

Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 2025



My column is longer than normal. This is partly to help Amos Mahi, our new Office Manager, to ease into newsletter development. Our Beth has retired and has left some mighty big shoes to fill. She is still active with our church; she is just serving in a new way. Servants don't get to retire.

It is also because my topic is Well, so topical.

The nation has undergone a loss in the person of Charlie Kirk. He seemed to have struck a chord in our youth. They are gathering in large numbers and are embracing a call to faith in God and His biblical principles. I hear many say that they believe this is a harbinger to a great revival. I don't know. I certainly hope so. Even if their enthusiasm is only for a season, it will have been a good season. What I do know is that God's people need to be facilitators to whatever is happening. We need to be actively working and praying to usher in the Kingdom of God.

We are called to be a light in times of uncertainty and challenge. When believers pursue honest conversations rooted in love and biblical truth, they testify to the transforming power of Christ in their lives. Whether or not these gatherings signal the start of a widespread revival, they demonstrate the continued relevance of faith and the hunger for authentic spiritual connection among young people. Our responsibility is to nurture these moments with grace, prayer, and a commitment to seeking God's will above all else.

It has been made very clear that Words Matter!

The balance of this newsletter is for the purpose of reminding us of the power we possess with a few tips on how to wield it.

The Power of Words: Speaking Life and Grace

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits." — Proverbs 18:21 "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

— Colossians 4:6 Words are never neutral. Scripture reminds us that our speech carries the power to either build up or tear down, to heal or to harm, to draw others toward Christ or push them away. In a world increasingly marked by division, misunderstanding, and noise, the Christian voice must be one of clarity, compassion, and conviction.

Speaking Life in a Culture of Negativity

Proverbs 18:21 is a sobering reminder: our words can either bring life or death. This isn't just metaphorical—it's deeply spiritual. When we speak encouragement, truth, and love, we reflect the heart of God. But when we speak harshly, gossip, or sow discord, we participate in the enemy's work of destruction.

As mature believers, we are called to be stewards of our speech. Whether in casual conversation, social media, or moments of conflict, we must ask: "Are my words giving life? Are they pointing others to Jesus?"

Gracious Speech That Builds Bridges

Paul's instruction in Colossians 4:6 is both practical and profound. "Gracious" speech is not weak or compromising—it's strong in kindness, rich in wisdom, and intentional in tone. "Seasoned with salt" implies that our words should preserve truth and add flavor to the conversation, making the gospel attractive and compelling.

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Bridge-building begins with listening well and speaking with empathy. It means choosing words that invite dialogue rather than shutting it down. It means being ready to give an answer—not just a rebuttal—but a reason for the hope we have, with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

Stephen Covey's fifth habit, in his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People* — has as its 5th habit to: "Seek first to understand, then to be understood". This habit is deeply aligned with the heart of Christ. Jesus often asked questions before giving answers. He listened to the cries of the hurting, the doubts of the skeptical, and the needs of the broken before offering truth and healing.

The phrase "Seek first to understand, then to be understood" closely aligns with several biblical principles about listening and humility in communication.

For example, James 1:19 instructs, "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger," emphasizing the importance of listening before responding.

Additionally, Philippians 2:3-4 encourages believers to consider others above themselves, which naturally involves seeking to understand others' perspectives before asserting our own.

These verses highlight the value of empathy, patience, and genuine care in our conversations, reflecting Christ-like love and wisdom.

In our conversations, especially those involving disagreement or evangelism, we must first listen with humility. Understanding someone's story, pain, or perspective opens the door for meaningful connection. When people feel heard, they become more open to hearing us—and ultimately, to hearing the gospel.

This habit encourages us to:

- Listen actively and without judgment.
- Ask thoughtful questions that show genuine interest.

Respond with grace, not just with answers. When we seek first to understand, we reflect the patience and compassion of Christ—and we create space for His truth to be received.

Evangelism Through Everyday Conversation

Evangelism doesn't always happen in pulpits or mission fields—it often begins in everyday conversations. A kind word to a neighbor, a thoughtful response to a coworker, or a gentle correction to a friend can be the seed that leads someone to Christ.

