

# The Shepherd's Watch

"Summertime... and the living is easy..."

—Ira Gershwin



## **STUDENT & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER PREVIEW**

Find out about friends we've made and friends we're *going* to make as we take a look at what's in store for summer at SHPC

April 2007

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# Jesus vs. The Bunny

I wonder who would win if we polled our kids to see who more important to them when it comes to Easter? So I did just that. I conducted an informal poll of my own and... well... sadly, Jesus lost. Of the ten young kids I questioned, "WHAT HAPPENS AT EASTER?" only three mentioned anything about church or God and only one even mentioned Jesus. Easter Vacation has already become Spring Break. So what difference does Easter make anyway?

It makes a lot of difference when your perspective changes from trivial to vital. For kids, candies and chocolate are vital to any special holiday and so it makes sense that kids focus on colored eggs and candies... the trappings of Easter. Most kids don't live in a world that needs hope. Most adults, however... that's a different story. Adults are aware of the brokenness and the hopelessness of the world. Adults can see the need for a savior.

Mary and the disciples had all their hopes dashed upon the rock that was rolled in front of Jesus' borrowed tomb. As the rock closed the cave, it shut away all the hopes and dreams that they had. All of Jesus' teachings were now stained in His blood. Fear must have been growing inside each of them—if they did this to him, what are they going to do to me? All hope was lost.

This is when God acts. The Blood that was shed was shed for a reason, and the life that had been lost was now restored. The hope that was dashed has been replaced with a promise that is called the Rock, Redeemer and Sustainer. Easter is Jesus' proclamation of victory over the greatest powers on earth.

So as you stroll down the Easter aisle and wonder—where is Jesus in all these pastels, eggs and milk chocolate bunnies?—I want to encourage you to do what I do. I buy a chocolate bunny, look it straight in its chocolate eyes and right before I bite its head off I say out loud, "We win! You lose."

In Christ Jesus we have victory.

Enjoy your chocolate—



Pastor Mike

## Great News on every page...

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## Sermons for April

April 1 Palm Sunday Acts 2:23  
The Power of the Cross

April 5  
Maundy Thursday

April 8 Easter Acts 2:24  
The Power of Easter

April 15  
Youth Sunday

April 22 Acts 2:29-39  
Hope and the Holy Spirit

April 29 Luke 11: 1-4  
Lord, Teach Us to Pray:  
Why Pray?

## Summer Camps and Summer More

**S**tart planning your student's summer now! I know that many of you are just back from Spring Break so this may seem like a shocker... the summer is only a few months away.

**A**s summer begins to creep up on us I want to encourage you to take time for two things.

**F**irst, schedule time with your family. You have only a few summers with your kids as students so do not waste them. Put it on your calendar right now! Try a family retreat or a weekly family night with board games and desserts. No TV, no Ipod, no computer, just time with family. Do not let this special summer time slip away.

**S**econd, start planning their summer camp adventures now. Great camps fill up fast. What I look for in a Christian camp isn't just a great location and good price. I look for a camp that has a history of excellence in three areas: food, location, and vision—the most important being their ability to present the gospel well to the group they are working with. We don't want anyone beating up your kids with the Bible but at the same time we want to make sure that there is serious content and a deep desire to see your student grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

**I**f your student is in Mid-High then *The Great Escape* is the

camp for you. We are heading off to Tennessee this year for a brand new experience. *The Great Escape* was and is the first, and the oldest continually running middle school conference in America today. Founded in 1982 with 300 campers, *The Great Escape* has grown to include conferences in 10 different locations around the USA, with thousands of students in attendance.



**T**he success of *The Great Escape* rests on the fact that the planning teams really understand the kids they are working with and for. Because so many of them are also full time youth leaders they understand the needs of the kids even before the kids get off the bus.

**O**ur week will be packed full of recreation and activities as well as dynamic speakers, musicians, and other artists who understand how to communicate in real ways with young people.

**O**ur *Great Escape* Adventure this year is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. This year we are heading to Lee University in Tennessee. The cost is estimated to be \$500. You will be able to sign up and



pay online for this event.

**A**t *The Great Escape* it is my deep desire that your student experience with us the joy of drawing closer to Jesus Christ. It is my hope to do this as a "ministry family" and you are an integral part of that family. Please be praying for us. The Lee University campus has everything we need for a great week together - rolling green lawns, state-of-the-art meeting space, a great student center with a food court, and air-conditioned dorms. It is truly my hope and prayer that this conference will be an opportunity for God to impact the lives of our junior-higher/middle school students in a



## 12 in 1 Discipleship Conference for High School Students

*Jesus focused on developing relationships in small groups and so should we.*

Lets face it—your high school student has “been there and done that” when it comes to camps. Spiritual highs that come, then go a month later. The camp scene hasn’t changed much in a long time. Is that all there is to camp? Songs and crying... then back to our old lives? We know that deep down inside your student really longs for so much more than a simple spiritual high that they have already experienced. They want more, and we know there is more to God than what they have seen and tasted so far.

**Send your high school student to 12 in 1 and let them**

**discover a week that is All Real and All True.** They can meet with God in worship, encounter the freshness of the life that comes from God’s word, and the deep community and friendship that is only possible with Christ at its center. Your student will be surrounded by the beauty of the North Carolina mountains and will be washed in the revolutionary saving love of Jesus. Let your student take part in the life-changing, loud-worshipping, tight-knit community that is *12 in 1*. They will taste and see that God is good and that He is available to them.

