

The Shepherd's Watch



We at SHPC take our call to mission seriously. No, not grimly! Seriously! Christ calls us to take our faith out into the world, and so we do. Building houses in Mexico, installing clean water systems in Guatemala, helping our Malawian friends store grain for the hungry time — these you've heard about quite a bit.

But that's not all we do!

In this issue, find out about a few more of the MANY missions we support here at SHPC. The Bread Project, Presbyterian Children's Homes, and the Austin Freeze Night Ministry — read about ever more ways you can reach out and serve God.

For a complete list of SHPC missions, check our website — www.shpc.org/mission/mission/php

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Issue 2

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To serve and be served... learning to give ourselves away

This past year was filled with huge natural disasters, from earthquakes and tsunami to fire and hurricanes. In the midst of it all, our church has responded – responded greatly. Never have I seen such a large outpouring of assistance for so many that we hardly knew! They were indeed our neighbors. The needs of 2005 were large but you all met them faithfully. Thank you.

In church you will often hear me speak about how our church is continuing to “learn how to give itself away in mission.” This last year you did this much better than I could have ever prayed for. In this coming year, I hope you will continue the practice of giving yourself away – but in a new way. I pray that you might consider serving in the church that has served you and your neighbors.

Sometimes the nearest and biggest mission projects are the ones right in our own congregation. Have you considered becoming a Sunday school teacher or thought about serving on a committee in the church? Are you a gifted web designer or musician, a singer-songwriter who is looking for a place to use those God-given gifts? Do you have a flair for throwing a great party and love having people over at your house? Are you an audiophile who loves the ins and outs of a sound board? Right now, in our church, all of these areas need someone just like you. If it is not you, then who?

You never know what might happen when you serve at church. You make new friends, develop deep relationships and suddenly you are doing what God designed you to do... to serve. I started serving in the church when I was 15 and haven't stopped since. I served the church because the church was serving me. I was happy to give back dollars when I had them, but even more I was happy to give back with the skills I was given. You can do the same. My prayer is that you would hear and respond to God's in your life today.

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” Matthew 9:37

Peace in Christ –

Pastor Mike

Great News on every page...

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Sermons for February

February 5

The Law of Christ

Sermon Series:

The Ten Commandments

February 12

Commandment 4:

Follow the Maintenance Schedule

February 19

Commandment 5:

Fulfill the Cycle of Love

February 26

Commandment 6:

Destroy the Killer in You

About this issue:

Shepherd of the Hills has been active in mission since its inception. The Mission Committee is charged with setting mission objectives and policies for local, national and international areas and to identify the pressing social justice issues of the world in which we live and find ways for the SHPC community to respond to those issues. Please keep praying for Mission work at SHPC.

Benevolence Giving

Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, as a faith community, supports many area organizations and agencies, with talents, volunteer service hours, funding and supplies. While, strictly speaking, “benevolence giving” is the same as “mission giving” – money given away to help others – we use the phrase to refer to money given to projects and programs sponsored by larger Presbyterian groups than SHPC alone.

In addition to designated local recipients and projects, currently 50% of annual budget of the Mission Committee through the Session supports Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly (national) projects and programs through our benevolence giving. This directly provides funding to Presbyterian seminaries and schools, church camps and retreat centers, global relief of hunger, shelter and emergency needs – all stuff that a local church cannot do by itself. For example, CESSMAQ ‘s work is supported in a partnership with Mission Presbytery.

Special collections like the [Joy Gift](#) at Christmastime, or [One Great Hour of Sharing](#), collected during the Easter season, are similar gifts that are collected directly from the congregation for support of benevolence projects at the General Assembly level. We at SHPC are not soldiering alone – we work shoulder to shoulder with Presbyterians here in Central Texas, the south-central US, and across the nation. And with them we reach out to the world!

The SHPC Bread Project

- submitted by Jane and Bill Hall

The Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) has an agreement with the local HEB food stores allowing them to pick up “out of date” food products from those stores. However, the CAFB does not have the staff or the equipment to collect every weekday from all the HEB stores. The SHPC Bread Project has permission from the CAFB to pick up out-of-date bakery products

Mission @ SHPC

from the two HEB stores in the Oak Hill area.

The SHPC Bread Project operates five days per week fifty-two weeks per year. The bakery products we pick up are delivered to non-profit agencies and distributed to needy families and individuals. **This food would be “tossed”**

otherwise. Saving this food for human consumption by needy individuals makes this a great mission project.

We have made friends with the Director at the Baptist Community Center and her helpers as well as the employees at the Travis County West Rural Community Center, our two main delivery stops. They are very appreciative of the efforts of our volunteers. When these centers are closed on holidays we deliver to the Salvation Army and IE, Inc. There is always interaction with those we come in contact with. Our volunteers gather on occasion to have dinner and an evening of fellowship and to meet those new volunteers who have joined this project. We all enjoy being able to participate and feel it is very worthwhile.

