

# Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

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

**AUGUST 2024**



**We** held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Business Meeting on Sunday, July 28, 2024. It was a successful meeting, and we enjoyed each other. After the meeting we enjoyed a fellowship meal. I don't remember the last time that I saw so many delicious selections and in such good quantities. The bounty increased when you went to the dessert table. I made a couple of trips to make sure I didn't hurt any of the cooks' feelings. My hat is tipped to our members who diligently prepared food, set up tables and place settings, arranged for serving, did the cleanup, and created for us a great fellowship time.

While reflecting on our meeting I began to realize that there is an equally important function to our business meeting than just reporting our financials and activity. That information is important, and we work very hard to make sure that our reports to you are timely and accurate. The problem though is that we get so focused on information that we fail to celebrate accomplishments. We scan the reports and fail to extract from them the things that were accomplished that align with our goals and purpose. We should be pleased that we have been good stewards of our resources. But shouldn't we also be pleased about the work that has been done to advance the Kingdom of God? Shouldn't we pause and notice all the demonstrations of love that are shown to our church body?

When I look at our reports, I see a lot of devotion and many examples of things we need to celebrate and not just report.

As a church we have invested a lot of human currency into everything that makes a church operate and be a place to be enjoyed.

Every committee has produced tangible results that matter. Take another look at the committee reports and instead of looking to approve or disapprove, let's look with an eye to 1) say "thank you" and 2) get involved. There is a "u" in church for a reason.

I would like to shift my focus from matters relating to the church to matters relating to theology.

I feel like God is moving in our church. I have seen people moved by our worship and people diligently seeking the Lord. We continuously get reports that people feel our love as a body and that the presence of the Holy Spirit is evident.

All of this is good. Actually, it is more than good. It is movement toward being the church that God wants us to be. Our challenge is to continue to align ourselves with God's work in our church.

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In the words of Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," we are reminded to "watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work." This profound insight is a call to action for our church community.

God is undoubtedly at work in our church. We see His hand in the unity of our congregation, the growth of our ministries, and the impact we're making in our community.

However, recognizing God's work is just the first step. Blackaby emphasizes that "you cannot stay where you are and go with God." This means we must continue to align ourselves with God's purposes and ways. Doing so will enlarge our impact and grow our love relationship with God.

Our church is not just a place where we do things for God; it's where God invites us to join Him in His work. This requires us to nurture our relationship with God, which is far more important to Him than what we do.

As we continue to witness God's work in our church, let's strive to align ourselves with Him. Let's deepen our relationship with God and eagerly anticipate the assignments He has for us.

If you do an inventory and find that you are not called to do anything for God. Then perhaps you should check your love relationship with him. He has plenty for you to do but your heart has to be right. Remember, when the love relationship with God is right, God will freely give us assignments at His initiative.

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

### **We Need Casseroles/Meals!**

In order to continue to help our members and families in need, we need casseroles/meals that serve two to put in the freezer.

Help with a meal or two for someone that is ill or in need. Bring casseroles by the office or before church to be frozen. Let us know who needs help so we can arrange for delivery.

Show them our love by ministering to them in the name of Jesus through your church.

**Hebrews 13:16** ~ "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

# By Members For Members

## Free/For Sale/Help Wanted/Notices/Events

If you have something you no longer need or want, an upcoming event, or have a notice to share with the church, feel free to advertise it here to the members of Crossroads. Give your ad to Beth (office) for posting. If the ad goes in the newsletter, remember that it will be posted online, so do not put in too much personal information.

Beth is willing to help you as needed to get your ad ready for publishing.

### Missions Giving Drives

- ♥ Genesis Water Drive thru 8/4
- ♥ Back-to-School Supplies 8/11 thru 8/18
- ♥ AZ (Baptist) Mission Offering 8/25 thru 9/15



### SOCIAL SATURDAY CLASS

August 17 @12:00 to 3:30 pm

Everyone is Welcome!

Let's Paint a Happy Picture of a Field of Sunflowers!



