

CONGREGATIONAL
CLARION

First Congregational Church
Salt Lake City, UT

APRIL 2008



***April Showers Bring May
Flowers.....***

WORSHIP SERVICES



**Worship Service and Sunday School at 11:00am
Nursery Provided**

- 6 April Live as Strangers
 Communion
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35
- 13 April Guest Speaker
- 20 April Look for Rainbows
 Stewardship Sunday
 Galatians 5:22
 1 Peter 2:2-10
- 27 April An Unknown God?
 Acts 17:22-31
 John 14:15-21

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

Email: firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

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

Friday: 8:00am - Noon

Worship Hour: Sundays at 11:00am

Interim Minister.....	Pastor Al Hammond
Moderator.....	Alice Stephenson
1st Assoc. Moderator.....	Wendy Haupt
2nd Assoc. Moderator.....	Paul Kelley
Treasurer.....	Gerry Pala
Financial Secretary	Herb & Sandra Shipman
Asst. Fin. Secretary	Pam Dropek
Church Clerk.....	Cathy Rockwell
Board of Trustees.....	Scott Hansen
Board of Deacons.....	Marge Kimes
Outreach Board.....	Ken Rockwell
Stewardship Board.....	Pam Dropek
Christian Education.....	Robin Smith
Membership & Church Development.....	Scott Brown
Parish Nurses.....	Diane Forster-Burke & Marge Kimes & Lynne Calame
Sunday School Superintendent.....	Annette Tomlinson
Camp Fellowship for Youth.....	Mary Wittke & Tom Hohler
Garden of Grace	Scott & Jeanne Hansen
Choir Director.....	Devon Durkee
Organist.....	Edna Hamilton & Bob Dobson
Church Secretary.....	Kristi Hanson

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR....

By Pastor Al Hammond

What Then Shall We Do?

Peter has just explained the events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus to a crowd in Jerusalem. In response, they ask: “Brother, what then shall we do?” It is such a simple question yet we continue to grapple with the complexities of the answer.

We have been given an incredible gift in the resurrection of Christ. God has offered us the opportunity to enter a renewed relationship, a deeper and more significant relationship, with a loving God. In response, we should rejoice and be glad, thankful that God so loved the world, and still loves us, that God sent Jesus to bridge the gulf between us and God.

We celebrated with joy on Resurrection Sunday, with loud Hosannas and proclamations that “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” We should keep that sense of joy, of celebration, in our lives and in our worship. After Easter and Pentecost, the church enters into a period referred to as “Ordinary Time.” There should be nothing ordinary about any time we gather to worship God!

Every year, I discover new meaning in Easter; I discover different things about myself that need to change in response to Easter. I know that these changes are beyond my own ability, even in this age of self-help books for every aspect of life. I know that I need to open myself to God's transforming power, power that is able to change all aspects of my life.

Part of that change is to change direction, to turn afresh toward God. This turning around, turning toward God, is the basic meaning of what Peter tells the crowd when he tells them to repent.

As we celebrate with joy the season of Easter, let us be open to change. There will be change within our church life as the Pulpit Committee continues its task. There will be change as we discuss budgets and priorities, as we look forward to a new church year. There will be change in our own lives, as we open ourselves to God's leading.

Continued:

But one constant amidst all this change should be Jesus Christ, our Lord. May Jesus bring you joy even as Jesus guides you through the changes that will come, always drawing you closer within God's loving embrace.

AL HAMMOND – CONTACT INFORMATION

I will be in the office mornings. (It is a good idea to call and confirm) I will also be available other times by appointment. Please let me know if you would like to meet or have me visit. (Home, hospital, etc....)

After hours please contact me at Home (801) 274-1935, Cell (801) 891-4944 or email at interim.pastor@earthlink.net

FROM THE SECRETARY

By Kristi Hanson

MAY CLARION DEADLINE IS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ARTICLES IN ON TIME



Stewardship Reflections

Stewardship is everything—a call, a gift, a lifestyle. We, the women and men of today, are stewards of...the ongoing creation.

--Rosemary Williams, "Giving" Magazine

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Adult Education will be meeting at 10:00am on the following Sundays March 30th, April 6th, April 16th and April 20th on “Servant Leadership – For Servant Leaders of the Bible” taught by Mary Wittke.

