

SAINTS ALIVE!

Shenandoah Congregation

November 2005

Be Wise Be Ready

by Edna Workmon

When Jesus lived, a wedding was celebrated differently than we celebrate weddings today. On the wedding night, the bridegroom met his bride at her parent's home, and then walked with her, their family and friends to their new home together. The bridesmaids provided light for the parade through town. The bridesmaids stayed with the bride and prepared their lamps so they would be ready whenever the groom arrived. Oil lamps were made of clay and fit in your hand. Oil squeezed from olives was used as fuel for lamps. The lamps only held a little oil and a small wick, so they had to be watched closely. [from our church school material: Kid's Power and Light]

Jesus told a story in which he compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding. Ten bridesmaids were ready to meet the bridegroom. Five bridesmaids were foolish; they didn't make sure they had oil in their lamps. The other five bridesmaids were wise and were prepared. The bridegroom was late, so all the bridesmaids went to sleep. When the groom arrived, the foolish maids said, "Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out." The wise maids said, "We don't have enough for all. Go buy your own." While the foolish ones went out to buy oil, the other bridesmaids went with the groom and shut the door. When the foolish maids tried to get in they were told by the groom, "No, you were not awake for me, and you were not prepared."

Jesus is like the groom and we are like the bridesmaids. How can we be awake and be ready

when he comes? We need to be good stewards of all that he has entrusted to our care. Taking care of our own spiritual health and that of our families by praying and reading the scriptures is a start. Recognizing our role as trustee of material blessings is important. We are admonished to live on 80% of our income, save 10%, and tithe 10%. If we did that, we would be blessed as individuals and as a church. Currently our church is having a budget crunch. It grieves me that this year may be the next to the last performance of our beloved Independence Messiah presentation.

We need to be doers of the "word" and not just talkers. Keep that oil in your lamp. Be ready for Christ's return.

Important Business Meeting
Election of officers for the upcoming year will be held at a meeting during Family of God Time, 10:30 a.m. November 13, 2005 in our congregation sanctuary.

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace
We are a Community of Christ Congregation, 11910 Vance Jackson, San Antonio, TX 78230. Phone 210-696-0772
Pastorate: Jay Higginson, Carol White and Edna Workmon
www.CoastalBendMC.org www.CofChrist.org

WATCH THE BIRDY!

January 2006 is just around the corner and so is the publication of our Church Directory. This past year we included, for the first time, pictures of our church family. New members found this element of our book very helpful. On Nov. 6th we will begin taking photos in the vestibule area, so get your smiles ready!

WEATHER BULLETIN

(Kim Jobe sent this upbeat message from a local emergency director in Minot, North Dakota. Kim and Scott Jobe attended Shenandoah until Scott was assigned as a base chaplain at Minot AFB)

Up here in the Northern Plains we just recovered from an Historic (may I even say a "Weather Event of Biblical Proportions") a blizzard of up to 24" inches of snow and winds to 50 MPH that broke trees in half, stranded hundreds of motorists in lethal snow banks, closed all roads, isolated scores of communities and cut power to tens of thousands.

George Bush did not come; FEMA staged nothing; no one howled for the government; no one even uttered an expletive on TV ; nobody demanded \$2,000 debit cards; no one asked for a FEMA trailer house; no news anchors moved in. We just melted snow for water, went out in caravans to pluck people out of snow engulfed cars, fired up wood stoves, broke out coal oil lanterns or Aladdin lamps and put on an extra layer of clothes. Even though a Category "5" blizzard of this scale has never fallen this early. . . we know it can happen and how to deal with it ourselves. Don't worry - - everybody is fine!

BOOK REPORT FROM RAY JACKEL

Ray recently finished reading "A Woman After God's Own Heart", by Elizabeth George and he recommends it highly. "Although some may not agree with parts of its point of view, in my opinion it is the best I've read in many years" said Ray. "It is good for both women and men to read this and reflect on our own family life and teachings." Ray added he borrowed it from Cody Library, which is a short distance east of the church on Vance Jackson.