**SAVE THE DATE:  
October 12**

**Watch for more info or  
contact Mary/Terry.**



Please plan to join us on **October 11-14** for the  
**2024 NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND!**

For the latest news and updates,  
visit [faithandblue.org](http://faithandblue.org) or call 404-605-7000.

**WANTED**

Submissions for the newsletter.  
Submit to Beth or Pastor Rick by  
email or place in the "Office"  
mailbox just outside the  
hall office door.





June Average  
Monthly Attendance

Sunday Worship..... 57  
 Sunday School..... 27  
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study..... 13  
**Ladies' Bible Study/Life Group.....6/6**

Ministries/Other Events  
Actual Attendance

**Ladies' Breakfast Attendance** ..... 7  
 Business Meeting..... 28



**\*\*If you or someone you know needs prayer immediately, contact the office or prayer chain member(s).**

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

If you or someone else would like a visit by a member, please contact the office, a visitation team member, or a deacon for assistance. Visits can include taking a casserole, hospital visits, communion with a house-bound member, or even just a social or prayer visit to lift **someone's spirits.**

**Get Involved!**

- **Sunday Fellowship** - coffee & donuts @ 9 am.
- **Sunday School** @ 9:30 am.
- **Worship Service** @ 10:45 am.
- **Ladies' Bible Study and Life Group** Tuesdays @ 10am & 11:15am respectively.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study** @ 3:00 pm.
- **Ladies' Breakfast—Monthly:** third Friday @ 8:30 am at a local restaurant.
- **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.



My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo, while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.



A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."



### Funny Church Bloopers

1. The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
2. Don't let worry kill you off- let the Church help.
3. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
4. Illiterate? Write to the church office for help.
5. Ushers will swat the latecomers
6. 'At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

# Don't get duped by government impersonation scams

April 23, 2024 | 5 min read | Desert Financial Credit Union

<https://www.desertfinancial.com/en/learn/blog/security/government-impersonation-scams>

## IN THIS ARTICLE

- Learn how the latest government impersonation scams work.
- Get tips to protect yourself.
- Find out how to report a suspected scam.

How long would it take you to save up \$50,000? Years, decades, a lifetime? And how long would it take to lose \$50,000? Maybe just a few minutes if you're the victim of fraud.

And you wouldn't be alone. Data from the Federal Trade Commission show that consumers lost more than \$10 billion to fraud in 2023.<sup>1</sup> Of those reported losses, \$2.7 billion came from business and government impersonation scams, in which fraudsters contacted people and pretended to be from a government agency in order to trick people into giving up their personal and financial information.

The good news is, you can protect yourself against government impersonation scams by learning about the latest schemes and following a few simple tips to safeguard your information. We'll also share how to report a scam if you think you've been targeted.

## Scam-o-rama: Watch out for these latest imposter schemes

### Government impersonation scams

Your phone rings. The caller ID reads, "Internal Revenue Service." So, is that the IRS calling? Highly unlikely. Scammers have become skilled at spoofing phone numbers and email addresses to make them appear like they're really coming from a government agency. Fraudsters call, email or text you and pretend to be from the IRS, the Social Security Administration or the Federal Reserve in order to gain access to your personal and financial information. They might claim you owe back taxes and threaten legal action if you don't pay them. Or they might say your Social Security benefits are expiring or suspended because you owe money. They might tell you you're eligible for some kind of medical device and ask you to fill out a form with your Medicare number.

Sometimes, a fraudster will pose as an employee at a government agency like the Federal Reserve and try to convince you that your information or accounts have been compromised by hackers and that your funds are unsafe until you move them to a new account for protection. This scheme, in which scammers lie about your devices or accounts being hacked to try to get access, is called the phantom hacker scam.

### Tips to protect yourself from government impersonation scams:

- Hang up or don't answer if you receive a call from someone you don't know, even if you recognize the name on your caller ID. If you want to check with a government agency to see if they've contacted you, look up their phone number and call them directly. Do not call the number on your caller ID.
- If you receive an email that looks like it's from a government agency, don't open it. If you do open it, don't click on any links or download any attachments. Do not respond to the email. The best place for it is in your trash folder.

Do not reply to text messages or direct social media messages from anyone claiming to be from a government agency.