The heart of *12 in 1* is to help students encounter Christ in a deeper way than ever before, and then to live in His presence in a fuller way long after they have returned home. The MORE



that your kids are hungering for can be found at *12 in 1* as we focus intently on worship, community, and service. Chap Clark, Duffy Robbins, and Chuck Neder have over 90 years of combined student ministry experience and will walk along with your students as they grow in their understanding of the world they are living in and how Jesus is moving in that world too. Praise is the priority for Jon Abel as he leads us in worship each day.

Nantahala Outdoor Center offers a beautiful backdrop for spiritual renewal, right on the Nantahala River. You will have time, also, to white-water raft, white-water duckies, ropes courses, mountain biking, team initiatives, hiking or climbing for your student! Don’t miss this opportunity for your student to form a deeper connection not only with their friends but with God of the Ages! **The dates for this faith-building trip are June 9<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> with a cost of**





# Summer is more than just camps...

Even though our Evermore and Everlast Mid-Week Ministry groups stop meeting in July & August, that doesn't mean our ministry has shut down for the summer. Check out some of the stuff we have planned that *isn't* at a camp 500 miles away!



## Graduation Dinner

Come and celebrate with us at our **Gala Graduation Event**. Great food, Great pictures, Great stories and a Great time is sure to be had by all. Kleenex is available for all parents as they watch their babies become adults before their eyes. Invite friends and family. **Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Food will be catered @ \$7.50 per person.



## Summer Movies

Summer is often defined by how great the movies are. *Spider-man 3*, *Harry Potter 4*, *The Fantastic 4 #2*, *Transformers*, *Shrek the 3rd*, *The Simpsons*.... It looks like this summer is going to be great. Join us for lunch, a movie and a Bible-based discussion. Find out where the Gospel of Jesus is hidden in each.

## Vacation Bible School

**L I F T O F F ! June 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Here's a chance to put your faith in action. Vacation Bible School gives our students a place to lead—from being on the drama team to leading a small group Bible study center. Vacation Bible School has it all. Little kids with big smiles is the sign of a week well done! Contact Pastor Mike for details.



## Looking for a Christian camp

for your elementary, mid-high, or high school student this summer? Can't make it to *Great Escape* or *12-in-1*?

Google these camps and check out their summer fun.

### Presbyterian Camps

- Cho-Yeh — Livingston
- John Knox Ranch — Wimberly
- MO-Ranch — Hunt

### Other Christian Camps

- T Bar M Camps — New Braunfels
- Camp Balcones Springs — Marble Falls
- Camp Buckner — Burnet
- Camp Champions — Marble Falls
- Pinecove Christian Camps
- Crier Creek Family Camp — Columbus
- H.E. Butt Foundation Camp — Leakey
- Camp Olympia — Trinity
- Camp Peniel — Marble Falls
- Sky Ranches — Van

Did your student have a terrific time at a Christian camp? Email us! We'd love to spread the good word! [comm@shpc.org](mailto:comm@shpc.org)

# Parents

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER



## Camp: It's Not Just for Kids!

Summer is when SHPC goes on the move—not just our students, but our families, too! Below are a couple of neat faith-building opportunities for the whole family. One's been around SHPC for a while, and one's brand-new... and we hope you'll try BOTH of them out!



### SHPC Family Mexico Mission Adventure

On this trip we build so much more than a few houses.

Starting May 27<sup>th</sup> and running till June 1<sup>st</sup> the Mexico Mission trip is the highlight event of the year for many of our families at

Shepherd of the Hills. Not only do we work hard together to build 2-3 homes for our brothers and sisters across the border but we bond as a church family. We put our own sweat equity into the relationships that are formed just a few miles across the border and right across the aisle at church. The work we do is simple but still physically demanding. Cinder bloc-moving, concrete-mixing and wall-building make for several full days work at our work sites. At the end of the day we return to our air-conditioned hotel for some much needed rest, study and fellowship. Please consider taking the time to join us on this year's Mexico Mission Adventure. The cost of this event is about \$200 person plus travel expenses.



### NEW! All-Church Family Camp

August 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>

Taking the time to grow together as a church family!

- ✓ An ideal location (HEB Laity Lodge)
- ✓ Incredible food and
- ✓ A great time

is promised to everyone who joins us on this great get-a-way. Get to know your church family and have a blast with your own family at the same time. This is gonna be fun!



## A high-flying adventure is about to begin...

as we give children (ages 3 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) a sky view of God's power and Jesus' love at this year's "Lift Off! Soaring to new heights with God Vacation Bible School.

**D**uring the week of June 18-22, children will experience an extraordinary adventure filled with fun, excitement, and creative Bible-based activities. As "Sky Scouts," they will discover five Flight Plans that will help them soar to new heights with God:



"I Will Follow."

"I Will Trust."

"I Will Listen."

"I Will Repent."

"I Will Serve."

**C**hildren will begin each day at our "Lift Off! Rally," an assembly time featuring Skylar the Sky Squirrel and Scoop, a reporter from the *Hot Air Ballyhoo*. They will start each session by providing information that sets the stage for the day's high-flying Bible experience. Children will also sing amazing Lift Off! Tunes and visit via video Dr. B.A. Loon in his skyology laboratory.

**A**fter our Lift Off! Rally, each Sky Crew will visit several different locations to interact with the Bible stories and their teachings. At High Fly Bible Time, your Sky Scouts will go on a Bible Story exploration, meeting Bible people who experienced reaching new heights with God and a deeper relationship with Jesus.

