

SAINTS ALIVE!

Shenandoah Congregation

September 2006

A Busy Summer, a Horned Toad and a Look Ahead

By Co-Pastor Carol Burdick

A large horned toad lizard has taken up residence in the flower beds at the front of our home. This bizarre-looking creature has startled us numerous times as he runs between our feet, trying to get out of our way. He burrows into the mulch beds that run down the length of our house as well as on both sides of the sidewalk that leads from our front door to the curb. On most mornings I sweep the mulch from the sidewalk, back into the beds; each afternoon the tell-tale mulch is once again heaped on the sidewalk. The flower beds look like mine fields and I suspect the drought is causing food supply problems for our spiky resident. I thought about this little creature recently while in Houston, staring out the window at the torrents of rain coming down. I bet he'd like to fold his tail above the length of his body (something they really do) and create a funnel to catch rain in his mouth!

I think it's safe to say we're ready to have Summer end and Fall usher in cooler days and nights. Winter, Spring, and Summer '06 have brought physical ailments for many of our church family; we gathered recently with family and friends of Bob Sixt for a memorial service. We've said "goodbye" to Mick and Charla Rogers, Amy and Dorman Lewis, Maria, Ivan, Victor, and Sandra Pierce and Liz and Henry Spiekermann as they've all moved to new homes in other parts of the country. Shenandoah's members have had a full summer with Reunion #1 and #2 and numerous youth camps at Camp Sionito. Approximately 15 children enjoyed a week of Vacation Church School in July and Jennifer Theisen attended SPEC at Graceland. Pastor Jim took a week-long Co-Missioned Pastorate Initiate training in Independence, Missouri.

Fall will bring an important congregational business meeting when we will decide on whom we want to "pastor" Shenandoah in 2007. We also have decisions to make about the architectural and building committee report. Please make plans NOW to bring a dish of food and stay for Pot Luck and participate in this most important business meeting on September 10. We look forward to more music ministry from our newly-formed Youth Choir as well as puppet ministry from our Junior High Sunday School Class.

Back to my hot weather yard resident: I went to the Internet and "Googled" *horned toad lizard* recently and discovered there are 13 living species(!!) of this one type lizard and their main source of food is ants. We hope he'll keep right on making land mines as he looks for his dinner.



September Greeters

3--Dottie & Dalton Klaus

10-Don & Rita Tucker

17-the Burdicks

24-Doris Jackel

LET'S JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

The first Sundays in September and March are designated as days for the World Church to emphasize World Hunger Ministries. Offering envelopes can be marked to include contributions to the World Hunger Fund, and all offerings not specifically designated for other purposes will go to this fund to meet the needs of hungry people throughout the world.

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

Newsletter Editors: Lisa Talcott lisa_talcott@hotmail.com & Lafe Williams ehwill@hotmail.com

www.CoastalBendMC.org www.CofChrist.org

News from the News

Kelly and John Patten now have a new telephone number: Please change your directory to: Patten 210-522-1737. Kelly also reports John is settling in fine at the Leon Valley Elementary School and the Kicking Kids program and that her job is starting out well.

A newsy letter was received from **Anne Jackel** who moved with husband **Don** to Independence several years ago. She was telling of son Brian, who is now in the U.S Navy and who has recently been sent to a school at the Whidbey Island Naval Base where he will later be assigned to a squadron working with a P-3 planes. Brian will be joined by his wife **Jennifer** soon and they are both excited at having such a beautiful area of Washington state for their first military assignment. Whidbey is a large island in Puget Sound some distance northwest of Seattle and **Lafe and Evelyn Williams** attest to the fine scenery. Their son, Kim retired from the Navy at the Whidbey Island base and he lives in Oak Harbor, Washington...adjacent to the naval facility.

Doris Jackel has taken a caretaker job after 7 months of 'vacationing.' She lives in with a bright lady deeply interested in world events, politics, and recipes. She's there from 7AM Monday to 7 AM Saturday, so it's been an adjustment, but Ray says there's only a window of time for her to work, so he's being flexible.