The pick up and delivery of the bakery products is done by the “bread crew”. The bread crew currently consists of nineteen driving units. A driving unit is a vehicle manned by an individual, a husband and wife team or two friends. Join us – there’s always room for more driving units!

Presbyterian Childrens’ Homes

- submitted by Stacie and Joe Tracy

Last year Foundations joined forces with The Junior League of Austin and the Beck Group to assist with landscape redesign at the Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services’ Austin Kindle Home. We worked alongside the foster parents, Bill & Kathy Goeppinger, and the girls living at the home to plant trees, flowers, and shrubs and to pull up existing, overgrown areas in the front and back yards. We had a wonderful time getting to know some of the girls

as well as the Goepingers. Side by side we plowed into God's land and strengthened our friendships. We hope to schedule another event at the home sometime this year.

Presbyterian Children's Homes are a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through the Synod of the Sun. Their Mission is to provide Christ-centered services to children and families in need. Their ministry serves children ages birth to 17 who have suffered from neglect, abuse, and abandonment, or children whose families are experiencing some type of family crisis like the death of a parent, divorce, illness, violence, homelessness, parental alcohol or drug abuse, and other issues which threaten family stability. The broad spectrum of services provided allow them to serve more than 1,500 children and families each year. More information about Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services can be found at www.pchas.org.

Freeze Night

-submitted by Mike Brevell

It has been estimated that 3000-6000 people sleep homeless in Austin every night. Unfortunately, fewer than 700 emergency shelter beds are available for this population. The dire need for shelter becomes especially evident in the winter when temperatures drop below the freezing mark. In response, AAIM ([Austin Area Interreligious Ministries](#)) and Austin County Health and Human Services instituted the Cold Weather Shelter Program. Seven area churches open their doors when temperatures drop below freezing – some reserved just for men, one for women and families, and a couple for youth only.

On especially cold nights, [Central Presbyterian](#) opens its fellowship hall to homeless women, their partners and their children. Guests are treated to a hot dinner and a warm place to sleep, followed by breakfast the following morning. Central Presbyterian members are joined by members of Shepherd of the Hills and [First Presbyterian](#) in this endeavor.

Shepherd of the Hills members play host on Monday and Tuesday nights. Our volunteers work in two shifts. The first shift meets at the church around 5 p.m., prepares and serves

dinner to and fellowships with guests in the early evening. The second shift stays overnight and prepares and serves breakfast. Guests leave at 7:30 a.m.

We usually host 15-20 people a night. However, there have been as many as 36 guests on one night this year. The value of this service is evident in the gratitude of the guests who repeatedly say "Thank you" throughout the evening. Without the benevolence of SHPC volunteers, these families would have spent the evening battling the elements on Austin's streets.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about SHPC Freeze Night mission, please contact Mike Brevell at 512-288-4506 (H) or 512-424-4062 (W) or email Mike at mikebrevell@sbcglobal.net.

more Mission
@SHPC

Silent Auction for Mexico Mission

For the third year in a row, the Valentine Dinner (February 12) will include a silent auction. Proceeds from the auction will be used to support the ministry where each summer members of the church travel to Reynosa to build houses for those who are living in desperate conditions. The last auction raised \$7,000. Additional funds are needed because each year more members are participating.

Look around your house to see if there are any nice items that would be appropriate for a silent auction. Examples include handmade items, jewelry, paintings and artifacts. Service gifts, such as eye care, legal services, and yard cleaning also make great auction items. **Getaway trips – whether for the day, a week-end or longer – are some of the most popular** and result in most of the money raised.

Please bring items to the church during the week of February 5th. For other items, please contact either Maria Tissing at 736-22490 or mt0804@yahoo.com or Junie Ledbetter at 301-8357 or jledbetter@dwlaw.com as soon as possible.

Friends for the Journey

Sherry Smith, Director of Adult Ministry

Adult Ministry

This month Adult Ministries will launch a new program called “Journey Groups.” We are all on a spiritual journey, but as Christians we make that journey in community. Now, there are already all sorts of groups at SHPC. There are groups for study, prayer, worship, and mission. However, as we continue to grow in numbers, we need to add more and more small groups so that everyone can find a place where they feel comfortable with Christian friends.

Unfortunately, as we continue to grow in numbers, we are not going to be growing in space any time soon. This is one of the same blessings faced by the early church. As they grew in numbers they didn’t have any fancy church buildings in which to worship... so they met in homes. While we do have a lovely worship space, we don’t have enough classroom space... so we are going to have “Journey Groups” meet in homes.

As I hope you have seen advertised by now, the first set of “Journey Groups” will be studying *The Truth About God* by Hauerwas and Willimon. This is a book about the meaning of the Ten Commandments for Christian life. By the time the classes start in mid-February, Larry will already be about half-way through his sermon series on the Ten Commandments and

the groups will be able to discuss what they have learned from him also.

