

# SAINTS ALIVE!

July 2006

Shenandoah Congregation

## Live In True Gratitude

*Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies.*

Charles E. Jefferson (1860 - 1937)

*Hearts, like doors, can ope with ease*

*To very, very little keys,*

*And don't forget that they are these*

*"I thank you, Sir"; and, "If you please."*

Anonymous

I probably owe an apology to several parents. I don't always, but from time to time, I 'correct' or offer guidance and advice to kids that choose not to say "Thank you" or "Please." Not all such 'kids' that I encounter are young; some are not even younger than me.

It might occur anywhere, in person, on the telephone, even by email. But it seems that common courtesy is not as expected or prevalent as I recall in my youth. So it is that at times, I will prompt with the word "Please ..." when someone asks for something and neglects to add that courtesy. Or "your welcome" when the person neglects to say "Thanks".

People's reactions vary. (Truly) Young folks tend to look at me like I have three heads. (Older) Young folks usually realize that they neglected to add the courtesy and quickly do so. I feel that it is better to expect courtesy than to expect the lack of it.

What you just read describes a very human perspective on gratitude. That is, we often view it in 'transactional' terms - one gives, the other gets; one thanks, the other says "you are welcome."

Spiritual gratitude is not transactional. Pure gratitude is a condition of the heart. Our Creator

made us in 'His image,' which places a bit of His essence in each of our lives. The pure gratitude that can come with that essence is the gratitude that does not require a gift.

Such is the gratitude we can live our lives in. It might be misconstrued that we are grateful because of Salvation through Grace. But that would move both grace & gratitude from the infinite to the finite and would be a disservice to God.

I would like to propose - no, strike that - I want to challenge you to look deep in your being and let the spark of the Creator loose. Live a life of greater pure gratitude. Change your gratitude from transactional to spiritual. If the hearts of other can be opened with two tiny little keys, use the infinite gratitude, the infinite courtesy, to minister to others.

I am transactionally grateful for your prayers and support during my recent, and still ongoing, health battles. But I also have a pure gratitude for the system of creation. The manner and means of our very existence reflect the presence of an all powerful, all loving, and all encompassing God.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken, 1674

by Jim Burdick

### **JOIN US EVERY WEEK:**

**Sunday services:** Church School 9:30 a.m.  
and Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

**Wednesday fellowship,** 7:30 p.m.

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

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## News From the Pews

The **Walkers** have relocated to a different home, but remain in the Helotes area. The new address for **Jim, Patty and Tommy Walker** is: 11335 Newkirk, Helotes, TX 78023. Phone numbers and e-mails remain the same.

**Dottie and Dalton Klaus** met daughter Trudy and her friend at Branson, Missouri in mid May. Dottie reported they took in four shows and had great fun. Dottie said if laughter could cause weight loss...each would have shed 20 pounds.

**Dr. Samuel Ayers**, son of **Fred and Sylvia Ayers**, has won another high honor. He was named by the Texas Council of Teachers of English, as the outstanding College Educator of the year. He is the executive director and lecturer at the Knowledge Center of Lubbock Christian University.

### Welcome a New Member

**Amalia Bowden** entered the water of baptism on Sunday May 21, and became the newest member of our congregation. The baptism was conducted in the Bowden's family pool at her home in northwest San Antonio. Officiating was **Clayton Kanani Clark**. His brother, **Melvin Kauila Clark** assisted in the confirmation of Amalia. **Dee, Gerardo, Makani and Kealani Marquez** are neighbors of the Bowden's. The Marquez family was at the baptism, along with Amalia's family, which includes **Penny and Robert** (her mother and father) and **Bartise** (her brother.) Bartise and Amalia have attended church with the Marquez family for several years.

### EASIER THAN EVER TO BE CHARITABLE

Online contributing is a convenient way to give so your Mission Tithes can impact lives around the world. Visit [www.CofChrist.org](http://www.CofChrist.org) and click on "Contribute Online" to access a secure giving option to contribute to World Ministries, Oblation, and World Hunger.

### FORMER IOWANS WANTED

People who may have lived in Iowa City or have church connections there are being sought. The Iowa City congregation is retiring its loan and the church is paid in full. A dedication weekend will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27. If you have a story to share, we want to hear it. Please contact us at: [ridgechurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ridgechurch@mchsi.com). Include your current name, address, and phone number. Of course, everyone is welcome to attend a full weekend of events, August 26 and 27.

### July Greeters

**2<sup>nd</sup>— Reta Tucker**      **23<sup>rd</sup>—Edna Workmon**  
**9<sup>th</sup>—Patty Walker**      **30<sup>th</sup>—Callier Family**  
**16<sup>th</sup>--**

## NEW ROLE FOR VICTOR HATCH

The Shenandoah congregation will be hosting a superannuation ceremony honoring **Vic Hatch** on Sunday July 2, 2006. Everyone in the Coastal Bend Mission Center and elsewhere who knew Vic and his stalwart ministry are invited to attend. The celebration starts at 2:30 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. Vic's son, Appointee **Steve Hatch**, a former pastor at Shenandoah, will bring the communion message at the morning worship.