Conclusion: Let's be intentional about using our speech to reflect the gospel. Ask yourself:

- Am I speaking in a way that reflects Christ's love?
- Do my words invite others into deeper relationship?
- Am I building bridges or burning them?

A Prayer for Our Tongues

Lord, help us to speak life. May our words be gracious, seasoned with salt, and full of Your truth. Teach us to build bridges with our speech, to reflect Your love in every conversation, and to be bold in sharing the hope we have in You. Amen

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Rick



Subject: The Paradox of Ants

By Jane D.



This is a story about sugar ants (not the ants in Proverbs), and how they crawled into today's sermon about temptation and testing.

Just before we flew to Spokane on September 1st, I discovered that a whole bunch of little black ants were concentrated around a tiny piece of cheese on the kitchen counter. It looked like an orange spider with about 20 legs.

Since I'm not as technologically challenged as many of my friends, I opened up my AI friend, ChatGPT, and asked how to get rid of them. (The short answer was soap and vinegar.) The next morning I prayed they wouldn't reappear while we were gone that week.

They weren't. God answers prayer for the most mundane things.

Last Friday they reappeared with a whole bunch of friends. I went back to ChatGPT...I learned that if you smush them, they send out "Danger! Help me!" signals to their friends and suddenly there are even more of them. George really likes smushing them. (It may be previous-occupation-related.)

I used the soap; I used the vinegar; we went to the store and bought ant traps. I've been trying to control them all weekend. I'm losing.

I learned that you should kill them with soap (what a waste of good Dawn Power wash!) and then spray them with vinegar and dry off where you sprayed. I learned that you can't just spray the vinegar where they were, you have to spray the whole countertop because that disrupts their scent trails. I talked to ChatGPT a lot and I learned a lot about ants, especially scent trails. Now my kitchen is so clean you could eat off the counters!

I've been trying to control the ant infestation problem all weekend while being tested. This week's testing consists of:

- My back hurts
 - My hips hurt
 - I'm still trying to put away the stuff we brought from Deer Park
 - My face hurts (I had a procedure on my face Friday and am not even supposed to go outside in the shade)
 - I spilled black coffee on my white pants as I was getting out of the car
- My control is intact

I thought I was doing pretty good at staying calm and addressing the problem...no swearing, no ranting, no blaming. You know the drill. George wasn't a lot of help once he learned smushing wasn't allowed and I wouldn't let him spray Raid in the kitchen.

I was annoyed the little critters had made me break my own rule about insects. My theory is bugs and spiders can do whatever they want outside, but when they come inside, they're fair game! ChatGPT taught me how to place an ant trap outside to best advantage and to spray vinegar on the siding to find where they're coming in, even how to use Vaseline as a temporary grout. Now I'm murdering bugs wholesale outside. Is this the Paradox of Temptation?

Then this morning I realized that although I'd prayed once, that didn't cover it all. I should have been praying every time I picked up a spray bottle! I should have praised God for vinegar and Dawn. I should have praised Him for eyes that could tell the difference between little black ants and little black designs on the countertop. I should have thanked Him that they were on the counters instead of in the food cabinet, or under the sink with the garbage can.

I should have turned the whole problem over to him in the beginning and let him deal with the ants.

So now I'm done. He can do it. I relinquish my pseudo-control. And I know I won't have ants coming back inside.

Notices/Events/Free/For Sale/Help Wanted

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 info to Amos (office) for posting. If the info goes in the newsletter, remember that it will be posted online, so do not put in private information.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

The **DECORATIONS COMMITTEE** needs help and someone to be the chairperson. The committee changes up the sanctuary decorations for seasons and/or special holidays. There isn't a lot of time required and even if you don't have the "gift" you can help take down and put up/out decorations. We especially need our "summer stayers" to join. Men, you are helpful as well!

The **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** needs volunteers to join the committee. With enough volunteers, Sunday mornings can have a rotation again and will have enough people to assist at other events like our business meeting potlucks.

