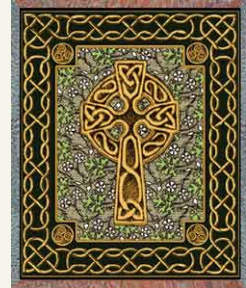




"LIVES CHANGED TO CHANGE LIVES"

In the Know...

therockchristianchurch



WELCOME...

WHAT'S NEW?

Message Series:

- Tearing Down American Idols

Plan Ahead:

- Baby/Child Dedication May 10, & June 21
- Church at the Park May 24
- Walkabout (July 19-25)
Cost \$399; a backpacking experience for adults.

PayPal:

Now available for anyone who wishes to make donations to help us accomplish our mission.

We are excited that you have decided to be here with us today.

"The Gathering" is our worship experience designed to be interactive and engaging. Our desire is to connect with God and each other through relationships.

We want you to know that you matter to us because you matter to Christ. Vicki Lynn and I, along with the partners of The Rock, look forward to connecting with you sometime during The Gathering.

We will begin in a few moments. Meanwhile enjoy the baked goods in the back along with a beverage.

You are invited to participate in communion any time during the service at the communion station in the back. We have developed a prayer station in the case that you need prayer or simply a place to be silent and reflective. Our goal is to create an experience that is relaxed and meaningful. We hope you enjoy the service and we look forward to your next visit.

Blessings,

Chris & Vicki Lynn Tong



Chris & Vicki Lynn

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- **Commitments to Christ in 09:**
- **Baptisms 2009: (3)** Julian Tryhorn, Jeremy & Rebecca Jordan.
- **Newborns 2009: (1)** Noah Jayden Hemphill

• Giving Report: 2009

January	\$7,385.62
February	\$8,341.50
March	\$12,526.07
April	\$2,492.96 (2 wks)

Monthly Need: 8,300

'09 Need:	\$33,200 (4 mos)
'09 Giving:	\$30,746.15
'09 Deficit:	\$2,453.85

• Prayer Needs:

Keith Krejci struggling with a pinched nerve. **Darlene August's** mother (Janet) diagnosed with cancer. **Those expecting a baby** Tabitha & Matt Hornyak, Alexia & Josh Purdy & Rebecca & Jeremy Jordan. **Financial** strength and stability for The Rock. Partners would be faithful in tithing 10% to support God's work in people's lives.

EASTER CHANGES EVERYTHING

The apostle Paul once said, *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless..."* (1Cor. 15:17) Death without resurrection is only foolishness.

On that first Easter morning, Christ was raised from the dead. Resurrection doesn't happen without death; the two are closely connected. Christ laid down his life for our sins only to take up his life again. It was our sins & God's justice that demanded death and Christ paid that debt. But if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, he would have no power over death and sin...And we would all be without hope.

However, Easter changes everything. The fact is that Jesus rose from the dead, the tomb is empty and there is NO BODY in the grave. Over 500 people were eyewitnesses to Christ's resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-6). In ancient Palestine you only needed two credible eyewitness to verify the truth. In the case of Christ, there are overwhelming evidence and eyewitnesses to this miracle of all miracles. Jesus is not dead, he is alive and that changes everything.

But how does Easter change everything?

It gives hope to all beyond this life. Death continues to be the ultimate fear for all humanity. But Christ's resurrection gives us an assurance that all who place their trust in Christ will spend eternity with God. (John 11:25-26)

Secondly, life begins to make sense. It's no longer about how much I can accumulate or how much I can achieve. Life no longer is about me. We begin to loosen our grip on "Things" discovering that it all belongs to God; including our own lives. We find that we are designed for relationship with God and each other and this is what matters most (not all the other stuff). The death & resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds us of how much God values you and I and what length He went to restore our relationship with Him.

Thirdly, life has a purpose: We were designed to know God and let God be known. We are wired by our Creator to know Him and experience the power of his love. As we grow in our relationship with God, we realize our need to let Him be known to others.

Lastly, Life is good. Pain is a universal experience. Every human

experiences pain, suffering & loss. No matter what circumstances we face the resurrection of Christ changes everything. We can rise above our circumstances by placing our trust and dependence on God because He promises to always be present & be the lifter of our heads.

Because Christ rose from the dead, Easter changes everything. Our faith has value for all humanity. What will you do about this Truth?

There are people in our lives who will pass from this life into eternity. The question is will it be with God or without God? Will they spend eternity in Heaven or Hell? The truth is that our friends depend on us to share the good news and the hope of the resurrection.

I encourage you to join me in praying daily for 3 people who have yet to receive Christ as their Lord & Savior. Pray for opportunities and conversations that lead to spiritual matters and invite them to the Gathering. Also, join us in reaching out to our community May 24th (Memorial Sunday) as we take the church to the park & serve our community with love. Christ has risen...our faith has power to change lives!

YOUR NEXT STEPS...

• Your Journey...

...begins with your next steps. The Rock is about a community that is relationally and valued driven. We are designed for a relationship with God and each other. Our desire is to discover God through the context of authentic community. When we do life together we realize and witness the power of God in community. When we share life together we experience the love of Christ. When we seek God together the journey is far richer and deeper. That is why we place a high priority on each person stepping into an SG (Small Gathering) where you become and belong. Stop by the connection table and check out the list of SG's offered and take

your next steps of your journey. We promise you will never look back.

