

Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church

Newsletter

May 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 FAMILY OF GOD is a hymn written by William and Gloria Gaither and published in 1970. We sing it quite often at the close of our service of worship. The chorus is especially “catching” ... “I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God – I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod. For I’m part of the family, the family of God!” When you become a Christian, you join the greatest group on earth. If you are a faithful member of Christ’s Church you can expect to enjoy several benefits that other Christians have discovered ... and of which those who choose to live outside the fellowship of the church really don’t experience.

One study even suggests that, generally speaking, Christians even live longer ... their study said by 5.7 years. Really? Why? Their answer makes sense if you’re honest about it. The Christian lifestyle encourages healthful habits and attitudes. If you treat others with real Christian love, poisonous emotions will not have their health-destroying way with you. And, you will laugh more! A dominate note of the New Testament is **JOY**. Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.” John 15:11 –and, the Kingdom of God does not mean food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14:17. And the cap to it is found in Romans 8:28!

...oh, and you’ll love more and love will mean more to you! We talk about love more than we love. What do they say? Talk is cheap! If God is love, and if God so loved the world that He gave His only Son ... love becomes an act ... it is wanting and doing the best for the one you love. That’s what Jesus meant when He said “Love God with all your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself.” Want to know more?

STUDY YOUR BIBLE! I suggest you begin with Mark for it is the shortest and the oldest of the Gospels. It will give you a good introduction to the most important moments in Jesus’ life. Then move on to John.

BUT! It is not good enough to read the Bible on your own. Get in a study group ... attend worship regularly ... and if you are in earnest about living the Christian life ... you will learn daily.

AND, it is not like a ride on the sled. The church is no hangout for loafers. Everywhere you look you will see things that **YOU** can do for God! And it’s not a happy place for spectators either. Spectators usually complain, misunderstand (intentionally) and shout directions from the sidelines. If we are not happy with conditions on earth, in political circles, in the business world or even on your/my street ... then we really need to align ourselves with the Greatest Fellowship there is – The Church!

PLYMOUTH GUILD

At our April 9th meeting, we discussed our upcoming Mother/Daughter luncheon. We are so excited! We will have dancers to entertain us and teach us the Hula! Remember, even if you don't have a daughter to attend the luncheon with, we are all daughters! Please come, bring your neighbors and friends! We'll have great food, great entertainment and most of all, great fellowship!

Our "Thrift Shop" has been such a success that we're running out of products to sell! Your donations will be very welcomed!

The monthly bake sales have been successful as well! Thank you for your continued patronage! Our next one will be on Sunday, May 15th. Don't forget, if you have a special request for a particular baked good, get your order in!

For the month of May we will have two missions! They will be the Chandler Food Bank and the Arizona Humane Society.

We will have a potluck on May 22nd. We would love to have dishes brought in that are from the Guild cookbook!

Our next guild meeting will be on May 14th at 9 a.m. All ladies of the Church are welcome! Please come join us!

Cindy Palmer, President

ON THE HORIZON

Plymouth Guild Mother/Daughter Luncheon will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7th. (See the Plymouth Guild article for more information.)

Next Sunday, May 8th is Mother's Day! What a SPECIAL DAY! Many people refer to this day as "Family Day". Not a bad idea. Mother is at the heart of the family ... and the stage for our whole social structure is set by "the home".

Plymouth Guild meeting on Saturday, May 14th, at 9:00 a.m. All ladies of the church are welcome.

Sunday, May 15th we will have a "**hymn sing**" at the beginning of the service. If you have a hymn that is special to you ... call our church office so that it may be included. We will also have a **bake sale** sponsored by the Plymouth Guild. Don't forget your cash to purchase some of the wonderful goodies. And **New Members** will be received into the fellowship of the church on Sunday, May 15th. If YOU are interested, call Pastor Lyle at 480-899-4704 or 480-802-4036.

Board of Trustees and Deaconesses meet on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00.

Scrapbooking gals will meet on Friday, May 20th at 7 p.m. until ?

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.

KATHLEEN'S KORNER

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

<i>Rodger Ham</i>	<i>May 7th</i>	<i>Betty Wilson</i>	<i>May 15th</i>
<i>Barbara Cady</i>	<i>May 10th</i>	<i>Zachary Hiller</i>	<i>May 17th</i>
<i>Teagan Phuong</i>	<i>May 10th</i>	<i>Ken Smith</i>	<i>May 24th</i>
<i>LaVonne Dahl</i>	<i>May 14th</i>		

Our church was saddened by the passing of another friend, Shirley Cochran, in early April. She will be missed by many of us. Please continue to pray for Frank, her husband. Please continue to remember in prayer 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.

My hours here in the church office have changed. I am now working on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and should normally be here between 8:30 and 12:30.

If you have any announcement or item you wish to appear in the June Newsletter, please have it in my in-box in the church office no later than Sunday, May 29th. Thanks!

SERMON TOPIC AND HYMNS

May 8, 2010 - **MOTHER'S DAY** and Communion
Message: "Family Religion – THE SECRET OF SUCCESS"
Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31 and Ephesians 6:1-4
Hymns: "Happy the Home When God is There"
"Come We that Love the Lord"
"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"
"The Family of God"

May 15, 2010
Message: "Preventive Religion"
Scripture: Romans 12
Hymns: (Hymn Sing)
"It Is No Secret"
"Who Is On the Lord's Side?"
"Spirit of the Living God"

May 22, 2010
Message: "Unfailing Resources"
Scripture: John 4:1-14
Hymns: "To God Be the Glory"
"For Those Tears I Died"
"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

May 29, 2010
Message: "Our Faith – Fantasy or Truth?"
Scripture: Psalm 23, Ecclesiastes 3 and John 14
Hymns: "How Great Thou Art"
"He Leadeth Me"
"Near to the Heart of God"

Annual Meeting

Our church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 22nd following the morning service. The service of worship will be a 45 minute service ...then our Annual Meeting, which will also be brief (with all current information that has to do with our search for a new pastor) ... followed by a potluck brunch. Let's make it a special day ... with everyone participating!

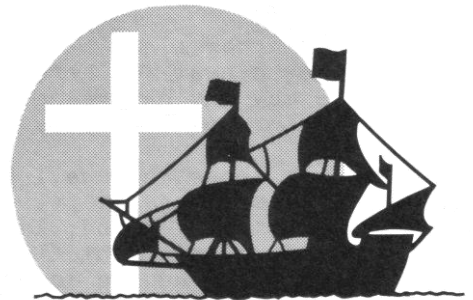
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES

The Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Churches will be held on June 18-21 at the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale. It is being hosted by our "sister church", the Congregational Church of Sun City. They have a wonderful schedule of meetings and activities planned. If you would like to attend, call our Church Office pronto ... we need to register.

A Steadfast Heart

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart,
which no unworthy affection may drag downwards;
give me an unconquered heart,
which no tribulation can wear out;
give me an upright heart,
which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside,
bestow on me also, O Lord my God,
understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thomas Aquinas
(1225-1274)



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