

# Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church

## Newsletter

## April 2011

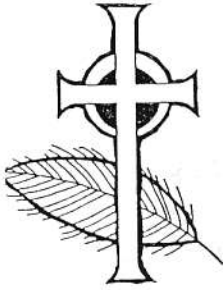


*"And above all these put on love,  
which binds everything together  
in perfect harmony."*

*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."



## FINISHED – COMPLETED – ACCOMPLISHED!

“A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When He had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that He bowed His head and gave up the spirit.” John 19:29-30. There are some who think we are apt to read too much into this; that Jesus simply meant His life was over. **NOT**

**SO!** Read John 17:4, “As He faced the end of His life, knowing the cross was directly in His path, Jesus prayed, ‘I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do.’”

Finished what work? What did He mean? The clue to its meaning may be found in the Passover meal. During the paschal meal, four coups are used, the second was known as the Cup of Redemption. After drinking the contents of this cup, the head of the family would say in the Hebrew tongue, “Finished, completed, accomplished.” It had reference to the lambs that were slain in Egypt, and their blood had been sprinkled over the doorway of each Israelite home as a seal of God’s protection against the angel of death. (Exodus 12). This may well have been the background of Jesus’ remark. Now the perfect symbol of God’s redeeming love had been accomplished. Now God had completed His reconciling act. Nothing more need be added. Nothing more can be added to show God’s redemptive purpose and love for mankind! From the point of view of worldly success ... Jesus had failed. He came to win our hearts, but we crucified Him. But there is more to the cross than that. This is God’s descending in humility and love to affect the redemption of mankind. Now, if the cross is God utterly giving Himself in utter love (as we heard His words from the cross), then the picture is complete. And while God will do more for Him through the resurrection and the ascension, receiving Him at the right hand of His power, Jesus has finished the work on earth that God gave Him to do. The apostle Paul puts it so well in Ephesians 1:9. The secret is out! God’s redeeming work is done! He **IS** a redeeming God! He will not force us to love Him, but He will hang on a cross to portray His purpose, and to melt our hearts with His love!

This means our uncertainty about God is finished! Throughout the Old Testament, prophets tried to draw a picture of God’s love. They didn’t “get it.” One more attempt! By it, now we know that we can “come boldly” to seek His forgiveness... (Hebrews 4:16). Jesus’ work is finished! By it, He gave us the perfect expression and extent of God’s love. **NOW OUR WORK IS BEGUN!** Matthew 28:18.



## PLYMOUTH GUILD

At March's meeting the Guild Ladies had lots to discuss! Our mission for the months of March and April is the Chandler Food Bank. The local food banks are all in dire need of donations. Our monetary donation, as well as our member's continued support in the form of food donations, are much appreciated! The Guild purchased 2 new sets of tablecloths for the round tables used for our Pot Luck brunches and other events. Maybe some of you have noticed the new green cloths on the 2 tables that usually grace the back of the sanctuary. In addition to the tablecloths, some new kitchen supplies have been purchased. Thank you for your continued patronage to our monthly Bake Sales. On April 10<sup>th</sup> we will be selling more delicious goods. Be on the look out for some bunny shaped treats! Any requests? Put in your orders with one of the Guild members. Our thrift store continues to be a busy venue. More items are coming in weekly. Don't forget to check out the table in the Cactus room while you're enjoying Coffee Hour each Sunday.

The Guild will be having its annual luncheon on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. We have always called it the Mother/Daughter Luncheon. Please remember that we are ALL daughters! Bring your family members, friends and neighbors! This year's entertainment will be provided by Hawaiian dancers. Be prepared to learn the Hula! We will have an Hawaiian themed lunch and décor. My husband, Glen, will be our Chef and the men of the church will serve the ladies. Glen has a wonderful menu in mind. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for the volunteers and those who plan to attend. Please come and enjoy!

Have you noticed the new Raffle item in the foyer? My husband, Glen, made the beautiful tray. The tray, tea set, and teas are being raffled on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Luncheon. Each ticket is \$1.00 or you may purchase 6 for \$5.00. Wouldn't the set make a lovely Mother's Day gift for someone you love? Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. All ladies of the church are welcome.

Cindy Palmer, President

## ON THE HORIZON



Plymouth Guild meeting on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

Bake Sale on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Plymouth Guild. Don't forget your cash to purchase some of the wonderful goodies.

Scrapbooking gals will meet on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. until ?

Maunday Thursday Service will be held on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Come a little early to get a good seat. We always have a crowd. Don't forget your flower for the altar.

Board of Trustees and Deaconesses meet on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

Monday Night Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. each week. Bring your Bible and join the study and fellowship of the Gospel of John.

Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> following the morning service. We will also have a potluck.

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

There will be a Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Plan to join us! You know, of course, that Maundy Thursday is a service of meditation remembering the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples. A way in which we observe this is to place a table at the front of the chapel where we gather to take the sacrament. We come individually or as a family and you may sit in meditation as long as you like.