### Student loan scams

Student loan repayment scams purport to help you avoid repaying student loans, lower your loan payments or get your loans forgiven altogether. The goal of student loan scams is to get you to pay a fee for bogus services or persuade you to share your Federal Student Aid (FSA) login information with the scammer. Often, fraudsters claim to be from or affiliated with the

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Department of Education or your student loan servicer, and they might even contact you from an email address or phone number that looks legitimate, thanks to spoofing. They use official-looking logos and seals and might even present a fake ID to try to gain your trust. If they gain access to your FSA information, they could cut off contact between you and your student loan servicer or steal your identity.

**Tips to protect yourself from student loan scams:**

Stick to the most trusted and secure source for your student loan information: the [Federal Student Aid](#) website.

Don't believe anyone who says you need to pay for a program to lower your student loan payments or get forgiveness.

You can do that all for free yourself at [StudentAid.gov/repay](#).

Just relax. Like most scammers, the perpetrators of student loan scams try to create a sense of urgency around their con, claiming their "offer" will expire soon or that you could face penalties for not signing up. Someone trying to pressure you into acting quickly is a huge red flag for a scam.

**Precious metals scams**

Over the last seven months of 2023, people – including many senior citizens – lost more than \$55 million to precious metals scams, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.<sup>2</sup> This scam works in two steps: In the first step, fraudsters pose as government officials or tech support and claim your financial accounts have been or are at risk of being compromised (the phantom hacker tactic) and instruct you to sell all your assets for cash or buy precious metals like gold or silver to "protect" your money. In step two, couriers pick up the cash or precious metals from you at your home or in a public place under the false pretense of keeping it "safe" for you in a separate account or protected space. And that's the last you hear from them.

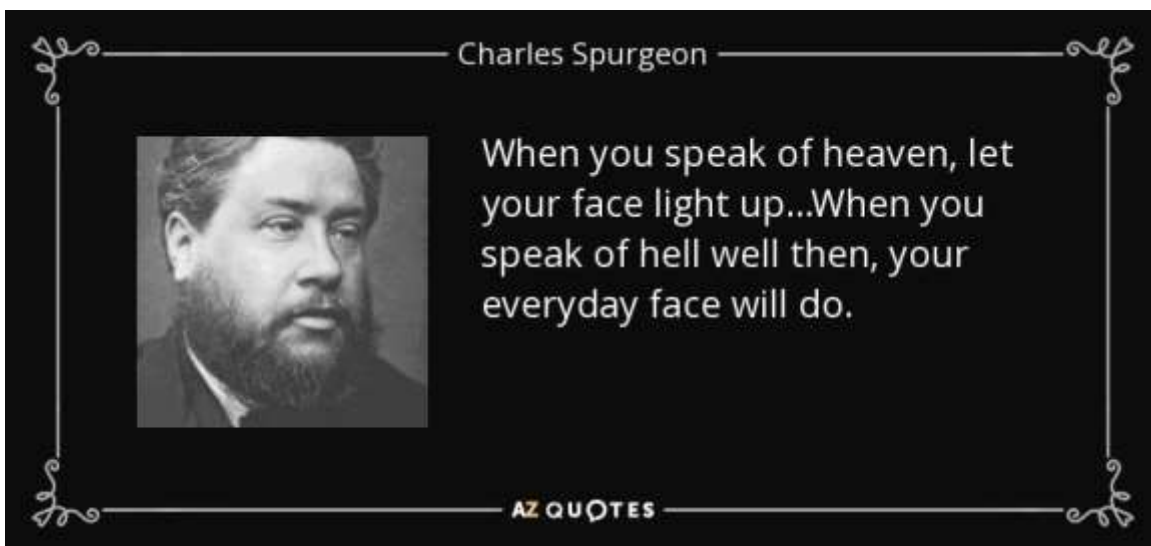
**Tips to protect yourself from precious metals scams:**

- Know that the U.S. government will never ask you to buy precious metals.
- Don't respond to emails, phone calls or texts claiming to be from a government agency. Always look up the agency yourself and contact them directly.

