethearts. Hundreds of years of traditions and customs have made it into the holiday that we observe today. Here are nine interesting facts about the holiday dedicated to romance and love.**

## Origins to a Bloody Pagan Festival

Some trace Valentine's Day origins to a Christian effort to replace a pagan fertility festival that has been dated as far back as the 6th century B.C. During the festival of Lupercalia, Roman priests would sacrifice goats and dogs and use their blood-soaked hides to slap women on the streets, as a fertility blessing. According to legend, women would later put their names in an urn and be selected to be paired with a man for a year.

## Letters Addressed to 'Juliet'

Every year, thousands of romantics send letters addressed to Verona, Italy to "Juliet," the subject of the timeless romantic tragedy, "Romeo and Juliet." The city marks the location of the Shakespearean tale, and the letters that reach the city are dutifully answered by a team of volunteers from the Juliet Club. Each year, on Valentine's Day, the club awards the "Cara Giulietta" ("Dear Juliet") prize to the author of the most touching love letter.

## Box of Chocolates

The Valentine's Day tradition of giving a box of candy was started in the 19th century by Richard Cadbury, a scion of a British chocolate manufacturing family. With a new technique recently established at the company to create more varieties of chocolate, Cadbury pounced on the opportunity to sell the chocolates as part of the beloved holiday.

## First Valentine Was Written From a Prison

History's first valentine was written in perhaps one of the most unromantic places conceivable: a prison. Charles, Duke of Orleans wrote the love letter to his second wife at the age of 21 while captured at the Battle of Agincourt. As a prisoner for more than 20 years, he would never see his valentine's reaction to the poem he penned to her in the early 15th century.

## Vinegar Valentines' Discouraged Suitors

During the Victoria Era, those who didn't want the attention of certain suitors would anonymously send "vinegar valentines." These cards, also called penny dreadfuls, were the antithesis of customary valentines, comically insulting and rejecting unwanted admirers. They were later used to target suffragettes in the late 19th and early 20th century.

## Wearing Your Heart on Your Sleeve

The term "wearing your heart on your sleeve" may have origins in picking a valentine. Smithsonian [reports](#) that during the Middle Ages, men would draw the names of women who they would be coupled with for the upcoming year while attending a Roman festival honoring Juno. After choosing, the men wore the names on their sleeves to show their bond during the festivities.

# Valentine's Day Facts

## Sweethearts' Candies Started Out as Lozenges

The iconic chalky heart-shaped candies that have been passed out lovingly every Valentine's Day started out as lozenges. According to the Food Business News, pharmacist and inventor Oliver Chase created a machine that would quickly create the lozenges before switching to using the machine to create candy—later known as Necco Wafers.

Chase's brother came up with the idea to print messages on the candy in 1866, and the candies got their heart shape in 1901, appealing specifically to Valentine's Day sweethearts.

## Cupid Began as a Greek God

The chubby baby with wings and a bow and arrow that we call Cupid has been associated with Valentine's Day for centuries. However, before he was renamed Cupid, he was known to the ancient Greeks as Eros, the god of love. Eros, the son of Greek goddess Aphrodite, would use two sets of arrows—one for love and another for hate—to play with the emotions of his targets. It wasn't until stories of his mischief were told by Romans that he adopted the childlike appearance that we recognize today.

## How 'X' Came to Mean 'Kiss'

The idea of using a kiss to sign off on valentines also has a long history, according to the *Washington Post*. The use of "X" came to represent Christianity, or the cross, in the Middle Ages. During the same time, the symbol was used to sign off on documents. After marking with an X, the writer would often kiss the mark as a sign of their oath. As the gesture grew among kings and commoners to certify books, letters and paperwork, these records were described as having been "sealed with a kiss."

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### Fact Check

We strive for accuracy and fairness. But if you see something that doesn't look right, [click here](#) to contact us! HISTORY reviews and updates its content regularly to ensure it is complete and accurate.