If you would like to join a “Journey Group” but have not signed up yet, please contact the church office. Since classes will meet in homes they will be offered on various mornings and evenings according to the convenience of those leaders who will be sharing their homes. Check bulletins and the website for more specific information.

Even if you are not joining a group at this time, please be in prayer for the leaders who are launching this new way for SHPC members to connect and grow. Perhaps in the future you may feel called to join a group or even to become a leader and/or offer your home as a meeting place. Most of the “Journey Group” studies will be about six to eight weeks long.

This will especially be a good way for visitors and new members to “plug in” to life at SHPC. It will also be a way for long-time members to meet some new people. I hope you will all prayerfully consider this new opportunity and that many of you will get in on the beginning of this new ministry.

New Year’s Resolutions:

1. Exercise more.
2. Eat better.
3. Stay on budget.
4. Save money.

Does this list look familiar? SHPC can help you keep at least two of your resolutions.

Crown Financial Ministries invites you to join a small group that studies what the Bible says about money. It is a ten-week session that looks at how God works with us and through us to be responsible financial stewards as well as loving Christians. The discussion topics include

debt, honesty, giving, work, and investing. During the course, participants examine their finances and Christian goals and work to improve those areas that they feel are important. (No personal information is shared at any time, though.) Moreover, Crown is a way to build friendships while discussing Bible principles in a small group atmosphere.

A class will meet on Thursdays, beginning February 23rd at 7 p.m. Materials will cost \$45 for a single participant and \$55 for a couple. (Scholarships are available.) Childcare will not be provided. **Sign-up begins January 21st in the narthex**, or you may contact Margaret Fetty (608-0883, mfetty1@austin.rr.com) for additional information.

BOOK LOVERS' ALERT

Are you always on the look-out for a good read? Our church book club invites you to join them on the second Thursday of each month from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in Portable A. After reading the current book, members are invited to suggest discussion questions to be used at the meeting. We have some lively discussions, especially if we disagree with some of the author's stances or statements. (Incidentally, this is an equal opportunity club, with several guys participating.)

Most of the books are contemporary novels with some sort of theological implication, but we occasionally include some golden oldies or non-fiction. Upcoming titles are:

February	<i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i>
March	<i>Gilead</i>
April	<i>Saints and Villains</i>
May	<i>Testament</i>
June	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>
July	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i> (by Picoult)
August	<i>One Vacant Chair</i>

(Members are encouraged to suggest titles.)

We are exploring the possibility of starting a daytime book club. If you are interested or would like more information about the current club, please call Margaret Nakamura.

Shine with your presence at **ILUMINA LA NOCHE**, Manos de Cristo's Spring Benefit with special guest Bob Lively. Support Manos, your local Presbyterian mission serving Austin's working poor, by joining us on **Friday March 3, 2006** at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call 477-7454 for tickets, or go to www.manosdecristo.org. We hope to see you there!

Foundations

will be "kicking off" the month February 5th at our annual **SuperBowl Party** (with the added twist of including a Diapers & Wipes shower for the Wades and Gillises)! After this, we'll conduct a **book review** of "Life of Pi" on February 12th. We just concluded a study on some popular Bible verses read at weddings. **Service projects, our Fall retreat, and much more are upcoming... come join the fun!**

The Foundations Class is based on Fellowship, Bible Study and Prayer. Please join us Sunday evenings from 5 - 6:30 p.m. in the portables. Childcare is provided. Questions? John & Lynette Gillis 453.7866

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

Marriage Course Update — and a cry for help!

SHPC's first Alpha Marriage Course will begin on February 19th. There was a huge (you have no idea!) outpouring of interest and so —

Dates for a second class are being considered. All couples on the waiting list will be scheduled at that time.



Alpha

This brings me to the "cry for help" - **the Alpha team needs folding card tables or two-person folding tables.**

If you can lend a sturdy table, please call either Leslye or Joyce. We will use it between the dates of February 19th and May 7th. *Please do not drop tables off at the church. Thank you!*

For More Information

Please contact **Joyce Davis** (263-1456), or **Leslye Womack** (288-6118) for more information about this course or about Alpha International. You can also read more about the course at www.themarriagecourse.org.

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

Senior Adult Ministry

Saving the Best For Last

submitted by Carol Cunningham

"I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face." – Author Unknown, from the Internet

"Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be." – Robert Browning, "Rabbi ben Ezra"

Psalm 92:13-14 NKJV

Those who are planted
in the house of the LORD
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing.