**TO SIGN UP/ASK QUESTIONS, SEE
BETH OR JOANNA ANY TIME.**

Event not to be missed
on 11/13/2025 for the
annual convention for
Arizona Mission
Network.

for more info call
602-843-1030

MEN'S BREAKFAST!

**First SATURDAY of each
month at 8:00 AM at the church.**

Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan,3

**Sign up in the info area. If you can
help in the kitchen, please
come at 7am to help
"Chef" Lafe.**



**Food, Fellowship,
and God's Word**



**First SATURDAY of each month
at 8:30 AM at a local eatery.**

**Oct 4 at Gold Canyon Café
Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan3.**

**Sign up in the info area. Bring a
friend or family member!**



Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Arizona Baptist Children & Family Services

Another mission we support is this faith-based, non-profit social service ministry that serves the full spectrum of Arizona families, from unborn babies to seniors.

Arizona Southern Baptists established Arizona Baptist Children's Services & Family Ministries (ABCS) in 1960 to create a home for displaced children. Over the past 60 years, we have expanded into seven ministries with one mission: to provide hope and care to hurting children and families through Christ-centered ministries. ABCS operates as a faith-based, non-profit social service ministry that serves Arizona families of all ages — from unborn babies to seniors.

Today, families face a wide range of stressors and challenges that can feel overwhelming. Our ministries respond by offering practical support to help meet those needs. We aim to share the love of Christ with every person we encounter, keeping evangelism at the heart of everything we do.

At the core, we strive to live by the ABCS Core Values:

Honor God in all we do.

Build relationships through trust and respect.

Be a good steward with what we have been given.

Do everything with excellence.

The ministry is in partnership with:

AZ Southern Baptist Mission Network

Care Net

Family Life Radio

Christian Alliance for Orphans

Christian Leadership Alliance

ECFA

AZ Food Network

Community Food Bank of AZ

The ministry offers a variety of services such as adult ministry, counseling, food & clothing, foster care, parent aid, pregnancy, transitional programs, physical and spiritual needs.



September Average
Monthly Attendance

Ministries/Other Actual

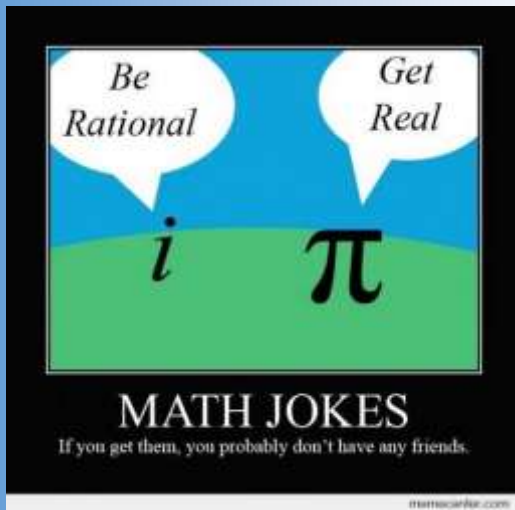
Sunday Worship..... 48
Sunday School..... 20
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study..... 15

New Members:..... 2
Ladies' Bible Study..... 5
Ladies' Breakfast Attendance..... 9
Men's Breakfast Attendance..... 21
Visitors..... 2



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.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study** @ 3:00 pm.
- **Choir** - (On Break) Thursdays-Practice @ 6pm
- **Ladies' Breakfast - Monthly**: third Friday @ 8:30 am at a local restaurant.
- **Men's Breakfast—Monthly**: First Saturday @ 8:00 am at the church.
- **Connections Saturday** - One Saturday each month. Check church calendar.
- **Volunteering**: The church needs your gifts and talents. See a need? Want to help somehow? Contact the office or the committee chairperson.

