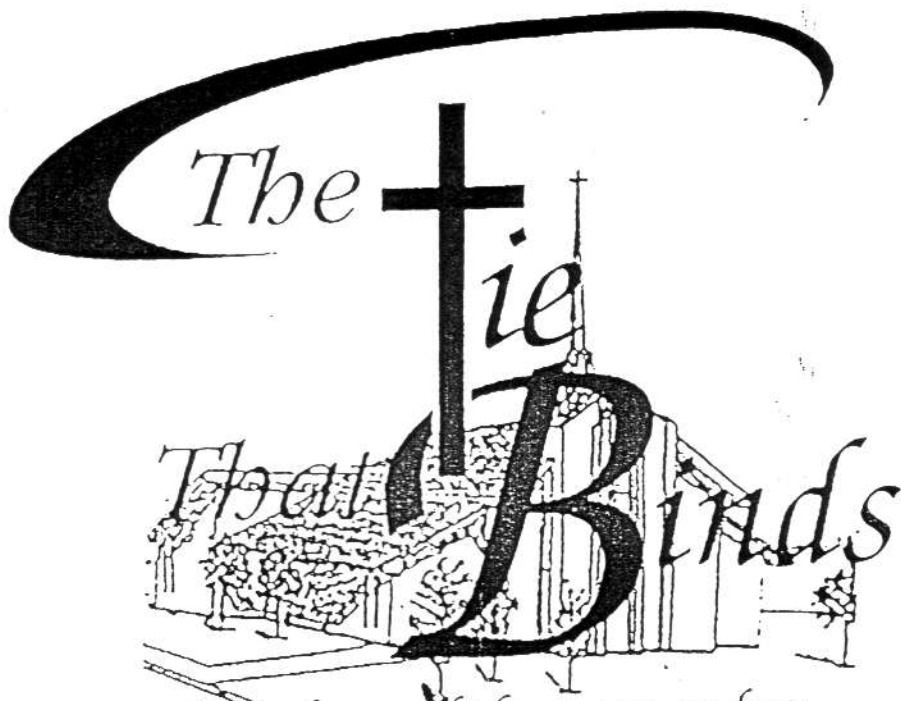


# Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church



*"And above all these put on love,  
which binds everything together  
in perfect harmony."*

*Colossians 3:14*

## Our Covenant

We covenant with the Lord and one with another and do acknowledge our faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and take for our rule of life His own words: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength; and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."



INDEPENDENCE "DAY" is over-  
but "THE INDEPENDENCE" continues-



P R O V I D I N G

WE UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

INDEED WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR INHERITANCE AS A FREE NATION! But that freedom came at a big price. Much blood has been shed since the signing of that Declaration of Independence, not only in the interest of freedom for these United States but for the freedom and justice in many parts of the world! And whether we always agree with the time and manner in which it is done ... these United States were constituted with a proclamation that the whole world respects and would like to duplicate. People throng to these United States from all over the world ... on this 4th of July, here in Phoenix, 300 persons became United States citizens... that was replicated in cities all over our nation! Praise God!

But long before the constituting of these United States, blood was also shed ... it was the shed blood of Jesus Christ on a cross ... giving us freedoms and promises even greater than those of our nation ... for they, provided by God's love, promised forgiveness and restoration ... and promising peace and brotherhood among people of "good will"!

We live in the most glorious age of history! Technology in every field is beyond the comprehension of most of us. Where does all of this find its focal point? Not in the power of the machine nor the refinement of weaponry but IN THE APPLICATION OF ALL OF THIS IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES!

And that is precisely the reason for Jesus' saying, after His death and resurrection, when He appeared to the apostles as they were beginning to develop the Church in Antioch, "You shall be My witnesses ... in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth." And then, He ascended -- but with the promise that He would return!

All things come and go in life (this life). There are times when God disappears so as to put us on our own -- for God wants persons, not puppets. And yet there is a sense in which Jesus did not go away at all. Whereas He had once dwelt among them, He now dwelt within them. In some ways He was more real than He was before. They could reach Him wherever they were -- in the Jewish courtroom or in the Roman arena. Jesus was never more present than when He was absent. That is true of the great relationships in life ... one day they reach that realm where there is neither time nor space, and though the happy intercourse of earthly exist-