1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV

However, as it is written:
"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared
for those who love him"

Recently, I visited my aunt, who had been at death's door many times and miraculously recovered. This time, however, time had ravaged her once vibrant body, and her heart was functioning at less than 20 percent. We both knew that the time of her passing was drawing near. As we talked, we spoke of heaven. I told her about a book I had recently read called *90 Minutes in Heaven*. Almost 20 years ago, the author had been pronounced dead, but after an hour and a half had come back to life. He told of his visit to Heaven and said the streets really were paved with gold. As I related this to my aunt she said, "Yes, I know, but they are clear."

"What do you mean?" I asked her.

"They are gold, but they are transparent like glass. I've been inside, but I was told, 'Not Yet.'" she said.

Above I quoted from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. That's why we have this Scripture text – no one's ever seen or heard anything like this, never so much as imagined anything quite like it – what God has arranged for those who love him.

Today, she went home, and I can only imagine what she saw this time. What a blessing to know that God saves the best for last.

The Golden Years Lunch Bunch will gather February 11th at 11:30 a.m. at The Bistro, 11715 Bee Caves Rd. Please RSVP by *February 1st* – the restaurant is more intimate, and they would like time to prepare. To make your reservations, call Ruth and Pete Budic at 261-2270.

Facts, Stories and Trivia Regarding U.S. Presidents

SOUP TO NUTS LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 21ST

The first Soup to Nuts luncheon for 2006 will be held Tuesday, February 21st from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Faries McDaniel, assisted by Ron Miller and Blanche Hunter, will each present interesting

information that they have chosen regarding a U.S. president. They will be available (having done a lot of background reading and study) to answer any questions that participants may ask.

Fui Lai Chinese will cater. The menu is: Beef Classic, Sesame chicken (not spicy), Vegetable Lo Mein, Egg rolls, Crab Puffs, Fried Rice, Steamed Rice, Sauces, sweet sour, mustard and soy, and Fortune cookies as dessert. Don't forget to mark your calendars! Contact Carol or Jack Gilchrist at 288-4945 to RSVP.

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 18th in the narthex. To RSVP, call Jim Black at 892-2982.
All men are welcome!

Senior Adult Ministry

The Fellowship Bridge Group will play the **THIRD Friday in February** – the 17th – (because of picture-taking equipment in room 7 on the second Friday) at 7 p. m. in Room 7. Our hostess will be Barbara Challis. Please call Virginia McNutt at 288-7187 or Martha Meador at 288-3341 by Tuesday, February 14th if you would like to play. Our January winner was Lucette Weiderman.

What is “Groan”-Ups Game Day?

It is a lot of grown-ups groaning with laughter at the luck of the draw when playing their favorite table games such as “Spinner,” “Mexican Train,” “42,” “Shanghai” and whatever else they can think to play. Come join the fun on February 7th from 10 a.m. to noon. Warm your heart and your tummy with coffee,

Mary-Martha Circle will meet Thursday, February 2nd at 10 a.m. in Portable B (because of picture-taking equipment in room 7). Our lesson will be number 5, “Refining our Gifts” from our study *Spiritual Gifts*, and will be presented by Ruth Budic. For more information call Martha Meador at 288-3341.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 2 <i>Thursday</i>	Mary-Martha Circle 10 a.m. – noon
February 7 <i>1st Tuesday</i>	“Groan”-Ups Game Day 10 a.m. – noon
February 11 <i>Saturday</i>	Golden Years Lunch Bunch 11:30 a.m. – whenever
February 17 <i>Friday</i>	Fellowship Bridge Group 7 p.m. – whenever
February 18 <i>Saturday</i>	Men’s Breakfast Fellowship 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.
February 21 <i>3rd Tuesday</i>	Soup to Nuts noon - 1 p.m.
February 28 <i>4th Tuesday</i>	Older Women’s Legacy (OWL) 10 a.m. – noon



Children’s Choirs



Want to have a lot of fun and sing beautifully, too? Try children’s choir at 11 on Sunday mornings. Children in grades K - 2 meet in room 7 with Cindy Baschnagel and those in grades 3 - 5 meet in Room 5 with Toko Sato. Sing songs for the worship service and learn about God. Snack is provided at 11:30 – one of the favorite activities of current choir members.

Check it out!

Children's Ministry



We're on a mission – can you help us accomplish it?

Our Bright Lights Sunday School is active in mission projects, both within the Austin community (like our on-going relationship with Manos de Cristo and the families we reach through our angel tree project), as well as further afield (such as our participation in the Malawi “Beautiful Feet” mission). Helping our children understand the importance of being the Body of Christ in our communities, our country and our world is just a part of the important role we play. To date, our mission projects have been well-received, and we look forward to engaging our young ones even further in future service endeavors, believing wholeheartedly that service to others leads to living a life for a significant purpose – God's purpose.

And this is what I would like to focus on today – particular ways that service is rendered in our own hallways and classrooms, making a significant difference in a number of young lives. Generous contributions of time and energy are being made to benefit our children's growth and maturation not only spiritually, but intellectually and emotionally as well. This happens through opportunities to have fellowship and fun together, to learn Scripture together and to serve Christ together. And in the process of doing all of this, we are accomplishing our mission!



