



Saints Alive

August 2008

Pastor's Message

A Different Change That We Can Believe In

By Carol & Jim Burdick

Change in many forms is coming at us left and right. School is back in session for the youngsters and will be very soon for the college kids. Fall is right around the corner and some of us are already making Christmas plans. We recently experienced a drought that dragged on for months; however, it seems that now we've had enough rain to do us for a while.

Jim and I recently visited granddaughter Hannah's new daycare during an Open House for the brand new facility. We "oohed" and "aahed" at its beauty, nestled as it is in the Live Oak trees. The variety of activities designed to keep the little ones interested and engaged each day was overwhelming for us, since we hadn't visited many daycare facilities in the past; and our family visualized the fun she was about to experience. Now that the first week is behind us, we know for sure that Hannah's first week was stressful on our entire family and we understand and are sympathetic to the big change that has occurred in her young life.

Change is almost always a cause of stress, even when it is positive change. Don't we get nervous sometimes when we head off for a vacation and aren't we nervous on the first day of a promotion or new assignment? Whether we are two or ninety-two, change can lead to stress. But there are two principles that seem to be true for all ages.

The first principle is that things can never improve without change, never. And this leads to that thought that things will change, so they will get better or worse, but they will change.

The second principle is that when change takes place we have only two choices: we can act or be acted upon. The Bible clearly commands us to act. The Bible clearly commands us to change. Let's look in Romans 12:2.

Do not be conformed to this world, but continually be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may be able to determine what God's will is--what is proper, pleasing, and perfect.

International Standard Version

The letter to the Romans clearly states the two choices. To 'be conformed' is to be acted upon and 'be transformed' is to control the change - to act. The writing goes on to clearly state that the purpose of acting, the purpose of being transformed, is to come to know (and DO) God's will; "what is proper, pleasing, and perfect."

The thing I love so dearly about the good word of Jesus Christ is that His commands are simple enough for a child to obey and profound enough that even a child's obedience works for the building of the Kingdom.

And that thought hits home about why change is what we must come to desire and do; it is the only way we can achieve Jesus' promise of the goals of the Kingdom. With our human eyes, we can look around and not see the Kingdom because it is not yet real. But with our spiritual eyes, we can look around and everywhere we see the potential and the promise of the Kingdom and our professing of it can make it become reality.

You are a prophetic people and your transformative changes cause the story of God's grace to allow changes in others.

We'd like to close this article with Philippians 4, beautiful in its meaning and uplifting for all of us:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable---if anything is excellent or praiseworthy---think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me---put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

New International Version

Directory Updates

Please note the following changes:

Kathleen Gardner-Cole -

kmwithkathleen@gmail.com

Richard Cole - Richard.Cole@padgett-cpa.com

Carol Burdick – carolaburdick@gmail.com

Jim Burdick – jimburdick.cofc@gmail.com

Carol Deane White - carol6954@att.net

The Talcotts have cancelled their land-line phone:

679-0546 is no longer working

Wayne – 210-632-9178

Lisa – 210-846-4952

Sunday School Class –

Pre-Baptismal Class – Teacher – Carol Burdick. Cassandra Cole and John Patten will be taking this class – Cassandra because she plans to be baptized in the Fall and John because he wants to take it again. They will be studying ***Of Water and Spirit*** for this part of the class. In addition, they will complete class work that will earn an emblem for their scouting activity: Cassandra is a Brownie and John is a Webelo. World Community is the Community of Christ religious emblems program for youth serving organizations world-wide and is open to any youth age eight to eighteen. Young people—disciples or friends of the Community of Christ—have the opportunity to deepen their discipleship through completing and documenting creative projects and service activities. Students accomplish this through the creation of a portfolio/scrapbook demonstrating their involvement in the life of the church and the community with the assistance of an adult mentor. World Community is designed for three different age levels: **Light of the World**, for eight years of age and above, will be the level for our class.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Blue Bird Auxiliary to the Methodist Hospitals in the Medical Center is looking for volunteers to serve in various positions throughout the hospitals. Opportunities range from working in the Gift Shop, Intensive Care

Units and Surgery Waiting Rooms, to the Information Desk and transporting patients. We have needs at the main Methodist Hospital and Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospitals. Please contact the Volunteer Office at 210-575-4519 or our website at www.sabluebird.org for more information. Thank you very much for your consideration.

