

Congregational Church of the Valley  
your community Congregational Church

**Newsletter**

**February 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."

## THE BEST IS YET TO BE!

“Thou hast kept the good wine until now.” That comes from the first miracle of our Lord, John 2:1-11. It is the first miracle of Jesus ... and really is not a miracle at all but a “sign”. The kindly deed by Jesus is important in itself, but its real value is in what Jesus was teaching us. It reveals something of Jesus’ character and purpose in the world and also something of the method of His achieving that purpose. It really is not a miracle but a sign.

I. First, it is a revelation of the interest of Jesus in the commonplace! Jesus is interested in ordinary folks and in their ordinary joys and sorrows. This is typical of Jesus throughout His entire ministry. And what He was before He came to the cross, He was also after He had risen from the dead. How beautiful it all is! And the Christ we see in this parable is the same yesterday, today and forever! Hebrews 13:8.

II. Second, this was a sign of Jesus’ purpose in the world. Jesus did not come to rob us of our laughter or to cheat us of our joy. He did not come to take one single gleam of sunshine out of our lives!! What then was (or, is) His purpose? He came to transfigure and to transform! He gives new glory to everything upon which He lays His hand. He came, and is here, to lift the lower into the higher.

III. Third, Jesus enlisted the help of those around Him to perform this miracle (sign). The servants had to co-operate with Him. In fact, all the transforming work of our Lord waits upon your co-operation and mine. If we are to have an abundant harvest, He will send the sunshine and the rain ... but we, then, must do our part! It is my firm conviction that God wills that we have a strong and conquering church at 240 So. Cooper Road. Vigorous churches are needed everywhere. How can this come to be? It is up to you and me! God cannot do it alone. Nor can we!

IV. Fourth, this parable is a sign of Christ’s method of giving results. When the servants co-operated with Him, there was wine to spare. Our Christ is ever the Christ of “abundance”. In the fellowship of Jesus we find all of that for which mankind yearns. With Him life is always climbing toward an ever-growing climax. The feast gets better and better. **FOR THE REAL CHRISTIAN, ALWAYS, THE BEST IS YET TO BE.**

V. Fifth, we must keep in mind how Christ’s amazing dream for us can become a reality. What are we to do that we may assist Jesus in His work of remaking the individual and the world? Mary put the answer in a single sentence, “Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it”! John 2:5.

## PLYMOUTH GUILD

At January's Guild meeting, the Community Outreach Director for "About Care", Barbara Lawrence was our guest speaker. This non-profit organization provides support services for the homebound. "About Care" will be the Guild's Mission of the Month for the month of February.

January's Spaghetti Dinner was a great success! It was wonderful to have so many of our members and friends together for dinner. Glen and I enjoyed cooking and hope to continue with this annual event. We hope that everyone enjoyed the music provided by Spencer Cooper and John Meyer. What talented young men! The Guild made \$389.00 at the Silent Auction that night. Thanks to everyone for their donations and thank you to those who purchased items.

The Guild purchased the room divider for the Sunday School and also established a benevolence fund this month. We are able to fill these needs with our various fund raising. We will have our monthly bake sale on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your patronage! This month's Guild meeting will be breakfast at The Village Inn at Crossroads, 9:00 a.m. (just west of the NW corner of Gilbert & Germann Roads) For those bringing "goodies" for Sunday's bake sale, you can drop them off at church first about 8:30, and we will carpool together to The Village Inn. Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the foyer. All ladies of the church are welcome. Hope to see you all there! There will be a short meeting following the breakfast back at the church.

Cindy Palmer, President

## ON THE HORIZON

**Men's Breakfast** on Saturday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 here at the church.

**Plymouth Guild Valentine Breakfast at The Village Inn** on Saturday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome. Please see sign-up sheet in foyer.

**Bake Sale** on Sunday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Plymouth Guild. Don't forget your cash to purchase some of the wonderful goodies.

**Board of Trustees and Deaconesses** meet on Thursday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

**Scrapbooking** gals will meet on Friday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. until ?

**Potluck Dinner** following the morning service on Sunday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. There's a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite dish.

**Meet n' Eat at Organ Stop Pizza** on Sunday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The church often plans this outing each winter and it is lots of fun. Organ Stop Pizza opens each day at 4:00 p.m. and the music starts at 4:30. It gets quite crowded on the weekend, so we need to get there when the doors open at 4:00. We will reserve a section of tables for our group, so we may sit together. The music is great and so is the pizza. Please enter your name on the sign-up sheet in the foyer and indicate how many are in your party. Organ Stop Pizza is located at 1149 E. Southern Ave., Mesa, which is on the SW corner of Stapley and Southern Avenues. They do not accept credit or debit cards, so you need to bring cash or a checkbook. (there is an ATM machine in the lobby)

**Monday Night Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. is just getting started. The group has decided to study the Book of Exodus. It's not too late to join the group. Bring your Bible and join the study and fellowship.

