



# Saints Alive

November 2008

## Pastor's Message

By Carol White

November is one of my favorite months, not just because it's my birthday but it means that South Texas is finally starting to cool down. Although the south Texas harvest has come and gone and winter gardens have begun, I have always loved the look of autumn with leaves that change color and life that is beginning to go dormant for winter and rebirth in spring.

Texas's attempt at fall colors in some isolated hill country spots is "iffy" at best. There has to be enough rain (probably not this year) and enough cool nights or even a freeze at the right time, (a slight chance next week-but not likely either). Then the window of opportunity to view these colors is very small, maybe 3-4 weeks at best. If it hasn't happened by Thanksgiving, it probably will not be a very colorful fall. But no matter, it's the start of the Holiday season! Some of us, me included for sure, have elaborate spreads and eat like there is no tomorrow, we watch football until our eyes glaze over, maybe we think about our blessings, and we get ready for Christmas.

But a more novel experience for us might be to learn about the Jewish festival called the Sukkot also know as the Feast of Booths, the Feast of Tabernacles, or the Feast of Ingathering. It is a biblical pilgrimage festival that in early or late October and is a 7-day holiday. Now, I'm sure there are Jews that eat like there is no tomorrow as well, but the football and day-long TV would not fit too well with this holiday. The word Sukkot is plural of sukkah, which means booth or hut. During this holiday Jews are instructed to construct a temporary structure in which to eat their meals, entertain guests, relax, and even sleep. It is reminiscent of the type of huts in which the ancient Israelites dwelt during their 40 years of wandering in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt, and is intended to reflect God's benevolence in providing for all the Jews' needs in the desert.

The huts are decorated and guests are invited including Gentiles. It is a joyous occasion and referred to in Hebrew as the season of our rejoicing. But the temporary nature of the sukkah (booth) itself symbolizes the frailty and transience of life. It also reminds its dwellers that true security comes from faith in God, rather than from money or possessions.

God sent his Son, Jesus to show us the way to security and peace. The words and deeds of Jesus witness to a Christian vision of

shalom, which denotes social wholeness and the well being of all. Shalom will come only to the inclusive embracing community that excludes no one. The blessings of shalom will be shared by all or enjoyed by none according to author James McGinnis.

It is my hope that in our own season of harvest and thanksgiving, that we come to realize how connected we are to each other, how we need each other and when we share with others on the basis of need, we will find ourselves provided for in our time of need. It is my hope that we will trust in God and the power of love. Lasting security lies in creating communities that share until the Spirit working in partnership with us brings God's beloved community to its fullness.

### November Greeters

2—Dalton & Dottie Klaus  
9—Pat Campbell  
16—Doris Jackel  
23—Carol Burdick  
30—Kelly Patten

## ***EDUCATE YOURSELF!***

A Temple School course, “Stewardship: An Old Path Made New” was instructed by Ron Saur, Coastal Bend Mission Center Financial Officer, at Shenandoah on September 19th and 20th. It was a wonderful course that gave the attendees or students great opportunities to discuss God’s generosity, stewardship, and discipleship. It also gives those who attend a chance to fellowship with others whom we don’t get to see often. There were a total of 14 students: Steve & Holly Hampton from Corpus Christi, Julia Hoffman from Austin, Tom & Linda Barrett from New Braunfels, Ginger and Emily Walker from Houston, and from Shenandoah were Heather & Lucy Osterhaus, Jim & Carol Burdick, Pat Campbell, Edna Workmon, and Patty Walker. We are grateful for all those who attended – especially if they came from out of town.

A great big thank you to Ron Saur for his excellent facilitation of the course and for driving from Round Rock to be with us. Please keep in mind that these Temple School courses are not for Priesthood members only – they are for anyone. So please plan to attend one the next time an opportunity presents itself – it is well worth your time!