DON'T FORGET

Ron Saur will be teaching the following Temple School at Shenandoah on September 19th and 20th: "**Stewardship: An Old Path Made New.**" Those interested please contact [Patty Walker](mailto:Patty.Walker@shenandoah.org) by the end of August so books can be ordered. The cost of the book is \$15.00 and it can be paid for that weekend. The course will be two hours on Friday evening, September 19th and all day on Saturday. A continental breakfast and lunch will served on Saturday. Free-will offering will be gathered for the meals.

Information Wanted!

Adults younger than 35 or so? The Community of Christ is trying to better meet the leadership development needs of young adults (YA's). We appreciate your participation in a short online survey. This will help to focus the educational opportunities and ministry support and that the church offers to young adults in the future. To access the survey please use the following: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IR3q_2bnSLIrxvlddSOL8W4g_3d_3d

Save This Date--

Sept. 14th – Following 11:00 Worship Service – Pot/Luck and Congregational Business Meeting. Three IMPORTANT items of business: (1) Election of Officers (Pastor(s) & Secretary for 2009 (2) Election of Delegates/Alternates for Upcoming Mission Center Conference (3) Voting on business regarding Congregational Building Project. Plan NOW to be part of the decision-making process. Cole/McCrimmon/Tucker families will be the Pot Luck hosts that day.

World Ministries Contribution Update

The church received an estimated \$700,000 in World Ministries Mission Tithes in July 2008. Thank you! The budget for the new fiscal year, which began July 1, is \$10.5 million. We needed to receive \$764,000 in July in order to be on track to balancing the budget, so we are about 8% behind after one month. Here are a few of the missionary opportunities your contributions of \$10.5 million will support around the world this year:

- Native language resources and translations of the scriptures for the Saints in Central and South America
- YAK (Young Adult Koinonia) podcasts, which create new pathways for the proclamation of the gospel
- Full-time ministers to support missionary outreach in Brazil

To learn more about how your generosity transforms lives, visit the church's website at www.CofChrist.org/offertory. Thank you for giving so generously.

Piano News

If you've attended church in the past month you've probably noticed two new Clavinova electric pianos in the sanctuary. The pianists, as a group, decided to do some research work for a new keyboard before our very old one started giving us problems. Alamo Music delivered two keyboards and let them remain with us so all the pianists would have ample time to try them out. We've come to a decision on which one we want to purchase and we're looking forward to being able to enhance our worship services with additional musical options. We will be attempting to sell the old Clavinova on either www.Ebay.com or Craigslist.com. However, if you know of someone who is interested in purchasing it, please let one of the pastors know and we will assist you in whatever way we can.

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy Mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

19-Arlie Brucks
11-James Thomason
13-Evelyn Williams
17-Darcie Farrel
19-Charles Melenzyer
25-Ashley Rodriquez
27-Jon Higginson
28-Jan Brucks

September Greeters

7th —Jan & Arlie Brucks

14th —L & E Williams

21st —Doris Jackel

28th —Jim Burdick

Widener Update

Joy Widener writes via email:

I can't tell you how much I enjoy the newsletter!!! I thought I would give you an update on the Widener clan. Haiden and Wesley have returned to Indiana after spending the summer with their dad and his family in Washington DC. They had a wonderful time. Wesley was very excited that he got to see "where Forest found Jenny," Haiden referred to the same area as the Washington Monument (I'm sure there was an eye roll in there too, directed at her brother's comment.) Haiden will be starting 7th grade this year. She is a star soccer player and is learning to play the guitar. She also hopes to be on the cross country & track teams at the middle school. Wesley will be in the 4th grade. He is not playing football this year, the helmet hurt his head...he is anxiously waiting basketball season though. He is looking forward to 4th grade and is hoping it doesn't take very long to train this teacher...after all; it took almost all year last year! Thank you for the continued updates! Give everyone big hugs from us!!!

Follow-up Priesthood Meeting

Please make every effort to attend this meeting, to be held Sunday, Sept. 7th at 6 pm. If you need a ride, please call around and see if someone can pick you up.

Camp Sionito Work Party - Sept. 20th, 2008; (Sat) – Sept. 21st, 2008 (Sun). We have jobs for all skill levels. Questions? Contact Mike Thutchley – Home – 817.457.4688; Cell – 817.819.7299