



April 2011

First Congregational Church, UCC

1200 N. Eastern, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Office (702) 642-2220
www.uccclasvegas.org

Pastors Message

As you well know by now, Easter is quite late this year – in fact about as late as it can be: April 24. We are still in that preparatory time known as Lent, and we are using our Lenten journeys to listen to Jesus as he leads us through that important set of sayings known as the Beatitudes – which are blessings that come to us as we grow into the Christian life (or as another translation of the Beatitudes has it “Happy are you...”). I do hope your Lenten journeys are leading you into a deeper sense of the happiness that comes with leading a Christian life.

We have two more Sundays in Lent to look at these Beatitudes, and I invite you to participate in these worship services:

April 3:

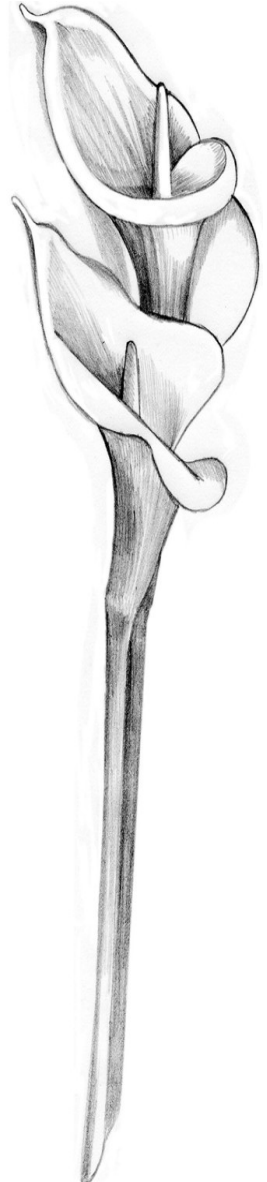
“Blessed are the poor in spirit.....”
“Blessed are those who mourn.....”
Matthew 5:3-4
Psalm 23

April 10:

“Blessed are the peacemakers.....”
Matthew 5:9
Psalm 130

Then on April 17 we participate in a rousing Palm Sunday procession, including receiving palm crosses that we can take home as reminders of how our journey continues on past the joy of Easter morning.

I want to make a special appeal to all of you to come to the Maundy Thursday service at **6:00pm** on Thursday evening (**April 21**). It is an especially powerful and moving service which includes the Office of Tenebrae (which is Latin for “darkness” or “shadows”) and which dates back to the 7th or 8th century. It connects us to the emotions of Passion Week and is a somber service, including scriptures, the gradual extinguishing of candles, silence, and (in our case) a



communion service. As one person has said after (reluctantly) attending a Maundy Thursday service, "...attending the Easter service without attending the Holy Week services is like watching the happy ending of the movie without seeing the middle—you only rob yourself of joy."

The somberness continues with Good Friday (**April 22**), a time for individual meditation and preparation. Our church sanctuary will be open from 12:00noon until 3:00pm that day for those who wish to spend some time in meditation and prayer. Holy Saturday is not a day much appreciated among Protestant churches, but on it we do recognize, as the Apostle's Creed puts it, how Christ "descended into hell" for us in order to bring us through his resurrection the glorious news of God's salvation.

On Easter Sunday morning come early to enjoy the fellowship of a breakfast being planned by members of the congregation. Food will start being served by **9:00am**, so come anytime thereafter to celebrate our being together and begin to prepare to rejoice at the **10:30am** service. The worship will include a special liturgical dance offering, including a guest artist, to Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" – which will be the theme of the morning.

I really look forward to seeing **ALL** of you there.

Dave



I would like to THANK all my church family & friends for attending the "Celebration of Life" for Ron.

I really appreciate it, and want to Thank all who donated to the church & Nathan Adelson Hospice in Ron's name.

Thank You, Diana Renaud

Spiritual and Parish Life

The Board of Spiritual and Parish Life is happy to announce that at the March meeting Elizabeth (Betty) Clark was approved as co-chairperson of the S&PL Board. She will be sharing the chair duties with Judith Vicari. As most of you know Judith and husband Sam spend the spring and summer months in the Midwest. The Board thanks Elizabeth for her willingness to serve. Former “solo” chair Judith is truly grateful to have her help and looks forward to serving together with Elizabeth throughout the year.