FCC EMAIL LIST

The church office would like to update the email list of all of our members and friends. Email is a great way to alert the congregation of any upcoming events or changes or emergencies. Please fill out the form below and mail it into the church office or drop it in the offering plate.

(Please add all email addresses you use)

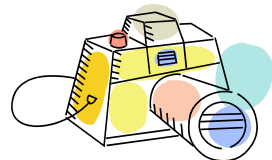
NAME _____

EMAIL _____ For _____

_____ For _____

_____ For _____

Wanted: Pictures of FCC in action. We are compiling our annual pictorial review of FCC people and events for viewing on Consecration Sunday, and the Stewardship Board needs your help. For a complete portrait of our church year, we need pictures from the Mizahua Mission effort, outdoor service, Rally Sunday, youth activities, men’s & women’s events, and more. Please send any digital pictures you may have taken during the year to rdropek@msn.com. We need to have your pictures by April 13th to include them in our review. Thanks in advance for you help.



ANNUAL MEETINGS

NACCC

Thy Will Be Done, the pilgrimage continues.

The Annual Meeting of NACCC is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 through Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at Plymouth, Massachusetts. While the official church delegate is expected to attend the business meetings and report back to the church, you may attend the meeting as a visitor. Special events are planned for this meeting. On Monday evening there is a re-enactment of Pilgrim Progress (gathering and going to worship). The meeting concludes on Tuesday with a visit to Plymouth Plantation. The evening continues with a Thanksgiving style meal, followed by entertainment by Back Eddy Bluegrass band.

NAPF, HOPE

While the adults are meeting in Plymouth, the church's youth will be meeting in Eston, MA at Stonehill College. NAPF is for any youth who has completed 8th grade through 12th grade. High School graduates through age 26 may attend HOPE. The conference runs from Saturday through breakfast on Wednesday. This year the youth will be participating in mission work around Brockton, MA.

If you are interested in attending the NACCC, NAPF, or HOPE as a delegate for the church, please let me know by Sunday, April 13. The Council will select our delegate(s) on Wednesday, April 16. Want more information – just ask.

Alice Stephenson
Moderator

CO-ED SOFTBALL

Spring is here, and that means the County softball leagues are starting. Our church plays on a slow-pitch, co-ed, church league. We're the defending champs from last year. Games are held Friday evenings at the Redwood Road softball fields. Games will start April 25. Interested in joining the team, contact Vaughn Marietta, 943-4525. Not a player, come and cheer our team on. A good time is had by all.



Women's Retreat--SAVE THE DATE!

After encountering numerous scheduling problems this spring, the annual Women's Retreat will move to fall this year. The retreat is planned for Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25. Like last year, we will meet at Brighton Lodge up Big Cottonwood Canyon, starting at dinner time Friday and running through about 3:00 p.m. Saturday. The retreat leader and cost will be announced later. Please plan to attend, as this is a special time for fellowship for women of the church.

For those who might have been really looking forward to a retreat this spring, we have an alternative. Rev. Christine Nelson from Good Shepherd Lutheran has invited anyone from FCC to join their group for their retreat the weekend of May 16-18. They have 100 spaces at Pine View (Eden--near Ogden) and will only be using around 50, so there would be plenty of room for us. They have shared with other groups in the past. They start at 5 p.m. Friday at Good Shepherd (in Sandy) and have pizza, then drive up and have a session on Friday evening that Christine will be teaching. This is a coed retreat with a wide age range, and men do all the cooking. On Saturday they have three 'breakout sessions' interspersed with activities. Sports like archery and badminton are available, led by the wife of one of their pastors. A chapel manned by a prayer team is available as well. They are back by noon on Sunday. Fee is \$50/person. Their theme this year is a book by Beth Moore entitled Liberty in Christ. Christine and the leaders of the breakout sessions are studying the book and will present from that. If someone from our church wanted to be a leader, the next training session is on the last Tuesday of March at 5 p.m. If you would like more information, you can call Britney Stephenson at 523-8238.