**P**rayer is an important component of this curriculum. Children will see how the Bible characters were always talking and listening to God and Jesus. Children will learn Power Prayers from the Psalms. These verses are quick sentence prayers that your Sky Scouts will be able to use in their daily lives.

**T**he curriculum emphasizes sharing prayer requests and teaching children to remember to pray for other people. Each day at the end of their High Fly Bible Time, children will attach a prayer request to a *Power Prayer Hot Air Balloon* that has someone else's prayer request attached to it. The children will leave with the Scripture and with the responsibility to pray for someone else's concern. This opportunity teaches the children the discipline and the power of prayer in their lives.

**K**ids will also enjoy crafts in Pilot Projects, the recreation activities in Rip Line



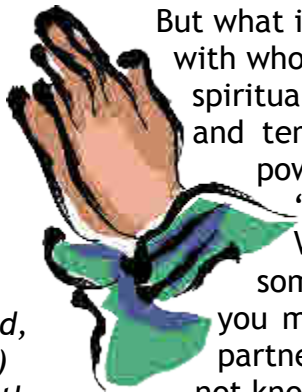


## The Power of a Prayer Partner

by Carol Cunningham

When we pray for one another our requests are made known to God in love and sincerity such that, surely, God will hear our prayer. Of course, we know that God hears every prayer. What makes any one prayer special? The scripture says that

*The effectual (able, capable, effective, powerful, efficient, knowledgeable) fervent (eager, enthusiastic, passionate, dedicated, willing, persistent, wholehearted) prayer of a righteous man availeth (adds, allows, assists, benefits, compensates, does good to, expands, gains, helps, increases, profits, promotes, rallies round) much.*  
—James 5:16 (KJV)



Now, as I see it, using any of those synonyms gives us guidance in how beneficial prayer is from a sincere petitioner. Of course the term ‘righteous’ leaves much for study as well. The scripture also states “where two or more are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

It follows that when two people are praying sincerely for the same thing, they are joined by the Holy Spirit to make their petition known to God. It would seem to me that the elements of the first verse quoted would increase greatly with the added care and presence of the Holy Spirit. How much more powerful, then, would be our prayers if we joined in agreement with one other Christian! That is one reason why we celebrate the prayer chain of our church.

Fellowship Bridge Group will play the second Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in Room 7. Our hosts will be Steve and Laurel Calhoun. Please call Virginia McNutt at 288-7187 or Martha Meador at 288-3341 by Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> if you would like to play.

**THE GOLDEN YEARS LUNCH BUNCH** will gather Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Dynasty Asian Restaurant, 7101 West Highway 71 at the Y in Oak Hill. That’s up in the far corner beyond Jim’s Diner. Buffet is available or, if you like, order from the regular menu.  
For reservations, call Jim Black at 892-2982 by Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

But what if each of us had a personal partner with whom we could share our longings for spiritual growth or just our personal trials and temptations? Wouldn't that be a powerful way to strengthen the “effectual fervency” of our prayers? Wouldn't it be nice to know that someone was praying for you to help you make it through the day? What if partners could pray for someone who does not know Christ as his or her Savior or who is shackled by an addiction of some kind? The power of three multiplies the grace and righteousness which is unwavering through Jesus Christ.

Beginning at the end of April, our pastor, Larry Coulter will deliver a sermon series on prayer. As we become aware of what we can do to become more capable and knowledgeable in our prayer life, would you be interested in putting that knowledge into practice?

We are interested in helping establish a network of prayer partners as part of our Senior Adult Ministry. We will be matching people who are interested in becoming a partner with one other person in prayer. If you are interested in participating, we ask you to submit your name, phone number and email address (if you have one) by writing to: SAM Prayer Partners, 5226 West William Cannon Dr., Austin, TX 78749 — or send your information by email to [carol@shpc.org](mailto:carol@shpc.org) with the subject: Prayer Partner.

*Two are better than one because they have a good reward for the labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).*

## NEW PRAYER STUDY CLASS

Beginning April 26<sup>th</sup>, a 5-week SAM Discussion Class on the book *Prayer* by Yancey is scheduled for Thursday mornings from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in Portable B. In the beginning, the class will be led by the Reverend Larry Coulter in conjunction with his evening class beginning April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Family Christian bookstores this month are selling this book at 40 percent off, for just under \$14. The books can also be purchased through SHPC website ([news.shpc.org](http://news.shpc.org)) – then our church gets a percentage of the cost!

To pre-register for this class, contact Sherry Smith at [sherry@shpc.org](mailto:sherry@shpc.org) or call 892-3580.

Mary-Martha Circle will meet Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in Room 7. Our lesson is #7, "A Wise Servant," from our study *Proverbs and Parables* and will be presented by Carol Cunningham.

For more information, please call Norma Burchard at 394-0131.

## Senior Adult Ministry

### "Groan"-Ups Games Day Is Coming Again

on Tuesday 4/10/07 in Room 7, 10 a.m. to noon

We had a hilarious time last month playing dominoes in a version of Mexican Train that was dubbed "Confusing but Amusing." One of our players said it reminded him of the Abbot and Costello comedy routine "Who's on First?" Come and enjoy a fun-filled time. Bring a friend, bring your favorite game, bring your own rules. Beverages and snacks are provided. RSVP Jim Black at 892-2982 or just appear.