Did you know that we have a specific mission for Children's Ministry here at SHPC? We do! And we take seriously Christ's call that we live it out. Our mission is: **To encourage our children's spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth through fellowship, learning and service of Christ.**

We believe that whenever we encourage our children in these crucial ways, we are fulfilling God's call to bring up our children in the Christian faith (the very promises we make every time a child is baptized). And it's not just about the times these children are in our care here on the church property. It reaches far beyond this – into their homes, their schools, their playgrounds, their extra-curricular activities, and their growing-up years, too. Our service and ministry to them encompasses every aspect of their well-being.

Some call this our ministry. Others deem it our mission. Either way, it's serving others as Christ instructs us and ensuring that the generations to come have a firm foundation on which to build their Christian faith... which is why lives spent serving God can *and do* make significant differences for years to come.

Please give prayerful consideration to how you might reach out to our next generation. We're in need of Sunday School teachers, VBS leaders, child care volunteers, nursery helpers, and musicians. Please remember that **you don't always have to travel a great distance to serve Christ in mission – sometimes you just have to turn the corner from the sanctuary!**

Contact Britta Dukes, Director of Children's Ministry, for more information or to sign up now for any of our on-going needs. Your service is significant!

892-3580 ext 107 or
britta@shpc.org



Coming Soon: Children at the Lord's Table Workshop



In the Presbyterian Church, all baptized children are welcome to participate in communion even before they are confirmed. In light of this, we will be offering a workshop on communion and baptism for children who are currently in the first through fifth grades.

The workshop will be held on **Saturday, March 4th, from 9:30 am – noon**. First communion for these children will occur the next day – **Sunday, March 5th – at the 11 a.m. worship service**.

If you would like to participate in this event, sign up in the narthex between February 4th and 25th, or contact Britta Dukes at 892-3580, ext. 107, or britta@shpc.org. Please note that each child must have at least one parent accompanying them to the workshop.

First communion is an important turning point in a child's life, so please join us for this wonderful opportunity!



Joyce Stewart and Greyson Bourgeois at the 2005 Children at the Lord's Table

Hark! The herald angels sang
... and the soldiers marched,
and the animals loved ...
Christmas Pageant 2005





HOT HARTS - LOCK IN

Have your student join with over 500 students from all over Texas for an awesome weekend with worship, games and life-changing talks. Included in this trip will be a broomball event on Friday night, & Austin's Park N Pizza on Saturday.

Feb 17th -18th — only \$65.00!

Sign up on the web —

www.shpc.org

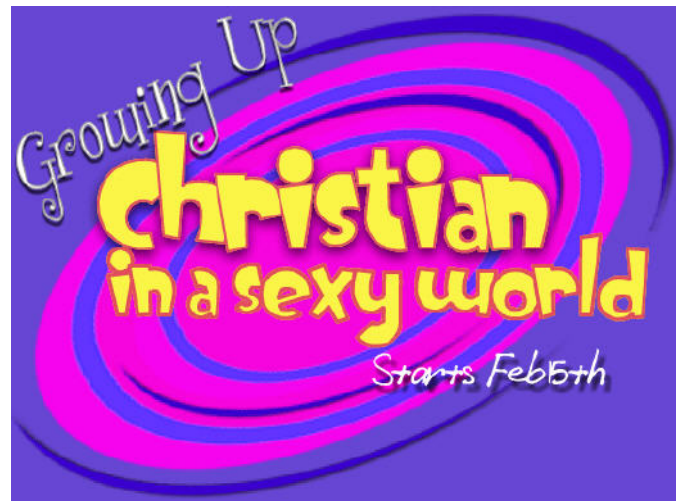
"Know what you Know" — a confirmation & youth new membership course for students in 6th - 8th grades. Sunday mornings at 11 in the student lounge. Class starts Feb 5th and runs until Palm Sunday (April 9th).

Get your student SIGNED UP TODAY at www.shpc.org

MY KID IS IN PUBERTY! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

Do you remember how weird puberty was for you? Most of us have blocked out that painful time. New voice, new hair, new smells, new attractions and no one to give advice. Your body was out of control and you had no one to turn to for help. Don't let your kid go through this alone.

There is a lot of false information out there and your kids deserve to know the truth about what is happening to them. And you should be there to help them during this time.



"Growing up Christian in a Sexy World" is a mid-high and parent course designed to bring up and deal with all the questions and issues that come up during this awkward time for parents and students. The course is designed to open lines of communication between kids and parents about all the tough subjects and issues that puberty and being a pre-high schooler bring about. 6th-8th graders are welcomed with a parent for this fun and funny bonding time. The course is on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 pm in the sanctuary starting Feb 15th and ending March 8th. This is a course not to miss! Sign up online at www.shpc.org. Talk to Pastor Mike for more details.