**Do not disclose personal information and never share your home address or agree to meet with someone you don't know to deliver cash or precious metals.**

**Think you've been scammed? Here's what to do.**

Learning about the latest scams and staying cautious are good steps toward protecting ourselves from fraud, but unfortunately, sometimes we might still get taken. Fraudsters make scamming their full-time job and are always concocting new schemes to claim more victims. If you think you've been the target of a scam, you can file a report with the FBI at the bureau's [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#).





York, PA  
Chaplain Paul Beliasov

## Chaplain Life

Sometimes, we have inmates who, sad to say, I really doubt will ever change. But God can reach the hardest of hearts. We need to remember that.

R was one of those guys who has been in and out of York County Prison many times. I have talked with him on previous visits (while trying to read his eyelid tattoos each time he blinks), as had the previous Good News Global chaplain, but he seemed a little wild and on the edge. He dabbled in other religions on one trip, but this time, he really wanted to study God from the Bible.

Last year, he started in the Hole (I'm not sure what he did to get in trouble so fast) but wanted a Bible and Bible studies he could do on his own. He completed many lessons, got a "cellie" (cellmate) in the Hole, encouraged that guy to study with him and they were off!

R has since been moved around the prison (he was in another restricted area for a while but was moved for good behavior) and is now in one of my Bible studies. I call him every week, and he attends every week.

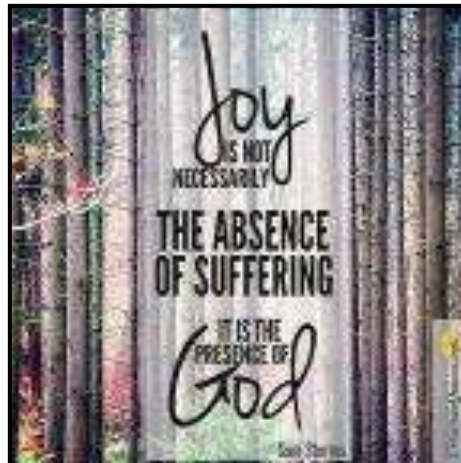
I was thinking about how different he seems from the past. His demeanor is peaceful and, dare I say it, Christ-like. Not only that, but his former "cellie" from the Hole, whom he preached to, also now faithfully attends my other Bible study.

*Although I meet inmates who I don't think will ever change—we need to remember, I need to remember—that you never know whose heart God will change.*



JUST SAY YES

Your most powerful testimony is how you treat others after the church service.



Almost certainly God is not in Time. His life doesn't consist of moments following one another.  
The point I want to drive home is that God has infinite attention, infinite leisure to spare for each one of us.  
He doesn't have to take us in the line. You're as much alone with Him as if you were the only thing He'd ever created.  
When Christ died, He died for you individually just as much as if you'd been the only man in the world.  
— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



THE LESS I PRAY  
THE HARDER IT GETS  
--Luther



# August 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>				1 No Choir Practice	2 Office Closed: Summer Friday	3
<p>4 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship Baptism The Lord's Supper</p> <p>Last day of Genesis</p>	5 Start of Project Help Back-to-School Drive	6 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study 11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group	7 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	8 No Choir Practice	9	10
<p>11 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship</p>	12	13 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study 11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group	14 10:30 am- Personnel Meeting 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	15 No Choir Practice	16 8:30 am-Ladies' Breakfast @ iHop Office Closed: Summer Friday	17 12-3:30-Social Saturday
<p>18 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship</p> <p>Last day of Back-to-School Drive</p>	19 Start of AZ (Baptist) "CONNECT" Mission Offering	20 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study 11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group	21 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	22 No Choir Practice	23	24
<p>25 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship</p> <p>After Church: Missions &amp; Outreach Comm Meetings</p>	26	27 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study 11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group	28 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	29	30 Office Closed: Summer Friday	31  <i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>

**"The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,..." Nahum 1:7 (NIV)**

# † 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: [info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com](mailto:info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com)

Website: <https://www.crossroadsbaptistaz.com/>

Pastor: Rick Basch

## Deacons

Bob Allen, Wes Ehlers, Earl McDonald,  
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

<http://www.sbc.net/>

