

# SAINTS ALIVE!

June 2006

Shenandoah Congregation

## Open Your Eyes!

By Co-Pastor Carol Burdick

I love the message conveyed in the hymn, "This is My Father's World," because it speaks to me of beauty, nature, springtime, and new life. *"This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres."* Sometimes it's easy to take life for granted, not just our own, but all of the various forms of life around us.

As I spend time gardening and caring for our yard, I'm surprised at how much pleasure I receive from observing nature. There are three hummingbirds that eat from the feeder located on our deck and we think they are the identical ones that feasted there last season. What fun it is to fill the feeder with fresh sugar water and watch them hover in midair as they fill their beaks.

Many of us smiled at Apostle Linda Booth's comments at the dedication of the Bandera church. She talked of how people get "goofy" when they become grandparents – she'd seen it happen to colleagues (and herself) as they gazed into the eyes of God's most beautiful creation. In May, the Talcotts got "goofy" over grandson Lafe Talcott and so did the Burdicks over granddaughter Hannah Torkelson.

It seems as though babies of many species are everywhere in my world; "they" say when you are looking for something, you begin seeing examples everywhere; these examples were always there, we just didn't notice before. That's how it seems to me these days – new life is everywhere!

Last week I noticed a beautiful male redbird hopping around on the ground. I decided to be very careful as I trimmed the shrub by the gate because of my feathered friend – and then I discovered a neat, compact nest. I checked on it

a couple days later – surprise – it had one egg enveloped in its walls. Two days later, there were two eggs. Now, there are a total of three eggs and momma bird is constantly sitting on the nest warming those soon-to-be chicks.

What a gift God has given us! What a wonderful life we share with all creation and how rich can be our enjoyment if we sensitize ourselves to it. Enjoy the beauty of your world - open your eyes and look around. Praising the beauty of God's creation is an essential part of our ongoing faith journey and worship experience.

## Building Committee Lays Foundation for Project



Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday July 9. During the Worship hour, Building Committee Chair Don Tucker reports the architect will be available to explain plans for the expansion and renovation of the fellowship hall...and the Committee presentation will be outlined in detail. It has been a long and difficult time of planning and research, but it appears we may be getting much closer to a groundbreaking event.

The meeting will start at 11 a.m.

### New Worship Banner

Marilyn McCrimmon, working with the Crafty Ladies, has completed a new worship banner for the Shenandoah congregation. The wall hanging ties in with the theme for June, the Holy Spirit. The outlined window depicted on the fabric art represents an individual's life. The Holy Spirit enters with the flame of God's life and power.

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

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## **Learn How to take Bites Out of Hunger**

A follow-up to the successful CROP WALK fundraiser earlier this year is to be held on Monday evening, June 5<sup>th</sup> in the Sky Room at Incarnate Word University, 847 E. Hildebrand. The San Antonio Food Bank and representatives of various faith communities will discuss the causes of and possible solutions to hunger. It also gives attendees the opportunity to hear from a diverse group of speakers representing a wide range of faiths and to discuss how they can make a difference in the fight to end hunger. This event is free and open to the public. Plan to attend to stay informed of what our walking and dollars do for those less fortunate. If you are interested let Carol White know and carpooling will be arranged.

## **Honors to Klaus and Dorow**

On Sunday, June 11, Dalton Klaus and Carl Dorow will be honored with a reception for the presentation of the Derrel Dee Webb Lifetime Service Award. It will be held at the Lodge at Camp Sionito at 4:30 PM. We would be happy to have you attend with our family as part of our church family.

## **Delegates and Alternates Selected for Coastal Bend Mission Conferences**

The following members were elected at a business meeting in March to represent Shenandoah at Coastal Bend Mission Center Conferences this fall, including the Conference and Retreat which will be held at Camp Sionito October 28-29, 2006.

Delegates are **Jim Burdick, Carol Burdick, Carol White, Patty Walker** and **Edna Workmon**. Alternates: **Ginger Walker, Ray Jackel, Tom Walker**.

## **New Beginnings Noted**

At our May potluck, we honored several people who had some endings and new beginnings. Some involved educational achievements others involve new life experiences.

**Sidney Callier** is completing elementary school and will be entering middle school in the fall. We have three young people who will be entering high school in the fall. They are: **Samantha Callier, Katie Rose Spiekermann,** and **Tommy Walker**. All three of these young people are outstanding students who have been honored in their various schools for their achievements. All three have been in the National Junior Honor Society. I am sure they will continue to achieve great things in their futures.

**Jennifer Theisen** is graduating from Judson High School. She, too, has been an outstanding student. She enjoys scrap booking, soccer, and fishing. She plans to attend Blinn College in College Station to study biology this fall. She also is considering transferring to Graceland the following year. Her long term plans include attending medical school. Good luck, Jennifer, in all your future endeavors.