Did you know we made \$12.88 for the work of the church in 2006? That's right—the books and other materials people bought after clicking one of our Amazon.com Associates links gave the church nearly \$13. Not bad for doing something folks were going to do anyway! Visit the SHPC Bookshelf at [news.shpc.org](http://news.shpc.org), and maybe we can make more in 2007!

### Presbyterian Investor's Circle

by Ron Miller

Thank you for considering investment opportunities offered by the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc (PILP). Some of you have picked up brochures that were made available during our effort to renew information about the program.

Immediately following the conclusion of our efforts to re-acquaint you with the program, a new investment opportunity was announced by PILP. They now make available a Mission Market Fund. This permits the investor to invest in a note that has a competitive market rates along with flexible withdrawals.

At present the interest rate on a \$500 to \$49,999 note earns at a 3.20% rate, \$50,000 to \$99,999 earns at a 3.92% rate, and \$100,000

and over is at 4.88%. Up to 3 withdrawals may be made per month. Since these are based on market rates, they may adjust on the first day of each month.

Well, as of today, the stock market isn't doing very well. I hope and pray that you have not felt the pangs of losses in such an adventure, but I want to offer this advice from Proverbs 21:5 "Steady plodding brings prosperity, hasty speculation brings poverty." Just a little something to think about!

For information on any PILP investments, please contact Ben Blake, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, 1-800-903-7457 X5865 or [bblake@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:bblake@ctr.pcusa.org). Thanks for considering an investment in PILP. And by the way, this too will qualify to assist our church in obtaining a lower effective interest rate on our loan.

## Adult Ministry

You may know that my husband is gone to Europe on business a good deal and so I'm often attending church alone. But I'm not really alone. This became very clear to me one Sunday morning recently when Cody mentioned Christian friendship in the children's sermon and then Larry mentioned its importance in his sermon.

The person beside had just told me that at a Dinners for Eight she had heard about a book I had recommended to someone else. The person sharing even got my instructions correct about reading the author's notes at the back first. Then I looked around and I realized on either side of me and in front of me were some of my good close Christian friends. One I met through a Wednesday morning Bible study, one I met through Mary-Martha Circle, and one I got to know while working on our previous SHPC five-year plan. They are all at different stages of life and have interests and pursuits often very different from mine. Our connection is Christian fellowship. And I know if I needed help I could call on any one of them and they would rush to help me in any way they could. And in fact, over the years they have done just that. For example,

know the couple behind me through *Disciple*. At the reception following I visited with friends from the SHPC Book Club.

Now, you might think, of course I would have good Christian friends because I'm a church leader. But often leaders are the loneliest of people because they are too busy leading to take the time needed to develop real friendships. The old adage is still true that you have to be a friend to have one, and that takes time and effort. Just because I'm at a lot of meetings or classes does not mean I will automatically have friends. I had reached out in some way to each of the three sitting near me at church. One I had invited to lunch on the spur of the moment the week before, another I had taken pictures of at a previous church event and was giving her copies, and the other I hadn't seen in a while so I simply asked her if I could sit with her and her husband that day. Those are not big things but they are the little things that keep friendships growing.

## A Story of Christian Friendships

during an ice storm when my electricity was out (in the days before cell phones so my wall phone was out also) I simply showed up unannounced on one of these friend's doorsteps and she took me in, made me hot soup for lunch, and arranged a place in her home office so I could continue my work.

After the service I stayed to chat with one friend. A different mutual friend came over to join us and then yet another joined us. We spent a wonderful few moments catching up with each other before we went our separate ways for lunch. None of us see each other often anymore but we still care for each other.

Later that same Sunday, I was at the memorial service for another friend from a long ago Bible study. The spouse of that friend was also close to me but was connected through different classes. At the service I was seated next to a couple who I became especially close to because of involvement with Cursillo and I had gotten to

Next month's newsletter will have information about Adult Ministry classes and plans for the fall. Any of them would be a good start towards putting yourself in a position to make and nurture new Christian friends. And when you finish reading this article, please pick up the phone and call to nurture a friend that you already have.



# Fraternity Means Friendships

by Wayne Gonzalez

Recently, I was asked to write about our SHPC Men's Fraternity. Where do I start? A little background on me...I own my own business and I am a member of various professional organizations all of which include both men and women. Participating in these groups has made it obvious to me that women are very open and when they are down they uplift each other. This is NOT what men do. It seems like, through time we have to prove to be a good friend. Then, and only then, are you let

in to the "inner" circle. The Men's Fraternity has changed all of that for me.

It is amazing what one hour and fifteen minutes once a week can do. My new friend, Jack is a wonderful mentor and new friend. I lived next door to Alex for more than 3 years. I knew his name, but it took the Men's Fraternity for me to know more about him and his family.

Even though I have no children, I have



experienced with my Fraternity friends the anticipation of the arrival of a child. We discuss and share life.

It is a great feeling to be able to attend Sunday services with people that I am truly close to. I look forward to worshipping with them and experiencing new adventures as our friendship and faith continues to grow.

I really thought twice about making the commitment to participate in the Men's Fraternity, but it has really made a difference in my daily life, my spiritual life and my marriage.

## Remember Red/Blue?

There's a new book study on the horizon at SHPC!

### **Prayer by Philip Yancy**

This spring, Rev. Larry Coulter will be preaching a sermon series on prayer. In conjunction with this he will also lead a two-week study on Philip Yancy's book, *Prayer*. Mark your calendars now for this special opportunity to study with Larry. **Classes will be on Mondays, April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>, in portable B from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** You may want to order a copy of the book through the church website (look for the Bookshelf on [news.shpc.org](http://news.shpc.org)) and read it to be prepared for class. Come and

# Does God Call 21<sup>st</sup>-Century People

God is calling each of us to service. Come hear Tom O'Meara explain how God has prepared him for an assignment to teach this fall at the University of Livingstonia in northern Malawi, Africa.

