

# SAINTS ALIVE!

April 2006

Shenandoah Congregation

## Promises, Promises

*Just as the winter fades away  
To this one hope I cling  
Our God, who gives the winter wind  
Will surely bring the spring.*

*Marilyn Ferguson*

Looking at the title of this article, you might believe that this will be about a Broadway musical or a commentary about modern advertising. It is neither!

As this is written, it is the day that is the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Tomorrow is one of my favorite days of the year, the first full day of spring. I like the first day of summer better (because I like 'hot'), but the first day of spring always represents one of God's promises to me. God gave us a world of cycles and repeated cycles, and the first day of spring represents that the 'hot' is coming!

This is a season of other promises, as well. The Easter season is our annual reminder that we receive several important promises from God. I'd like to remind you of a few.

First, we are promised that God has paid a price to keep us in His household. There is nothing we can do to earn the position; it is offered freely, by the gift of Grace. In fact, if it could be 'purchased' the purchase price of our redemption would cheapen the value of the Grace. The promise of Grace is the promise that we are more valued than anything we could do to earn our own way.

Second, we are never left alone. In the days following His resurrection, Jesus promised to send a comforter. And some of His last words were 'Lo, I am with you always.' (Matthew 28:19) This promise has been a comfort to many people during the generations since the first Easter.

Third, we are promised that our lives have meaning and purpose. Recall the great

commission 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' (Matthew 28:17-18) What a promise that not one soul is without purpose or designed to be lost!

The religious season, the climatic season (at least in the northern hemisphere), even our seasons of social activities promise to go through a renewal at this time of year. It truly is a season of promises, promises.

And it is with these promises that we exercise the choice to respond to or decline the promises of our Creator. I pray that we will all join in encouraging and supporting each other in the renewal of the 'Right Spirit' sought in Psalm 51. It is with this 'Right Spirit' that we can be a healing influence in a broken world.

-----Pastor Jim Burdick

*Note: Just after writing this column, Jim Burdick was hospitalized for treatment of pancreatitis. Carol says it appeared he had an allergy to medicine prescribed for other ailments. He is responding well to treatment and should be home within a few days. Please remember Jim and Carol in your prayers.*

## Rogers Relocated

New contact information for two church friends who departed in February:

Mick and Charla Rogers  
8070 Keel Road  
Las Cruces, NM 88012.  
210-771-9283 cell phone.

### Check These Out:

Forms for Campership, Youth Camp, and Reunion #1 & #2 are available on the Bulletin Board.

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace.

11910 Vance Jackson, San Antonio, TX 78230. Phone 210-696-0772

Pastorate: Jim Burdick, Carol White and Carol Burdick

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## **Ayers' Son Honored**

Dr. Sam Ayers, son of Fred and Sylvia Ayers, was honored recently in Lubbock, Texas, where he is an administrator in the Lubbock school district.

Ayers, principal of the Hutchinson Junior High School, was inducted into the African-American Chamber of Commerce Educator's Hall of Fame. The honor was bestowed at a banquet at the Lubbock Memorial Hall.

Some years ago, during the time he was serving at the Ella Iles Elementary School, Ayers wrote a book, researching the history of Ms. Iles, entitled "Ella Iles: Early Texas Teacher." The late Ms. Iles was a pioneer African-American teacher.

After obtaining his BA and MA from Trinity University, Ayers earned his Ed. D. at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and has been a professional educator for 20 years. He has authored several other books, including "African American Heroes of Lubbock" and one covering the life of educator and scientist, George Washington Carver. His most recent is "Lubbock's Public Sculpture" a comprehensive pictorial history of the statues and sculptures in the West Texas city.