Christian Happenings

Certificate in Spiritual Growth,
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

March 30-April 2 – **How to Nurture Spiritual Formation in the Congregation** - Dr. Corrine Ware
Because of its popularity, this course is being offered for a fourth time, exploring four different worship styles and how churches can provide for divergent needs. (Registration deadline February 28)

Pick up a brochure from the rack in the narthex with complete information about this outstanding program.

Seton Cove, 3708 Crawford Avenue, 451-0272

Seton Cove offers a wide variety of programs on spirituality and faith in action, including two brown-bag luncheon series. For a complete listing and more details, call or visit the website at www.seton.net/setoncove.



Add to
your
prayer
list

Joys - Mike Martin has been home with his family in Georgia since December 30th following a tour of duty with the US Army in Iraq

Sorrows - Ellen Kubena, mother of Tom, passed away December 30th. Services were held January 1st in Ellinger, TX.

Please pray for – ThuyXa Henry, niece of Sarah Stranahan, and her husband Jason and daughter Kristen, seriously injured in a recent car accident – John Bureson, recovering from a stroke – Judy Behr, treatment for a malignancy in her breast – Lloyd Goehring, severe dizziness – Mae Denmark, long-time friend of Rita Paschak, very ill – MaryLou Busch, healing – Emma Budd, grandmother of Doug Budd, extremely ill – Morris Budd, father of Doug Budd, strength – Robby Roberson, son of Bruce Roberson, recovering from further surgery for whiplash injury – Shirley Stavast, health concerns – Tom Elliott, brother of Hal Elliott, hospitalized with heart problems – James Edwards, hospitalized following surgery – Wilma Burchard, mother of Carolyn Beardslee, recovering from infections – Sharon Rothert, recovering from back surgery – Miles Graham, leukemia, and his mother Aimee, a friend of Kim Arthur – Ken Engler, health concerns – Jamie O’Neill, friend of the Gilchrist family, brain surgery – Pat Richardson, godmother of Cindy Vint, chemotherapy – John Hood, father of Jeanne, congestive heart failure – Myra Christian, severe brain injury and Bill Christian, discouragement, friends of Fred and Nancy Peyton – Paul Cumming, 4th-grade teacher at Oak Hill Elementary, whose mother died in a car accident December 18th – Ethel Page, mother of Carolyn Deutsch, congestive heart failure – David Paul Deskin, nephew of Carolyn Deutsch, kidney problems – Jason Deskin, relative of Carolyn Deutsch, recovery from car accident – Beverly and her children – Anthony – James – Rose – Kent – Christina and her children – Christopher and Chris – those in hurricane-stricken areas

Please pray for Members of the Armed Forces and all world leaders involved in war zone crises including:

Quantrell Blake, friend of Tammy Boehman... Anthony Canas, son-in-law of Linda Brooke and Celestino Mendiola... Paul Floyd, brother of Beaman... Dennis Low... D. J. Haney, nephew of Paula Boatright... Stephen Hartman, nephew of Karla and Richard Snell... John Steele, nephew of Martha Meador... Ryan Moeller, friend of Carol Ideker... Ron Fore, nephew of Joy and Esso Essary... John Sanchez, son of Birdie Lindsey... Jason Addison, son of Al and Jai Leigh Addison... Clay Narey, cousin of Aimee Killeen ... David B. Craig, son of Linda Kimmons... Kenneth McKinney, friend of Carlen Floyd... Jason Mills, son-in-law of Gaston and Junie Broyles... John Paul Hipolito, son of neighbor of Bill Stokes... Eric Wesley, friend of the Gilchrists

It's Flu Season

The early morning sun snuck into my office through the half-open blinds, slithering across the floor and licking at my face. I was slumped over my desk, exhausted from struggling to write my next Budget Guy article. What could I say that would be meaningful? What would help someone improve their financial life and perhaps open the door a little wider to their relationship with God?

For the moment, though, my frustrations were forgotten as I enjoyed the warm caress of the sun on my cheek. I was lying on a beach somewhere, listening to the gentle waves, listening to the creak of the door...

The creak of the door?? The beach melted away as I forced my eyelids open. A shadowy figure slumped in the doorway with one hand on the knob.

I heard a whisper. "*I... I need a... flu shot.*"

A flu shot? "I'm no doctor!" I replied, hoping to find that beach again. "Besides, influenza season is almost over."

"*No... not for... influenza*" the voice rasped in reply. "*Affluenza. It's got me scared to death!*"

Affluenza. Clever word. You know what it means the first time you hear it, without pulling the dictionary off the shelf.

Unfortunately, it's probably too clever. We hear the word, understand what it means, agree that it exists, and then continue right on where we left off.

