



Saints Alive

June 2008

Be A Voice, Not an Echo

by Carol Burdick

As I sit at the keyboard, composing this June Newsletter article, lots of random thoughts keep clouding my head; Jeanne Guthrie's death, for one. I'm saddened not only by her death but also because I was so unaware of her life and talents even though I knew her all my life. Jeanne was a poet, a musician, a painter, and one who did needle point. What a neat lady! The list goes on and on but you get the idea. I wish we, as members of her church family, had known her better. I wonder how many other individuals with hidden talents are in our midst and we haven't a clue!

There's a new movie showing at theaters; "The Visitor" is about Walter Vale, an American widower living alone in New York City while mourning the death of his wife, a concert pianist. He's so lonely that he's miserable living alone. He teaches economics in a different state because he doesn't want to go back home. He lives in Connecticut instead, teaching a minimum number of courses just to earn a living. He uses his spare time trying to learn to play the piano as a link to his late wife. When asked to stand in for a fellow teacher, he has to go back to New York City and gets the surprise of his life. There are strangers living in his New York apartment. They are just as frightened of him as he is of them and they know he has the upper hand because they are illegal immigrants and he might turn them in. The woman is from Africa and her boyfriend, Tarek, is from Syria and he is a friendly guy, a musician. The two men become fast friends when they realize they are both interested in music and they learn about each other's culture through music. When Tarek teaches Walter Vale to play an African drum with his bare hands, Walter comes to life! He rushes through his own work to get back with his newfound friends so that he can bond with them regardless of their different cultural backgrounds. Walter's life takes on a completely new meaning.

Is it possible that Walter Vale's initial boredom with life resonates with you in any way? Do you ever feel as though you are in a rut? Are you eager to greet each new day, wondering what will be in store for you? Are you excited about life?

Perhaps some of us can relate (or could at some previous time) to the questions above. Circumstances of life can weigh us down at times and take away our zest for living. I've often heard that doing something for others, that is, focusing on someone other than ourselves, can improve our self worth and make us feel better.

At the Gathering this weekend Sister Becky Savage from the Community of Christ presidency spoke to us on Sunday morning about being a voice, not an echo. She related some attention-getting examples of how each of us can make a difference in our world, even, or especially, when we think we can't.

Becky told us about a congregation in the "Pig Town" neighborhood in Baltimore that is very involved with the residents. The pastor routinely walks this rough neighborhood where the people know him and he knows them. He feels responsible for them and has helped some individuals in life or death situations.

Becky made the point that there are small, yet meaningful and helpful, gestures each of us can make to individuals we encounter each day that can make a huge difference in their lives. We can essentially change the atmosphere of our

little corner of the world by our actions. Now wouldn't that make your day if you could have a positive impact on someone's world? Can you imagine, for instance, what a telephone call from you to a shut-in would do for that person? That's right – you pick up the phone and spend a few minutes in fellowship with an individual and the person on the other end of the line has had a wonderful experience, and, in addition, you both have discovered new things about each other and have deepened your friendship.

Are you ever present when a racist joke is told? Does it make you uncomfortable? Well, say something next time – don't let the person get away with putting others down. Boys and girls were admonished to tell a teacher if they know that someone is being hurt – they were encouraged to stand up for what is right.

Let's all think a little harder about what each of us can do to lift up, or encourage, or validate a brother or sister in our circle of influence. You can be a force for good by being a disciple of Christ and seeing with His eyes, hearing with His ears, and speaking with His voice . . . be a voice, not an echo.

June Greeters

1st—John & Kelly Patten
8th—Pat Campbell
15th—Jim Burdick
22nd—Patty Walker
29th—Rozella Sixt

Summer Camps and Reunions

The Sionito Camping Program is a wonderful place to fellowship, to nurture your spiritual development, and to grow in your discipleship. There are camps for all ages. Please plan to attend one or more of these events.

The Mission Center and Camping Committee have worked hard to make the program affordable for all. If you would like to attend and are having difficulty finding the necessary resources please visit with your congregational leadership and the Camp Directors. Registration forms for all camps and reunions maybe download from the Coastal Bend web page.

For youth camps, Early Registration is \$275 if the completed registration form and a \$50 non-refundable deposit are postmarked by the early registration deadline. This information should be mailed to the appropriate Camp Business Manager. Late Registration is \$325. There will be no waivers for the early registration cut-off date. Please register early!

