

# SAINTS ALIVE!

December 2006

Shenandoah Congregation

“. . . Seek me with all your heart.”

*by Carol Burdick*

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver is on my bedside table and I've read about half of the book. The words on the cover are what caught my eye: "Finding intimacy with God in the busyness of life." My reason for not finishing it is because I've been too busy.

All year long, but especially at this time of year, the pace of our lives picks up to a frenetic speed. But are our lives really so different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament? Like Mary, I long to sit at the Lord's feet . . . but the daily demands of a busy world won't leave us alone. Like Martha, I love Jesus and really want to serve him . . . yet I, like maybe some of you, struggle with weariness, concern, feelings of inadequacy.

When Jesus enters into the midst of our busy lives, He invites us to choose a joyful life of intimacy with him that flows naturally into loving service. The key is to do both with less stress and greater joy.

Many of us will spend most of this Christmas season searching . . . for the perfect gift, or just the right decoration, or the most special recipe for cranberry relish. As much as we plan and prepare for the best, something will happen to mess up those preparations. Maybe the doll house you have to assemble is missing some of its screws; your mother's stuffing recipe doesn't taste the way you remember it; and the most special gift you ordered for your mate doesn't arrive on time. Face it – this Christmas you may feel lonely, or discouraged or totally stressed because you've penciled in too many activities on the calendar. Maybe this is a sad time for you because it's your first Christmas since the death of a loved one. Perhaps the number of names on your "To Buy For" list is bigger than the balance in your bank account.

Whatever your concerns may be this Christmas season, you **can** have peace on Earth and joy in your heart. How? As you mark off the days of Advent, look for God. Look for Him in the eyes of children. If music thrills your soul, find the time to attend a performance of Handel's Messiah. The surest way to alleviate some of your own concerns is to do something for others – hand a zip-locked bag of essentials to the next homeless person you encounter, or raise your hand when Shenandoah asks for helpers to wrap gifts for some of the less fortunate in San Antonio at the Bellaire Spanish Mission.

Stay in touch with God this Christmas - remember the reason for the season. When situations become strained; when the noise level is too high; when there seems to be no peace on Earth, seek God. Focus on Him. What was it He promised so long ago – "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

If you are not acquainted with our world church website, we invite you to visit it at [www.cochrist.org](http://www.cochrist.org) to view the wealth of information our church has placed at your fingertips.

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

Friends, food, conversation, good times . . . . You're invited to an OPEN HOUSE at Jim and Carol Burdick's home at 7622 Moss Brook Drive, San Antonio, TX 78255, 210-695-6861, Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 pm till 6:00pm.

## **CHRISTMAS TOYS**

**The Bellaire Hispanic Mission has provided toys for needy children in the past. We will once again help them with this project this year. Begin shopping for toys that do not need batteries. Some suggestions are dolls, cars, games, puzzles, books, marbles & cards. We will also need gift wrap, ribbon, bows and gift tags. If you cannot shop for toys, money can be donated. The last date will be Dec. 10th. Thank you for your generous support.**

## CHRISTMAS PARTY / CAROLING

Our annual Christmas Party will be Dec. 9th at the church beginning at 4 p.m. Those who choose to do so will go caroling at a nursing home then return to the church for snacks and fellowship. We are asking for finger sandwiches, cookies, candy, chips & dips and other munchies you would like to bring. Please sign up for your choices. Punch will be provided.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT IN JANUARY AT CAMP SIONITO

We would like to get a preliminary count of the number of women who will be attending the Women's Retreat at Camp Sionito on January 19-21, 2007. This is JUST A PRELIMINARY COUNT and does not obligate anyone, but it would assist us in the planning and in determining the fee to charge. Pam and Charlie Robison will be the guest ministers. It should be a wonderful weekend. We have heard from Pam Robinson and one of the things we are considering and would really like to see happen on Friday night of the Women's Retreat is an evening spent in music and song. Do you play an instrument that you can bring with you? Pam is trying to get an idea of how this evening should proceed. Teenage young ladies are also welcome to attend.

Please let Carol Burdick know if you plan to attend and if you will bring a musical instrument.

## **Priesthood Calls**

**Coastal Bend Mission Center President Mark Euritt is pleased to announce the calls of Jim Burdick, co-pastor of the Shenandoah Congregation and Eric Cox, Austin congregation to the office of High Priest. Please hold up both of these individuals as they begin their preparation for this new ministry.**

## Money Matters by Patty Walker

“We had a positive variance in October and that’s a good thing! The \$820 for repairs is for the balance of what we owed to the roofing company after using the insurance funds we received from the World Church. Thanks for your contributions in all areas: local, our building fund, the Mission Center, Camp Sionito, and the World Church. Please contact me if you have any questions.”

<u>INCOME</u>	
<b>October Receipts</b>	<b>\$4,284.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>\$12.84</b>
<b>Less World Church Funds</b>	<b>\$1,424.00</b>
SubTotal	\$2,952.84
<b>Less Coastal Bend Mission Center Funds</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
Total Net Income	\$2,752.84
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Repairs/Maintenance</b>	<b>\$820.00</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>\$53.69</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$59.48</b>
<b>Worship Commission</b>	<b>\$111.64</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>\$528.17</b>
Total Expenses	\$2,072.98
Total Net Income	\$2,752.84
<b>Less Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,072.98</b>
Variance	\$679.86

## On the Road for the Holiday

Many of us will be traveling over the Christmas holidays. Lisa and Wayne Talcott’s boys will both be visiting. Jon will come from Korea, and Matt, Marcella and their baby Lafe will be in from Las Vegas. Kathlyn Graves will be spending the Christmas weekend with her grandson Robert Daniel and family in New Hampshire.

## December Birthdays

2--Brenda Higginson  
3--Ann Yerrington  
4--Ray Jackel  
6--Lisa Clark  
7--Leah Higginson  
11-Sydney Callier  
    Leilani Loveless  
12-Lynn Pallas  
    Darrel Negaard  
14-David Sixt  
17-Robert Jackel  
19-Amy Lewis  
20-Doris Jackel  
23-Bob Riley  
24-Jacob Thomason  
25-Laura McMillan  
28-Sara Higginson  
29-Britney Monroe  
30-April Runcik  
31-Terri Jackel  
    Margot Spiekermann

### DECEMBER GREETERS

3-(missing)

10-TUCKERS

17-PATTY WALKER

24-CAROL BURDICK

31-DORIS JACKEL

### Shenandoah Congregation October attendance

Average of 50 members  
Average of 2 visitors per  
week

## Live Webcast: Temple Advent Worship

Worship with others from around the world via your computer by tuning in to [www.CofChrist.org](http://www.CofChrist.org) on Sunday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. CST for the annual Temple Advent service. Hear the advent message, "Speak the Hope," based on the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, and celebrate its meaning in song and word. The bulletin will be posted prior to the service.

*Pat Campbell and Carol Burdick took your donations of non-perishable foods and money and prepared food baskets (in laundry hampers) for four different families. The need is always great, and any efforts are really appreciated.*

## Decorate the church:

Many hands are needed to turn the church into a Christmas wonderland. We will meet Friday, December 1st between 6-7 with soup and sandwiches provided. Let Pat Campbell, Carol Burdick or Lisa Talcott know if you can come—or just show up!