Did you know that large print copies of the hymns are available on Sunday mornings? If you would be more comfortable with large print copies, please let the ushers know. We don't want you to have to “squint” in order to sing to the Lord!

As in the past, small dried palms in the shape of a cross for members and friends to take home will be distributed on Palm Sunday, the day which begins the holiest of all Christian weeks.

If you would like to bring a lily for the altar on Easter morning and would like to dedicate that lovely symbol of the resurrection to a loved one, please be on the lookout in the weeks proceeding Easter for a sign up sheet. You do not need to give any donations to the office since you will be purchasing the lily yourself, but you will want to make your intention known (on the sign up sheet) so that your name and the name of the one you are honoring can be in the bulletin on Easter morning.

Judith Vicari



Volunteers Needed!!



Communion Preparation Volunteers

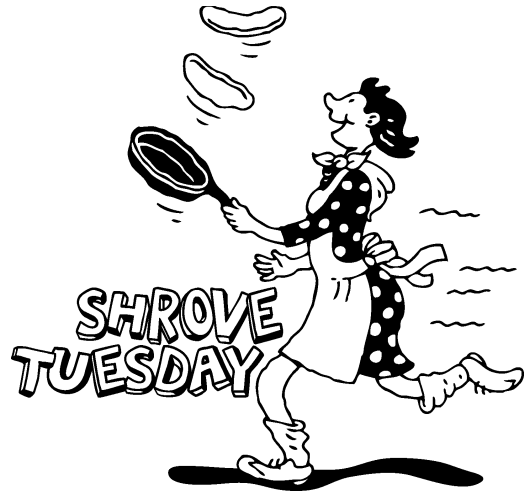
Beginning in June and through October, we will be in need of a person or persons who are willing to bring the bread and grape juice on the first Sunday of the month and prepare those elements for communion. If you are willing to make that commitment for a few months you may find that it is a source of inspiration and an extra “connection” to the Sacrament. Don’t be intimidated if you don’t know how to go about it; it is not difficult, it does not take a lot of time, and there are several people who would be glad to assist you for the first time.

A gentle reminder because we all lead such busy lives: there is great need for volunteers to sign up to host the Sunday morning coffee hour for the summer months. This job consists of making the coffee and putting out the treats which are there. (You do not have to bring the “goodies”!) One final responsibility is to make sure the tables are clean and the coffee pot put away at the end of fellowship time. Sign-up is for one month only, so why not give it a try? There are many folks who will be happy to assist you the first time if you are unsure; also, written instructions are provided on the cabinet door.



Mission & Action

On Tuesday, March 8, (Shrove Tuesday), we met at 9 am at the Cannery for a pancake breakfast in anticipation of the start of Lent, it was nice to see so many able to join us.



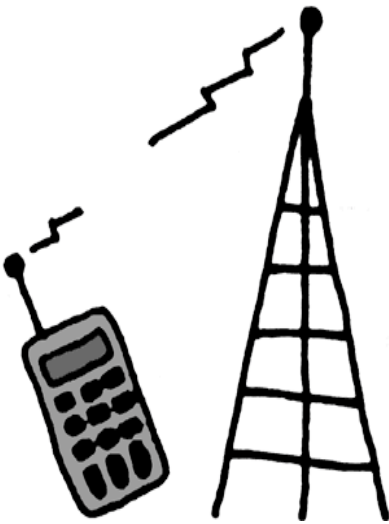
On Sunday, March 13, we kicked off our appeal for "One Great Hour of Sharing". To list the many ways lives around the world are touched by this appeal would make the list very long. One is how OGHS has helped give relief in the Quake-Tsunami that has caused so much heartache and destruction to our friends and neighbors in Japan.

The OGHS appeal will end with a collection of envelopes on Sunday April 3, 2011 at our regular service. These special envelopes will be inserted in the Sunday service programs on March 27, 2011 so you will have time to stuff them full for collection at Sunday service April 3, 2011.

**REMEMBER THAT STRANGER YOU ARE
HELPING IS A FRIEND YOU HAVEN'T MET YET!!!**

Neil Thomsen

Trustees



The check has been received from Wireless Capital for the Sprint cell tower contract. The Trustees decided to keep paying off the Cornerstone Fund line of credit in a more aggressive manner, paying increased payments on the principal of the loan.