Long Distance Planning

Here's a way to help sort out your innermost feelings, thoughts and desires. Take part in the annual Silent Retreat at the Cenacle Retreat House, February 10-12, 2006, 420 N. Kirkwood, Houston, TX 77079

Study Sessions Underway

The Coastal Bend Mission Center Exploration Program held its first meeting Oct. 14 -16 in Sugarland, Texas, with attendance of 14, including Jim and Carol Burdick. Mark Euritt was the group's instructor. The Exploration Program is a 3-year commitment to study and explore theology, scripture, spirituality and contemporary issues relative to discipleship. Participants earn Temple School credit for each weekend session. They will meet 3 times a year over a 3-year period; each session spanning a full weekend. Facilitators are Community of Christ affiliated insiders/members. The first session explored "The Educated Person's Thumbnail Introduction to the Bible"

BAPTISM CELEBRATED

A sizeable number of visitors were in attendance at the service on Oct 16 when Stacy Cardwell was baptized and confirmed. Stacy was baptized by Elder Carol White and the confirmation spokesman was Elder Donald Tucker

FALL CLEANUP

A small army descended on the Shenandoah Community of Christ November 15th armed with weapons such as scrub buckets, cleaning rags and window spray---doing battle with grime, cobwebs and dirty windows. Crews under the direction of Facility Manager Paul Plummer tackled the large windows, the carpets and the pews, cleaning and polishing the sanctuary and the fellowship hall and making things as spick and span as possible.

A Lesson from Mark Twain

by guest columnist Gus Whutt

"History does not repeat itself, it rhymes." - Mark Twain

Mark Twain is one of my favorite characters. That is, not counting my neighbor Jessup Liston. Jess is special because he picks all manner of flowers from his yard and sautés them into vegetarian sandwiches, then complains about how bad lunch tastes.

Anyway, Mark Twain is best remembered as the writer of great fables centered on the Mississippi River. But he also led a life of other adventures. For instance, he went to the California gold rush. It was during that adventure that we got another one of his quotes—"The coldest winter I ever saw was the summer I spent in San Francisco."

Well, this note isn't about Mark Twain quotes. This is about appreciation. Folks that know Samuel Clemens, writing as Mark Twain, wrote books like Tom Sawyer only know a small part about a very interesting man. Most everyone can find something about Clemens that they don't care for. In fact you might not have to look very far to find something objectionable.

Clemens was a very colorful fellow with a great deal of personal history. Folks that study his life find that there was a lot of life there.

Just like there was more to Samuel Clemens than most of us know, there is more to everyone we know. And, I suppose, if a body looked, they'd find objectionable stuff about all of us. (Yes, even you!) But, if a body looked, they'd find a lot of good stuff about unexpected people.

Get to know folks. Actually look for neat things about the neat folks you know. Find a hidden talent in someone else, or learn why someone is special. Look for reasons to appreciate and love your brothers and sisters. I will bet that we can all find even more to love in the folks around about us. G.W.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

To share our bounty with those less fortunate, we are asking members of our congregation for donations of non-perishable foods, e.g., rice, beans, canned goods, etc. and/or money to purchase meat and other perishable foods. Please begin bringing your contributions on Sunday, Oct. 30 and continue until Sun. Nov. 20. Please give generously so that the baskets will overflow with love. Please give your cash donations to Pat Campbell.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

During the month of October the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, located on Wurzbach and Ewing Halsell, presented two informative seminars attended by Carol White and Jim and Carol Burdick: "Dark Night of the Soul" and "Forgiveness." There are many more seminars in the near future and you can read about them at www.echr.org. Click on the "Sign me Up" feature next to a seminar if you want to attend. Most seminars are free and include a sandwich supper.

The Ecumenical Center is a wonderful resource for learning and counseling and has many Christian professional counselors. If you request an appointment, your fee will be based upon your ability to pay.

NOVEMBER GREETERS

6--Paul and Shelley Plummer

13-Mick and Charla Rogers

20-Pat Campbell

27-Jim and Carol Burdick

Successful Youth Event

An elegant menu featured a drawing of the famed Leaning Tower of Pisa at the Youth Group's dinner on October 22nd as they raised funds for summer camp fees. Candle-lit tables and enthusiastic young waiters and waitresses who served spaghetti and meatballs and all the trimmings were also in evidence. Jim and Patty Walker spearhead the staff of chefs and the food got rave reviews.

(The following note was submitted by Patty Walker)

Thanks to all who supported the Youth Group's Dinner. Your attendance at the event, the donated desserts, and your monetary donations are very much appreciated. The youth group did a fantastic job planning, organizing and executing the event and so the time you all took to see them in action was the most important gift you could give to them. Thanks again!