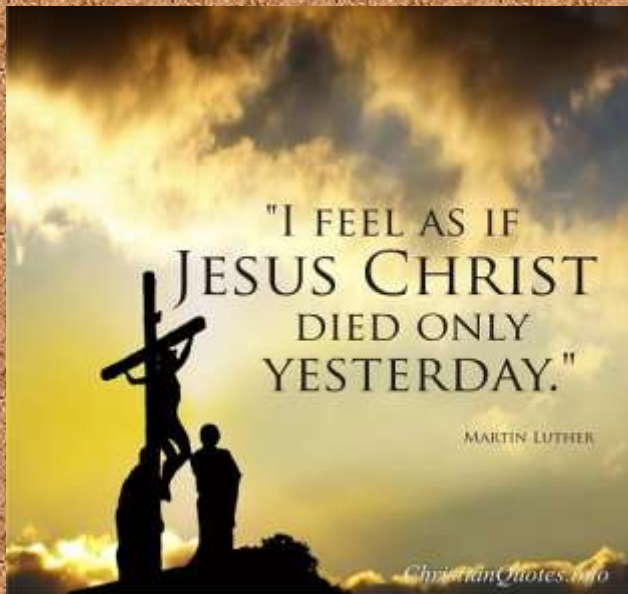
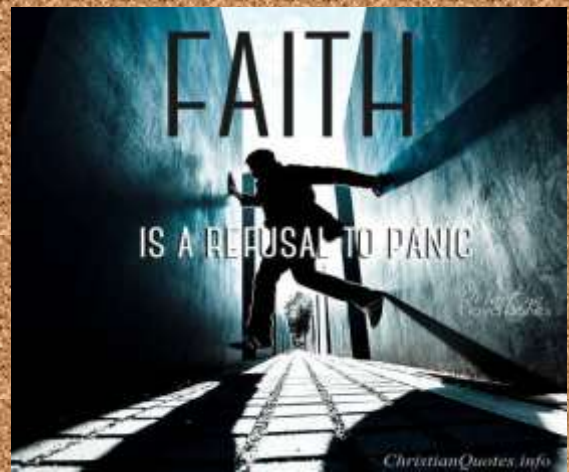


Things you wouldn't know without TV

1. A cup of black coffee/splash of cold water in face is enough to render the most inebriated person stone cold sober in a split second
2. A detective can only solve a case once he has been suspended from duty.
3. A hacker can get into the most sensitive computer in the world before intermission and guess the secret password in two tries.
4. A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating but will wince when a woman tries to clean his wounds.
5. A single match will be sufficient to light up a room the size of a football stadium.
6. Action heroes never face charges for manslaughter or criminal damage despite laying entire cities to waste.
7. After sleeping together, a couple always has the covers placed exactly in a way to reveal that they are naked, without showing any parts that might offend the FCC or MPAA.
8. Although in the 20th century it is possible to fire weapons at an object out of visual range, people of the 23rd century will have lost this technology.
9. All 20-year-old women are attracted to men thrice their age.
10. All beds have special L-shaped top sheets that reach up to armpit level on a woman but only waist level on the man lying beside her.
11. All bombs are fitted with electronic timing devices with large red readouts so you know exactly when they're going to go off.
12. All computer hackers are either disabled or under 18 years old.
13. All computer panels have thousands of volts and flash pots just underneath the surface. Malfunctions are indicated by a bright flash, a puff of smoke, a shower of sparks, and an explosion that forces you backward.
14. All computers are connected. You can access the information on the villain's desktop computer, even if it's turned off.

**MY JOB IS
SECURE. NO ONE
ELSE WANTS IT.**





October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Start or continue your daily Bible reading plan today!</i>			1 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	2	3	4 8:00 am-Men's Breakfast (Church) 8:30 am Ladies' Breakfast (Gold Cyn Cafe)
5 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship The Lord's Supper	6	7 10:00am-Ladies Bible Study	8 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	13 Colombus Day	14 10:30am-Ladies Bible Study	15 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship After Church: Missions Mtg	20	21 10:00am-Ladies Bible Study	22 3:00pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship Business Meeting after Church Service.	27	28 10:00am-Ladies Bible Study	29 3:00Pm-Meeting & Bible Study	30	31	
<i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i>						

**"To everything There is a season
& a time to Every Purpose under
the HEAVEN
Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Crossroads **Baptist Church** **Great Commission Church**

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Church Office: 480-982-9120

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

Email: info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com

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

Pastor: Rick Basch

Deacons

Bob Allen, 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/>

