



Saints Alive

July 2008

What Matters Most

Our church has a long tradition as a prophetic voice in the latter days. Indeed, we are called to be prophetic people. Being prophetic means two very important things – **first**, we proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ and **second**, we demonstrate, lead, or show the way for others that seek to find right-living.

Sometimes, we get lost in the details of life. We worry that someone else believes differently. We focus on someone that lives differently. Maybe we get wrapped up in how they vote, who they love, where they live, or what they have or lack.

When these things happen, we have been pulled off course. When these things happen, all our energy is revolving around things under the control of others. And that leaves us with little or no energy to affect what we CAN control: our own behavior.

Every day and every situation where we are distracted from the two very important things we are supposed to accomplish, others flounder in the dark and suffer without the personal relationship they need to have with Jesus and the Kingdom Community.

I'd like to share a little story about how some Christians got distracted from their mission to live out the embodiment of the living Jesus:

Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most respected leaders of modern history. A Hindu, Gandhi nevertheless admired Jesus and often quoted from the Sermon on the Mount. Once when the missionary E. Stanley Jones met with Gandhi he asked him, "Mr. Gandhi, though you quote the words of Christ often, why is that you appear to so adamantly reject becoming his follower?"

Gandhi replied, "Oh, I don't reject your Christ. I love your Christ. It's just that so many of you Christians are so unlike your Christ."

Apparently Gandhi's rejection of Christianity grew out of an incident that happened when he was a young man practicing law in South Africa. He had become attracted to the Christian faith, had studied the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, and was seriously exploring becoming a Christian. And so he decided to attend a church service. As he came up the steps of the large church where he intended to go, a white South African elder of the church barred his way at the door. "Where do you think you're going, kaffir?" the man asked Gandhi in a belligerent tone of voice.

Gandhi replied, "I'd like to attend worship here."

The church elder snarled at him, "There's no room for kaffirs in this church. Get out of here or I'll have my assistants throw you down the steps."

From that moment, Gandhi said, he decided to adopt what good he found in Christianity, but would never again consider becoming a Christian if it meant being part of the church.

How we treat those others tells people MORE about what we believe, and what following Jesus means to us than all tracts we pass out, or all the fine sermons we deliver.

Borrowed from: <http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/552.htm>

So, what matters most? There is nothing that matters as much as us living day-to-day, every day, as though someone gauged the validity of all Christianity by the behavior we demonstrate by our life.

What matters most? What matters most is what we can control - what only we can control - how our life emulates the life of Jesus. Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.

May we find great joy in building together the Kingdom of God on earth. Amen.

Jim Burdick



Mike Theisen entered the waters of baptism on Sunday, June 22 at Shenandoah. Jim Burdick baptized Mike and Claude Barker, Michelle's father, confirmed him with Carol Deane White assisting. Long time family friend, Barbara Goodwin of the Bay Area congregation, was in attendance and participated in Mike's service. Michelle's mother, Willa was also present for the service.

July Greeters

6th –Patty Walker
13th –Reta Tucker
20th –Doris Jackel
27th –TBA

Letter of Council

From the Shenandoah Pastorate,
Jim Burdick, Carol Burdick, and Carol White

Every now and then a different type of year enters our life, for instance, 2008 is different. One reason this year is different is that it is an election year. Every four years, things in the United States get a little - dare we say 'goofy?' The Shenandoah Pastorate would like to offer some particular advice for our day.

We have diligently avoided promoting a partisan position in our capacities as ministers. We try to be equally committed to making fair evaluation of all social positions, while avoiding partisan-ism. But we do try to advocate loud and clear for non-partisan positions consistent with Kingdom Building.

This council is about 2008 and the election. What we suggest will be framed in a two-party system, but works for systems of two, three, or any number of parties. We are giving you simple, friendly advice.

There are folks out there that are far less 'for' one person than they are 'against' another. There are folks out there that literally hate one side or the other. Some of these folks circulate statements using the Internet, email, websites, blogs, etc. But whatever your position, the person in the pew next to you, ahead of you, or behind you might feel differently. When folks help circulate some of the negative emails people have crafted, these emails might offend you, your brother, or your sister.