June 6-8 Young Adult Reunion
June 15-21 Sr. High Camp
EARLY REGISTRATION ENDED **MAY 16**
June 21-28 Reunion #1
June 29-July 5 Jr. High Camp
EARLY REGISTRATION ENDED **MAY 30**
July 5-11 Reunion #2
July 13-19 Junior Camp
EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS **JUNE 14**
July 19-26 Spectacular
EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS **JUNE 14**

Don't forget up to \$90 is available from the CBMC Youth Campership Fund.

Mmmm . . . Cookies, Cookies, Cookies

A great big "thank you" goes out to several members of our congregation for providing homemade cookies for the Friday night reception at the Gathering. Shenandoah Congregation hosted the reception and served punch and cookies; those cookies not consumed on Friday evening were distributed to various classes on Saturday and were a huge success with everyone. A big "thanks" to Jan Brucks, Ruth Callier, Jeeta Caraballo, Dottie Klaus, Marilyn McCrimmon, Margot Spiekermann, and Carol White.

June 8th Potluck

Join us immediately after church for Potluck Lunch and an educational seminar on retirement strategies presented by James Yankovich. Senior citizens and their families often have many complex and confusing issues; at this seminar you will have opportunity to ask questions about solutions to some of today's most urgent needs – for free! This will NOT be a sales seminar; it is informational only. James represents Monson and Associates and will provide lots of information on health, wealth and lifestyle. He'll also provide answers on: dealing with the high cost of health care; long term care options; protecting your nest egg against inflation; and much more. James will be providing ham for our potluck lunch so bring your favorite vegetable, side dish or dessert to accompany the ham. The Cole and Spiekermann families will host the pot luck lunch.

Oblation Aid to China

Thanks to the generous ongoing support of Oblation Fund contributors, Community of Christ is able to respond to needs in China. To assist with relief efforts following the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that struck the Sichuan province on May 12, Community of Christ is giving \$25,000 from Oblation to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

As of May 22, more than 50,000 were confirmed dead with tens of thousands more missing and approximately 5 million homeless. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Web site reports that its efforts "will target the most affected, paying special attention to special health and psycho-social needs of the most vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, pregnant mothers, the displaced and disabled, among others." Learn more at www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/sichuan-earthquake/.

Thank you for sharing this news, offering prayers, and giving generously.

Multi-Mission Center Gathering!

On May 23-25 Coastal Bend Mission Center participated in a Multi-Mission Center Gathering at the San Antonio Airport Hilton. Thirty Shenandoah members participated and experienced a wonderful weekend of fellowship, ministry, and classes. Participants came from Coastal Bend, Heart of Texas, Texas-Mexico, Oklahoma USA, and Rio Grande USA mission centers.

Guest ministry was provided by Becky Savage from the First Presidency of the church, Apostle Rick Maupin, President of Seventy Ruben Landeros, and Mission Center President-designate Terry Shelton.

Several activities were designed for our youth. These activities included fellowship, games, classes, and worship. A professionally staffed nursery was available.

Classes for adults were taught by Becky Savage, Rick Maupin, Terry Shelton, Ruben Landeros, and Jim Burdick. We learned a great deal and shared in practical ways we can participate in sharing the message of Jesus Christ.

If you missed this event, please plan to attend future Gatherings. Your heart will thank you, I promise.



At the Multi-Mission Center Gathering, Apostle Rick Maupin announced a church personnel change that directly affects our Mission Center. Mission Center President Mark Euritt will have a new assignment effective September 1, 2008. While he will still live in Austin and we will still be in his administrative area, his responsibility will change and his geography will be much increased. Here is the announcement we were given:

Apostle Rick Maupin announced the following changes in ministerial assignments at the Multi-Mission Center Gathering on Saturday, May 24. These changes will take affect on September 1, 2008. The International Headquarters announcement to the entire church will be sent later this week.

Mark Euritt will be assigned as Assistant to the Apostle for the Caribbean, Mexico, Texas Field and President of the Caribbean Mission Center with no household move.

Terry Shelton will be assigned as Mission Center President for Heart of Texas Mission Center and Coastal Bend Mission Center with no household move.

It has been a privilege to serve Coastal Bend Mission Center and Heart of Texas Mission Center as