• Small Gatherings List

MONDAYS

1) **[Family SG]** 6:30 pm, Noreen Tong & Mitzi Gill
Meets @ 266 Bella Matese, 89183 v: 270-8668
[by South Point]

TUESDAYS

2) **[Mixed SG]** 6:30 pm, Dave Reed & Eric Honea
Meets @ Various Southwest locations v:245-4742
[Mountains Edge]

WEDNESDAYS

3) **[Moms SG]** 9:30 am, Vicki Lynn Tong
Meets: Various Locations v: 340-6378
[Southwest]

4) **[Worship Teams]** 6:00pm, Joe Ancheta Meets:
various locations v:308-6748

5) **[Women's SG]** 6:30 pm, Jennifer Krejci's, Meets @
8909 Rendon Street, LV, 89143 v: 575-3739
[Northwest]

THURSDAYS

6) **[Men's SG]** 6:30 pm, Keith Krejci Meets: various
locations v: 575-2740

7) **[Mixed SG]** 6:30pm, Steve Ranney & Christine Hardin
Meets @ 9545 Swiss Stone Court, LV, 89123 v:528-
8805 [Silverado Ranch]

• Meet the Pastors...Sat, May 9th; 5:30pm

Take a step towards becoming a partner and a part of the family at The Rock. Those who have visited The Rock will receive personal invitations to hear about the huge mission God has given us along with Q&A time with our staff & leadership team over a light meal provided by our hosts.

CONNECT THROUGH SERVING & GROWING...

Church @ the Park

One of our values is to "Serve our community" bringing people together to meet each other, enjoy free food and activities for the entire family. **Sunday, May 24th (Memorial Sunday) 3:00-7:00pm** at Nevada Trails Park. This is where we shutdown our service & serve our community in which God has placed us. Judith Steele Elementary has partnered with us by giving us permission to send home over 900 invitation fliers.

Here's how you can help us make a difference. Bring a "Side dish" enough for 15-20 people and 4 cases of 12 pak of sodas or 2 cases of water. Come help us create a memorable day for the southwest by engaging in conversations with people, enjoying the activities, sitting down and eating a meal with our guests. The point of church @ the park is to draw our community together by providing a fun & memorable time.

However, because we value relationships, the most important part is how we will relationally connect with our guests. I challenge each partner to have a goal of connecting with 5 different families by encouraging them to participate in the activities, having a significant conversation or eating a meal with them. Local businesses love our concept and look forward to partnering with us. Please be in prayer as Pastor Chris invites Sams Club, Walmart, Home Depot, Vons, Albertsons, Smiths, Butcher Block and others to bring about a coordinated effort to bless our community in hard economic times.



Orange ball madness



Water balloon toss

Buckets-o-fun has confirmed their partnership to provide new games and equipment for this year. The children will not be disappointed. Let's pray for a huge harvest.

Yard Sale

The church office is having a yard sale in conjunction with the community association yard sale where pastor Chris & Vicki Lynn live and where our office is located. Please help us raise funds for office & ministry supplies by donating your unwanted stuff. You may bring your stuff the week of May 11-15th to the office at 9181 Branford Hills Street. The yard sale will be Saturday, May 16th from 7:00 am - 3:00 pm.

E Street Essentials

Together we can help our homeless friends survive the hot Vegas summers. Below is a list of essential needs...

- Toiletries: travel size (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, & deodorant)
- New or used summer clothes
- New Socks & underwear
- Wet wipes, tissues, washcloth.

Every 3rd Saturday; 9:00 AM @ Ethel Pearson park (Washington & E St.) Next date: Sat. May 16.

Got job leads?

Share with us, so we may share with others. Send your findings to ctong_therockLV@cox.net. Check out the following links:

- www.indeed.com
- www.hotjobs.com
- www.2010census.gov

Job Fair at CSN Campus
6375 W Charleston Blvd. BLD. D
Ph: 651-5089; **Weds, April 29th**
10am-1pm

STAYING CONNECTED

• DVD recommendations

Fireproof, Australia, Slumdog Millionaire & Expelled.

• Walkabout 2009

July 19-25 Backpacking exp. Cost: \$399. Limited space.

• NEXT SG Leaders Mtg.

Monday, April 27th, 6:30 PM

• NEXT Meet the Pastors

Saturday, May 9th, 5:30 pm

• Rock T-Shirts

Available @ the connection table
Short sleeve \$15; long \$20

• LEADERSHIP TEAM

- David Reed (Team Leader)
- Tony Davis
- Eric Honea
- Haleigh Honea
- Keith Krejci
- Christine Hardin
- Glenn Cazar

• NEXT Leadership Team Mtg.

Monday, April 20 @ 7:00 pm
Monday, May 4th @ 6:30 pm

• Copies of a Message:

Missed a Gathering? Email us...
ctong_therocklv@cox.net.

• CONTACT US:

Pastor Chris: 340-6379

ctong_therocklv@cox.net

Vicki Lynn: 340-6378

vickilynn_therocklv@cox.net

Christine: 340-9202 (office)

chardin_therocklv@cox.net

Joe Ancheta: 308-6748

jjanch23@yahoo.com

Jimi Jobin:

JimiJobin@gmail.com

Tammy Tyler: 496-6228

tammymt21@aol.com

SENT PARTNER...

ANNA ADAMEK

Our very own missionary in Eastern Europe. Let's stay connected with her.

Email Contact:

Anna_adamek@sil.org

JONATHAN & JOJO BRADLEY

Rock partners who are now missionaries in New Mexico as a teachers at Shiprock High School (Navajo Nation).