As a test, we took an equal number of these emails that railed against both candidates and researched them. (You can use 'Snopes' and several other honest-brokers and find out if these are accurate or not.) Not one, not ONE of the scandal

emails we researched about either candidate were valid, accurate, or factual. Not one. We took an equal number about both candidates and they were ALL false.

So our point is to advise us all to not let ourselves get trapped into helping spread vicious emails that might alienate us from someone we love. Absolutely tell people that you support John Jones for his policy about furniture polish, or whatever, but please don't help distribute the stuff that we are being tricked to forward and reply, and so forth.

Do encourage every eligible person to vote for who they believe in, a 100% vote is wonderful.

The Kingdom of God will not be promoted or its aims furthered by false, negative emails whether they agree with your candidate or not. And you might hurt a very dear friend by spreading them. So next time you get a negative email encouraging you send it to everyone you know, instead please craft a loving email encouraging everyone you know to vote their conscience and to encourage others to vote, also.

News From the Pews

John Patten is spending part of his summer at Karate Day Camp. Early in June, John was promoted to Purple Belt and his mother suggests if you ask him to demonstrate a "Kia," you may want to cover your ears. It will be noisy! Kelly and John have a busy month planned for July. They will both be at Cub Scout Day camp at McGamey Scout Park from July 8-11 and John will be at Junior Camp at Sionito, July 13-19. Then Kelly and John will take in Cub Scout Camp Akola-Bear Creek at Hunt, TX, July 27-30.



More News!

The **Walker** family has a normal front door, but it is working as a revolving door this summer. **Tommy's** school was out on June 4th and three days later Tommy headed for ROTC camp at UTSA for a week. It was a bit of boot camp, but he also got to go to classes and he enjoyed it. He came home for overnight and headed to Sr. High Camp at Sionito the next day. He returned home from that and left about 18 hours later for JROTC Honors Camp at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, NM. Again, he attended a couple college classes, learned to read navigational maps, plot a course and fly an airplane! He even got to take off and land. Tommy is then home for a week and then heads off to Reunion 2 at Sionito to help with the a/v equipment during services. He returns home (to wash clothes!) and 24 hours later is back at Sionito to serve as a Counselor in Training for Jr. Camp at Sionito. When he finishes up at that camp, he will have a week at home and then all three of the Walkers are going on a two week family vacation to the Northeast to visit family in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. We leave on July 26th and will return on August 8th. After vacation, Tommy begins drill team practice, attends other pre-school events and then school starts on August 25th! A busy summer indeed! © Things coming up in the Fall include drill team meets, taking SAT and ACT tests and Tommy testing for his 4th degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Note from newsletter editor: I tried to figure out dates for when Tommy is going to be where, and I got dizzy. Patty, hope you can keep track of it all! I'm lost!

Wayne and Lisa Talcott will spend a long Fourth of July weekend in Las Vegas with Matt, Marcella, and of course their grandson, Lafe. They aren't sure if they will go to a big fireworks display or not—a two-year-old and loud, thunderous noises might not be a good mix. But they will certainly celebrate summer there in fine style.

July Birthdays

2—Jeffrey Monroe
11-Patty Workmon
13-David Workmon
16-Bartise Bowden
21-Jay Higginson
16-Ruth Callier



Temple School Course to Be Taught at Shenandoah

Title:

“Stewardship: An Old Path Made New”

Instructor:

Ron Saur, Coastal Bend Mission Center Financial Officer

Dates:

Friday, September 19, 2008, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday, September 20, 2008, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Place:

Shenandoah Congregation
11910 Vance Jackson, San Antonio

To make reservations, call or e-mail:

Patty Walker

(210) 695-4593

E-Mail: pwalker5@satx.rr.com

A book will be ordered for you and you can pay for it at the time of the course. The book will cost \$15.00. Breakfast, refreshments, and lunch on Saturday will be provided. Cost for the food: free-will offering.

Description of the course: This course is designed to aid understanding of what the Community of Christ has to say about the inequities in the world and to provide guidance for each disciple's response. These topics will be explored: the rich heritage of the Community of Christ to seek out what it means to be God's steward, the promise of God's abundance and understanding of freely receiving, and our call to become generous disciples embracing the six principles of a disciple's generous response.