



Saints Alive

December 2008

Live Simply

By Carol Burdick

Advent provides Christians the chance to start anew, to make adjustments in our lives for the coming of the Christ child. Today is a good day to begin planning how you and your family will use the Advent season to prepare deliberately for Christmas rather than going on autopilot, assuming that you must immediately fly into the storm of shopping and spending. In many cultures the practicing of consumerism surrounding the celebration of Jesus' birth is common. However, when we contrast it with Jesus' teachings on possessions, it is in opposition. Jesus often told his listeners to dispense with wealth and belongings entirely, and take a carefree approach to possessions: "Seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

Ultimately, we must remember that by his lifestyle and teachings Jesus contrasted dramatically with his surrounding culture. Christians are called to live in similar opposition to the norms and assumptions of society. In cultures marked heavily by acquisition and consumption, following Christ's example means living simply and aspiring for an attitude of "enough." --*Year B Worship Resources, Community of Christ*

This year our immediate family in San Antonio has decided to try a different form of gift-giving. We wanted to remove some of the hustle/bustle of finding a gift and realized that we do wonderful things for each other throughout the entire year; so, this Christmas we are sharing ourselves in a different way and reducing some of the stress.

Christmas 2008, as I've said, will be different. We'll watch as just our little ones open gifts from Uncle Michael, Ga-Ga, and Bop, and then we'll load into a vehicle, all 7 of us, and enjoy a delicious restaurant meal. We will talk, visit and enjoy each other's company, then take in a breath-taking ride through a dazzling winter wonderland of lights and Christmas music.

Perhaps some of you have already "calmed down" your Christmas season; you've simplified and de-stressed some of the gift-giving. Shown below is another idea to consider; a Love Coupon to give to your loved ones with whom you exchange gifts.

My wish for you this holiday season is that you have a joyful Christmas, in whatever way you choose to celebrate this wonderful event. Let's all pray for peace in our world, in our homes, and most importantly, in our hearts. Merry Christmas!!

Love Coupon

Buy me nothing. I'll still love you.

This coupon entitles the bearer to give love instead of mass-produced gifts.

Dear Family and Friends:

If you plan to give me a gift for the holidays this year, please let it be a gift from the "kindness economy" instead of the "money economy. Consciously plan and do one nice thing. Say to yourself, "This kindness is my gift." Then write down what you did and mail it to me. My heart will be warmed with the thought that kindness is increasing. My mailbox will be filled with excitement. I'll hang your kindness on my holiday tree to open on Christmas morning.

Your gift doesn't need to be a sacrifice. It doesn't have to involve great planning or expense. Your kindness won't clutter or pollute the earth. And it doesn't have to cost more than a stamp. I guarantee that it will be just exactly the right style, size, and color. It will be a gift from your heart that warms mine.

So please do a kindness, write it down, and mail it to me for the holidays. I can't wait to learn what happens.

Love, _____

---Adapted from "Guidelines for Alternative Giving II."



It's time to
Mark your calendar!

2009 WOMEN'S RETREAT

*Guest Minister
Apostle Stassi Cramm*

**THEME FOR THE WEEKEND
....ABOVE ALL....LOVE!**

APRIL 24TH -26TH, 2009

Camp Sionito

December Greeters

7th—Marilyn McCrimmon
14th—Jan & Arlie Brucks
21st—Patty Walker
28th—open, Volunteer
needed!

Fall Festival



The weather was perfect for Shenandoah's annual Fall Festival which for the last several years has been held on the spacious grounds of Kathleen and Richard Cole's home in North



Central San Antonio. This year's event was held on the first Saturday of November.

The picnic atmosphere included hot dogs and trimmings and the youngsters got to help Richard Cole and Charles Loveless who were in charge of the fire and the open air grilling. A number of games were played, appealing to all ages, and a relaxing evening was enjoyed



by all. Sergio and Darcie Farrell also had their water slide set up and a goodly number of the children got a last chance to play on the slide for the current season.

Get connected to mission with E-subscriptions. Have the following reports delivered to your e-mail. Subscribe free online. Visit www.CofChrist.org/subscribe.asp to subscribe today!

You can sign up for:

- Community of Christ News
- 10-Minute News Report
- Doctrine and Covenants 163 Commentary
- Weekly Devotions from Daily Bread
- New French Content
- New Spanish Content

December Birthdays

2—Brenda Higginson
3—Ann Yerrington
4—Ray Jackel
7—Leah Higginson
11—Sydney Callier
 Leilani Loveless
12—Lynn Pallas
20—Doris Jackel
23— Bob Riley
29—Sara Higginson
31—Terry Jackel
 Margot Spiekermann



Flea Market Fund Raising

Shenandoah's "Crafty Ladies" picked the coldest day of the fall season, in their effort to help bolster the Building Fund.

Despite the raw weather on November 23, a table loaded with garage sale and handcrafted items was setup at Bussies Flea Market on I-35 near Garden Ridge. Edna Workmon, Marilyn McCrimmon, and Evelyn Williams tried their best to keep warm, and in the process realized slightly more than \$100 for their efforts.