If FCC members who are considering going to the Good Shepherd retreat would like to know who else is planning to go from our church, Susan Olson (532-3809; kellooln@msn.com) is willing to coordinate this information if you let her know.

FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Calling all high school seniors! It's your day to speak to the members, friends and visitors at First Congregational Church on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, about the church, Camp Fellowship, and/or especially your mother! The service is at 11:00am. Please let us know if you plan to participate so we can plan accordingly. We will tell seniors details after hearing from them. Contact Kristi at the church 487-1357 to let her know your plan to participate. Please do so no later than Tuesday, April 15.

We are also in search of graduates from college, graduate programs and other schools to recognize in the bulletin on Mother's Day. Please contact Kristi at the church with your name, school, degree and graduation date by Tuesday, April 15.

COMMUNITY EVENT

On Saturday, April 12, 2008 Moms In Touch of Utah has an upcoming event "Prayer Makes a Difference" Seminar on April 12, 1008. Moms In Touch International (MITI) is a ministry in which two or more moms meet for one hour each week to pray for their children, their schools, their teachers, and administrators. Mothers, grandmothers, or any woman who is willing to pray for a specific child and school are welcome. MITI is an interdenominational, Christ-centered ministry.

Also at the seminar participants will hear from local moms involved, receive encouragement, participate in worship and fellowship, view a Prayer Impact Presentation, and listen to and learn from Moms In Touch speaker, Cindy Stadum. Cindy is the Moms In Touch International (MITI) USA Mountain Regional Director. She has been in a MITI group for her children and their schools since 1991. After the morning seminar an optional training will be conducted for moms interested in starting or leading a group.

The seminar is at Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church from 9:30-11:30 am. To register or if you have questions: call or email Ann Peterson, the UT coordinator of MITI, at 801-918-1104, annwpeterson@msn.com or see Mary Wittke. Ministry website: www.momsintouch.org

Let's remember in our prayers our country's men and women in military service and their families.

Did you know that:

Lieutenant Ryan Dropek has earned the right to wear the U.S. Navy Submarine Service "Dolphins" insignia signifying that he is qualified in submarines. He has consistently proven his competency to discharge his responsibilities at sea and ashore while serving in the nuclear submarine force. While assigned to the U.S.S. Seawolf, a nuclear submarine, Ryan completed a deployment to the Pacific which included transiting beneath the polar ice cap. When Seawolf's homeport was changed from Groton, CT to Bellingham, WA he served as Head of the Engineering Department during the voyage. He is currently assigned to Submarine Development Group 12 in Groton, CT.

Cadet Matt Weibel will graduate from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT, in May. His four years at the Academy included the exhilarating challenge of climbing to the highest rigging in the sailing ship Eagle on high seas. He aced a rigid program of academics that involved spending a semester living and studying with the midshipmen at Annapolis. After all that, Matt was ranked second among his classmates in overall performance and aptitude for service in the Coast Guard. The Weibel family will attend the graduation ceremonies. Soon-to-be Ensign Weibel will report for duty in June aboard the Coast Guard cutter Diligence operating out of Wilmington, NC.

Specialist, U.S. Army, Trevor Panhorst, a member of the famed 82nd Airborne Division, is currently serving in a combat unit in Afghanistan. His unit is expected to return to Fort Bragg, NC at the end of April. Hilda and Dan will travel to Ft. Bragg to attend special homecoming events planned for the soldiers many of whom have been overseas for 15 months.

GARDEN OF GRACE UPDATE!

Greetings! It's been a long winter and spring seems to have come early this year. Thanks to Jonathan Hansen for organizing our first Spring Clean-up in March. We clipped back the plants and bushes, weeded, and swept the winter debris from the sidewalks. Four energetic Skyline High School National Honor Society students gave us some valuable service hours.

Carlos Caceres

Katie Johnston

Jonathan Hansen

Dan Henshaw

They were joined in by a hardy and helpful group from FCC. The girls earned service hours for school and Girl Scouts.

Bob and Mikaela Baird

Kelly and Olivia Burdette

Tony Gras and Jeanne Hansen

Thank you also to all those who gardened or donated stone pavers last year. Together we accomplished much.

