

# SAINTS ALIVE!

January 2006

Shenandoah Congregation

## You Are Worth The Effort

[Please read Romans 12:1-5]

In his letter to the Romans, Paul advised: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is."* This has always been a very rich scripture to consider.

The tale is told of Irish farmers Ryan and Sean sailing to America, fleeing the potato famine. On their voyage, the ship began to leak and the passengers were forced to abandon ship. Virtually all the passengers were poor and escaping starvation – America appeared to be their one chance for life. Now their ship was sinking.

Ryan told Sean to follow him, he knew where the life jackets were, but Sean headed the other way. Ryan said, "I can get you a life jacket and you will be safe." Sean responded that he was heading for the lifeboats, because he might be able to help save some of the weaker passengers. Both men were ultimately picked up by another ship, brought to America and lived to old age.

This is a fairly easy tale. But the challenge in the story is the question, "What is the difference between Ryan and Sean?"

Jesus lived and died for us to be freed from bondage to our rebellion - sins, shortcomings, and misuse of our agency. Jesus actually lived to achieve this purpose. And He sincerely does want us to be saved and redeemed. But Paul's advice goes on to say that part of our 'rightness' with God is our oneness with our fellow man.

*"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone, members one of another."*

The world, including San Antonio, seems to be sinking at times. This next year, let's individually and corporately make a splash in San Antonio. We do need folks cheering on the 'splash' of others, but old and young; we each need to help with our own splash.

When the world seems to be sinking, you may feel like heading for the life jackets, and that is understandable. But we need, instead, to all head for the lifeboats and help save the weaker ones.

Let us together head for the lifeboats this year. At this time next year, San Antonio can be more seaworthy and ship-shape, if we will work together. Every week, we provide maybe 8 hours of worship, fellowship, classes, and ministry through 11AM services, Wednesday night, church school, choir, yoga, Crafty Ladies ... It is great that we do these things. But would you consider giving just one more hour a week to make life better for our city, your neighborhood, or someone in need?

Next year, when 2006 becomes history, we could be looking back 2500 hours, or more, of improvement in our community. Let's go help with the lifeboats. **By Jim Burdick**

Kathlyn Graves' grandson, Neil Graves, who works for the Department of Defense will be going to Stuttgart, Germany for six months. He will leave approx. Jan. 2 and return around June 2.

**Amy Lewis:** Heartfelt thanks for your thoughts and prayers during my recent illness and surgery, as well as the many cards. Also thanks for the wonderful food, which kept us supplied for several weeks. I am happy to report a good recovery, and the great blessing that I will not need radiation or chemo. Praise the Lord!

**Dorman and Amy Lewis** were surprised with a birthday/Christmas gift from their daughter Gail of plane tickets to Albuquerque. They left Dec. 30th for about two weeks.

**Sara Higginson** is completing her internship with Disney on January 5 and will return to San Antonio for her spring semester at Our Lady of the Lake. She celebrated Christmas, her 20th birthday and New Years with Disney Parades and fireworks.

**Jon Higginson** completed the marching season with the Judson Band as they followed the Judson Rockets all the way to the State Championship game. He plans to accompany the band to Hawaii in June where they will perform a special WWII concert for Pearl Harbor veterans and march in a Pearl Harbor celebration parade.

### January Birthdays

5--Mick Rogers	18-Jerry Thomason
8--Ginger Walker	19-Jane McGinnis
9--Opal Dorow	20-Amanda Workmon
11-Heidi Workmon	21-Audrey Cole
12-Richard Vorhes	Addison Cole
17-Richard Cole	27-Lauren Loveless
	28-Carol Burdick
	29-Barbara Hatch

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: Jim Burdick, Carol Burdick, and Carol White.

[www.CoastalBendMC.org](http://www.CoastalBendMC.org)

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## Welcome 2006

*Ready or not. a New Year dawns with all of its challenges and opportunities before us. The editors wish you and yours a prosperous and healthful 2006. We are sure exciting events are in store for Shenandoah. Remember, if there is news in your family or things you are involved with...let us know about it!--Lisa Talcott and Lafe Williams*

## BIG SUMMER PLANS

Many of us have fond childhood memories of going to vacation bible school at both Rockwood Court and Capitol Avenue branches. Several years ago, the Shenandoah children had similar experiences when we hosted a vacation bible school.

We think this summer activity has been missing for our children for too long and we are going to have VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL on June 19-23 2006. This is a really BIG effort and we will need lots of helpers for the bible lessons, the songs, the crafts, the play and fun that will be had by all. Clown and puppet ministry will be featured, so dig out that old makeup and find those costumes in the garage. We already have puppets, but need the hands and voices and of course the stage manager!!

Let's get an early start. Please tell Carol White within the next 6 weeks that we can count on you to contribute to this rich experience for our youth. Look and listen for more details as further planning occurs.

## Business Meeting

On December 11 the Shenandoah Congregation approved the 2006 budget in a business meeting attended by 14 members. (A draft copy of the minutes is attached). The group then feasted on pizza, Christmas cookies and cider. A live web cast from the Temple in Independence followed. The Advent service was presented by President/ Prophet Steve Veazey, Apostle Susan Skoor (who brought the homily), and the Graceland University choirs and orchestra.

## OLD BUSINESS

Pastor Jay Higginson reported that a contract with an architectural firm will be signed soon.

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Jim Burdick to consider the 2006 Shenandoah operating budget.

The programs were reviewed first. There was discussion on leadership with a request that more dollars be spent in this area so our leadership team can come back to the congregation with new ways to lead the local church. Jim Burdick stated that things are already being planned for 2006 in this area.

- a. Amy Lewis moved that the budget for the Vision Program (Leadership, Communications and Stewardship) be approved. The motion carried.
- b. The Mission Program (Zionic Outreach and Holiday Ministries) was reviewed next with little discussion. Charles Melenyzer moved that the budget for the Mission program be approved. The motion carried.
- c. The budget for the Celebration Program (Herald-In-Every-Home, Worship Commission, Christian Education, Youth Ministries, pastoral Care and Young Adults) was then reviewed. Pat Campbell moved that the budget for Celebration Program be approved and the motion carried.

During the review process, discussion ensued on the following subjects:

- a. My Community Cares (MCC) – it was asked by the congregation that reports be made on this program's funds. There should be a line item in the budget for MCC. Jim Burdick agreed that a report will be done in 2006.
- b. There was also discussion on the Mission Center Support funds. Questions about what those dollars are used for were explained by both Jay Higginson and Jim Burdick.

The budget for Admin/Operations (Utilities, Building Insurance, etc.) was then reviewed. Lenore Melenyzer moved that the Admin/Operations budget be approved and the motion carried.

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The last budget item to be reviewed was Building (Housekeeping, Grounds-keeping, Repairs, etc.) With little discussion Kathlyn Graves moved that the Building budget be approved and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia A. Walker, Secretary

## **How to Find "Saints Alive!" on the Internet**

For several months now the *Saints Alive* Newsletter has been available online at the Mission Center website. We urge those of you who have internet access to check us out by going to: [www.coastalbendmc.org](http://www.coastalbendmc.org). Then click on Congregations. Next: Shenandoah TX. Next: Shenandoahs Newsletter HERE. Shenandoah – 1-2006. We'd like to hear feedback from you (Do you like it? Will you use it? Could we save on paper/postage?)