



# Saints Alive

February 2009

Renewal, Always

by Jim Burdick

There is little that you can look at and say "That is all Christ preached." Think about it. If we read the Gospels, He might produce a few healings and about the time you think that Jesus was all about healing, He would encounter someone burdened by sin and would forgive them. Jesus would travel around and forgive a few people and just about the time that we are tempted to say that "Jesus is all about forgiveness" he would go out and feed thousands of people. No single verb describes Jesus' ministry as much as to say that he was about restoring all creation to the right relationship with the Creator. Jesus seemed all about renewing my relationship with God. Your's. And their's. All Creation. I do not think Jesus will be satisfied that 'some' are renewed to their created potential. How do you feel?

Part of the renewal process is something we can accomplish with Jesus. This is what happens when we work as individuals to take care of the renewing of the community to Jesus' vision and God's purpose. We each stand individually before the judgment seat, but we also bring with us our ties to God's created community of His sons and daughters.

Now, I'd like to take a personal moment that relates to some of the group relationship. Over the last seven years, I have been your pastor (often in a co-pastor capacity) for six years. The service has had magnificent mountains of joy and some valleys of sadness - but I would not trade them for anything. YOU have had a profound effect on me and that effect has been one to bring a renewal in whom and what I am. Before I became pastor, I was (ok, believe it or not) basically a shy person and pleased to worship with you; felt close to you; but, was happy to quietly head home after a service and be happy.

Our dear sister Marilyn Vorhes took me aside early in my experience of being pastor and told me I should meet and greet everyone at the door as they left the service! This was something I had not

thought about and it terrified me. However, I decided that I should and would learn how to do this and do you know what? Now I can't live without it! If I am unable to be with you on a Sunday, the first and foremost thing I think about is 'I hope someone meets people at the door!' It is now that much a part of me. What was unusual to me for the first three times I tried it, has become part and parcel to what I am - to the fabric of 'me.' I have been renewed. I would have thought that I was renewed by Marilyn's words, but I am truly renewed by your handshakes and hugs. I am renewed.

Let me take a personal moment now and do something kind of outside the topic (but perhaps not, totally?). In 2006, '07, and '08 I have been co-pastoring with Carol White and Carol Burdick. I don't care to get into why we took a co-pastor vs. a conventional pastor and counsellor approach, but we did and I am glad.

This year, we have made a change and where the two Carols were co-pastors, we look to them now as counselors and Richard Cole is co-pastor. I want to thank these three people that serve you because they love you.

Carol Deane White has been a beloved part of our family for years. She married us and there was never any doubt that she served us as much from love as from responsibility. She has personally given me wise, sage advice and 'caught' my errors, if you will, when I really needed that loving support a counselor is charged to give. You all know I was seriously ill in 2006 and for over  $\frac{1}{2}$  the year, Carol Deane took virtually all responsibility and let Carol Ann and I concentrate on health and healing. Carol Deane, my thanks from the base of my heart. Carol Ann, I have no idea what I would do without your help and support, but never let that be confused with 'only' the support of a good wife. You have been a true leader. You have brought creative, reliable inputs that have blessed the lives of many, me included. There is no doubt in my mind that your love for the congregation is based on the years of nurture that they have given

us and I just happen to know that a great deal of your motivation is similar to my own, so I can truly identify with why you love our church family the way I do.

Richard, you have been an inspiration to me. Our families have become family to each other. Even when you were not as available as now because of family responsibilities, I could rely on your thoughts and advice. I assure you that I will continue to rely on you and promise you that you can rely on me. My family is your family and your family will be mine. And together, this congregation is our family.

Well, I am back from my 'personal' detour. And although I aired some very personal feelings in front of the congregation, I did so with a purpose. I hope that you have detected a huge personal love that I hold for Carol, Carol, and Richard. I hold the same deep love for you.

Eight simple years ago, I was happy to meet in your presence (on the Sundays that I was available) and bask in your love and then go home. You were my church family. I have, however, been renewed to know that you and I both need more than that. What started as a responsibility (greeting you at the door), has become a highlight of my week. I cannot imagine it no longer being part of my life. Future pastors are going to have to order me to stay away from the door!

Renewal is not just a one time event. It can be, but it can also become an ongoing way of life. Can you imagine a life of constantly bringing loved ones into your embrace as I have described above? Would not that be fantastic??? I want to invite you to turn to folks in the congregation, and open yourself to allow others to turn to you. Make it your goal to allow yourself to be renewed continuously by establishing deep bonds of Christian love like I have with you and with those I have described.

Live a life renewed. Always.

