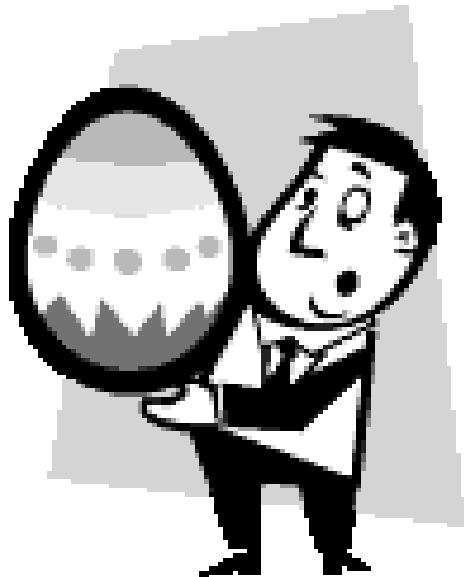


CONGREGATIONAL  
**CLARION**

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First Congregational Church  
Salt Lake City, UT

APRIL 2007



**HAPPY EASTER**

## WORSHIP SERVICES

- April 1 PALM SUNDAY  
“According to Script”  
Luke 19: 28-40
- April 5 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
AT 7:30PM  
“At Upper Room” – Communion  
Rev. Art Ritter and Rev Ellis Keck
- April 6 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
AT NOON  
“That We May See and Believe”  
Mark 15: 1-39
- April 8 EASTER SUNDAY  
Early Youth Service at 9:30am  
Celebration of the Resurrection  
at 11:00am
- April 15 “Closed Doors”  
John 20: 19-31
- April 22 INSPIRATION SUNDAY  
“This is the Day”  
Psalm 118:24-29  
Galatians 6: 7-10
- April 29 “Knowing Jesus”  
John 10: 22-30



# First Congregational Church

## 2150 S. Foothill Drive

### Salt Lake City, Utah 84109

*Phone: (801) 487-1357      Fax: (801) 466-1331*

**Web Address:** [www.firstcongregationalslc.org](http://www.firstcongregationalslc.org)

**Email:** [firstcongo@qwestoffice.net](mailto:firstcongo@qwestoffice.net)

**Church Hours:** Tuesday – Friday: 8:30am - 3:00pm

**Worship Hour:** Sundays at 11:00am

<b>Minister</b> .....	Rev. Arthur P. Ritter
<b>Moderator</b> .....	Brad Ericson
<b>1st Assoc. Moderator</b> .....	Alice Stephenson
<b>2nd Assoc. Moderator</b> .....	Wendy Haupt
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Paul Kelley
<b>Financial Secretary</b> .....	Herb & Sandra Shipman
<b>Asst. Fin. Secretary</b> .....	Pamela Dropek
<b>Church Clerk</b> .....	Cathy Rockwell
<b>Board of Trustees</b> .....	Jane Johnson
<b>Board of Deacons</b> .....	Marge Kimes
<b>Outreach Board</b> .....	Glenda LeHoux
<b>Stewardship Board</b> .....	Rich Dropek
<b>Christian Education</b> .....	Robin Smith
<b>Membership &amp; Church Development</b> .....	Scott Brown
<b>Parish Nurses</b> .....	Diane Forster-Burke & Marge Kimes
<b>Sunday School Superintendent</b> .....	Annette Tomlinson
<b>Camp Fellowship for Youth</b> .....	Mary Wittke & Tom Hohler
<b>Garden of Grace</b> .....	Scott & Jeanne Hansen
<b>Choir Director</b> .....	Devon Durkee
<b>Organist</b> .....	Edna Hamilton & Bob Dobson
<b>Church Secretary</b> .....	Kristi Hanson



# **REFLECTIONS FROM THE REV....**

By Rev. Arthur P. Ritter



## **RAISING YOUR HAND**

I will always remember Dr. M.J.J. Smith, the intimidating history professor at my college. Dr. Smith was similar to "Professor Kingsfield" in the movie *The Paper Chase*. He taught by the Socratic method, that is rather than lecturing he asked his students a series of questions which somehow brought forth the intended lesson of the day.

At first I never wanted to raise my hand to volunteer to answer a question in Dr. Smith's classes. I knew that if I answered one question right, he had several others ready to ask, questions that would put me on the spot and make me feel uncomfortable. It was best for me to sit quietly in the back row and not say anything. However I soon discovered that I wasn't getting much out of Dr. Smith's classes. My grade was low. The class sessions were dull and boring. I didn't feel part of the group. I wasn't certain if Dr. Smith even knew who I was.

So I took the gamble. After great preparation, I decided one day to move closer to the front of class. I intentionally raised my hand to answer a question. Dr. Smith seemed delighted. He called on me. Of course by volunteering I had to sweat out several more difficult questions. But I suddenly found the class more interesting. I learned more. My grade went up. I felt that I was getting more out of my experience by taking the risk of drawing more out of myself.