Some 70+% of our economy depends upon consumer spending. So far, we've all been doing our part – but only by going into more and more debt. Last year, we spent more than we made. Instead of using low mortgage rates, 0% financing and bargain rate credit card transfers to reduce debt, we've just gone out and bought more stuff and gone further in the hole.

The prosperity we have in the United States is unprecedented. But instead of being grateful, we view it as a birthright. When Larry talked

about the second commandment in January, it was tempting to feel that I was safe on that one. But the truth is that I have often felt that I needed certain material things to prove my worth to myself and others. Isn't that a crock?

But isn't that also what our culture keeps telling us? Just think about what we're being told we *need*. A plug-in air-freshener with a built-in fan. A car with windshield wipers that come on automatically when it rains. Blue jeans with built-in iPods. Isn't *that* a crock!

Consider these facts:

- ✂ More people declare bankruptcy each year than graduate from college.
- ✂ The average home in the 1950's was about the size of today's three-car garage.
- ✂ The average family today has *more than 4 times* the debt it had just ten years ago.

In the United States, it's spending, not low income, that is at the root of most financial problems. Unfortunately, we don't want to believe that – it's not *our* fault we can't make ends meet!

There's no doubt in my mind that we're in for some rocky times. Credit card minimums and interest rates are going up, people with interest-only mortgages are starting to feel the squeeze of higher rates, bankruptcy rules have been tightened, foreclosures continue to go up, 25% of us believe the only way we will ever have any money is by winning the lottery.

How long can we continue to fuel our economy on debt?

What can *you* do? Admit to yourself that you *have* made an idol and start tearing it down. Reduce your debt as fast as possible. Pray, and rejoice in the fact that God values what's in your heart, not what's on your back.

Part of my job at SHPC is helping people get out of debt. It's free and it's confidential. Just call the Budget Guy, Allen Gunter, at 292-4035 or send an email to BudgetGuy@SHPC.org. And check out the Crown Financial Ministries Small Study Groups – call Margaret Fetty at 288-9034 for more information. A new class starts soon!



- 3 Feb Allen & Pam Gunter
- 5 Feb Tom & Jan Fiedler
- 6 Feb Doug & Teresa Riffey
- 6 Feb Greg & Gayle Guernsey
- 9 Feb Tom and Gena VanOsselaer
- 10 Feb Karmen & Jeff Miller
- 10 Feb Frances & Ted Miller
- 11 Feb Don & Rita Nowakowski
- 12 Feb Arlan & Sharon Conner
- 16 Feb Peggy and Mike Platt
- 18 Feb Sharon Beynon & Alex Kolesnik
- 21 Feb Charles & Elodie Hakim
- 21 Feb Robert and Alice Kouts
- 24 Feb Bill & Madeline Brock
- 24 Feb Mike and Teena Davis
- 27 Feb Brent and Talori Hatch
- 28 Feb Joanna & Ed McMenemy
- 28 Feb Gene & Lynn Wright



- Feb Tom & Rose Kubena



- 1 Feb Charles Staton
Greg Freed
Jonathan Kluckhohn
- 2 Feb Fran Miller
Ofelia Tabora
Dave Harrington
Rose Kubena
Martyn Buffler
Teresa Wade
Julie Walker
- 3 Feb Rita Paschack
Valerie Aman
Jenny Prosser
Nathan Bender
- 4 Feb Tracy Lord
Paul Carter
Kelsey Stromberg
- 5 Feb Karla Snell
Sue Frye
- 6 Feb Mary Lu Llaveria
Troy Worthington
Kathy Segura
Emily Jordan
Matt Lopez
Benjamin Spink
- 7 Feb Alan Hanna
- 8 Feb Peggy Platt
Paul Kuper
- 9 Feb Clay Cortez
- 10 Feb Glen Vorwerk
Linda Icenhauer Ramirez
Wendy Saari
Jessica O'Meara
Kat Zuraitis
Brooks Gonzales
Travis Saari
- 11 Feb Edward McMenemy

- Hilda Harnden
Lindsey Wheeler
Keivaun Waugh
- 12 Feb Jennifer McDaniel
Alex Castro
Stanley Crawford
- 13 Feb Alice Moore
Jennifer Frye
Reed Cozart
- 14 Feb Debbie Breed
Phillip Callahan
Katie Floyd
- 15 Feb Joey Barrett
Brooks Perkins Jechow
- 16 Feb Mark Thompson
Adam Pellerin
- 18 Feb Shana Greene
Grant Brooke
Charlotte Hanna
- 19 Feb Greg Heidel
John Gillis
Brianna Baschnagel
- 20 Feb Grady Morris
Luke Ayers
- 21 Feb Paula Boatright
Linda Brooke
- 22 Feb Riley Eskelin
- 23 Feb Karen Ashorn
- 24 Feb Jim Ayers
- 25 Feb Mike Davis
Mike Darden
Haley Hyde
Isabela Proctor
- 26 Feb Camille Gerlach
- 27 Feb David Breed
Francis Reilly
- 28 Feb Edwin Schiller
Brice Darden
Erika Davis
- 29 Feb Wally Pryor
Lynette Gillis

Come Gather With PW!

