

# SAINTS ALIVE!

May 2006

Shenandoah Congregation

## *The Pastor's Corner*

*By Carol Deane White*

The themes for May are all about love: "Acting in Love," "Loved into Love", "Create a Better World," and "Accept God's Love." All of these themes make me think of two women who are no longer in our presence; Amy Lewis, who has moved to another state and Velda Nevill, who lives in God's neighborhood now. Both of these women knew about loving and created a better world for many. They are, and were, God's gift to us. Amy has loved me a good part of my adult life and was available for me in some of my darkest hours. She told me, showed me and loved me with very simple lessons of faith and enduring that have served me very well for many years. Amy touched every life at Shenandoah in some way for good over the years. Just a few days ago, I got her e-mail telling me that she and Dorman were settling nicely into their new home. She told me how she missed me and was proud of me. So thanks, Amy, for continuing to love me from a distance and it is as powerful as it was 20 years ago.

My experience with Velda was less often, but again a simple and profound example of quiet service to me with love. I told this story at her "celebration of life" service and would like to share it with you again. Several years ago I led a women's retreat for the Texas Hills District at Camp Sionito. The title of the retreat was "Sacred Places of the Hill Country." The purpose of the retreat was to introduce the labyrinth as a physical spiritual practice. That weekend we all experienced prayer and meditation, out of doors, in nature, in a physical way that most of us had not experienced. Velda was very familiar with prayer and meditation, going to her center to meet God to ask for a blessing and direction for her life, then to come out into the world to express that blessing or call to service. I suggested that she had been doing that all of her life and the labyrinth was just another tool to enhance her spiritual practices. But as I recall at the retreat, she was very interested, with a childlike curiosity about how to use the labyrinth. She thanked me many times for leading the retreat.

I know that many of you have been in various leadership positions for retreats, camps, and/or reunions and you are well aware that when you take the "show to Sionito" it can be a lot of work, packing and unpacking which can leave you very tired. Even though

the retreat was relatively work-free since we visited many other sites already developed, there was still a lot of work to do. By the time Sunday evening rolled around, I was very tired and I dreaded taking down the labyrinth that my cousins had helped me build in the tabernacle months before. When I drove my car up to the tabernacle, there was Velda finishing up the task of taking down the labyrinth and it was all neatly stacked to load into my car. Such a simple, kind and loving thing for her to do. I never asked her to help and she just took it upon herself to do this job...simple though it may have been, it was not physically easy. There were several small timbers and lots of rocks to be re-deposited on the grounds; there were loads of candles and other worship-type materials to be gathered up. I have never forgotten that act of service and how much it relieved my workload at the end of the retreat. Velda was always interested in things I was doing on my spiritual journey and asked me every time she saw me, with that childlike curiosity. She always asked about my family, but most of all she loved me.

Yes, Amy Lewis and Velda Nevill are modern day examples of "Love in Action." I love them both and God bless them. If you ever want to know what it looks like or how to do it...learn from these two great women of our own faith movement, for they truly understand what it means to be in the Community of Christ, creating joy, hope, love and peace.

## **Jim Burdick Update**

*Co-Pastor Jim Burdick had an attack of pancreatitis in March and was hospitalized for 10 days. He was home for 2 weeks but had a setback – he developed a pseudo cyst (near the pancreas) which was basically an infection. After an 11- day hospital stay, he was released to his home with meds delivered intravenously. Jim and Carol have received much love and support in the way of hospital visits, prayers, and cards from their Shenandoah family and they really feel blessed in the midst of this illness. Please continue to remember Jim in your prayers because he faces an extended period of recovery.*

## **Sad News**

Shenandoah friends of Velda Neville and her family are saddened to learn of the death of the Austin congregation member recently. Velda's family hosted a Celebration of Life service for her in March at the church.

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

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## **SIONITO HELP NEEDED**

We are quickly coming up on the youth camping season at Camp Sionito and there is much yet to be done. There is one more work weekend scheduled (May 20th) and we hope to get as much support as possible to get things ready for the camping season.

Even if you have a day other than May 20<sup>th</sup> it is possible you can be scheduled. Please contact Jim Tingle at one of these numbers and tell him you are coming!

*Home 512-258-7538 ---Cell 512-809-8988*

### **Giving Makes Difference**

The church received an estimated \$735,000 in World Ministries Mission Tithes in February 2006. Contributions for the first eight months of the fiscal year total \$7,310,000, which is \$660,000 more than the same period last year and \$400,000 ahead of budget for this point in the year. Because your giving has increased, we now expect this year's budget deficit to be lower than the \$3.5 million that had been projected.

### **HELP WANTED**

Shenandoah Congregation is seeking a person to be our Audio/Visual Facilitator. We have no requirements as to age, gender, or A/V knowledge. We'll teach you everything you need to know to facilitate our congregational worship. Your skills WILL lead to enhanced worship and ministry for the congregation.

Our person of interest will be present at most of our services in order to assist the presider or speaker and should also be present during the Sunday School hour. Please give this prayerful consideration and if you have an interest, seek out a member of the Pastorate and offer your services. This would truly be a loving service for someone to give our congregation.