## KATHLEEN'S KORNER

*We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to all members and friends celebrating their birthdays this April:*

<i>Roxy Farley</i>	<i>Apr. 1</i>	<i>Don Robinson</i>	<i>Apr. 17</i>
<i>Ofelia Tabor</i>	<i>Apr. 5</i>	<i>Earl Miller</i>	<i>Apr. 19</i>
<i>Barbara Smith</i>	<i>Apr. 6</i>	<i>Ron McBride</i>	<i>Apr. 19</i>
<i>Jim Slagle</i>	<i>Apr. 10</i>	<i>Marian Sunnarborg</i>	<i>Apr. 24</i>
<i>Audrey Robinson</i>	<i>Apr. 12</i>	<i>Donald Revis</i>	<i>Apr. 30</i>
<i>Erica Sunnarborg</i>	<i>Apr. 16</i>		

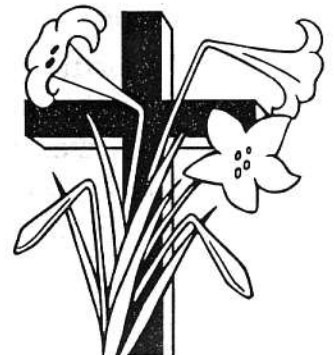
*Please continue to remember in prayer Shirley Cochran, Barb Ross, Barbara Smith, Bill Weidemeier, Audrey Robinson and many others with chronic illnesses and unable to get out much. Please call me at the church office if you would like me to mention you or a family member for a prayer request in the next church newsletter. We need to pray for each other. Audrey Robinson has been moved to a new care center, so she has a new address: Cheerful Living Home, 1342 W. Park Ave., Chandler, AZ 85224. Audrey has a birthday coming up on April 12<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure she would love a birthday card from many of her friends from church. It would bring a smile to her face.*

*If you have any announcement or item you wish to appear in the April Newsletter, please have it in my in-box in the church office no later than Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!*

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## "CROSS OF FLOWERS"

The "Cross of Flowers" will be a part of our Easter service again this year. Bring a flower from your garden or of your choice and place it in the netting on the cross ... or, there will be some extra flowers on hand in the foyer ... if you forget yours.



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD

It sure does! All of us **MUST BE ROLE MODELS** for **OUR** children and our **NEIGHBOR'S** children! Don't believe it? Consider, "We are known by the company we keep." We tell our children that all the time ... and it is certainly true!

**IT TAKES A CONGREGATION TO BUILD A CHURCH!** We are at a beautiful crossroads. **NEW LEADERSHIP** is on the horizon! We've discussed this for some time and agree that the move that we are making is the right move. We still have some interviews, conversations and concerns to address ... but be assured, they are being addressed - and constructively!

The "young" man in whom we are most interested is married with one child, expecting another and lives in Casa Grande. He has a B.A. degree from Grand Canyon University and a Masters in Divinity from Phoenix Seminary. He and his wife would like to continue living in this area where their parents also live - his in Casa Grande and hers in Sun Lakes. His whole profile looks good! But remember, as we look at and evaluate "them" ... so also they look at and evaluate "us". They have indicated that they would like to come visit "us" one Sunday soon ... unannounced. Carole and I have taken them to dinner and are very impressed. Both are impressive young people!

I don't know exactly when they will be here ... it will be soon! He will not be conducting the service ... but observing us (don't tell him I said that). But do remember ... it takes a "congregation" to build a church! Our search committee will be the next to contact you and keep you informed.

-LJS





## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School has been busy. The children recently had a Pizza & Movie Night at church. They enjoyed pizza and popcorn and watched a movie entitled "Veggie Tales" about Moses leading the Israelites to the promised land. It was a fun evening. The children are looking forward to Easter Sunday on April 24<sup>th</sup>. They will be making Easter crafts and having an Easter Egg Hunt. All the children should plan on coming.

If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, please see Kelly Phuong.

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## ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK, MAY 22nd

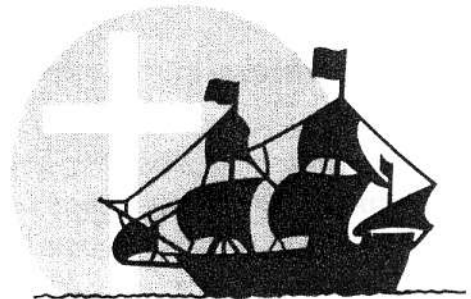
Please mark your calendars now for our church's upcoming Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 22nd immediately following the morning service. It is very important that all church members make an effort to come. We will reflect on the past year's activities, look at the coming year, then elect church officers and board members and approve the annual budget. Plan to join us! You do not need to be a church member to attend this meeting. Also, bring your favorite dish and join us for the pot luck. There's a sign-up sheet in the foyer.

## THE VOICE WITHIN

I took a little walk today  
To listen to God's word  
And when I stopped to rest awhile  
This is what I heard:  
"Dear one, there's someone waiting  
To hear from you today,  
Someone who needs your loving heart  
To spread joy in its own way;  
Never turn away my child  
I bid you to press on.  
Let your light forever shine  
To reach this precious one.  
Who knows what happiness can come  
From loving thoughts so true,  
Go forth and spread your sunshine  
Only good can come to you."  
And as I left my quiet place  
I felt such peace within,  
Because I knew what I should do  
To love and honor Him.



Jan Edwards



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