**Providence: How Does God Make His Will Known to Us?**

Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

Tom will explain how the ministry to Malawi has grown in his own life and at Shepherd of the Hills.

**Past, Present and Future of African Mission and Ministry**

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 12:15 p.m.

Tom will survey the history of Christian ministries in Africa, with special emphasis on the explorations of Dr. David

Livingstone and Dr. Robert Laws. Tom will also talk about the opening of Livingstonia University in 2003, and where the University is headed in the future.

**Multigenerational Storytelling**

Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 p.m.

Could a young man walk from Livingstonia, Africa

---

to Washington State to attend college?

**VBS - Taking the Word of Jesus to Africa**

Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.

How can I get my steamboat over these rapids?

**What does SHPC want from Africa?**

Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

For further information contact Tom at 924-

# Christian Classics

New books add sound resources to our library.

*Faith Seeking Understanding; an Introduction to Christian Theology* 230 MIG

This is often used in introductory theology courses at seminary. The author, a professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, addresses the basic foundations for Christian belief, e.g., the Trinity, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit.

*Crisis of Faith, Crisis of Love* 248.4 KEA

“The Christian contemplative tradition has its roots in the gospel, and it is here that the spiritual journey we all share is first elaborated by Jesus himself.” This readable book by Thomas Keating has meaning for all

Christians-whether we attend the 8 a.m. service or not.

*Open Heart, Open Mind* 248.3 KEA

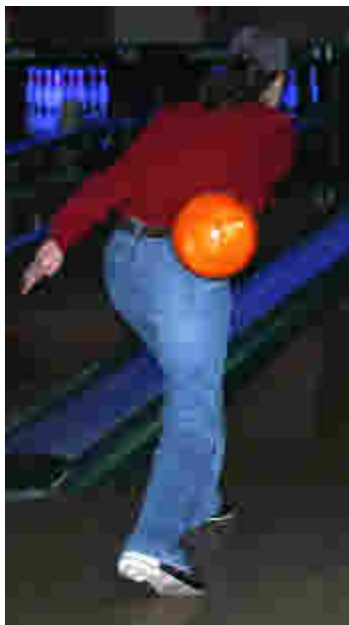
This book is the acknowledged textbook for anyone interested in exploring centering prayer. Thomas Keating is also the author of this one and is the leading proponent for centering prayer. An added benefit is Chapter 13, Guidelines for Christian Life, Growth, and Transformation, a list of forty-two statements that form the basis of Christian belief.

These books will be on display in the church library through the month of April.

Library News



# Foundations



Following the fun the Foundations Group had bowling at the end of February, we had a discussion on religion during the Founding of America. It was interesting to find out that while America was the land of religious diversity

and tolerance, it was required that settlers believed in God to having any voting rights.

The rest of March and April, Foundations is taking a break while SHPC holds a Parenting Class.

Classes are held every Sunday in the Portable buildings. The first and third Sundays we meet at 11:00 a.m. And the second and fourth Sundays we meet at 5:30 p.m. Check the bulletin for the latest times.

Started in December 2003, the Foundations Class is built on three principles: Bible Study, Prayer, and Fellowship. In addition to weekly meetings, we also participate in community service projects and social gatherings together. This class is open to other couples - please come join us! Questions: call John Gillis, 453-7866.

## NEW FRIENDS FROM BURMA ARE HERE!

Our 7 months of waiting and anticipating the arrival of the Burmese (Karen) family cannot even compare to the 10 years of waiting and hoping that they have experienced while in the Tham Hin Refugee Camp in the mountains of Thailand.

Late the night of March 13<sup>th</sup> we welcomed the Tit family of four to their new home in America. It was a very moving and humbling experience. Fear, confusion, exhaustion and wonder covered their faces as they hesitantly followed us to the parking garage and we buckled them into our van.

With donations of furniture, food, and gifts from so many of you, I now encourage you to come and meet them, speak with them, drive

them to appointments, help the children with homework, and help teach them English. Our true tasks have now begun!



Volunteering in this mission program is a fun and exciting opportunity to learn about another culture and to watch the transformation of a family that will realize a dream, that for years has only been a vague and abstract possibility.

Come and share your many blessings and help these refugees make a better life for themselves by welcoming them into your life. You will be blessed abundantly!

Contact Cathy Beard at 263-9910 / [cathybeard@hughes.net](mailto:cathybeard@hughes.net), Sarah Stranahan at 264-2319 / [sstranahan@austin.rr.com](mailto:sstranahan@austin.rr.com) or Christie Clouse at 301-2852 / [ChristieClouse@austin](mailto:ChristieClouse@austin).

## Meet our Intern!



Cody Sandahl is our 2007 winter/fall intern from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He came on board in February, will take a break over the summer (and get married!), and will return next September. Cody will be supporting the ministry staff. He writes:

I came to the seminary after basically a lifetime of feeling a sense of call. I grew up going to church, youth group, mission projects, the whole works. The three things I wanted to be at various times while growing up were video game programmer, astronaut, or pastor. While I grew up in Christianity and even contacted the

seminary in my final year of high school (for some reason they wanted me to have a bachelor's before pursuing their master's program-!), my call did not fully become my own until the end of college. I never found a tight group of Christian friends in college, and I fell out of touch with church as well. After over a year of this, the scales fell from my eyes and I became aware of the emptiness in my life and total dryness in my spirit. I returned to the church, reclaimed Christian community, found a spiritual mentor, and rediscovered my calling. The power and importance of a relationship with Christ and of existing in Christian community are thus very real to me. I am so excited to get to know your community and your own faith stories.

