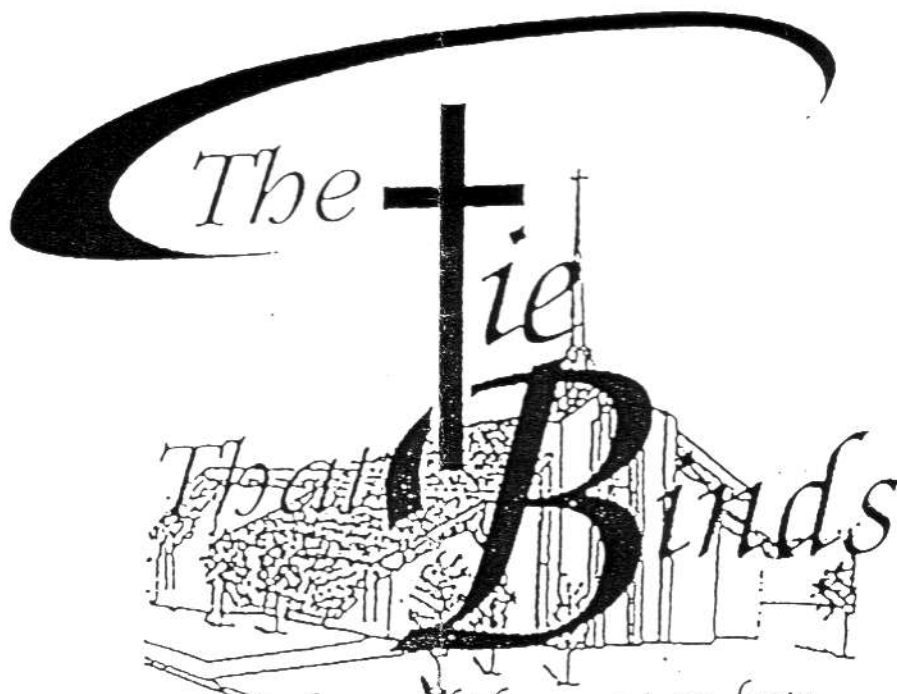


Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church



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

NEWSLETTER

November 2, 2004

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."



KEEP THE FAITH -

SHARE THE FAITH -

LIVE THE FAITH

IT IS A PACKAGE, YOU KNOW! And only he or she who "buys" into the package (that is, takes his-her faith seriously) knows the joy, the satisfaction, and, finally the fulness of life that it brings! When it comes to the Red Sox or the Cardinals, I can be an "arm chair critic" and a "spectator" ... but when it comes to the Christian Faith ... there ain't no such thing! Don't take my word for it ... read Jesus' words in Matthew 12:30 or see Revelation 3:15 and 16. And, our directions for "keeping, sharing and living" the faith is found throughout Scripture. The neat thing is, once you're committed to it, it ceases to be a requirement and becomes opportunity, challenging and exciting!

WE are a small Church with a Future, Sharing Strength from God's Truths and Joy from Fellowship! Every One is welcome (always) and it matters not whether it is an individual, couple, family ... or a whole troop! But a "spectator" gets little out of it - except to "cheer"!

And, Oh Yes! lots of neat things are coming into "focus". And no part of it is more important than another ... read I Corinthians 12 (that is a description to the early Church). See the landscaping take shape? And keep an even closer eye on the program (which is the real purpose of the Church). Ambitious? I surely hope so!

A little fellow sat on a curb. The thunderstorm had past. In his hand was a stick to which he had tied a string and a bent pin. He was fishing in the rainwater flowing down the street.

"Well, sonny, have you caught anything?" asked a passerby. "Not yet, sir", the boy replied.

Mark that! "Not yet, sir." It reveals dauntless certainty of success. Childhood never abandons hope. You've never met a boy who actually found a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. But such an irrelevant observation can't keep boys from setting out in search!

Remember Simeon? "The old man in the temple?" Its an encouraging story! In fact, the charm about Simeon is that, though he had lived many years, he had not grown old. He had set his heart upon "seeing the Lord Christ." But unlike most of us he never once relinquished the confident hope of witnessing the fulfillment of his dream. His expectancy never flagged!

Study the account of his life. It was an amazing achievement. Through youth, middle-age (which is when most give up their dreams), old age ... he continued to hang on with unwavering tenacity to the certainty that he should not