Congratulations to the **Walker** family, who now own only *ONE* house. The sale of their house on Feather Trail took much longer than they wanted, and created much angst.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP THE CHURCH BUILDING FUND

You might have noticed a basket on the food table at the last Pot Luck Dinner you attended and wondered about it. Recently several individuals requested it because they are unable to prepare food for Pot Luck dinners and, therefore, would like to contribute cash. The money collected will be added to the Shenandoah building fund.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

Sept. 3, Communion Service and Baptismal scheduled

Sept 10, Business Meeting immediately after the Potluck Dinner. We will be electing congregational officers including our Pastoral Team for 2007. Be sure to attend and let your vote be counted.

Sept. 24 Baby Blessing Service

Oct. 6-9 Re-Discover Camp Sionito, Bandera, Texas--a Columbus Day Weekend Family Retreat. There will be a Sunday Golf Tournament at the Flying L Guest Ranch for the golfers. Camp Director is Barbara Goodwin; send her a completed registration form ASAP to reserve your accommodations! Registration forms are on the Bulletin Board.

September Birthdays

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| 3--Linda Holder | 11-James Thomason | 19-Charles Melenyzer |
| 6--Gene Galbraith | 13- Evelyn Williams | 25-Ashley Rodriguez |
| 8--Jeanne Guthrie | Tyler Holder | 27-Jon Higginson |
| 9--Arlie Brucks | 15-Ted Clark | 28-Jan Brucks |
| 10-Daniel Holder | | |

Shenandoah Congregation Spring/Summer Attendance Report

Ruth Callier reports attendance on 23 Sundays averaged 50 members and 3 visitors. Highest Sunday attendance was 75 on April 15, 2006, and then April 8 and February 5 with 66. The average turnout for July was 42, with five visitors.

Robert H. Sixt

The Shenandoah community mourns the Aug. 10th death of Bob Sixt, husband of Rozella, and father of David Sixt of our congregation. He was 89 years old and moved to San Antonio 11 years ago. An avid golfer, he had golfed regularly until his illness several years ago. Memorial services were held at the church on Aug. 14, followed by a luncheon.

International Honor to Shenandoah Member

The President of Finland, Mrs. Tarja Halonen, has bestowed upon Dr. **John R. Darling**, the Insignia of Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland. Dr. Darling is a faculty member at the University of South Texas at San Marcos and he and his wife Melva live in suburban San Antonio and attend the Shenandoah congregation.

Dr. Darling currently is in Finland until October 3rd, teaching at the Helsinki School of Economics, and he requested that the ceremony be held at the School in order to provide an opportunity for many of his personal and professional Finnish friends, and others with whom he has been associated, to attend.

The citation is considered comparable to the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the U.S. which recognizes individuals who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Stone Soup

I was privileged to be in Houston Aug 19-20 to attend "Stone Soup". You may know the story of Stone Soup which is that if everyone contributes what they have, it makes the "soup" better for everyone. It was the result of a brainstorming session between Carole Ceasar, Joann Chapman, and Dave Swart. Different people from the Houston area were asked to be in charge of various courses for the Soup.

We had a Soup Course—a period of scripture readings, singing, and prayer inviting God's Spirit to be with us. Next was the Fish Course which was singing, praise and the kids (and some adults) dancing in the aisle. The Entree was a service of preaching by Mark Euritt, our Mission Center President. Lunch was served by the Bauman Road Group which provided homemade enchiladas, beans, rice and dessert. The Salad Course was a period of questions and answers and sharing with Mark Euritt. The Dessert Course was a commitment and sending forth. Each congregation contributed its best—love, joy, sharing, spirit of camping, singing, or whatever the congregation considered one of their strong points. The children were entertained by craft and balloons during the Salad Course.

It was really a great day of fellowship and worship. I hope there will be other servings of Stone Soup—maybe in the San Antonio/Austin area of the Mission Center.

--by Ginger Walker

ANNOUNCING THE ANNUAL SILVER SAINTS REUNION

October 1-6th will be the annual Silver Saints Reunion, with the theme of "Let the Spirit." The reunion will be held at the Saints Grove Campground, Stillwater, OK. If you're going to come, bring your bedding, personal hygiene items, Bible, paper and pencils/pens, and your favorite table game(s), along with a desire to share in worship, study, and fellowship. Barbara and Dick Howard will be providing our guest ministry. Contact Lisa Talcott or Carol Burdick for a copy of the registration form.

Game Night and Ice Cream social at Shenandoah

Saturday night August 26 a goodly number showed up at the Fellowship Hall for a party to end the summer vacation period. A number of favorite card and board games were shared and assorted ice cream treats, cookies pies and cakes were enjoyed.

