



Saints Alive!

November 2007

Pastor's Corner:

by Carol White

Last year I also wrote the Pastor's corner message and said that November was one of my favorite months, not just because it's my birthday, but it means South Texas is finally starting to cool down. I said fall is coming and life is beginning to go dormant for the winter. Boy was I wrong! I am currently taking a Master Gardener class and David Rodriguez; the Bexar County Agricultural Agent says that fall is the best time to plant in Texas. He says, "Fall planting follows the extreme heat of summer and precedes a cooler winter season. It is a time of rejuvenation. Shrubs, trees and most landscape plants planted in the fall use this timing to their advantage. Plant roots grow anytime the soil temperature is about 40 degrees F or slightly higher, and this occurs nearly all winter long in most of the state.

Therefore during the winter months, the root systems of the fall-planted specimens thrive and become well established. When the spring arrives, this well-developed root system makes it possible for the plant to take advantage of the full surge of spring growth. Much of the possible "transplanting shock" associated with spring-planted shrubs and trees can also be minimized by fall planting.

So, if you've been considering adding a new tree, or a grouping of shrubs to the landscape, or if there is an area in your landscape that needs "restoration" from the drought, the fall months are not only an excellent time, but the best time to do so. I always say, "If I was a newly planted shrub in San Antonio, I would rather go against a typical mild winter, instead of a harsh, devilish, drought-ridden summer."

This idea of semi-dormant, but growing, appeals to me in thinking about resorting our spiritual lives throughout the year. I think we need a few personal, semi-dormant periods for ourselves throughout the year where we are not so busy with church business, activities, worship services, planning meetings, potlucks, classes, special programs, camps, workshops, work weekends, etc. the list goes on. When we take time for personal reading, prayer, relaxation, and restoration, our spiritual roots can become well established and will thrive. Strong spiritual roots are a good thing and will allow us to bloom most of the time. Please excuse all the gardening analogies, but they seem to fit and it's my new world for right now.

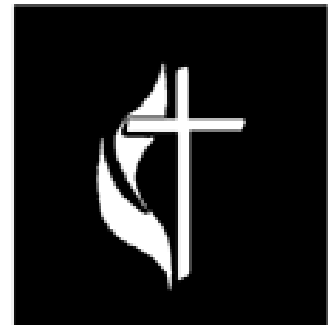
Richard Brown, editor of the Herald voiced a similar idea in the October "Endnotes" article. He said, "Where should I have place my best and most frequent efforts—as leader of 'church as institution' or 'church as community'?" He is talking about a period of reflection

and self examination for himself to know how to be a better shepherd for God's people.

As the leaves turn in November, and they will in small pockets of central Texas, let us also think about turning our lives over to God and finding those times for growing and rejuvenation of our spiritual roots.

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Road Trips Planned

Carol White and Dick Vorhes began the first road trip in the series of "Visit the Churches in the Coastal Bend Mission Center area" We visited the Lake Charles Congregation, in Louisiana, the fartherest church in our mission center. The church is reminiscent of the "little church in the vale", but white wood frame with steeple, with lush grass and landscape. We shared with the Louisiana folks the Hospitality Workshop given by Tammy Lindle, Missionary Resource Specialist from World Church. Of course we don't have to tell those Southern folks about hospitality, they invented the style, even Tammy agreed. We enjoyed great fellowship, great food (gumbo, of course), and great new ideas about Hospitality: Share God's Welcome.

P.S. The new van proved very road worthy with the usual mixture of rain and road construction. by Carol White



November

- 3--Beverly Higginson
- 8--Allison Anderson
Carol Deane White
- 10-Cassandra Cole
Jennifer Theisen
- 11-Frederick Ayers
- 12-Kerry Coleman
Marvel Riley
- 13-Lisa McInnis
- 14-John David Patten
- 15-Kathlyn Graves
- 24-Amelia Bowden
- 29-Tom Walker

Holidays Ahead

THANKSGIVING: We are accepting money donations, can goods, and staples for Thanksgiving baskets this year. Please contact Pat Campbell or Carol White. We plan to purchase and deliver goods approximately 20 Nov 07.

Get an Early Start on Christmas

The Shenandoah congregation will again pitch in to make Christmas a cheerier time for youngsters in the Bellaire congregation in the far South Side of San Antonio. We will be buying and wrapping gifts for the children of the church. As you launch your Christmas shopping, take time to allocate some of your gifts to Bellaire.