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The Shenandoah congregation has reluctantly bid farewell to longtime stalwart members. Amy and Dorman Lewis. In a message to Saints Alive! Amy and Dorman said, "It's impossible to say how sad we feel at the thought of leaving all the wonderful people of Shenandoah congregation. It seems, however, that this is the Lord's will for us, and we must do it. We promise we will keep in touch and will always be interested in what is going on. We will be glad to hear from everyone who will write or phone or e-mail." Love to all, Dorman and Amy"

The March 8<sup>th</sup> Wed. night service had the theme of "Remembrances of Amy and Dorman." Thirteen people expressed their fond memories of the Lewises and everyone present enjoyed an evening of reminiscing. The service ended with the hymn, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." During the March 12<sup>th</sup> Family of God time Pastor Carol White presented a going away gift to them: Congregational picture with autographed matting and restaurant coupons to use on their trip to Albuquerque, NM. Their new address will be: Sage Canyon Apartments #29, 6134 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Until they get a phone installed they can be contacted through a daughter's phone, Gail Miller 505-255-9985 (Cell) 505-249-0184

## **Directories Available**

2006 Shenandoah Directories are available on the table in the vestibule. Please notice that in the back of the directory (page 44) are change of address forms. During the year if your personal information changes, please let us know by filling out a form and dropping it in the offering plate. There is a donation container by the directories and any donations received will help with the costs of mailing directories to congregational members.

## **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Observed**

On February 18 Margaret Galbraith's family surprised her with a dinner celebration in honor of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Twenty-five family members gathered at La Fonda's Restaurant to wish Margaret a "Happy Birthday." Most of the guests traveled from various parts of the U.S. to attend the party. Margaret's two sons, Bob and Gary, as well as their wives, Connie and Pat, 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren relished an evening of enjoying great Mexican food, picture-taking/reminiscing, and consuming a delicious birthday cake.

## **A BUSY APRIL UPCOMING**

**Apr 2** - Tom Mountenay from world church will conduct the adult class about CPI (co-mission pastor initiative) a 5-year commitment training program and our financial responsibilities as a congregation. Also he will be the speaker at the 11 o'clock worship service and will continue the class after a snack lunch. Please bring sandwiches, chips, dips, fruit, and/or cookies for your family plus extra to share.

**Apr 9** - Pot luck after church will honor Marsha & Brad Torkelson with a Baby Shower (it's a girl!) They are registered at Baby's R Us.

**Apr 16 - Easter**, There will be a brunch at 9 a.m. for all who wish to attend. A sign up list is posted in the educational bldg. There will be no classes that morning. At 10:15 the children will have an Easter egg hunt. Following the morning worship service, David Sixt will take our annual branch picture.



## Poetry Corner

Whisper awake  
the deep well  
of self love  
within my soul

Let these waters  
soften my soul's garden  
allowing the seeds planted  
to burst into riotous colors

Free me from reaching out  
to scrape my self-esteem  
off people outside myself

As I awaken  
the search begins  
help me find this love  
that lives on the edge  
of my soul

A daughter of darkness and light  
darkness brought rest  
now let me live in the  
dawn of awakening  
let me walk in the light  
the "secret presence of the divine"

Anoint my heart  
free me from the  
entanglements  
negativity  
bitterness  
annihilation  
of self

Help me be still  
so that love  
can discover me

Help me turn loose the  
"corpses of past relationships"  
that are NOT a confirmation  
of who I am

Love is not a burden  
but the circle of belonging  
that thru this work  
in learning to love myself  
I may learn to love another.

This love must come  
from the wellspring with  
waters flowing together  
love as soul friends  
whispered awake.

---Linda Holder, Dec. 25, 1995  
inspired by Anna Cara by John O'Donohue

## Congratulations!

Tommy Walker has been accepted into the Science and Engineering magnet school at Jay High School. He will spend his high school years there beginning in August. Also, Tommy took second place in his division (Earth Science) at the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair on March 11<sup>th</sup>. He was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship at The University of the Incarnate Word.

*"A great library contains  
the diary of the human race."*

----George Mercer Dawson

### April Greeters

2--Doris Jackel  
9--Evelyn and Lafe Williams  
16--Carol White  
23--Patty Walker  
31--Lisa Talcott

## Youth Choir

**Drawing members from all the Sunday school classes, the Shenandoah Youth Choir performed in March for the first time. Under the direction of Kathleen Cole, the choir practices on Sundays during the church school hour. They will be performing more frequently to enhance our worship services. Look for a special performance in April featuring Samantha Callier on the flute and the rest of the choir members with musical instruments.**