

# Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church

## Newsletter

## March 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."



## LENT AND EASTER – A VERY SPECIAL TIME!

People often ask, “What is Lent, really? Why do we observe it? It is so universal, now, that we really should be informed. Here it is in a nutshell!

**ASH WEDNESDAY** began as an observance in the ancient Roman Church by the sprinkling of ashes, usually in the form of a cross, on the forehead of the penitent as a sign of their humility and readiness to be restored in faith to communion with

God through Christ at Easter. The ashes were a sign of contrition and mourning (see Isaiah 61:3; Daniel 9:3 and Matthew 11:21).

**LENT**, in the early centuries, was fasting for forty hours. Not until much later, (about the 7<sup>th</sup> century) did the forty days become universally recognized in honor of our Lord’s fasting in the wilderness, Matthew 4:2. Lent is meant to be a time of preparation for the Easter festival. The word Lent comes from the old English, Lenchten, meaning “spring.”

**EASTER** is the annual Festival of our Lord’s Resurrection. During the first three centuries there was a difference of opinion between churches of Alexandria and Rome as to the method of calculating the date of Easter; but since the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325), the date has been determined by the Jewish Passover and falls on the Sunday nearest to the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan (which was the period between April 13 and May 11), which means that the extreme limits of Easter are from March 21 to April 25. It has been said that the name, Easter, is derived from Estore, who was an Anglo-Saxon goddess whose festival was held in the spring. The original title given to the feast of Easter, both in the East and in the West, was “Pascha”, because of its association with the Jewish “Passover”. God all that?

There are many aspects to the whole celebration that remind us of the focal point of the “Event”. Spring ... new growth, a new season, things are restored. We identify eggs, baby rabbits or chicks with Easter (new life). We give “Easter eggs” ... gifts, buy new clothes, etc. All of it is a recognition of the NEW LIFE that Jesus Christ brings by His birth, His death and His resurrection! While it gets a little detailed ... its message has always been the same ... THE LOVE OF GOD! Read John 3:16 again! The BIG WORDS in the whole celebration are LOVE and LIFE! And it is not a matter of simple celebration ... it is FACT, it is TRUTH, it is ETERNAL!

HAPPY EASTER!



## PLYMOUTH GUILD

The Plymouth Guild met in February at the Village Inn for a Valentine's Day breakfast before our regular Guild meeting. It was an enjoyable time! At our meeting we discussed our new "Benevolence Fund" and the need to have it be our mission of the month for March. We got ready for our monthly bake sale. What a beautiful array of goodies our ladies put together! Many of the cakes and cookies were heart shaped in honor of St. Valentine's Day! Thank you all for your continued support. This month, be on the look out for shamrock shaped goodies! We also discussed the need for new kitchen items. Glen and I are on the look out for new chafing dishes, electric skillets, etc. The Guild made a decision to finance these purchases. Next up for discussion was the May mother/daughter luncheon. It will be held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. We will have an Hawaiian theme.

Our next Guild meeting will be at 9:00 a.m., March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Church. See you there!

Cindy Palmer, President

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### CHURCH COUNCIL – OFFICERS – ALL MEMBERS OF ALL BOARDS

This is an ESPECIALLY CALLED MEETING to discuss and determine a number of things that have to do with the coming church year and the retirement of Pastor Lyle and the securing of a new Pastor. It will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We are aware that there are also Board meetings on Thursday evening of that week ... but that is good, for the Boards can then make decisions on the basis of the action of this group. We want to include the "whole" leadership of the church in this important decision making time.



## ON THE HORIZON

**Men's Breakfast** on Saturday, March 5th at 7:30 here at the church.

**Plymouth Guild** meeting on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**Communion Class** led by Pastor Lyle will be held for the Junior/Senior High students on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Church.