KATHLEEN'S KORNER

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

<i>Cal Thomas</i>	<i>Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Edith Pettett</i>	<i>Feb. 26<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Ruth Knight</i>	<i>Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Gary Hall</i>	<i>Feb. 26<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Lisa Sunnarborg</i>	<i>Feb. 18<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Gail Blankenship</i>	<i>Feb. 26<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Cindy Palmer</i>	<i>Feb. 21<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>Bill Weidemaier</i>	<i>Feb. 28<sup>th</sup></i>

*As many of you know, Barbara Ross has not been well. She would appreciate your prayers. Shirley Cochran really needs our prayers. And Carolyn Kirshman would also appreciate your prayers. Also please remember little Caleb Lopez, Barbara Smith's nephew. He's still recovering from his 5<sup>th</sup> surgery and he's only 2 ½ years old! There are many others who have been in the hospital, are shut-ins or have chronic illnesses that also need our prayers.*

*I appreciate all of you who picked up a new box of offering envelopes for the new year. Please discard the old box from 2010, so there's no confusion. Thanks!*

*If you have any announcement or item you wish to appear in the March Newsletter, please have it in my in-box in the church office no later than Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!*

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**A special thank you** is in order to several people in our church for their efforts which resulted in a new room divider for our Sunday School room. Paul Petroff did the research, Nancy & Earl Miller took delivery of it and brought it to church and Tap Phuong installed it. Boy does it look great! Now our children can split up into age groups in their own room. And the Plymouth Guild paid the bill from their fund raising projects. What great teamwork!

FINANCIAL REPORT-MONTH OF JANUARY 2011

INCOME \$3,909.43

EXPENDITURES \$5,326.77

YEAR TO DATE AS OF January, 2011  
(Fiscal year is May 1 to April 30)

INCOME \$37,302.08

EXPENDITURES \$53,454.25

GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF 4/30/10 \$89,123.68

DESIGNATED FUNDS ON HAND RECEIVED  
SINCE 5/1/09 (Designated funds are paid out at  
appropriate or designated times)

MISSIONS \$121.00

BUILDING FUND \$23,387.30

CHRISTIAN ED. \$1,443.48

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS ON HAND  
RECEIVED THIS FISCAL YEAR \$24,951.78

GENERAL FUND BALANCE ON HAND AS OF 1/31/11 \$22,531.55

TOTAL CASH ON HAND \$105,026.56

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**MENS' BREAKFAST ON SATURDAY, FEB. 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Men, mark your calendars and plan to join us for breakfast on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 here at the church. Of course, Glen Palmer will be the Chef and Victor Hardy will be our guest.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School has been busy. The month of January we have been studying Noah's Ark. The Jr/Sr High students have been building an ark which should be completed soon for everyone to see. Along with Noah's Ark, we have begun our year long mission project to Heifer International.

<http://www.heifer.org>

The trip to Marley Farms was so much fun! We fed many different animals even a Heifer!



During the month of February, we will be completing the Noah's Ark Curriculum and sharing God's love by sending Valentines to soldiers, shut-ins and our friends in class. If you would like to share Valentines with shut-ins or the Sunday School

students, please bring your Valentines on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our February outing will be Christian Skate! It will be on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Skateland at 1101 W. Ray Road in Chandler. I have coupons for \$.99 for skate or you can visit their web site. Skate rental is \$3 or you can bring your own skates. <http://www.usa-skating.com/>

Many of the Jr/Sr High students have expressed interest in Communion. Pastor Lyle will be conducting 2 classes for Jr/Sr High students on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. and March 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. All students interested should attend!

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

Betty Jean Reid, Sunday School Coordinator

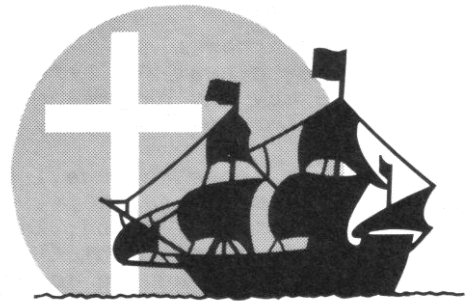
God has provided directions for every aspect of our lives.

## **A Time for Everything**

To everything there is a season,  
And a time for every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
A time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose;  
A time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to tear, and a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate;  
A time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

# **Congregational Church of the Valley**



your community Congregational Church

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