

SAINTS ALIVE!

December 2005

Shenandoah Congregation

Expectation. Anticipation.

With the year-end in sight, we approach the Christmas Season with many expectations. We anticipate the opportunities that are before us. We begin to think about shaping the days, months and the years ahead. Some set goals and resolutions. Some celebrate that they just made it through another day.

We can reflect on many of our accomplishments during the year. What events were most important to us? How were you changed? How are you different? Did you accomplish your goals and expectations? Did you feel like you were in a canoe steering your way through the rapids on the river or did you feel like you were floating downstream being tossed by whatever current came your way.

Frequently, people invest more time looking back, than looking forward. Some are looking nowhere. We are each given the many gifts and the agency to shape our future, to be in control of our tomorrows and how we each can make a difference in the lives of others.

Can you imagine as Mary and Joseph walked toward Bethlehem how they anticipated that their lives would be forever changed with the birth of baby Jesus. What was their conversation on that journey? Did they expect joy and hope? Did they expect great change? Did they understand their role in changing the lives of others... forever?

Making a difference in the world around us keeps us focused on all of God's children and their many needs. In our community, we encounter many people who are suffering physically, emotionally and spiritually. You have been taught the keys to respond.

One in four people in San Antonio suffer from hunger. Over 21,000 persons are homeless and living under our bridges and on our streets. Thousands of others are being evicted, or are living on the sofa of a friend. San Antonio has the largest population of teenage pregnant in the United States, and most of those are not at home and left school. 5 out of every 100 persons are unemployed, more than that are underemployed or unemployable. A greater number suffers from mental illness, substance abuse or other major disorders. How has the Christmas story taught us to respond?

How do you make a difference? When do you extend a hand? What gift do you bring?

As we reflect, we discover how fortunate we are. We discover common ground and find how similar we are with those who appear to be so different. We are blessed to have each other. As we reach out together our gifts are magnified. As you look ahead, what role will you play in reaching into our community? What gifts will you bring into the service of others? Encountering situations that arise from good or catastrophic events may be life-changing experiences... and in all of those places we find Jesus. Truly, a gift. May you each have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.

Jay Higginson

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 - 210-696-0772
Pastorate: Jay Higginson, Carol White, Edna Workmon
www.CoastalBendMC.org ~ www.CoChrist.org

A Happy Wedding

Irina Klepikova (mother of Victoria Smeltzer) and James Jankovich were married on the afternoon of Sep. 3rd by Jim Burdick. Wedding vows were exchanged before family members,



including Stephen's parents (who reside in Canada) and James's two daughters (who live in Austin). The wedding party visited the McNay Museum for pictures and then returned to the Fellowship Hall for a lovely reception, attended by 20 family members and friends. The happy couple reside at 8704 United Kingdom Drive, Austin, TX 78748. The new Mrs. Jankovich came to San Antonio from Russia shortly after her granddaughter was born.



Edna Workmon, Jan Brucks, Evelyn Williams, and Dottie Klaus at the craft sale held at Lion's Field on November 6. The all-day bazaar netted

A Word of Thanks to the Crafty Ladies

Thanks to all the Crafty Ladies for the funds you raised to help our kids go to camp. Camp is such a rich and rewarding experience for the kids and does so much good for them. The mothers and fathers of these children are deeply appreciative of your hard work and efforts and are immensely grateful for your investment in the future of our kids. It does indeed take a village to raise a child, and we are so glad you are members of the village where our children reside. Thanks again from the heart!

News From the Pews

Jim, Patty, and Tom Walker will be traveling to Pennsylvania for the Christmas holiday. They will miss worshipping with their church family on Christmas and New Years days, but will be visiting with their family members back east and enjoying a few days of R&R. They wish their Shenandoah family a warm and blessed holiday.

Christmas Party

We will have our congregation's Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec 10. We will meet at the church at 4:00, to practice a few carols before caravanning to a nursing home on 281. We are scheduled to be there at 5:00. After we return to the church, we will have goodies, ornament exchange, and program. A poster will be up on Sunday to sign up for goodies. If we miss you, we will be calling to let you know what we need.