Your brother in Christ,  
Cody Sandahl



SHPC Communications is looking for a staff photographer! This volunteer position would have responsibility for taking high-quality, high-resolution photographs of church events suitable for use on our website as well as in our print publications. This is a deeply felt need—if your friends & family love your action shots, and you love to take them, this may be a ministry for you! Contact [comm@shpc.org](mailto:comm@shpc.org) or 892-3580 x112.

## Needs Versus Wants – Three Ways for Telling the Difference

I've got a little problem and I'm hoping you can help me out. If you read last month's article, you know that Pam and I have been struggling with the question of needs versus wants, and how much in the way of our wants we should allow ourselves to have.

If I listened to what "they" say, I'd "just do it" because after all, "I'm worth it" and I "deserve a break today." How can I argue with that? I've worked hard, don't I deserve a break? And I see others with things I want...am I less worthy than they? I mean, if I can afford it, why not?

Because nothing is truly mine - everything I have comes from God and I'm just the steward of it. And I'd really like to be a good steward so that when the time comes, I can hear God say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's happiness."

So let's start with needs. It seems to me that Scripture is pretty clear about God providing for our needs. So conceptually, at least, I don't have a problem with using some of what He has given me to buy things like food and shelter. Except that I have more house than I really need, and I don't even need to get on the bathroom scale to know I eat more than I really need...

So where do my needs end and my wants begin? To what extent can I use what God has entrusted to me to buy things I want but don't really need? For me, these are significant spiritual questions.

Take Adam and Eve, for example. They had all of their needs met in the Garden of Eden - they didn't even need clothing! But they wanted just a little something more and, well, the rest, as they say, is history. If Adam and Eve were not content with all that God had given them, how are we supposed to ever be content with what we have?

Numerous studies have looked at the relationship between wealth and happiness, all with the same general result...the cost of happiness is about \$50,000. From that point on, it doesn't seem to matter how much income you have, you won't rate yourself as any happier than someone who makes \$50,000. In other words, money can't buy happiness.

We know that, but for some reason we keep telling ourselves that the rules don't apply to us - happiness will be ours once we just make \$\_\_\_\_\_ more or have that \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blanks with the delusions of your choice). Just keep in mind that the definition of insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over again while somehow expecting to get a different result.

So how do you cure the insanity? I don't know for sure, but it seems to me that a good place to start is by saying a prayer of gratitude each day for all that we do have. And when we also try to really distinguish between our needs and our wants, we begin to see how wonderfully God has been taking care of our needs, and how much of our wants He has helped us to get.

### The Fulfillment Curve Test

You can start out nice and easy by spending a little time thinking about the Fulfillment Curve used by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin to illustrate the relationship between money and personal fulfillment in their book *Your Money or Your Life*.

The Fulfillment Curve starts with money spent on survival and is very steep - fulfillment increases rapidly as basic needs are met. But then the curve starts to change. The fulfillment created by money spent on comforts does not increase as fast - it takes more dollars to create the same amount of fulfillment. And as comforts turn to luxuries, the growth in fulfillment slows even more until we reach a

*continued, next page*

point where fulfillment actually declines.

**W**hile there's no science behind the Fulfillment Curve, it doesn't take much to see it in our own lives. So settle back in your easy chair and think back over things you've bought, especially some of those for which you had the most anticipation. How much fulfillment have you actually gotten from them? Have they lived up to your expectations and been worth the cost? Do you notice any patterns in what has brought you the most fulfillment versus what has been disappointing? Any changes over the years?

## The 50/30/20 Test

**A**fter you've done that, try the by-the-numbers approach recommended by Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi in *All Your Worth, The Ultimate Lifetime Money Plan*. They believe that it's really quite simple: 50% of your income should go for needs, 30% you get to spend on whatever you want, and the remaining 20% is saved.

**W**hat about you? Try putting your spending into these three categories and see where you end up. It sure seems like 50% ought to be enough for most of us to meet our basic needs, and having 30% to spend on whatever we want seems like plenty. But something must be wrong - who saves 20%?

**T**he problem is that we've dressed up a lot of wants as needs. And many of those wants have ended up as fixed costs that are difficult to change. For example, shelter is a basic need. But most of us have much more house than we really need. So we end up with bigger mortgage payments, maintenance costs, utility bills, etc. that are really part needs and part wants.

**T**hat's the challenge of the 50/30/20 test - you've got to be very honest about what is a need and what is a want. If you are, you'll likely find that your spending on needs is just fine, it's your spending on wants that is out of whack. You haven't been able to save because, well,

you've wanted other things more than you've wanted to save.

**B**y the way, how would you classify your giving? As a want? Or as a need?

## The Cold Turkey Challenge

**R**eady for the acid test? Try going a month without buying anything that isn't really necessary for you to get through the month. This was proposed recently by Liz Pulliam Weston, a personal finance columnist for MSN Money ([moneycentral.msn.com](http://moneycentral.msn.com)), to the readers of her Your Money message board.

**T**here are no ground rules, no definitions of what is necessary and what isn't. Ms. Weston simply wants us to take a good, hard look at our relationship with money.