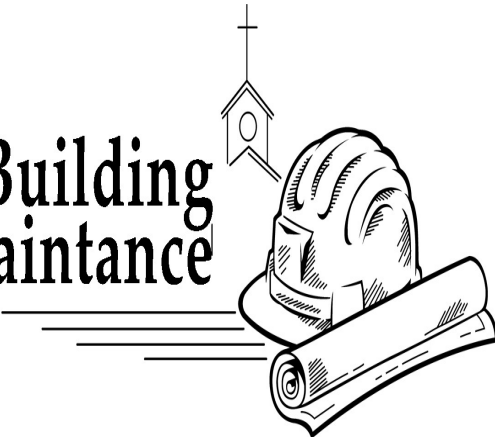
Light Squared contract has been signed and building permits are being applied for so Light Squared can start construction

We are in negotiation with two other cell tower companies. We are working closely with both companies to insure that proper permits are obtained.

Landscaping will be restarted since the weather is getting warmer. A flowering plant will be added in Fred Albrecht's memory. Kazuo Matsuura is bringing in three palms to be planted.



Building Maintenance



Nelson will work on making the exterior of the church more presentable to the public. Hopefully, this will be accomplished before Easter Sunday. There is a long list of things that need to be done.

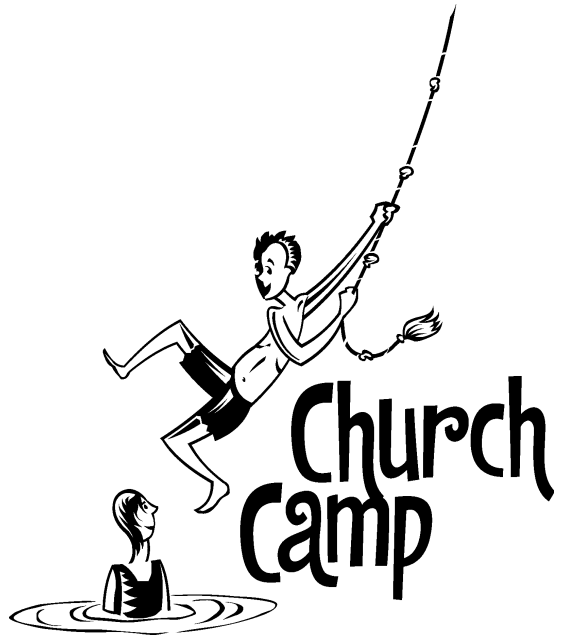
Kazuo Matsuura

Christian Education

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 10 (leadership Sunday). Madelaine (Maddy to us) and her mom Carol Farago (Kay Obenour's granddaughter and daughter) are chairpersons for this month's campership luncheon.

Please join us for a delicious **french toast** plus fixings meal after the worship service.

All donations go towards sending our children and youth to summer camp.



Adult Sunday School Class



This board thanks Kay Obenour for purchasing the Young Adults curriculum *Seasons of the Spirit* for 2010 – 2011. With a cut in our budget, we are grateful for her donation. We are using the lessons in Adult Sunday school and with our youth. Please join the adult group for lively discussions at 9:15 a.m. in the Sunday School classroom.



U.C.C. PARISH

The U.C.C. Parish is having a fund-raising Luau this month. Proceeds from it will go to the Gibson Middle School Leadership program and to help fund the costs of sending members of the Parish to Nashville in July to help with relief efforts from recent flooding. Tickets will go in sale on Sunday March 27th. See Russ Smethers, Nelson Grandjean for more info or to purchase tickets. If you cannot attend the Luau but would still like to help get our members to Tennessee, donations are also welcome.

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2011
Time: 5:00pm
Place: Gibson Middle School Auditorium
3900 W. Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV. 89107
Price: \$20.00 per adult
\$15.00 per child 14 and under.

Russ Smethers



Prayers *for those* in need!