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

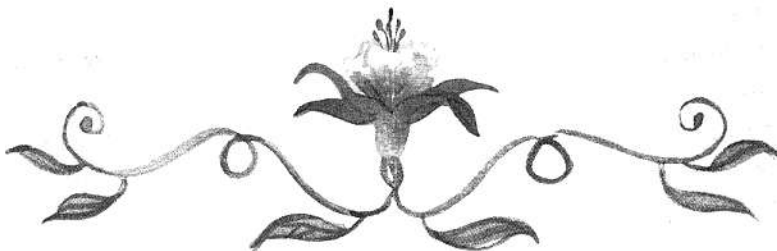
**A Special Meeting of the Church Council and All Members of All Boards** will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

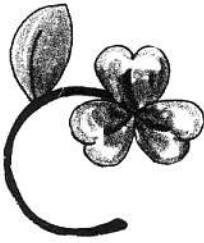
**Board of Trustees and Deaconesses** meet on Thursday, March. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

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

**Potluck** on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, following the morning service. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please fix your favorite dish and plan to join us for some good fellowship.

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





## KATHLEEN'S KORNER

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

Jim Wappler	Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Brent Daniels	Mar. 13 <sup>th</sup>
John Haldane	Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Lee	Mar. 15 <sup>th</sup>
Tom Matchett	Mar. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Haldane	Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup>

Please note that Barbara & Ricky Tran have moved. Their new address is: 1468 E. Mia Lane, Gilbert, AZ 85298. (No change in the telephone number).

I am working on an update of our church directory. Two years ago a wonderful church directory with photos was distributed. John Haldane was our photographer and he did a great job. Since then some of us have moved, new people have either joined our church or attend regularly and some have even "moved" on to Glory. It's time we need a current list of names, address, telephone numbers and even E-mail addresses. But I need help to accomplish this task. If your phone number or E-mail address has changed since the last directory, please advise me. I think I have your current addresses, but even that might need some updating. Or if you want to add your E-mail address to the new directory, let me know. You can either E-mail me at church at [office@ccotv.org](mailto:office@ccotv.org) or call me at the church office Mon.-Thurs. mornings between 9:00 - 12:00 at (480) 899-4704. Thank you for your assistance.

Please continue to remember in prayer Shirley Cochran, Barb Ross, Carolyn Kirshman, 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.

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, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

FINANCIAL REPORT-MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2011



INCOME \$3,614.50

EXPENDITURES \$4,762.11

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

INCOME \$40,916.58

EXPENDITURES \$58,211.76

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 \$86.00

BUILDING FUND \$23,447.30

CHRISTIAN ED. \$1,268.27

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS ON HAND  
RECEIVED THIS FISCAL YEAR \$24,801.57

GENERAL FUND BALANCE ON HAND AS OF 2/28/11 \$21,383.94

TOTAL CASH ON HAND \$103,752.47

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

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





## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School has been busy. The month of February we have been studying Noah's Ark and sharing God's love. The Jr/Sr High students have built an Ark. This was a very enjoyable task along with learning Noah's trivia. For Valentine's Day, the children sent Valentines to soldiers in South Korea and Iraq, and to our church shut-ins. The Valentines were loved by the givers and the receivers.

Along with Noah's Ark, we have begun our year long mission project to Heifer International. <http://www.heifer.org> We have raised over \$50 for February. All donations to Heifer are welcome. All children have collection Arks.

Our March activity will be Movie Night! We will meet at church on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. to enjoy pizza, popcorn and *Evan Almighty*.

Many of the Jr/Sr High students have expressed interest in Communion. Pastor Lyle will be conducting a class for Jr/Sr High students on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. All students interested should attend! The Jr/Sr High class will be in church on April 3, 2011 for communion Sunday.

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

Betty Jean Reid  
Sunday School Coordinator

## SILENCE

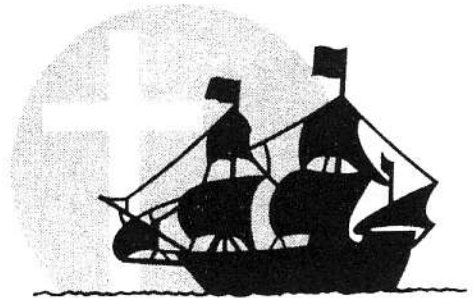


*If you stand very still in the heart of a wood  
You will hear many wonderful things---  
The snap of a twig and the wind in the trees  
And the whirr of invisible wings  
If you stand very still in the turmoil of life  
And you wait for the voice from within---  
You'll be led down the quiet ways of wisdom and peace  
In a mad world of chaos and din.  
If you stand very still and you hold to your faith,  
You will get all the help that you ask---  
You will draw from the silence the things that you need---  
Hope and courage, and strength for your task.*

Patience Strong



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