**N**ot surprisingly, many participants report periodic relapses, and one reported that she couldn't even begin to participate because her husband would never stand for it!

**E**ven with the relapses, most participants have been both surprised and pleased by the amounts they've been able to save. Many are also surprised by how they don't really miss many of the things they didn't buy. One person kept a list of splurges she planned to make after the month was over, but lost the list and didn't care because she's also lost the urge to splurge.

**A**nd if all of that isn't enough to make you want to try it—some participants were delighted to discover that they lost weight, and one couple reported that it brought them closer together!

**H**ave to close for now. The newsletter deadline is here, and I want... no, make that need... to get this wrapped up! (*Ed. Note: Thanks!*)

I'm here to help you improve your financial life. It's free and confidential. Just call the Budget Guy, Allen Gunter, at 292-4035, or send an email to [BudgetGuy@shpc.org](mailto:BudgetGuy@shpc.org). For a wonderful look at what the Bible says about money, check out the Crown Financial Ministries Small Study Groups - call Margaret Fetty at 288-9034 for more information.

# It's Springtime! And Time for Caring Forever 2007!

Submitted by Allen Gunter, Endowment Committee



Every year at this time, we celebrate God's love by giving away part of the Endowment Fund to someone nominated by you. Nominations have been submitted for this year's award, and the task force appointed by the Session is carefully considering each one. The recipient will be announced on Mother's Day, Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Because of your past generosity in supporting the Endowment Fund, the annual award has grown to \$1,500. Please continue that support by contributing to Caring Forever 2007. You can put a contribution in the offering any Sunday - just be sure your check includes the note "Endowment Fund". If you'd like a contribution envelope, there are some in the wall rack in the narthex.

A generous man will prosper;  
he who refreshes others will  
himself be refreshed.

— Proverbs 11:25

If you want to make your contribution in honor of your mother, or any other person, just complete the form below. We will send a special note to the appropriate person to let them know of your thoughtfulness and love. We even have special Mother's Day card for your mother.

Here's how the Endowment Fund works: Contributions are invested, and only the earnings are spent. So your contribution stays in the Fund forever, generating other dollars that are spent...to expand and enrich the mission and ministry of our church. Think of the power of that! A contribution you make today will still be helping others years from now!!

Have questions? Just ask an Endowment Committee member (Gaston Broyles, Beaman Floyd, Deb Fowler or Allen Gunter). Help us perpetuate the legacy God has given us through his Son,

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## Caring Forever 2007 Dedication Form

(Please Print)

This contribution is in  honor  memory of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (This  is  is not my mother)

Please send an appropriate card to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

This contribution is being made by: \_\_\_\_\_



- 1 Apr Judy & Wolfgang Behr
- 2 Apr Ruben & Suzanne Martinez
- 3 Apr Jim & Virginia McNutt, Mickey & Tamara Landry Bell
- 5 Apr Bob & Raynell Barry, Charles & Jane Staton
- 7 Apr Jim & Shelley Garrett
- 8 Apr Julie & Richard Bonnin, Gaston Broyles & Junie Ledbetter
- 11 Apr Kris & Jennifer Thielemans
- 12 Apr Glenn & Jerry Ouzts
- 14 Apr Doug & Debbie Budd, Jeff & Jennifer Benner
- 16 Apr Fred & Sharon Rothert
- 17 Apr Ryan & Julie Teague
- 27 Apr Dennis & Pat Low
- 29 Apr Angela & Jeff Peterson



- 1 Apr Stella Warner, Jody Barrett, Angela Peterson, Jessica Landry, Bryce Perkins-Jechow, Whitney Worthington
- 2 Apr Pat Haag, Lynn Scoggins, Jennifer Bullock, Mark Greathouse, Danielle Spink, Ashley DeSantis, Riley Ruiz, Cassandra Segura
- 3 Apr Jamie Pearce
- 4 Apr Jennifer DeSantis
- 5 Apr Laura Kromann, Logan Saari, Payton Lord
- 6 Apr Melvin Deutsch, Kim Cline
- 7 Apr Elza Crump, Will Bonnin, Greyson Bourgeois
- 8 Apr Virginia McNutt, Kathy Proctor, Elyse Manzello, Casey Reynolds
- 9 Apr Marian Brock
- 10 Apr Ann McDaniel, Steve Beard, Julie Teague, Tiffany Cunningham, Drew Cole
- 11 Apr Steven Pearson, Taiz Green
- 12 Apr Sandra Mann, Joyce McLaughlin, Andrew Loewe, Leah Humpert, Michael Bay
- 13 Apr Chris Aardema, James Cognetti, Michaela Teague, Allison Wade
- 14 Apr Rollin Breed, Skylar Worthington, Jack Gillis
- 15 Apr Rebecca Robertson, Kris Thielemans, Michael Breed, William Lovelace
- 16 Apr Liz Valvano, James Schroeder
- 17 Apr Heidi Pugh, Katy Bourgeois, Todd Kolkhorst, Adrian Immitt
- 18 Apr Larance Coleman, Scott Windham, Grant Royer
- 19 Apr David Paniagua, Andrea Gerlach, Blair Streit
- 20 Apr Gayle Grace, Daryl Chalberg, Sam Brinks, Beth Andrade, Carmen Johnson, Arion Moore
- 21 Apr Steve Calhoun, Emmie Knox, Michael Bender
- 22 Apr Greg Biles
- 23 Apr Paula Kemp, Andy Rooke, Michelle Paniagua, Dan Valvano, Mack Ashbaugh, Austin Stalbaum
- 24 Apr Wes Collins, Nathan Ward, Marianna Floto, Analise Fields
- 25 Apr Verna Hudson, Katie Dickinson, Kaylan Berry
- 26 Apr Ana Rooke, Michael Killeen, Susan Sprouse
- 27 Apr John Kaiser, Andrew Franco
- 28 Apr Bob Beardslee, Bruce Warren, Elizabeth Buffler, Candice Valdes, Matthew Wheeler
- 30 Apr Carolyn Beardslee



