



The Shepherd's Watch

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Issue 8

Two Men, In One City...

Cedric Benson, caught intoxicated again.

Jamie Lynn Spears, at 16, has a baby.

Heath Ledger overdoses.

Paris Hilton loses license with a second DUI.

King David risks his kingdom for a fling.

Have you ever wondered why big stars make such simple mistakes? They have so much to lose and yet they still blow it. What gives? These folks have the world at their fingertips and yet we read every day that celebrity & riches do not keep people from being stupid. Far from it. Most often, these people are surrounded by "friends" who so fear being removed from the circle of friendship (power?) that they would never think of giving their friend a reality check.

The curse of modern fame, right? Well, maybe not *modern* fame. We have an event in the Bible that's very similar to what we read in the news. King David made some seriously bad choices and yet we hear of no one telling him NO. No one said no when he saw Bathsheba and invited her to the palace. No one said no when he ordered Bathsheba's husband killed. No one spoke reason to him. Maybe it was because he was King and powerful, maybe because they were scared. All we do know is that only one person spoke to David and held him

accountable. Only one person loved David enough to speak the truth to him. Only one person called sin... sin. Nathan spoke the truth to David at major risk to himself, his position and his friendship.

I believe we all need friends in our lives who love us enough to hold us accountable. We need friends who care more about us than about our friendship. So I ask—do you have people in your life that will speak the tough things to you? That will tell you if you have a problem and point out where you need to grow? Thankfully, Nathan was that kind of friend and gave us a great example to follow.

After his struggle with Nathan, David wrote this psalm:
Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.... For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, and broken and contrite heart-

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SHPC Staff Guide

Larry Coulter	Senior Pastor
Mike Killeen	Associate Pastor
Britta Dukes	Associate Pastor
Sherry Smith	Adult Ministry
Carol Cunningham	Sr. Adult Ministry
Kim Arthur	Nursery Ministry
Cy Albertson	Director of Music
Pattie Lawrence	Director of Preschool
Belva Koerth	Office Manager
Kimbol Soques	Communications

Sermons for September

August 31	John 15:1-14
	Vine-Ripened: Preparing For a Fruitful Life
Sept. 7	Matthew 13:1-23
	Vine-Ripened: Planting For the Future
Sept. 14	Matthew 7:15-23
	Vine-Ripened: Tending Our Life With Christ
Sept. 21	Galatians 5:22-23
	1 John 4:7-21
	Vine-Ripened: Cultivating Love
Sept. 28	Galatians 5:22-23
	1 Peter 1:3-9
	Vine-Ripened: Rejoicing In Any Situation

these, O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51:1-4; 16-17).

Find some friends who will really love you and help you continue to grow in your relationship with God—



Hey, what if we meet in the, um, whatchamadigit new building?

Wondering what that large structure is called? Thinking about snagging it for your next neighborhood gala?

It's true that we have yet to come up with a Really Cool Name for our new large indoor space by the playground. And it's true that over the summer it's been pretty quiet in there. (It's been pretty quiet all over the SHPC campus, but I digress!)

But don't let the lack of name or summer sleepiness fool you! That large space is the Family Ministry Portable—we'll even be calling it that until we work out the cool name—designed and designated to support the big, cool things that are happening in our Children's & Family Ministry. KidStuf now has a true home! UpStreet no longer has

to try to cram 100 children & adults into Room 7! Slated for a stage and sound system, the Family Ministry portable is first and foremost for children's & family ministry needs.

With such a glorious big space comes some adjustment. Until Pastor Britta and her various volunteer crews can get a true understanding of their ministry's usage of and needs for the portable, the FMP will be reserved for SHPC exclusive use—naturally with priority for Children's & Family Ministry programs. At the end of the 2008-2009 school year Pastor Britta believes we'll have that understanding—and maybe then be able to share this wonderful resource with other groups.

What a great way to start up our fall programs!

Kimbol Soques,
newsletter editor

CHURCH KEYS



Since we currently do not have a janitor or sexton on staff, we'd like to remind all SHPC keyholders that they are responsible for the security of the building and its contents. Reports of unlocked doors are on the rise, and items have gone missing.

When you lock up after yourself, please take a few minutes to check any nearby doors. Your fellow SHPC folk thank you for your diligence!



Eric & Jenny Prosser write, "We've enjoyed our time here with Shepherd of the Hills, and will be looking for a new church home in Colorado soon after we relocate to Denver this August."