Our next PW (Presbyterian Women) meeting will be February 18th at 10 a.m. Since our spring plans weren't ready by press time, check the SHPC website for details ...

... but we KNOW we'll be gathering for fellowship in portables A and B for those of us that want to knit/sew, scrapbook or do other crafts, while visiting with each other.

We're also getting ready for the Mission Presbytery PW Spring Gathering, March 24th-26th at MO-Ranch. Log Lodge, here we come!

Please feel free to invite your friends to any of our activities. The more the merrier!



Natasha Underwood &
Francis Chambless
1515 Wickersham Lane
Apt 814 A
Austin TX 78741-3128

February

1 Wednesday

- Pictures for Photo Directory 'til 2/11
- 6:30 p.m. Evermore Fellowship
- 6:30 p.m. *Jesus, the One and Only*: Women's Wed. Bible Study
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

2 Thursday

- 10 a.m. Mary-Martha Circle
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

3 Friday Officers Retreat begins

5 Sunday

- 9:45 a.m. Bright Lights Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Confirmation/Youth New Members class
- noon Officers Retreat ends
- 5 p.m. Foundations , portable A
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Prayer 101

7 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. "Groan"-Ups Game Day
- 7 p.m. Red/Blue, Portable B

8 Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. Evermore Fellowship
- 6:30 p.m. *Jesus, the One and Only*: Women's Wed. Bible Study
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9 Thursday

- 10 a.m. WHO CLASS?, room 5
- 7 p.m. Book Club

11 Saturday

- 11:30 a.m. Golden Years Lunch Bunch
- Directory Photos end

12 Sunday

- 9:45 a.m. Bright Lights Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Confirmation/Youth New Members class
- 5 p.m. Foundations , portable A
- 6:30 p.m. Inquirer's Class
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Prayer 101

14 Tuesday

- 6 p.m. Stephen Ministry group meeting, room 7
- 7 p.m. Red/Blue, Portable B

15 Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. Growing Up Christian ...
- 6:30 p.m. *Jesus, the One and Only*: Women's Wed. Bible Study
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

16 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Young Children (MYC) Devotional resumes

17 Friday

- Hot Harts begins
- 7 p.m. Fellowship Bridge Group

18 Saturday

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Fellowship
- 10 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Meeting

19 Sunday

- 9:45 a.m. Bright Lights Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Confirmation/Youth New Members class
- 5 p.m. Alpha Marriage Course
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Prayer 101
- 11:59 p.m. MARCH Newsletter deadline

21 Tuesday

- 12 p.m. Soup to Nuts
- 7 p.m. Red/Blue, Portable B

22 Wednesday

- 5:45 p.m. Babysitting Co-Op
- 6:30 p.m. Growing Up Christian ...
- 6:30 p.m. *Jesus, the One and Only*: Women's Wed. Bible Study
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

23 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. MYC Devotional
- 7 p.m. Crown Financial Ministry class

26 Sunday IHN Begins

- 9:45 a.m. Bright Lights Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Confirmation/Youth New Members class
- 5 p.m. Alpha Marriage Course
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Prayer 101

21 Tuesday

- 1:30 p.m. Older Women's Legacy (OWL) class

Feel free to tear off and save this page to help you keep on top of everything that's happening at Shepherd of the Hills!

Library News



February for your borrowing convenience.
We'll display all of these in the library in

church members!
Fuller, authored by two of our own SHPC
Also, we now have a copy of *Living Life to Its*
The 60-Second Christian - one-minute
meditations 248.4 COL
Back Porch Faith; Weekly Meditations
242.2 PRA

Does daily devotional time seem out of
reach right now? Start with:

Prayers for a Woman of Faith
242 PRA
Biblical Insight for Today's Woman
248.4 DAI
Daily Wisdom for Women; Practical,

Seven Whispers; Listening to the Voice of
Spirit 291.4 BAL
Beside Prayers; Prayers & Poems for When
You Rise and Go to Sleep 811.008 BED
A Devotional Guide to Luke 226 KIL

routine include:
books that would help making that a daily
followed by meditation and/or prayer. New
was to include some devotional reading
spiritual health. Their recommendation
time for mental health as well as
importance of a daily habit of quiet
A recent popular magazine wrote of the
new and unusually good books recently.
We've received a large batch of brand-

Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church
5226 West William Cannon Drive
Austin, TX 78749-2244

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Issue 2

Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Larry Coulter, Pastor
5226 West William Cannon Drive, Austin, TX 78749

The Rev. Michael Killeen, Associate Pastor
Phone: 512-892-3580, FAX: 512-892-6307

www.shpc.org

Pastor's email: larry@shpc.org

church@shpc.org