## **Mission Center Conference – Oct. 25 & 26 – Camp Sionito**

The names for the conference delegates and alternates are:

<b>Delegates</b>	<b>Alternates</b>
Edna Workmon	Ray Jackel
Kelly Patten	Doris Jackel
Carol Deane White	Kathleen Cole
Jim Burdick	Ginger Walker &
Carol Burdick	Emily Walker (from the Pasadena Congregation)

Look for information about the conference in future newsletters!

## **Drill Competition**

Tommy Walker received his drill team competition schedule and a few of the upcoming local competitions include:

Saturday, November 8th, at Seguin High School  
Saturday, December 6th, at Southwest High School  
Saturday, December 13th, at Jay High School

If anyone is interested in seeing Tommy and his team compete, call or e-mail Patty and she can let you know what time the Jay HS team will compete as we get closer to each date.

## **Bake Sale Proceeds**

The October bake sale brought in  
\$145.00 for the youth camperships.  
Thanks for baking and buying!

## **November Birthdays**

**2—Beverly Higginsons**

**8—Carol White**

**10-Jennifer Theisen**

**Cassandra Cole**

**11-Fred Ayers**

**12-Marvel Riley**

**Kerry Coleman**

**14-John Patten**

**15-Kathlyn Graves**

**24-Amalia Bowden**

**29-Thomas Walker**

The “Crafty Ladies” of Shenandoah have spent several months making layette sets and gowns, and receiving blankets for newborn babies in the Tandala Hospital in the Congo. We mailed 40 of these sets to the Doctor that heads up the Mission Trips every three months and he will take them along with him. Thanks, Ladies. They will be appreciated very much.

## Rileys Set Sights on "low" Texas Mountain

Bob and Marvel Riley, good friends of Shenandoah who now attend the Bandera congregation, advise they are "in training." On Sunday afternoons for the next few months, they will be strengthening their hiking muscles. They plan a climb of Guadalupe Peak in the late spring of 2009. The Guadalupe Mountain is the highest peak in Texas and is 3,000 feet vertical height, with the round trip about 8½ miles. In announcing their climbing venture, Bob said the "whipper snapper" who wrote the trail guide said to allow 6 to 8 hours of hiking/climbing. Bob says with arthritic knees, we shall see.

## Hurricane Relief Help

Tens of thousands of families in the Caribbean and along the Texas Gulf Coast are counting damages and cleaning up debris from the major hurricanes, Gustav and Ike. The work of Outreach International is spread across a large area of hard hit Haiti, including almost 100 schools supporting more than 9,000 school children and their families in many communities. Needless to say, many of those communities were devastated by the massive storms. Right on the heels of Gustav came an even more deadly storm which threatened large sections of the Texas gulf coast region. Outreach International in coordinating relief effort among our church members and their properties. Please donate generously to Outreach International to aid victims of Gustav and Ike.

## Sionito October Work Party

Ever wonder just what they get done at Sionito during the weekend? It's amazing—here's a run-down on the October weekend: *We repaired the exterior door to Cabin 3 of the Lodge, installed door closers on most of the exterior doors to the Lodge and feet to hold the doors open. We installed boot lamps in Cabin 2 of the Lodge, repaired several drawer pulls in Cabin 1 of the Lodge and fixed the cabinet door in the kitchen of the Lodge. We repaired the threshold of the freezer in the Dining Hall and adjusted the door to the walk-in cooler in the Dining Hall. Finished the rafters on the Barn and started putting up 1x4s for the tin, put up the tin on the road side of the Barn on both levels and moved one and a half piles of lumber to the Barn. Checked out cabins for mold and mapped*

*out the baths and closets to determine configuration for a future remodel. Finished the work on the plumbing to Cabins 13 and 14 for the new water system. Cleaned up some brush and burned same, started work on storage room in the old office at the shop and took a chair and desk to the thrift shop.*

Our thanks go out to Mike Thutchely and the other volunteers for their excellent work.