Tiffany Kapture
3302 Blumie St., Unit A.
Austin, TX 78745
phone: 680-3002

Wava Brock
The Village
7750 Garner Drive
Manassas VA 20109
phone: 703.392.9797
(Dial the number, then ask for The Village, then ask for Wava.)

COMPETITION, FOOD, FUN

WELCOME BACK, COULTERS

a r e a s o n t o c e l e b r a t e

it's a barbeque cook-off,
it's an ice cream competition & social,
IT'S A PARTY!

What are we celebrating? • the annual BBQ champion cook-off • the annual ice cream social • the end of summer • the return of the Coulter family • the beginning of our fall church activities

When? September 13th

games 4:30 p.m. (cooks can start earlier)

BBQ judging 5:00

dinner 5:15

ice cream and pie judging 6:15

cake and comments 6:30

What are we eating? Aside from sampling the entries... • brisket • ribs • chicken • surprise meat • hot dogs • beans • potato salad • chips • coleslaw • bread • buns • ice cream • cake

What do we need? • cooks • ice cream creators • helpers • judges • grills • tents • coolers • fans • extension cords

Sign up sheets and competition rules in the narthex.

Questions? Ken Lauber (512-301-0760) or Wayne Crawley (512-288-7277).



Back to School

The Most Feared Words?

The weeping and gnashing of teeth has already begun!

Actually most students have been wanting to get back to school for weeks now. They miss their friends and they miss the routine. Many parents feel the same way.... *Send them back! I need my afternoons back!*



For us in the student ministry department, back to school is a time filled with excitement. We have missed seeing your students these past two months and we can't wait to hear what they have been up to and to see how much they have grown. This is going to be one incredible year for your students because we have

some really big stuff planned for them. Lock-Ins, Six Flags, New Games, A Trip to California! A chance to win an iPod Touch, Mission and Service Projects. This is the year to be ACTIVE in your group. 'Cause when you miss a week you will really miss a lot!

See you at the kick off!
Pastor Mike



NEW GROUPS

We have added some new stuff to the old program. Now we have 4 different Student Ministry Groups that meet weekly for Fun, Hang Time, Games and Bible Study.

By grade they are going into!

Evergreen 5th & 6th
Wednesdays 6-6:55

Evermore 7th & 8th
Wednesdays 7:10-8:30

Everlast 9th - 12th
Sunday Nights 6:30- 8:30

Everafter 11th & 12th only
Date and Location TBA at Kick off Sunday

DV*8 Video Shooting
Editing & Acting Crew is also back by demand

OUR STUDENT MINISTRY KICKS OFF BIG ON SEPTEMBER 7TH & 10TH



Don't miss the first week of your group 'cause it is going to be a PARTY! That's RIGHT we are going PARTY PARTY PARTY Rock and Roll and just have a blast as we get the year started right. Consider yourself invited to the wildest (still safest too) back to school parties

ever thrown. Everlast is going to rock the joint on Sunday Night and Evergreen and Evermore will be out of control on Wednesday! You need to be there! You *have* to be there. I can taste the insanity now and I like it!



Children's Ministry News

Welcome back to (Sunday) school!

HONOR LETTING SOMEONE KNOW YOU SEE HOW VALUABLE THEY REALLY ARE

Hear the good news—Sunday school is now available during the 11:00 worship service! Beginning September 7th, we will be offering a 2nd hour of Sunday school. We'll be teaching from the "Live B.I.G." curriculum which "helps children see, hear, and live their Belief In God."

The curriculum is designed for "one big room," so kindergarten through fifth grade will all meet together in the Family Ministry Portable for our lesson. We'll join together as a large group for the video segments and singing, then break into small groups for age-appropriate teaching on the topic at hand.

Live B.I.G. is the story of God's love told with refreshing creativity, passion and relevance through music, art, theater, dance, laughter, sign

language, discussion, education, entertainment, sight, sound, cool graphics, hands-on activities, games, and so much more. It's kids following the examples set by our enthusiastic cast and real-life role models. It's kids living God's love together.

Short video segments bring faith-filled, high-energy excitement to your children with:

- Characters who model B.I.G. behavior
- Travel segments featuring B.I.G. ministries by everyday B.I.G. people
- Cool music for your kids' ears

Live B.I.G. makes the lesson stick by using the three ways that children learn—hearing, seeing, and then living what they learn.

It's more than just a Sunday school lesson. Live B.I.G.

reaches your children with cutting-edge teaching tools. The multifaceted lessons help kids grow as children of God and take what they learn from Sunday school into their everyday lives.