### **BE SURE TO GET REGISTERED**

May 20-21 Camp Sionito Work Party  
May 25-29 Young Adult (18-30 years of age) Reunion,  
Camp Sionito Youth Camps and Reunions are just around the corner. Plan now to attend one or more of these events. They are the perfect prescription for spiritual renewal!

### **News From the Pews....**

Katie Rose Spiekermann is excited that she has been accepted to attend Health Careers High School this fall. She got her acceptance letter the

same day that she and her doubles partner won 3rd place in the end-of-season middle school tennis tournament, so it was a special day all around. Also from the Spiekermanns:

Rachel had a baby girl, Evelyn Clare, born on March 29. Katie Rose and Margot promptly flew to California to spend a week spoiling the newest family member. True to form, Rachel and Tim are already reading books to her.

Opal Dorow had a great reunion with her daughters, when Jo An came from her home in Shreveport for a five day visit in April. Opal and her three daughters, Jo An, Dottie, and Ginger, were able to attend church at Shenandoah and later Dottie and Dalton had the whole family for dinner, Jo An works for a doctor in Shreveport and she loves her job, but is thinking of retiring later this year.

April 20<sup>th</sup> would have been Opal Dorow's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Ginger got flowers for her Mom from her three girls and wrote a beautiful poem to accompany them.

### **Music to Our Ears**

An opportunity to attend a summer organ camp for young musicians in the church is offered by Graceland University of Lamoni, IA. The camp will run from August 14 through the 18 and attendees must be between the ages of 13 and 18.

The campers must have prior keyboard training at play at least at an intermediate level. Students will have daily private organ lessons and have designated practice hours each day.

Attendees also will have the opportunity to travel to Independence to play the two world class organs in the Auditorium and the Temple. For further information and enrollment forms contact Dr. David Pickering at [dpickering@graceland.edu](mailto:dpickering@graceland.edu) or (641) 784-5082.

### **Community of Christ DIVORCES STUDIED**

Air Force Chaplain Scott Jobe, who recently attended the Shenandoah congregation with his wife and son, Kim and David, is now working on his Doctorate of Ministry while stationed at Minot, North Dakota. As one part of his study, Scott is conducting a survey, gathering information about divorced members of the Community of Christ church. You may access the survey form by visiting this website:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zqi?p=WEB22588LU5RRC>

## *May Birthdays*

5--Timothy Holder

7--Aurora Runcik

13-Marilyn McCrimmon

14-Lisa Talcott

Sarah Monroe

17-Samantha Callier

18-Eric Higginson

22-Naomi Heckman

25-P.J. Sifuentez

28-Victoria Smeltzer

29-Mary Fryer

### **GREETERS IN MAY**

Doris Jackel

Jan & Arlie Brucks

Paul & Shelley Plummer

Lafe & Evelyn Williams

<b>May 2006</b>	<b>5/7</b>	<b>5/14</b>	<b>5/21</b>	<b>5/28</b>	
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Act in Love</b>	<b>Loved into Loving</b>	<b>Create a Better World</b>	<b>Accept God's Gift</b>	
<b>Presider</b>	Ginger Walker	Lisa Talcott	Pat Campbell	Edna Workmon	
<b>Speaker</b>	Carol White	Kathleen Cole	Patty Walker	Earl Anderson	
<b>Greeting/Deaconing</b>	Doris Jackel	Brucks	Plummers		
	Communion Prep: Doris Jackel		Pot Luck: McMillan/Plummer		
<b>Organist</b>	Jay Higginson	Carol Burdick	Kathlyn Graves	Kathleen Cole	
<b>Wed. Service</b>	5/3 Edna Workmon	5/10 Jim Burdick	5/17 Ray Jackel	5/24 Carol White	5/31 Marvel Riley
<b>June 2006</b>	<b>6/4</b>	<b>6/11</b>	<b>6/18</b>	<b>6/25</b>	
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Set Our Hearts on Fire</b>	<b>Born of the Spirit</b>	<b>Become New</b>	<b>Courage!</b>	
<b>Presider</b>	Richard Cole	Patty Walker	Carol White	Paul McMillan	
<b>Speaker</b>	Jim Burdick	Kanini Clark	Carol Burdick	Lafe Williams	
<b>Greeting/Deaconing</b>	Carol White		Tuckers	Doris Jackel	
	Communion Prep: Pat Campbell	Pot Luck: Kelly Patten & Burdicks			
<b>Organist</b>	Jay Higginson	Kathlyn Graves	Kathleen Cole	Carol Burdick	
<b>Wed. Service</b>	6/7 Fred Ayers	6/14 Doris Jackel	6/21 David Sixt	6/28 Ray Jackel	
<b>July 2006</b>	<b>7/2</b>	<b>7/9</b>	<b>7/16</b>	<b>7/23</b>	<b>7/30</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Excel in Generosity</b>	<b>Experience God's Grace</b>	<b>Glorify God</b>	<b>Gather around Jesus</b>	<b>Be Filled</b>
<b>Presider</b>					
<b>Speaker</b>					
<b>Greeting/Deaconing</b>	Doris Jackel	Patty Walker		Edna Workmon	Callier Family
	Communion Prep:	Pot Luck			
<b>Organist</b>					
<b>Wed. Service</b>	7/5	7/12	7/19	7/26	