During the next few weeks, the Nominating Committee will be recruiting many people to fill the various boards and offices of the church. This is one of the hardest tasks in the ministry of the church. Few people raise their hand to volunteer. Our attempt to use Ministry Teams and abandon boards has not been as successful as we hoped. With some exceptions we have found that most of the tasks have still been left to the existing boards. Our board structure has suffered and meetings have been poorly attended. We need to refocus and we need your help! This year we will be recruiting people to faithfully serve on boards and committees with

reduced numbers but with renewed commitment to their ministries. These boards will then be encouraging each and every one of us to assist them in the tasks as they provide the leadership for all.

I am asking each of you to raise your hand. Everyone in our church has a reasonable excuse not to serve. Some are too busy. Some have already been there and done that. Others are too new to the process. Yet we only survive because some people do not let excuses stop them from serving. We will not survive if everyone assumes someone else will always do the job.

I ask you to raise your hand, not because of guilt or obligation. I ask you to raise your hand because in serving you will enhance your experience of God. We come to this worshipping community not to simply make ourselves feel good, but to equip ourselves to serve God and others. To reach the full potential that God has in mind for us, we must search our hearts and souls, consult with the Spirit in prayer, and step forward to serve.

Peace and grace,

Art

**FROM THE SECRETARY**

*By: Kristi Hanson*

**MAY CLARION DEADLINE IS**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR ARTICLES IN ON TIME**

## **HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES**



Everyone is encouraged to participate in worship during Holy Week. These important services recall Jesus' last week in Jerusalem and the events leading up to his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Our Maundy Thursday service will take place on Thursday, April 5 beginning at 7:30 p.m. We will be sharing in the experience of the Upper Room, worshipping in the gym with the sacrament of The Lord's Supper at tableside. The Rev. Ellis Keck will assist Rev. Ritter in the service.

Good Friday Services will take place at noon on Friday, April 6 in the church's small chapel. The events of this day will be remembered through Scripture, song, and moments of silence.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT ON EASTER SUNDAY**

On Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, an Easter Egg Hunt will be held following worship service. Wrapped candy is needed and can be given to Pat Ericson. Don't forget your Easter Baskets.

## **LOOKING FOR GRADUATES**

The church office is collecting the names of those who will be graduating from High School or College in the weeks ahead. A list will be published in our bulletin on May 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition, those high school graduates will be given the opportunity to speak during worship on Mother's Day. Families or graduates should contact the church office before May 6<sup>th</sup>.



## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

The final session of our Adult Bible Study for this church year will again focus on the Parables of Jesus. This spring we will examine the parables in Matthew. We will meet in the church library from 10:00 – 10:45am each Sunday to discuss these special teachings of Jesus. Here is the complete class schedule:

- April 22            Parable of the Weeds  
                         Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
- April 29            Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Net  
                         Matthew 13: 44-52
- May 6                Parable of the Wedding Banquet  
                         Matthew 22: 1-14
- May 13              Parable of the Ten Foolish Women  
                         Matthew 25: 1-13
- May 20              Parable of the Talents  
                         Matthew 25: 14-30

## **OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY** **UTAH FOOD BANK WORKDAY**

The Annual Boy Scout Food Drive is underway. Come help sort food donations, Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to Noon. Address: 1025 S. 700 W. For more information call Ken Rockwell.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
HOLY WEEK/EASTER SERVICES  
2007**

<b>April 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY – COMMUNION</b> Worship Service at 11:00am
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Service at 7:30pm
<b>April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Service at Noon
<b>April 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY – Family Sunday</b> Youth Service at 9:30am Worship Service at 11:00am



**EASTER MORNING AT FCC**

Everyone is invited to join us on Easter morning to celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Listed below is a schedule of events:

9:00 – 10:30am	Brunch sponsored by members of Church Council
9:30 – 10:10am	Worship led by Youth
11:00am – Noon	Worship – Celebration of the Resurrection
Noon	Social Hour sponsored by the Church Council
Noon	Easter Egg Hunt for Younger Children

## **STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

*By: Pam Dropek*

You may have heard the story about a man who was stuck on his roof because of floodwaters from a river that had overflowed its banks. The man prayed for the Lord to save him. A boat came by to rescue him, but seeing that it was overloaded he said, "I will wait on the Lord. He is going to save me." Later a helicopter came and the man was told he should leave with them now. The man took his fear of flying as a sign from God that he was to wait for a miracle and insisted that he had faith and would wait on the Lord. Needless to say, the floodwaters continued to rise, and the man, unable to swim, drowned. He went to heaven and met Jesus whom he asked, "Lord, where were you? I thought you were going to save me?" To which Jesus replied, "Well, I sent a boat and a helicopter."