**Lisa Talcott** graduated from UTSA last December with a Masters in Bicultural - Bilingual Studies with an ESL concentration. She is continuing her job as an academic adviser in the college of business at UTSA. She is also proud of her new grandson **Lafe**, and is looking forward to **Wayne** being around more as he begins his new assignment as Squadron Commander of the Mental Health Unit at Wilford Hall.

**Jim Walker** has retired and is looking forward to having more free time -- after finishing his "honey-do" list which should take several months!

Good luck to all the new beginnings!  
By Ginger Walker

## Service Recognition

In addition to the green "checks" on which members are invited to list their weekly gifts of time and service, the Pastorate has launched another recognition program, the giving of "Stars in Your Crown" awards for service "above and beyond."

Pastor Carol White presented the first symbolic stars for several who volunteered for extra cleanup after a May wind and hail storm struck the area and covered the parking lot with leaves and tree debris. Dalton Klaus, Dick Vorhes, Doris Jackel and Kelley Patten were the first to be recognized. Carol said other random acts of service and assistance to benefit the congregation will be cited throughout the year.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1--Isaac Negaard    12-Wayne Spiekermann  
2--Joseph Runcik    12-Paul Plummer  
4--Ginny Ford    17-Kelsey Negaard  
5--Morgan Negaard    19-Reta Tucker  
6--Brian Coleman    20-Jeeta Caraballo  
7--Jon Talcott  
9--Michael Theisen



## Lady of Letters

Jeanne Guthrie had a poem published in the Arts section of the San Antonio Express news on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>. Here is her wonderfully evocative poem:

## "Heart's Home"

Sirens scream, horns honk, telephone nags,  
Hot sun punishes a dry, no-color landscape.  
Life is crowded by too much "me."

I need to go home.

On the highway, hot coffee and a honeybun and  
Delbert singing me down the road.

Nine rivers to cross---names roll like poetry,  
Colorado, Brazos, Navasota, Sabine,

I'm coming home.

Louisiana closes round me with primeval calm.

Stillness stirred by black water lapping.

A turtle holds vigil on half-submerged log.

Somewhere in the swamp a woodpecker's  
tapping.

Dark-green canopy diffuses the sun,

Moss hangs silver from

Cypress trees, standing proud and silent on  
bent, gnarled knees.

A squirrel fusses overhead.

Bass splashes nearby.

Cottonmouth undulates, barely ripples the water.

I dip my hand in warm fish-scented water, wipe  
the sweat from my face, wash the cares from my  
soul.

I'm content.

I'm home.

ALSO NOTE: *Jeanne was also interviewed for an article in the San Antonio daily newspaper about the new field of psycho-oncology. It's a new method of applying special counseling techniques to those who have dealt with the stress and trauma of undergoing cancer treatment. It's expected the article will be published before June 1, so be looking for it.*

June Greeters

4<sup>th</sup>—Carol White

11<sup>th</sup>—

18<sup>th</sup>—Tuckers

25<sup>th</sup>—Doris Jackel

Editor's Note: Most of us know that Co-Pastor Jim Burdick has been struggling with health issues for the past several months. He assures us he is making a steady recovery from multiple illnesses which sapped his strength but he still has a road to travel to get back to normal. In contemplating his hospital stays he submitted the following article for Saints Alive!

## Called To Tolerance

By Jim Burdick

Mental health is something many of us only consider in terms of having problems; for example "Sally seems to have a mental health problem, she acts paranoid all the time." The fact is mental health is relative. We all range between having good mental health and poor mental health, but we all have mental health.

I would like to share some thoughts about mental health, including a personal experience. Our society tends to shun folks that have mental health problems. I think we do this because we treat the person as though they were the condition. Since we usually do not understand the condition and don't know how to fix it, we tend to ostracize the person. Often we feel that this is the wise decision based on fear.

Many mental conditions have very effective treatments. Some conditions may present some dangers, and we can acclimate ourselves to others. We must not shun people with mental conditions out of hand.

One thing we can do is try to support persons with mental conditions as they exercise their stewardship by working with medical professionals to address their condition. We can support, encourage, and enable people trying to improve their mental health.

My reason for writing this is that during one of my recent stays in hospital Intensive Care Units, I experienced a mental condition called ICU Psychosis. This condition occurs in 1 of 3 patients that spend several days in ICU. I hallucinated, was depressed, heard voices, and saw people that weren't there. The scary thing is that I was aware of these, I could sense when they were happening,

and they happened anyway. The condition caused me to interact with non-existent people, unhook monitors, distrust nurses, and experience extreme fear - among other things.

My condition went away when I went from ICU to a normal room. Some people's conditions don't resolve that easy.

So, I write this to try to enlighten us about a subject that I am not expert in, but have personal reason to care about. When you consider mental health, I would like you to consider the following:

- Try to honor the person by not treating them as their condition
- If someone is under medical care respect, encourage and support them
- If you feel you might have a mental condition, please exercise your stewardship and seek treatment
- Learn, study, and inform regarding the subject of mental health.

We need to remember that if we are to minister to all, we must be close to all.

## BIG SMILES BELOW:

A pastor got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

A very gracious lady was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.