♥ happy ♥  
Valentine's  
♥ day ♥

# NOTICES & EVENTS



**Sunday, February 4**  
**Gideons presentation**  
**during worship service.**

**Saturday, Feb 10, 3pm**  
**Valentine's Dinner/Social**

**Sunday, February 18**  
**Barry Ward Concert**

**Sunday, February 25**  
**Directory Photos**



The Ladies' Bible Study & Life Group are held on Tuesdays at 10:00am & 11:15am respectively. We are studying spiritual gift definitions. Soon, we will begin 2 Corinthians. See Judy M or Beth S. for information.



## WANTED

Inspiring stories to share in the newsletter. Submit to Beth by email or place in the "Office" mailbox just outside the hall office door.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

(Winter visitors, you may not know yet.)

**[NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS!](#)**

Please note the church's new email address.

**[Info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com](mailto:Info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com)**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### **CHURCH APP FOR PHONES AND OPTION FOR ONLINE GIVING**

Our church now has a new phone app and is about to launch an updated website!

Both the app and the current website have the new online giving option.

When giving online, there is a fee (a percentage) charged as well. You can choose to pay the fee or not. If you do, the church receives your full gift and the fee you paid is deemed tax deductible for you. If you choose not to pay the fee, the fee is taken out of your gift amount prior to deposit to the church's bank account.

You will find the Crossroads Baptist Church app in the Google Play Store and in the Apple App Store for both Android and iPhone.

\*\*Search for **Crossroads Baptist Church AZ**

Then download the app to your phone.\*\*

Look  
blue  
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(This picture below is from the Apple Store)

## 2024 Bible Reading Plan

Reading through the Bible can seem intimidating. Doing it daily for 365 days in a row can seem overwhelming. However....It is SO worth it! Even if your 365-day reading plan takes 421 days, it is still so worth it. It's not necessarily the number of days, but the accomplishment and you will know God better. Celebrate milestones along the way—Your first time reading an Old Testament book, your first time reading the whole New Testament...or Old Testament! The accomplishment is filled with true joy.

In 2024, commit to drawing closer in relationship to God and make reading through the Bible one way to do just that. As you do so, watch for how God will fill you and teach you.

Yes, it can be a challenge to set aside the time to systematically go through the whole Bible. If you miss a day or two or seven though, don't quit. Start again where you left off and keep moving forward.

A Bible-in-a Year reading plan is in the January newsletter—perhaps this will get you started and help keep you going. If this format doesn't do it for you, look up others –they are on the internet. There is a myriad of plans so you don't have to figure it out on your own. Contact Beth in the office if you want more copies of the plan. There are also Bibles that lead you through it in a year. We should each be able to find one or more ways that will help us create this new and very fulfilling habit AND tell someone what you are doing, or do it with a friend, and give each other permission to ask how your reading is going. Encourage each other. Share what you read, learned, or struggled with. You won't be sorry you did it!

However it works for you, DO IT. You won't be sorry!

## **What is the origin of Valentine's Day, and should Christians celebrate it?**

The first Valentine was posted around 1806. Almost one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year on or near February 14 with females purchasing 85% of the cards. This is second only to the number of Christmas cards sent. The history is somewhat murky as to how Valentine's Day has come to be what we now know and celebrate. Saint Valentine served in third-century Rome. Emperor Claudius decided that single men made better soldiers. Therefore, Claudius banned soldiers from being married. One version of the story is that Valentine continued to perform the weddings of young soldiers who were in love, and Claudius had Valentine imprisoned. While imprisoned, Valentine reportedly fell in love with the jailer's daughter. Valentine sent her a card and signed it, "Love, your Valentine." Another version is that Valentine defied Claudius by helping Christians escape the torture of the Romans.

Valentine died in approximately A.D. 270. Others claim the church may have decided to celebrate in mid February to "Christianize" the pagan Roman celebration Lupercalia. The first Valentine sent in the United States was in the 1840's by Esther Howgald. Most of us enjoy "spoiling" a loved one on Valentine's Day. Sending gifts and cards conveys love, affection, and friendship.