**Julie & Richard Bonnin**  
**Katie and Will**  
 5318 Shady Gardens Dr.  
 Kingwood Texas, 77339



**Joys** - Ed Schiller celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of March

**Sorrows** - Jens Busch passed away March 10<sup>th</sup>— Sue Cozart’s father, Reed Turnquist, passed away March 10<sup>th</sup> – Ann Hartman’s mother passed away in Florida on March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Please pray for** – Jim Riggs, recovering from eye surgery – Debbie Lewis, undergoing medical tests – Sue Lagerquist's daughter Liana Green, soon to undergo a diagnostic MRI –

Francesca and Mercedes Lopez, friends of Fran Miller, improved health – Kimberly Bravo, friend of Fran Miller, broken arm with nerve involvement – Ali Aardema, niece of Chris & Kristin Aardema, leukemia relapse – Raynell Barry, home following surgery to repair a broken hip – Robert McLaughlin’s mother is expected to pass away soon – Ed and Joy Schiller, breathing problems – Betty Lindsey, recovering from knee replacement surgery – Mary Ann Wagner, sister of Jane Thompson, health concerns – Cynthia Shue-Lee, friend of Jane Thompson, health concerns – Mae Denmark, friend of Rita Paschack, ill – Trinkia Miller, recovering from knee surgery – Rita Paschack’s daughter-in-law’s friend, George Rock, suffering from long-term illness – Raynelle Barry, in rehab recovering from surgery to repair a hip broken in a fall – Chana Moses, chemotherapy – those in hurricane-stricken areas – Pastor Clement Munthali and the congregation of Manyamula Presbyterian Church – Pastor Chimwemwe Mhango and his youth

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

Dennis Low... Jason Addison, son of Al & Jai Leigh Addison... David B. Craig, son of Linda Kimmons... Kenneth McKinney, friend of Carlen Floyd... Philip Burns, cousin of Marvine Sass... Alan Robinson, former student of Carol Ideker... Julie Kern, neighbor of Fran & Ted Miller and of Rosemarie & Vic Barnett... Brian Tiede, friend of Sherine Thomas & Tom Nuckols... Jeff Johnson, friend of Angela & Jeff Peterson... Brett Hines, nephew of Georgia Crawley... Nathan Miller, son of Fran & Ted Miller... Clinton Purcell, Doug Budd’s co-worker’s son...

# April

## 1 Palm Sunday IHN BEGINS

- 9:30 a.m. UpStreet Sunday School, no Faithwalk  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
*Standing in the Margin* (adult class)
- 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 11 a.m. Confirmation Class  
Our Community, library  
Tools for the Journey Seminar
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship

## 2 Monday

- 7 p.m. The Sacred Art of Italy, portable B

## 3 Tuesday

- 6:15 a.m. Men's Fraternity

## 4 Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. Something Fishy  
Evermore Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal, room 5  
Crown Ministry Class

## 5 Maundy Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Young Children Devotional (MYC), room 5
- 10 a.m. Mary-Martha Circle, room 7
- 7:30 p.m. **Maundy Thursday worship**

## 6 Good Friday Church office closed

## 8 Easter Sunday IHN ENDS

- 9:30 a.m. UpStreet Sunday School, Faithwalk  
*Standing in the Margin* (adult class)
- 11 a.m. Our Community Now and in God's Future  
Confirmation Class Retreat ends
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship

## 9 Monday

- 10 a.m. SAM Council meeting

## 10 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. "Groan"-Ups Game Day, room 7

## 11 Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. **KidStuf** (dinner at 5:15 p.m.)  
Something Fishy  
Evermore Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal, room 5

## 12 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. MYC Devotional, room 5
- 7 p.m. Book Club  
Crown Ministry Class

## 13 Friday

- 7 p.m. **30 Hour Famine begins**  
Fellowship Bridge Group, room 7

## 14 Saturday

- 11:30 a.m. Golden Years Lunch Bunch

## 15 Sunday Youth Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. UpStreet Sunday School, Faithwalk
- 11 a.m. Our Community, library
- 12 **Confirmation Celebration luncheon**
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
- 11:59 p.m. **MAY newsletter deadline**

## 18 Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. Something Fishy  
Evermore Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

## 19 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. MYC Devotional, room 5
- 7 p.m. Crown Ministry Class

## 22 Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. UpStreet Sunday School, Faithwalk
- 11 a.m. Our Community, library  
Tools for the Journey Seminar
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship

## 25 Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. Something Fishy  
Evermore Evening Fellowship
- 8 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

## 26 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. MYC Devotional, room 5
- 7 p.m. Crown Ministry Class

## 29 Sunday Older Adult Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. UpStreet Sunday School, Faithwalk
- 11 a.m. Our Community, library
- 6:30 p.m. Inquirer's Class, library
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship

## 30 Monday

- 6 p.m. Babysitting Co-op
- 7 p.m. Yancy's *Prayer* Book Discussion

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!

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**Issue 4**

Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

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