<u>Money Matters</u>	
<u>INCOME</u>	
September Receipts	\$5,126.50
Interest Income	\$9.37
Less World Church Funds	\$1,336.00
SubTotal	\$3,799.87
Less Coastal Bend Mission Center Funds	\$265.00
Total Net Income	\$3,534.87
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Building Insurance	\$1,768.00
Herald-In-Every Home	\$92.00
Housekeeping/Groundskeeping	\$400.00
Leadership	\$465.29
Pastoral Care	\$99.16
Repairs/Maintenance	\$50.00
Utilities	\$423.47
Worship Commission	\$101.00
Total Expenses	\$3,398.92
Total Net Income	\$3,534.87
Less Total Expenses	\$3,398.92
Variance	\$135.95

Core Values of the Community of Christ Church

We Believe in the Worth of Persons

The Community of Christ has prided itself in the knowledge that we are a church without a specific creed or dogma. This means we don't have a specific set of dogmatic statements to which we must correctly answer to be considered 'orthodox' members. We have some basic beliefs, such as belief in Jesus Christ. However, we are pretty non-specific about defining beliefs rigorously.

This can sometimes make us appear to a curious outsider as though we believe in anything or nothing. However, the church does have a set of beliefs that we call Core Values. These values do a good job of describing what members of the Community of Christ believe. This four-part series describes our four Core Values.

Please <http://www.cofchrist.org/ourfaith/core-values.asp> on the Internet, for more details about Community of Christ core values.

Value Two: We Believe in the Worth Of Persons.

God's gift of Jesus Christ to the world is the ultimate description of the generous grace with which God loves each person.

Because God sent Jesus for the redemption and salvation of each person, we are convinced that every person is of infinite value to God. God the Creator looked at all creation and proclaimed it all good, without exception. There are, then, no exceptions to embracing God's inestimable worth of each person.

God loves us both unconditionally 'as we are' and for who we are called to become. No person is loved either more or less by God.

God intends his children to live together in a way that each person values the other with the incredible value our Creator sees in everyone.

A Gathering Right Here

At the Mission Center conference, October 13 and 14, it was announced that the Coastal Bend and Heart of Texas mission centers would join in a Gathering the weekend of May 23-25, 2008. The Gathering will be similar to the events of the same name that were held within the Southwest Region before mission centers were organized. The event will be held here in San Antonio, at the Airport Hilton near Loop 410 and San Pedro!! You can bet that there will be much in the way of great ministry, classes, and fellowship. We anticipate our Field Apostle Rick Maupin will attend along with, perhaps, a member of the First Presidency. Start planning now!

Mission Center Conference

The Mission Center conference on October 13 and 14 was a wonderful experience. Our Field Apostle Rick Maupin and Quorum of Seventy President Rueben Landeros joined us from World Church. People attending shared in exciting classes and nourishing worships. While we certainly miss our former Field Apostle Linda Booth, it is wonderful to share with Rick and Rueben, both very much a part of our South Texas church family.

At the Saturday evening worship service Eric Cox and Jim Burdick were ordained to the office of High Priest, Ron Saur was ordained to the office of Bishop, and Francisco Treviño was ordained to the office of Seventy.

Remember, you do NOT need to be a delegate to attend the conference, only for voting. All are encouraged to volunteer to be delegates and or to attend as observers.

The Big Five-Oh!

Family and friends of Steve Tucker helped him celebrate a birthday and pointed out the way his life will change as he hits the **Big Five-Oh**. Among the birthday celebrants who shared a meal and a birthday cake was a co-worker friend who shares the same birth date with Steve. His siblings, Doug Tucker of Bryan, Texas and sister, Cheryl Gallaher of College Station, were among the chief cheerleaders at the party held at the Shenandoah fellowship hall on October 20th.

Budget Matters \$\$\$\$\$

Shenandoah Congregation will hold its budget business meeting December 9, immediately following potluck. We will approve our 2008 budget as well as appointed positions.

September Attendance

Average of 35 members attending every week in September, with an average of 3 visitors each week.

News from the Pews...

Ann Yerrington enjoyed a week long visit from her daughter, **Mary Force**, during the first part of October. Mary & Don Force live in Smyrna, Georgia.

Lisa and Wayne Talcott are globetrotting, flying to South Korea the last of October for the November 4th wedding of their son, **Jonathan, to Mimi Hong**, in her hometown of Seocheon. Lisa is hoping for the best in having a traditional han-bok wedding gown tailored for her. An initial communiqué from Korea said "please re-do your measurements. Your arms seem uncommonly long." Jon and Mimi are both school teachers in Busan.

Carol Deane White is enjoying her early months of retirement. She reports she is doing some required community service as a part of classes to earn a "Master Gardener" rating.