The theme for this year's Stewardship Drive is "This is the Day." It is the day we make a commitment to go forward as church family, sharing our time and talents in

- Worship
- Christian Education
- Missions and Outreach
- Fellowship and Activities
- New Opportunities to Serve

Watch your mail for a packet of inspirational materials during the week of April 16<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Reverend Ritter will present a stewardship message.

Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> is "Gratitude Sunday." One of the Stewardship Board members will present thoughts on gratitude and service during the "Stewardship Moment."

Finally, Sunday May 6, we will celebrate "Consecration Sunday." Together, we will rejoice in the accomplishments of our church

Continued:

family highlighted in a pictorial presentation, and we will dedicate with renewed energy our intentions to serve Christ through offerings of time, talent, and treasure.

Immediately following the worship service, the Stewardship Board will host a light lunch. FCC musicians will entertain.

Please join us for this important event.

### **INTERESTED IN LITURGIZING OR HELPING OUT WITH COMMUNION?**

The Worship and Communion Ministry Team will soon be having its spring/summer signup. If you want to be added to the signup distribution list, or would like to find out more, contact Phil LeHoux at [lehoux1@msn.com](mailto:lehoux1@msn.com) or 733-4950.

### **WOMEN'S RETREAT RETURNS – SAVE THE DATE!**

The Annual Women's Retreat will take place on May 18-19 at the Brighton Lodge in Big Cottonwood Canyon, from approximately dinner time Friday until afternoon Saturday. Our facilitator/special guest will be Betty Vos, the wife of our former pastor and dear friend to many of us, who now lives in Iowa. Her theme will be "Filling Our Cups." More details will follow about accommodations and price, but the lodge appears to have enough room to sleep all women who would like to come. This is a very special tradition among the women at First Congregational Church, and we invite newcomers as well as those who have come many times. Come, relax, and renew your sense of spirituality in this new, beautiful setting. For further information (soon), call Susan Olson at 532-3809.

## **OUTREACH BOARD**

*By: Glenda LeHoux*

The Outreach Board has chosen the Mazahua Mission in Mexico as the project for plate donations in April. Located in a rural area sixty miles northwest of Mexico City, the Mazahua Mission is found in an authentic hacienda that is over 275 years old.

The central emphasis of the mission is holistic transformation. The goal is to address the needs of the whole person – touching the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of their life. The mission supports pastoral ministries, community development, continuing education, basic shelter, children's recreation center, and Christian camps and retreats for the indigenous people of the area.

The Mazahua Mission also supports a hospital run by medical missionaries and provides scholarships to the Mazahuan Mexican Indigenous Center.

Over the last ten years, The NACCC and other denominations have participated in many short mission trips. These short mission trips provide manpower for Vacation Bible School, English classes, summer camps and maintenance work projects.

This year five members of First Congregational Church will be going to Mission Mazahua to participate in a Special Friends Camp for disabled children. It is the hope of the Outreach Board that we will be able to send with them a generous contribution to be used to help meet the needs of the Mazahua Mission. Please support us in this worthy effort.

# GARDEN OF GRACE

## SPRING RENEWAL AT THE GARDEN OF GRACE

### Get Into the Green

**GARDEN RENEWAL DATE:** Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 2:00pm. Lunch will be available in the Garden of Grace for your help. Bring garden tools and gloves – otherwise provided.

**GOALS:** Clipping back the plants for new growth, garden maintenance and planting.

Students can receive service hour credits for school or scouts. Hope to see you there! Questions call Scott & Jeanne Hansen at 583-0500.

**FUTURE SUMMER GOALS:** Install the Peace Pole, Dedicate the Garden of Grace

### MAKE YOUR MARK IN THE GARDEN

We will be ordering new stones for Spring 2007 installation. Rev. Ellis & Karen Keck together with Susan Olson & Paul Kelley have ordered a stone in memory of Destiny Norton. Each stone is a way to honor an important someone or something. They make the Garden of Grace more accessible and easier to maintain through your support. A great way to remember Mother's Day, Father's Day or Someone Special. Questions call Jeanne Hansen at 583-0500 or Kristi Hanson at 487-1357. Thank you for supporting the Garden of Grace – Our Community Garden!



**GARDEN OF GRACE STEPPING STONES ORDER FORM**

Yes, I would like to Make My Mark in the Garden of Grace. The stepping stones are 1ft. x 1ft square, engraved with black letters. Each stone holds 35 letters including FCC at the top. Please print.

OPTIONS: QUANTITY

A: Old Testament Pathway – Book Stones \$30 each \_\_\_\_\_

B: Favorite Quote Stones - \$35 each \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C: Personalized Stones - \$35 each \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D. Peace Pole Donation (optional amount) \_\_\_\_\_

Total quantity ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Information: Donated by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to the FCC Garden of Grace

Drop off or mail to: First Congregational Church

2150 South Foothill Drive, SLC, UT 84109

Thank you so much for your support!