BANDERA CELEBRATION

One of the historic congregations of the Community of Christ in the nearby Hill Country will be celebrating a re-dedication observance next month. The Bandera congregation was established very early in the pre-Reorganization period under the guidance of Apostle Lyman Wight who headed several Mormon colonies in Texas around the middle of the last century. His group herded their cattle to the Bandera area in 1854, camping at first on the north bank of the Medina River across from the town. Eventually they bought lots in town and built a schoolhouse and a furniture factory. Wight performed the first marriage in Bandera county, uniting his son, Levi Lamoni Wight with Sophia Leyland. During 1854 and '55 the Saints tried to incorporate a farm into their enterprise, purchasing land about 12 miles from town on the Medina River. However those who settled in Camp Mormon ran into Indian troubles and Comanche raiders stole their horses and mules and drove off the cattle herd

In the past year, the Bandera church near the downtown area, has been renovated and repaired, and a special service will be held on December 4th with Apostle Linda Booth and

former resident Steve Calloway, as special guests. Calloway now serves in the Far West Mission Center headquartered in St. Joseph, Mo.

Riley's Vacation

Shenandoah friends Bob and Marvel Riley of the Bandera congregation, recently enjoyed a vacation that sounds like lots of hiking and camping. They sent along the following paragraph of their adventures:

"It gets cool tenting at the Grand Canyon in October. We just returned from checking out the park plus the Petrified Forest, the Gila National Monument, El Morro National Monument and Guadalupe National Park."

November Birthdays

3--Beverly Higginson

8--Allison Anderson

Carol White

10-Jennifer Thiesen

Cassandra Cole

11-Frederick Ayers

12-Kerry Coleman

Marvel Riley

13-Lisa McInnis

14-John Patten

15-Kathlyn Graves

24-Amelia Bowden

29-Tom Walker

CRAFTY LADIES HELP YOUTH

A number of events are helping raise campership funds for the youth of the congregation.

The women, who normally have craft sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays helped with projects at the Spaghetti dinner on the 22nd with \$50 realized from tickets for a wall hanging made by Amy Lewis. Another sum was realized from greeting cards sold by Evelyn Williams. Holiday candles are also for sale. On Sunday Nov. 6th the Crafty Ladies will have a booth at the Christmas Sale at Lion's Field at 2809 Broadway, as part of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation program. The sale will run from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and a full array of handcrafted items will be available at the Recreation Center building. It's a good place to select special holiday gifts.

3 Month Planner

November 2005		11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27/2005
Theme		Be Wise, Be Ready	Create Abundance	When Did We Meet You?	Hope, Come Down
Presider		Jim Burdick	Carol White	Lafe Williams	Kanani Clark
Speaker		John Darling	Wayne Talcott	Jay Higginson	Carol White
Deacon Services		Carol Burdick	Tommy Walker	Pat Campbell	Jim Burdick
Communion Prep		Pat Campbell			
Greeters		Paul & Shelley Plummer	Mick & Charla Rogers	Pat Campbell	Jim & Carol Burdick
Organist		Jay Higginson	Kathlyn Graves	Ivan Pierce	Carol Burdick
Wed. Service	11/2-Don Tucker	11/9-Fred Ayers	Higginson/Cole/Runcik 11/16-Jetta Caraballo	11/23-Marvel Riley	11/30-Jim Burdick
December 2005	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/25	
Theme	Speak Peace	Dare to Rejoice	Give Birth to Love	Surprised by the Light	
Presider	Carol White	Kathleen Cole	Lisa Talcott	Carol Burdick	
Speaker	Richard Cole	Vic Hatch	Lafe Williams	Jim Burdick	
Deacon Services	Mick Rogers	Victor Pierce	Patty & Tom Walker	Pat Campbell	
Communion Prep	Carol White				
Greeters	Mick & Charla Rogers	Ann Yerrington	Patty & Tom Walker	Jim & Carol Burdick	
Organist	Jay Higginson	Ivan Pierce	Kathleen Cole	Jay Higginson	
Wed. Service	12/7-Carol Burdick	No Pot Luck 12/14-Patty Walker	12/21-Edna Workman	12/28-Carol White	
January 2006	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29
Theme	Grow in the Spirit	Baptized in the Spirit	Known by the Spirit	Believe and Follow	Trust in the Spirit
Presider	Edna Workmon	Richard Cole	John Darling	Patty Walker	Jim Burdick
Speaker	Jay Higginson	Kanani Clark	Ivan Pierce	David Sixt	Lafe Williams
Greeting/Deaconing					
Communion Prep	Burdicks				
Organist	Kathlyn Graves	Carol Burdick	Kathleen Cole	Jay Higginson	Ivan Pierce
Wed. Service	1/4	Pot Luck - 1/11	1/18	1/25	