They said they had a good time, despite the ear-muff and mitten weather, and enjoyed a chance to shop around over a vast array of merchandise for sale.

Make Someone's Christmas Happy!

It is time to start gathering toys for children in the Bellaire area so they will have a happy Christmas holiday. If you are able to donate a new toy or toys (unwrapped) please bring them to church with you as soon as possible.

Also, because of the down turn in the economy, more people need help than ever before and the food banks always need donations. Please bring nonperishable food items to church with you, every Sunday, but especially the first Sunday of every month.

New During Sunday Morning Adult Class

We have a DVD that contains a twelve-part class series to help describe and lead discussion about the beliefs of the church. Each lesson has a video segment by Steve Veazey, followed by questions and sometimes leading comments to guide discussion. In addition, we are also coordinating specific scripture readings to guide each week's study. There will be a student handout for each week with the scriptures/questions/comments. Jim Burdick is formatting these onto paper for teacher and students.

The DVD is definitely neither intended nor appropriate for a worship service or standalone presentation. However, Jim would be very happy to present this during another time frame, such as a weekend retreat or evenings, as interest demands.

News From the Pews

Patty Walker reports that the **Walkers** had a boring Thanksgiving, but boring is just another way to say relaxing and safe! ☺ However, for Christmas, they we are going to have a brief visit from Jim's cousin, Jean Dudley, and her husband, Jared. They live in Buhl, Idaho and have a daughter and son-in-law who live in Waco. So after visiting them, they are coming a little further south to see us. The Walkers are looking forward to the visit.

Tommy has two drill meets in December. One is December 6th at Southwest High School and the other is December 13th at his own school, Jay High School. Also, their Colonel has applied for the team to appear in the inaugural parade on January 20th. They probably won't hear until mid-December if they have been accepted so say a prayer for the kids! It would really be a feather in their cap to be accepted.

The **Talcotts** and **Lafe and Evelyn Williams** enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with **Sarah Talcott** at her dining facility, very low key. However, look Jon to come in from Korea and Matt and family to come in from Las Vegas for almost a two weeks at Christmas. Wayne's brother and his family will be in from Houston, and Matt's in-laws will also be with the family for part of the holidays. Matt, Marcella and their son Lafe will be moving to Okinawa, Japan early next year, so you can guess where Wayne and Lisa will be going on vacation!

AFGHAN RAFFLE RAISES \$100

The beautiful pyramid design afghan that Brian Fuller knitted and donated to the Building Fund drive raised just under \$100. The drawing for the afghan was held at the Pot Luck dinner on November 9th and the winner was: Lisa Talcott!! We thank all of those who supported this fund drive, and particularly Brian for his donation, and Marilyn McCrimmon and Patty Walker who made and promoted ticket sales.

Help at Sionito

Many opportunities exist to help fix and clean up our facilities at Camp Sionito near Bandera. Here are a list of the work dates: December 5-7 ; January 9-11; Feb. 13-15; March 6-8; April 17-19 and May 15-17. There are jobs for all persons, regardless of skill levels.

See you at Sionito. For more information contact Joseph Postnikoff at: Phone 817-347-5261 Fax 817-335-9411; Mobile 817-291-9822.

Annual Silent Retreat
at The Cenacle Retreat House
420 N. Kirkwood, Houston, TX 77079
January 2-4, 2009

Sponsored by Live Oak Community of Christ
Marlene Krueger - Retreat Spiritual Director
Registration forms on the Bulletin Board.

Financial Peace University Update

Pictured on the next page are some of the members of the Financial Peace University (FPU) class that's been taught by Dave Ramsey at Shenandoah since October. All participants would agree that they've enjoyed the fellowship over a supper meal each evening before the start of class. Another point of consensus is that they've changed the way they now view money, credit card debt, buying a car, budgeting and so many more aspects of their financial lives. They've seen how poor money management affects their entire personal world and would agree whole-heartedly with Dave when he says, "Live **differently** . . . so you can live **differently**." This class comes to a close the first Wednesday of December. We thank those Shenandoah members and friends who gave graciously of their time, talents and food as they supported the group each Wednesday. If you missed your chance to attend or support FPU, we plan to have other classes in 2009 in the January/February timeframe.

Coastal Bend Mission Center Conference

Also on the next page are Shenandoah's delegates for the Coastal Bend Mission Center Conference that convened October 25th and concluded on Oct 26th. All church members are always welcome and are encouraged to attend the business meetings, dialogue sessions and worship. On Saturday afternoon two beautiful handmade "picture" quilts were presented to Mark Euritt, our outgoing Mission Center President. The quilts represented the congregations in the two mission centers over which he presided. Saturday evening Terry Don Shelton was set apart as our new Mission Center President. In addition to the business sessions of which our delegates took part, we participated in a robust discussion on "Rebaptism," led by our Apostle, Rick Maupin. The one thing that all participants did agree on was that one hour was very inadequate for a discussion on the controversial topic of rebaptism. Members of the Bandera Congregation joined us for the Sunday morning worship service and the conference was over by noon.