### **Attendance Report for July through December 2008**

We had average of 29 members attending weekly for those 26 weeks. The Sunday with the most members attending was December 14<sup>th</sup> with total of 62 members attending. August 10 and December 7 tied with 57 members attending.

We averaged 2 visitors per Sunday. The Sunday with the most visitors was November 30<sup>th</sup> with total of 15 visitors. August 24<sup>th</sup> we had 13 visitors.

## **WE WALK BECAUSE THEY WALK**

by Carol White

Come and join us and many others in San Antonio on 1 March 2009. Help the 26th San Antonio Annual CROP Walk for Hunger raise funds to benefit the San Antonio Food Bank, The Christian Assistance Ministries, the San Antonio Community of Congregations, and the Infant Formula Program as well as hunger projects around the world. The corporate sponsor this year is H.E.B.

Registration is at 2:00pm at Mission County Park, 6030 Padre Drive. You can walk 10K or 5K or even sit with the lame (Carol) at the picnic site cheering and supporting others who do walk. Bring a sack sandwich lunch (drink and cookies furnished) for you lunch on Sunday at the church, then we will travel to Mission County Park together.

Our goal this year is 10 walkers, each walker collecting \$120.

### **HUNGER FACTS IN TEXAS**

Texas is the most food insecure state in the nation. Defined, food insecurity is when you are so limited in resources to buy food that you are running out of food, reducing the quality of food that your family eats, feeding your children unbalanced diets, or skipping meals so your children can eat. 16.4% of Texas' population is food insecure.

Each week, approximately 25,000 people receive emergency food assistance from an agency in the San Antonio Food Bank network that services 16 counties. 12% of Texas seniors are living in poverty. That is more than one-quarter of a million seniors! More than 40% of the San Antonio Food Bank clients served report having to choose between paying for utilities or heating fuel and food; 29% had to choose between paying for rent or a mortgage and food; 36% report having to choose between paying for medical bills or food. A \$20 contribution to the Food Bank will provide 140 meals for hungry people. A \$50 contribution equals 350 meals for hungry people. A \$100 contribution will feed 700 people.

### **February Birthdays**

**6—Aaron Jackel**

**8—Brian Fuller**

**Marsha Torkleson**

**15-Jerry McCrimmon**

**17-Ronald Jackel**

**19-Margaret Galbraith**

**23-Sтивен Smeltzer**

**25-Dawn Higginson**

**29-Lafe Williams**

## Calendar

Feb. 20-22 – Congregational Leaders Retreat, Camp Sionito

Mar 27-29 – Men's Retreat, Camp Sionito

April 24-26 – Women's Retreat, Camp Sionito

~~May 22 – 24 – Multi-Mission Center Gathering, location to be announced – Cancelled!~~

## Breaking News From Bandera!

Many of us take the occasional trip to Bandera for church for this reason or that. So everyone should remember that the Bandera congregation has announced a change in its meeting hours.

Barbara Allen called to report that, effective right away, if you go over to Bandera to worship, Church School will be starting at 9:30 and the main worship service will start at 10:30.

## Great News

We have great news to share with the Shenandoah Congregation! Your Pastorate received word today from Ron Saur, Mission Center CEO, that World Church has approved our request for a \$199,000 loan for improvements to the Fellowship Hall. Now you will start to see change, as Don Tucker, our Building Committee head, confers with the architect for the project and we begin to really move forward. This is exciting!

Pastors Jim Burdick and Richard Cole

## Publish Your Story!

We encourage you to share your story with readers of the *Daily Bread*. Submissions can be e-mailed to [DailyBread2010@comcast.net](mailto:DailyBread2010@comcast.net) and should be 1,500 characters with spaces in length. Most word processing programs have a word/character count feature to assist writers with that requirement. Stories and testimonies should reflect the mission of the church and we are especially looking for stories that focus on peace, justice, and/or reconciliation.

## Greeters in February

1—Doris Jackel

8—Kelly Patten

15—Marilyn McCrimmon

22—Ruth CallierS

Sunday School Shots—1/25/09





## January Financial Information

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
January Receipts	\$4,834.40
Less World Church Funds	\$1,611.63
<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>\$3,222.77</b>
Less Coastal Bend Mission Center Funds	\$265.00
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>\$2,957.77</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
Christian Education	\$56.00
Herald-In-Every Home	\$90.00
Housekeeping/Groundskeeping	\$400.00
Improvements/Equipment	\$87.47
Leadership	\$153.60
Mission Center Support	\$2,225.00
Pastoral Care	\$144.79
Supplies	\$158.37
Utilities	\$481.73
Worship Commission	\$17.76
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,814.72</b>
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>\$2,957.77</b>
Less Total Expenses	\$3,814.72
<b>Variance</b>	<b>(\$856.95)</b>

