

SAINTS ALIVE!

February 2007

Shenandoah Congregation

Pastoral Corner: Help on Resolutions and Life

Co-Pastor Carol D. White

Is anyone still working on New Year's Resolutions or have you already given up? I have come to believe that the wish to make life style changes or the desire to be better or do better is a *process*, sometimes a long one. Even when you get to a point where previous hard work and commitment paid off and goals were reached, there is always more to doas the scripture tells us, "there is more light and truth yet to know."

The February themes are tools to help us have success on our spiritual journeys. I encourage you to look and listen for the scripture references this month in the sermons and testimonies that point the way. The first instruction is to OBEY. Obedience signifies our realization of the revelation of God's grace and our acceptance of God's call. Simon, James and John recognized God's call to them to go back and fish even though common sense told them they would not be successful. They followed the call and they were successful. God calls us because He loves us, which enables us to respond even though we sense our own unworthiness. The prophet Isaiah sensed his own inadequacy but still responded to the call to be God's servant. Joseph Smith was counseled to first receive the manifestation of God and then proclaim it.

The second is to HEAR and UNDERSTAND. In Jesus, God calls us to a life based on God's values, not those of the world. As we continue to explore how God reveals the divine nature to us, it becomes important to examine the consequences of understanding that revelation. Many scriptures give information about what happens in a person's life when they choose God in response to God's love. Those who recognize God's call and respond will experience life as blessed. The biblical notion of happiness as the natural state of those turning to God is not a promise of reward for good behavior, nor does it promise a life free from care and trouble. Rather, the promise is that those living in this state will be known by God and will live their lives on the solid assurance of God's redeeming love and continuing presence. This is not a matter of the righteous getting rich or receiving everything that the world tells us we should desire, but rather the assurance that we live as citizens of God's kingdom with the priorities that this implies. Luke affirms through Jesus' voice that the kingdom of God makes everything new, i.e., turns all our values upside down.

The third is to BE TRANSFORMED. God's glory is revealed to us in the person of Jesus, making it possible for us to behold God's glory directly. In the theme lesson from Luke 9, Jesus is transfigured on the mountain before his startled disciples: Peter, James and John. His face and clothing take on dazzling brilliance. He talks to Moses and Elijah. Of course, the disciples are awestruck. What the disciples saw was the glory of God, and they saw it in the face of Jesus.

Those who see the glory of God, especially as revealed in Jesus, find their lives transformed. Exodus 34 is the story of Moses confronting God face-to-face on the mountain, being transformed so that his face shown brightly, and coming down to confront the people. He was surprised to find that his face shone so much that he had to wear a veil so the people could look at him.

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The fourth is to be LED BY THE SPIRIT. Those who call upon the Lord are assured of God's presence and gracious love, even in the midst of the trials of life. This assurance is not a guarantee of comfort and safety but rather a guarantee of sufficiency. We remember the story of Jesus fasting and being tempted in the wilderness. From Luke's point of view, the testing in the wilderness is reminiscent of the experience of the people of Israel as well as many of the prophets. It also parallels the experience of those who would be disciples of Jesus, as seen by the fact that historically Lent served as the period of instruction for all converts who would then be baptized on Easter morning. It is important to note that in Luke's account, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness where he calls upon God. This does not mean that times of testing are outside the realm of God's love but they are intrinsic to what it means to live under God's rule. When Jesus leaves the wilderness, he is full of the Spirit, takes up his Galilean ministry and goes to Nazareth to proclaim the coming of God's kingdom.

God's saving grace is available to all who call upon God's name. Let the remaining 11 months of 2007 be full of resolutions and be full of practice of all kinds of spiritual disciplines to help us to do better and be better. After all when God, through Jesus Christ is for us....who can be against us? No one, not even ourselves!!! Carol Deane White

24th ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO CROP WALK

You can be a "Walker" or you can be a "Walker Supporter". Shenandoah will participate again this year in the 24th annual San Antonio Crop Walk on Sunday, March 4th 2007 at 2:00pm at Mission County Park. CROP WALKS are a fund way to alleviate hunger at home and around the world. The money we raise will benefit the San Antonio Food Bank, the Christian Assistance Ministries, and Outreach International. There are 852 million people who go to bed hungry every night. They are people just like us, but because of poverty they must walk to accomplish the most basic tasks: They walk for food, water, and firewood. They walk to escape violence and seek shelter and farm their fields. They walk to find employment and go to school. We (you, me, your friends, and neighbors) walk because they walk. Please mark your calendar and get out your wallet. Sign up now with Carol White.

COSTAL BEND MISSION CENTER WOMENS RETREAT by Carol White

Neither wind, rain, snow, sleet, or ice kept 41 women away from Camp Sionito on the weekend of Jan 19-21/07 to share in fellowship and worship and get to know each other better. The event was the CBMC Women's retreat. Dottie Klaus, Edna Workman, and I attended and we were hugely blessed by the ministry of Pam and Charlie Robinson from Independence, MO. We are also thankful for the planning efforts of our retreat director Joanne Chapman.

The theme for the retreat was "I Have Called You By Your Name," taken from a song of the same title. This was sung many times during the weekend, and usually with some tears of joy and recommitment for many of us.

The classes were awesome! The testimonies we shared were wonderful. Pam and Charlie did some of the best team teaching I have ever had the pleasure to witness. They were totally on target, facilitated with ease, and were clearly led by the Holy Spirit for our benefit as they sang, laughed, talked, and prayed with us.