There is no biblical reason why Christians should not celebrate Valentine's Day by giving their loved ones flowers, candy and/or cards. As with [celebrating any holiday](#), the decision should be between the individual and God. Some people feel very strongly that observing any secular holiday is wrong, while others see it as harmless. The important thing to remember is that celebrating or not celebrating holidays should not be a cause for pride or division among Christians.

**ANSWER** <https://www.gotquestions.org/Valentines-Day.html>

As soon as we're able to trust God's sovereignty, we're a **TESTIMONY** of restoration.



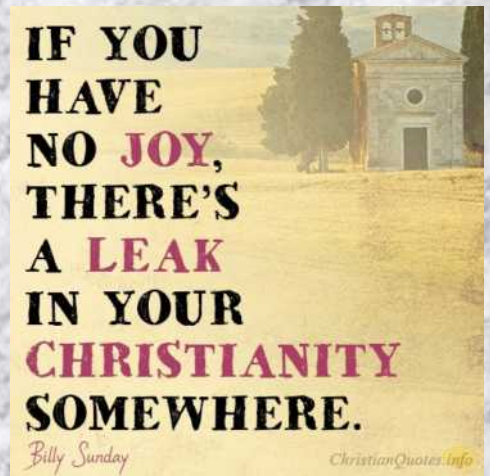
"God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."  
*Augustine*



**GOD TEACHES US TO LOVE BY PUTTING SOME UNLOVELY PEOPLE AROUND US**  
*Rick Warren*



**IF YOU HAVE NO JOY, THERE'S A LEAK IN YOUR CHRISTIANITY SOMEWHERE.**  
*Billy Sunday*



Your Lord is a **FIRE** do not let your heart be cold  
*John of Kronstadt*



Whenever **GOD** calls us **TO A TASK,** He will **EQUIP US**



**In GOD's EYES,** love is never absent.  
**In GOD's HEART,** forgiveness is never impossible. In GOD's **EMBRACE,** no one is ever alone. GOD is always with us.



What did the  
acrobat do on  
Valentine's  
Day?  
He fell head  
over heels in  
love.



On Valentine's Day, the  
raisin said to the apple,  
how about a date?



What did one piece of  
toast say to the other?  
You're my butter half.

A quote from a Valentine's  
Day card to a stamp.  
Stick with me, and you'll go  
places.

What did the  
guy with a  
sprained ankle  
tell his nurse?  
I've got a crutch  
on you.

One lemon told  
another lemon...  
you're my main  
squeeze.

I'd say you are a banana  
because I find you a-peeling.





# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Start or continue your daily Bible reading plan today!</i>  <i>The read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year plan is in the January newsletter.</i></p>			Freedom Day 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	1 6pm Choir Practice	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship Gideons Presentation	5	6 10 am Ladies' Bible Study  11:15 am Ladies' Life Group	7 9 am Property Comm Meeting  3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	8 6pm Choir Practice	9	10 3pm Valentines Dinner/Social (reservations required)  
11 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 ♥ 10 am Ladies' Bible Study ♥ 11:15 am Ladies' Life Group ♥ 12:30 pm Property Comm Meeting	14  ♥ Valentines Day ♥ Ash Wednesday 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	15 6pm Choir Practice	16 8:30 am-Ladies' Breakfast @ iHop	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
18 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Barry Ward Concert	19 ♥ Presidents' Day ♥ Washington's Birthday	20 10 am Ladies' Bible Study  11:15 am Ladies' Life Group	21 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	22 6pm Choir Practice	23	24
25 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	26	27 10 am Ladies' Bible Study  11:15 am Ladies' Life Group	28 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	29	<i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>	

*"Let all that you do be done in love."  
 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NRSVUE)*

# † Crossroads † Baptist Church Great Commission Church

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Church Office: 480-982-9120

Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Email: [crossrdsbc@yahoo.com](mailto:crossrdsbc@yahoo.com)

**Pastor: Rick Basch**

**Deacons**

Wes Ehlers, Hector Palma, Mike Tacker, Robert Wisner



**MATTHEW 28:18-20**  
WIN SOULS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association

<https://www.valleyrimbsba.org/>

AZ Southern Baptist Convention

<https://azsbc.org/>

Southern Baptist Convention