Yolanda Martinez is Anna Garcia's daughter – liver cancer

Al Horkay – knee problems

Johnny Martinelli is Russ's grandfather – in hospital at St. George, Utah

LaRue Knauss – recovering from surgery

Betty Neiswender – recovering in El Jen Convalescent Home

April Weekly Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00AM FCC Adult Ed 10:30AM FCC Services 10:50AM FCC Youth Ed 11:30AM FCC Coffee Hr 12:00PM Samoan 2:30PM Iglesia 6:30PM Romanian	9:00-12:00PM FCC Office 6:00PM Samoan (Hall)	6:30PM Samoan (Hall) 6:30PM Iglesia (Sanc)	9:00-12:00PM FCC Office 7:00PM Iglesia (Sanc)	10:00AM Bread & Thriftshop 7:00PM FCC Choir (Sanc) 8:00PM Romanian (Hall)	9:00-12:00PM FCC Office 6:30PM Samoan (Hall) 7:00PM Iglesia (Sanc)	10:00AM Samoan (hall) 2:00-4PM FCC Cleaning

April Special Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 27 Third Sunday of Lent	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	Apr 1 Pinochle	Apr 2
Apr 3 Congregators Fourth Sunday of Lent	Apr 4	Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9
Apr 10 Leadership Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent	Apr 11	Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 15 Food Pantry	Apr 16
Apr 17 Palm/Passion Sunday	Apr 18	Apr 19	Apr 20	Apr 21 Maundy Thursday	Apr 22 Good Friday	Apr 23 Holy Saturday
Apr 24 Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Service 10:30am	Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30 Parish Luau 5:00PM



**BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH**

April 3rd Jay Hartman
 April 7th Robert Beggs
 April 8th Mark Ricker
 April 9th Don Grandjean
 April 17th Betty Frink
 April 17th Suzanne Rayno
 April 18th Nalani Moenoa
 April 23rd Dave Gaeding
 April 23rd TC Hartman
 April 27th Kathryn Frogue

April Liturgists

Apr 3rd Suzanne Rayno
 Apr 10th Jean Sitkiewicz
 Apr 17th Al Horkay
 Apr 24th Jeanette Matsuura

**Tuesday 9:00am
Breakfasts**

Apr 5th Denny's
 West Charleston
 50's Diner
 Apr 12th Omelet House
 3050 E. Desert Inn
 Apr 19th Arizona Charlie's
 West Decatur
 Apr 26th Bonanza Lounge
 4301 E. Bonanza



April 1st Don & Jane Grandjean
 April 16th Fred & Theresa Moenoa

Finances

	February	2011
Contributions:	\$3,740.78	\$11,164.39
Building Usage:	\$52,815.71	\$54,913.21
Total Income:	\$56,620.43	\$66,141.54
Ministry:	\$150.00	\$300.00
Ops & Admin:	\$1,563.60	\$2,378.60
Utilities	\$555.16	\$2,629.71
Building & Grounds	\$467.78	\$969.87
Salaries:	\$5,854.06	\$11,929.13
Total Expense:	8,590.60	\$18,207.31
Net:	\$48,029.83	\$47,934.23

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9am to Noon

Also --- Contact us by email or phone

<i>Dave Pomeroy</i>	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>davepomeroy@ucclasvegas.org</i>	<i>360-5355</i>
<i>Don Schmiedel</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>moderator@ucclasvegas.org</i>	<i>734-1887</i>
<i>Christina Grant</i>	<i>Office Administrator</i>	<i>church@ucclasvegas.org</i>	<i>642-2220</i>
<i>Nelson Grandjean</i>	<i>Clarion Editor</i>	<i>clarion@ucclasvegas.org</i>	<i>624-4603</i>

Please submit all Clarion articles for the **May** issue by

**April 17th to clarion@ucclasvegas.org or
nd_grandjean@yahoo.com**



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LAS VEGAS, NV
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First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
1200 North Eastern Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Rev. Dave Pomeroy, Minister
Phone: 702 642-2220 FAX: 702 642-3642
E-mail: church@ucclasvegas.org
Web: www.ucclasvegas.org

**April Issue 2011
Return Service Requested**

We are especially Thankful for:

Sunday Schedule

Adult Education	9:00 AM
Sunday Service	10:30 AM
Youth & Nursery	10:50 AM
Coffee & Fellowship	11:30 AM

Other Happenings

Men's & Woman's Breakfast
9:00 AM every Tuesday

Pinochle	April 1 st
Congregators	April 3 rd
Leadership Sunday	April 10 th
Food Pantry	April 15 th



Special Dates

Fourth Sunday of Lent	April 3 rd
Fifth Sunday of Lent	April 10 th
Holy Week	April 17 th - 23 rd
Palm/Passion Sunday	April 17 th
Maundy/Holy Thursday	April 21 st
Good Friday	April 22 nd
Holy Saturday	April 23 rd
Easter Day	April 24 th