## PROGRESS AT CAMP SIONITO

A year ago the Sionito Campgrounds Association articulated five initiatives that would be implemented in an effort to enhance the overall quality of the Sionito Campgrounds facility.

- Transform Camp Sionito into a first class retreat and conference center.
- Increase the size of the donor and volunteer base and promote regularity of contributions by donors and volunteers.
- Enhance the appearance and usefulness of the Camp Sionito website.
- Assure professional quality marketing of the campgrounds to new as well as existing customers.
- Ensure the financial long-term viability of the campgrounds through profitable operation of the Lodge and RV Park.

Great progress has been made in all these areas and full details are posted on the bulletin board. During 2005, contributions to Camp Sionito totaled \$96,614.46. There is a fund-raising goal of \$75,000 for 2006, and the Board has authorized expenditures of up to \$105,000 as funds are received.

### *Busy Higginsons*

Jay, Leah and Jon Higginson vacationed in Waikiki, Hawaii with the Judson High School Band that performed at the Pearl Harbor Memorial and marched in the Pan Pacific Parade. While in Hawaii, they spent most of their time sightseeing and enjoying the beaches. Jay and Jon will be back-packing in Northern New Mexico from June 23 to July 2. Sara started working at USAA as a summer intern. With the baseball and the school season over for Jon, he has found time to complete his Driver's Ed classes.



### **Patriotic Potluck Picnic**

On July 9, the Shenandoah potluck will have a 4th of July theme. Please bring picnic-type foods - sandwich fixings, potato salad, baked beans, etc.

Though probably too hot to have an outdoor picnic, we can have one indoors!

### **Pray Daily for Peace**

A brief worship service is held daily at 12:30 p.m. central time at the Temple in Independence, MO. Join in prayer from wherever you are. For details and the text of each day's prayer, visit [www.CofChrist.org/prayerpeace/](http://www.CofChrist.org/prayerpeace/).

### **Thank you from Carol Burdick**

If the worry lines on Carol Burdick's brow seem less visible, there's a reason perhaps. Carol sends out a big "THANK YOU" to all of the considerate church family members who thought she needed a spa treatment to ease away some of the stress caused by Jim's recent illnesses. On Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, she had "the works" - massage, pedicure and manicure - courtesy of her thoughtful church family.

## *Vacation Bible School*

Planners for VBS are busily working on programs and lining up staff for sessions for youth to be held at the church July 24-28. Be sure to invite friends and neighbors to attend the classes and crafts, for it will be a learning experience as well as a time for fellowship and fun. Director Carol White says there is still a need for helping hands, so if you can be there, please contact Carol.

## **IMPORTANT MEETING**

Get all of the latest details about our long awaited building plans. The Building Committee, headed by Don Tucker, has waded through a lot of red tape and planning sessions and the Architectural Report, and a presentation by the Building Committee is scheduled during the 11 o'clock service on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to attend this important meeting, dealing with the future of our congregation.

## **Other Dates to Remember**

**June 25-July 1--Jr. High Camp**

**July 1-7 Reunion # Two**

**July 9-13 Junior Camp**

**(See details on bulletin board)**

## **Shenandoah Poet Honored**

Jeanne Guthrie has been named to serve on the panel of judges for the San Antonio Poetry Fair. She also will be published in the Poetry Anthology, "Voices Along the River."

## **Brief Notes:**

Amy and Dorman Lewis have a new phone number: (505) 344-0156. Their cell phone remains the same - (505) 610-8614. E-mail is also the same - [amylewis85@gmail.com](mailto:amylewis85@gmail.com)  
Ray and Doris Jackel have a complete set of church history books—only one volume missing. They'd like to give it to someone. Talk to them if you're interested.

## **2007 World Conference**

Your video invitation to World Conference from President Steve Veazey can be viewed at [www.CofChrist.org/wc2007/](http://www.CofChrist.org/wc2007/). World Conference 2007, more than any previous Conference, will offer something for everyone. Plan to share this invitation to be part of a celebration with sisters and brothers from around the world. Theme: "Share Christ, Share Peace," plan to participate in World Conference 2007 on March 24-31.

## **Ha, Ha!**

*While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...  
"Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass.  
Caution: Do not step in exhaust."*

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

2--Jeffrey Monroe  
11-Patty Workmon  
13-Kathy Romig  
Rachel Bailey  
David Workmon  
15-Bartise Bowden  
18-Paul McMillan  
21-Jay Higginson  
25-Robert Sixt  
26-Ruth Callier  
28-Drake Holder