The ornaments were made by the Crafty Ladies. They will be available at the party. If you have a poem, story, or song, please note on poster or call Ginger Walker 922-6956. See you on the 10th!

Christmas Celebration!

Join us at the Shenandoah Congregation for a live webcast from the Temple Sanctuary on December 11th at 6:45 pm. as choirs, orchestra, and other ensembles from Graceland University lead this musical celebration of the birth of Christ. President Steve Veazey will preside, with Apostle Susan Skoor offering a homily on the theme, "Dare to Rejoice." Other members of the First Presidency will also be involved in the service as well as students and administrators from Graceland University. If you'd like to attend but don't drive after dark, please contact one of your pastors.

Needed: Eyeglasses and cell phones

While you are retrieving your Christmas decorations, why not clean out your cabinets and drawers and donate any cell phones and eyeglasses you no longer use? These can be recycled for charitable use by Verizon Wireless and LensCrafters. There will be a basket in the sanctuary foyer for your donation.

December Birthdays

2--Brenda Higginson	17-Robert Jackel
3--Genevieve Thomason	19-Amy Lewis
3--Ryan McMillan	20-Doris Jackel
3-Ann Yerrington	23-Bob Riley
4-Ray Jackel	24-Jacob Thomason
6-Lisa Clark	25-Laura McMillan
7-Leah Higginson	29-Sara Higginson
10-Sydney Callier	29-Britney Monroe
11-Leilani Loveless	30-April Runcik
12-Lynne Pallas	31-Terri Jackel
12-David Negaard	31-Margot Spiekermann
14-David Sixt	

**Prayer Concerns---Amy and Dorman Lewis.
Mick Rogers, Sylvia Ayers, Marilyn McCrimmon (also
all Holiday travelers)**

LEADERS PICKED FOR 2006

New officers were elected for the upcoming year at the business meeting November 13th.

Chosen as members of the pastorate were Carol White, Jim Burdick and Carol Burdick.

New members on the Long Range Planning Committee are Leah Higginson and Patty Walker.

Current members whose terms extend through 2006 are Pat Campbell and Jim Burdick. Paul Plummer was re-elected as Facilities manager. A new member of the auditing team will be Ray Jackel, who joins Fred Ayers whose term runs through 2006.

The current members of the Building Committee are Don Tucker (chair), David Sixt, Paul Plummer, Carol Burdick, Dick Vorhes.

December 2005	12/4	12/11	12/11	12/18	12/25
Theme	Speak Peace	Dare to Rejoice	Dare to Rejoice	Give Birth to Love	Surprised by the Light
Presider	Kathleen Cole	Carol White	Budget Business Mtg. & Order in Pizza 4:30 PM	Lisa Talcott	Carol Burdick
Speaker	Jay Higginson	Vic Hatch		Lafe Williams	Jim Burdick
Deacon Services	Mick Rogers	Victor Pierce		Patty & Tom Walker	Pat Campbell
Communion Prep	Carol Burdick				
Greeters	Mick & Charla Rogers	Ann Yerrington	Advent Service from the Temple 6:45 PM	Patty & Tom Walker	Pat Campbell
Organist	Ivan Pierce	Jay Higginson/Choir		Jay Higginson/Choir	Ivan Pierce
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-David Sixt	Pot Luck - 1/11-Ray Jackel	1/18-Bob Riley	1/25-Pat Campbell	
February 2006		2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26
Theme		Pause to Pray	Compassion in Action	Bring Friends to Jesus	Set a New Table
Presider		Carol White	Carol Burdick	Pat Campbell	David Sixt
Speaker		Paul McMillan	Barbara Hatch	Jim Burdick	John Darling
Greeting/Deaconing					
Communion Prep	Patty Walker				
Organist				Carol Burdick	
Wed. Service	2/1-Ginny Ford	Pot Luck - 2/8-Jim Burdick	2/15-Fred Ayers	2/22-Carol White	

If you are unable to participate on the date assigned, please trade dates with someone and notify the Worship Commissioner.