### Future Work Party Dates:

Nov. 15 & 16

Dec. 6 & 7

Jan 10

Feb 14 & 15

(Notice they call them *parties*? Come out and have some fun!)

Questions? Contact [Mike Thutchley](#)

Home 817.457.4688



The Sionito Campgrounds Association announces the 2008 Photo Contest. Entry information is attached is posted on the Shenandoah bulletin board. The Photo Contest has been named for Tom Grubbs -- who would not be recognizable but for the camera with which he is always armed and ready to shoot.

The deadline for photo submissions is November 22, 2008. There is no limit to the number of entries; however, all photos must be from 2008 summer youth camps or reunions. The winner in each of the three (3) categories will receive a one week (for one person) fully paid registration to a 2009 Camp Sionito summer youth camp or reunion for which that individual or that individual's designee is eligible to attend.

### For Your Comfort

Rozella Sixt and the Crafty Ladies have made



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seven new back pillows  
for the sanctuary pews.

## Dates to Remember:

Yuletide Retreat –Dec 30 – Jan 1, 2008 – CANCELLED

Sr. High Camp	Jun 14 – 20
Reunion #1	Jun 21 – 27
Jr. Camp	Jun 28 – Jul 4
Reunion #2	July 4 – 10
Jr. High Camp	Jul 12 – 18
Intl Youth Forum	Jul 21 – Aug 1
Spec Graceland Univ.	Jul 25 –Aug 1

The Multi-Mission Center Gathering scheduled for May 22 – 24, 2009 has been cancelled. Such a gathering will be planned to 2011, which is the year there will be no World Conference.

## Peace Support Network

The Community of Christ Peace Support Network is an intentional linking of people throughout the world who believe in peace and who want to make peace a reality. Their purpose is to build a global movement which provides individuals the opportunity to join together based upon passion, calling, and that which resonates within them, rather than be constrained by the limitations of circumstance and geography. Check it out at [www.cofchrist.org](http://www.cofchrist.org).



## Respond to a Survey of Current Songs

Visit [www.CofChrist.org/hymnal/](http://www.CofChrist.org/hymnal/) to provide feedback on which hymns/songs found in *Hymns of the Saints*, *Sing for Peace*, *Sing a New Song*, and *By Request* should be carried forward into the new resources. The survey will be available through December 31.

## Dialogue Regarding Conditions for Membership

You may recall that at the 2007 World Conference a resolution from the East Africa Mission Center was approved calling for the First Presidency to examine this issue, and after prayer, reflection and discernment, to issue instructions to the church concerning the matter.

The First Presidency is desirous that there be dialogue around the church concerning this important question, and the class at the October Coastal Bend Mission Center Conference will be an opportunity for such dialogue. Of course this class will not be a venue for debating, nor for making decisions. We will share perspectives and listen to each other's expressions of thoughts and feelings. As an aid in preparing for this dialogue, Brother Maupin has provided the documents listed below for study.

- [Conditions for Membership Resolution](#)
- [Report of Conditions for Membership Committee 1994](#)
- [Ruling on Rebaptism Resolution 2002](#)
- [Scriptures about Baptism and Conditions of Membership](#)

Not everyone will be able to be present for this dialogue at the conferences. However, the documents will be useful in study of this matter in congregations as well and we encourage your careful and prayerful study of the material provided. Copies of the documents can be downloaded from the above links, or they can be found on the table in the sanctuary foyer.

## CELEBRATE FALL

The Shenandoah Church Family will be sharing a Fall Festival in the spacious yard of Richard and Kathleen Cole's family home in north San Antonio. There is plenty of parking and the activities will start in the late afternoon on 19915 Park Ranch on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll roast and toast hot dogs and marshmallows so bring your appetites and be prepared to celebrate that period between the end of summer and our brief South Texas winter. Last year the weather was ideal and we are expecting the Coles will provide no less for the Festival in 2008.