APRIL GARDEN OF GRACE RENEWAL Sat. April 26th,
10:00am-1:00pm

GOALS: Installing new stone pavers
Spreading mulch to prevent weeds
Planting some new plants

Join us for some fun and fellowship in the sun. Come for any amount of time you can. Refreshments served. Meet in the garden on the north side of the church. Questions call the Hansens at 801. 583. 0500. Hope to see you there!

FCC PREPARES FOR MAZAHUAN MISSION

In June more than a dozen members of the congregation will spend a week at the Mazahua Mission west of Mexico City. We will join volunteers from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

The Mazahuan Mission, supported by the NACCC, provides spiritual, educational, career, and practical support to the Mazahuan people, an original ethnic people of Mexico.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, money has been raised through the sale of Christmas wreaths and the February Outreach project. Other activities are being planned.

In addition to helping with a camp for the handicapped and other projects, Salt Lake volunteers are hoping to take a number of items needed by the Mazahuan people. We also need more money to defray the cost of travel for youth and to help support the mission itself. Ways you can contribute include the following:

- Donations of items - Bins have been placed upstairs and downstairs of donations in the attached Wish List. Some items are for those who travel across Mexico to attend the camp and some are for the mission to sell to or share with the local folks.
- Cinco de Quattro – Belly up to the table after church May 4th for a Mexican meal prepared and served by the volunteers. Watch for more information!
- Wheelchairs – Many of the camp attendees are brought on cart or in wheelbarrows. We are taking used or donated wheelchairs for the Mexicans attending the camp. Rachel Ericson is collecting as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project. Bob Baird is also collecting wheelchairs.

For more information about Mission Mazahua and how you can help, please contact Katie Ericson, the Utah coordinator of the Mazahuan Mission, at 801-706-8997.

Wish List for items needed on next page

The Wish List

- Wheelchairs
- Wheelchair cushions (moisture resistant)
- “Umbrella strollers” (especially for teen sized bodies)
- Crutches (particularly needed are ones with wrist support)
- Stained glass supplies:
- Squires of spectrum glass “watercolors” and primary colors
- Scraps (some stores will donate or charge minimally by the pound)
- Tools
- Flux
- Glass cutters
- Wizards (glass trimming and grinding machines)
- Grinder heads
- 100 watt soldering guns for stained glass work
- Sewing machines and sewing supplies (fabric, thread, needles, etc.)
- Typewriters
- Laptop Computers
- Staple guns with staples that fit them
- Towels, sheets, pillow cases, dish towels, collapsible net washbaskets (they will have sheets for our use, but need sheets for their camping ministry)
- Plastic gags of all sizes
- Kitchen utensils and knives (do not bring in your carry-on)
- Pots and pans
- Burnable CDs
- Computer discs
- Sport equipment (tennis, and for their new swimming pool!)
- Swim suits (very modest style) Gym shorts or equivalent will do.
- Formals (teenage) and party dresses (they give them [or sell for an extremely minimal price] to families for their daughter’s quinceañera [15th birthday] celebrations)
- Shoes (comfortable walking shoes for children and adults)
- Vitamins (child and adult)
- Tape – duct, clear, packing
- School supplies (crayons, markers, notebooks, pencils, pens, glue, etc.) [note: paper is heavy and is available, but small notebooks are valued]

- AA batteries
- Disposable cameras
- Tylenol, aspirin, naproxen, tec. (child and adult)
- Spanish or Spanish/English Bibles or New Testaments (Christian literature – non denominational)
- Craft projects
- Musical instruments
- Soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products. (Hotel soaps and shampoo are great)
- Scissors (adult and child)
- Reading glasses – non prescription, various powers
- Peanut butter (small jars)
- Baby formula
- Baby blankets
- Office supplies: white out, envelopes, pens, etc)
- Personal items (use in your living area and then leave behind)
- Toilet paper (1 or 2 rolls only)
- Kleenex (several small)
- Hand sanitizer (good to have one in your pocket for all outings)
- Small plastic bags to line small waste baskets
- For “Goodie Bags” we will send home with each camper:
 - Packaged snacks (Oreo cookies are especially liked)
 - Small useable gift items (male and female)
 - Small stuffed toys
- Party items (bubbles, balloons, beach balls, decorations). We have a fiesta the last evening.