There was lots of fun, and fellowship as well. Pam Romig from the Heart of Texas MC came to lead us in a construction of a craft project. We all made a pretty decoupage plaque of our theme song as a memento of the retreat.

We all stayed in the beautiful lodge. I was proud to stay in a place where the "helping hands" of Shenandoah have spent many many hours to build. Thanks to Dottie, Dalton, Ray, Doris, Paul

Plummer, Jeeta, Ruth, Samatha, Sydney, my son David, and me we all have a great place to attend many more retreats. For a great group picture, visit the CBMC website.

There was good balance of activity with contemplative time, fun time, rest time, good fellowship complemented with good snacks and excellent meals prepared by John and Holly Werner.

Just 326 days till next year's retreat and already plans are being made. Mark your calendar.

Congregational Business Meetings Scheduled for 2007

Feb. 11 – Part 1 immediately following the 11:00 worship service – Patty Walker's Priesthood Call to the Office of Elder, Carol Burdick's Call to the Office of Elder and Kelly Patten's Call to the Office of Deacon. Please attend and give your prayerful consideration to these calls.

Part 2 immediately following Pot Luck – (1:00 pm) – Elect delegates for mission center conference.

Oct. 14 – 1:00 – after Pot Luck – Election of Officers for 2008

Nov. 11 – 1:00 – after Pot Luck – Budget

2007 Derrell Dee Webb Award Information

The recipient(s) of the 2007 Derrell Dee Webb Lifetime Service Award will be announced on or before May 15, 2007 with presentation to occur on June 9 and July 1, 2007 (Sunday of First and Second Community of Christ Reunions). Information pertaining to the selection process as well as the nomination form is available by contacting the undersigned or may be downloaded at www.campsionito.org Larry Haywood e-mail: haywood@CofChrist-Austin.org The Webb award was established in 2005 and honors individuals who have provided outstanding service to Camp Sionito.

SPECIAL WORLD CONFERENCE OFFERING

World Conference is a time of joy and celebration for those who attend, as well as those who participate via the Internet and other means. The 2007 World Conference promises to be unlike any other conference the church has ever experienced! Only a portion of the approximate US \$550,000 cost for this event is covered by registration fees.

February 25 has been designated as a day of preparation for this life-changing event. Everyone is invited to help provide financially for the conference by contributing to a special offering on that day. In all jurisdictions, contributors may write "World Conference" on the World Ministries portion of their Mission Tithes envelopes. In the United States and Canada, contributors should look for their invitation in February's mail to participate this Special Conference Offering.

Online contributions can be made at <http://www.cofchrist.org/wc2007>

Crafty Ladies Fund Raiser for Youth Camping

Sunday, February 4th the Crafty Ladies will hold a bake sale to raise money for the youth campership fund. Everyone is invited to donate of any kind of baked goodies. Then you are encouraged to participate and buy your sweet tooth (or sweetheart!) a treat. **TODAY!!**

News from the Pews...

Aiyin Graeber, daughter of Larry and Sharon Graeber of San Antonio has been nominated to attend the National Young Scholars Program in Texas this summer. Aiyin, a 5th grade student at the Alamo Heights Elementary school is the only granddaughter of **Jeeta Caraballo**. Program sponsors say Aiyin was selected by her teacher who said she demonstrates exceptional maturity and leadership ability. Upon completion of the summer program she will receive the National Youth Scholar's Certificate of Achievement

Stephanie Daniel, wife of Kathlyn Graves' grandson, won a Golden Apple Award for being an Outstanding San Antonio area teacher. Stephanie teaches at the Rose Garden Elementary School in Universal City, TX. The citation came from San Antonio TV station, **KENS5**.

Eugene D. Galbraith

The father of co-pastor Carol Burdick, Gene Galbraith, died on January 16th at the age of 87. An Army Air Corps veteran, he retired from Kelley AFB after 30 years of service. Other survivors include two other daughters, Louise Frakes and Diane Willis, sister-in-law, Margaret Galbraith, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. The funeral was held on January 19th at Mission Park Funeral Chapel South, with a lunch served at the Shenandoah Church for family and friends.

Yoga: A way to Enjoy Life More

Do you sometimes think that you are exercising your mind but you've forgotten about your body? Do your muscles ache when you do something out of the ordinary? Susan Perry is a certified yoga instructor who teaches yoga in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. The class is open to men, women, youth, church/non-church members and anyone who cares about greater flexibility. The class has nothing to do with any type of religion (just in case you might be confused about that); rather, Susan guides us in exercises that are about stretching, relaxing, and restoring our physical selves. You might be amazed at how good you could feel if you joined us each week. Bring a mat (available at Target/Academy/Walmart) and \$5 per class. Questions? – call Carol Burdick – 695-6861.

Music show at Bandera C. of C. Church

The Bandera, TX community was treated to a free performance by local recording artist, Becky Braun, Saturday evening at the church in Bandera. Ms. Braun, also a songwriter, visited with audience members after the show during an informal reception.

February Birthdays

- 1 Shelley Plummer**
- 6 Aaron Jackel**
- 8 Brian Fuller**
Marsha Torkelson
- 15 Jerry McCrimmon**
Karl Runcik
- 17 Ronald Jackel**
- 19 Margaret Galbraith**
- 23 Steven Smeltzer**
- 25 Dawn Higginson**
- 29 Lafe Williams, obs. 28**

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