Children's Ministry is very excited about offering another option for Sunday school. **However, to ensure we can continue this program, we need volunteers to serve on a monthly basis.** If you have a month of Sundays in which you are available to help us from 11:00-12:00, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Pastor Britta at britta@shpc.org or 892-3580, ext. 107 for more information.



Children at the Lord's Table Workshop Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 1–4 p.m.

You and your child are invited to attend SHPC's Children at the Lord's Table Workshop on Saturday, October 4th, beginning in the church sanctuary at 1 pm and concluding at 4 pm. The

purpose of this valuable workshop is to prepare children for taking Communion by teaching the meaning of the Sacrament of Communion, and how, through our Baptism, we celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship.

continued, next page

KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERING SOMETHING NEW SO YOU CAN BE BETTER AT WHATEVER YOU DO

Your child will learn about Communion by participating in each of the three following sessions:

- 1. Remembering the Lord's Supper:** children will spend time gathered around both the Lord's Table and the baptismal font to talk about what these symbols mean to us as Christians.
- 2. Playing the Belonging Game:** children participate in a game which illustrates the concept that, through Baptism, we all belong to the family of God.
- 3. Writing the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:** children work with their

parents to write a prayer of Thanksgiving, acknowledging the ways in which the Lord's Supper celebrates God's love.

After these activities, children will meet briefly with a member of session to discuss what they have learned. Children attending the workshop will be recognized at the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, October 5th, 2008, which is also World Communion Sunday.

Sign up in the narthex by Sunday, September 28th, or contact Pastor Britta at 892-3580, ext. 107 or britta@shpc.org.



Children's Ministry News

Preschool News

A big thank-you goes out to Tammy Boehman and Amanda Hyde (and of course Ron Miller!) for helping clean the kitchen. The refrigerators have never looked so clean, and the counters sparkle.

Also, we'd like to thank Rachel Cloyd (and Riley & Julia) for helping organize the preschool library, the Crawfords for donating their changing table to the nursery, and the Pietsch Family for donating ride-on toys for the children to enjoy.

Thanks so much to everyone for your generosity!

Pattie Lawrence,
SHPC Preschool Director



I really loved all the fun art activities! It was fun to learn all the new songs and then sing them in church. I liked when we grew plants from two seeds in science.

Madie, age 8

RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

My Story about Rainforest Adventure VBS

by Faith, 5 3/4

I liked doing art a lot because I liked to make things. I little bit liked games and I little bit liked science. I really liked the songs, especially the "Rainforest Adventures" song and the knees knees, clap clap, front back, knuckles knuckles song.

I liked the critters' names and especially Shari the Butterfly and Bill the Toucan. Shari helped me remember to share. I also liked the Monkey, he helped us praise God. I love God very much. The End

I kind of LIKED it!

Simon, age 5



Children's Ministry News



Adult Ministry

Jesus and His Times

Recent additions to the library help us to know Jesus better:

- 232 POR *Jesus Christ: the Jesus of History, the Christ of Faith* "is an authoritative, accessible and richly illustrated overview of the life and significance of one of the most influential, complex, and charismatic figures in history."
- 232.9 PEL *Jesus Through the Centuries* "traces the cultural incarnations of Jesus through nineteen centuries—he concludes that Jesus now belongs to the whole of humanity."
- 225.6 COU *The New Testament World* "is a lively and stimulating, verbal and pictorial account of life in the time of Jesus. Drawing on the discoveries of archaeologists, sociologists and historians, it presents a vivid insight into both this ancient world and the gospels themselves."
- 226.9 GRA *Saint Peter*—"Carefully examining traditions, legends, biblical and nonbiblical writings and forgeries, [Michael Grant] sees Peter as an enigmatic man, wholeheartedly devoted to Christ, impulsive and not over-reflective, but one whose

Library News



- determination after the crucifixion held Christ's followers together."
- 232.9 LUC Again Max Lucado gives us special insight, this time through *No Wonder They Call Him Savior*.
- 232.9 TIN In *The Jesus Encounter*, "Bill Tinsley has crafted a marvelous collection of stories about first-century people who had an authentic encounter with Jesus."
- 232.91 PEL *Mary Through the Centuries* looks at the role of Jesus' mother as seen by Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, artists, writers, and composers.
- 232 WIL *What Jesus Meant* explores the meanings of Jesus' teachings. At a time when "political factions cite Jesus as supporting their views, [author] Garry Willis argues that Jesus subscribed to no political program."

Find these in the library display during August and September.

Icing on the Cake for women ages 50 to 70 - or so - is taking a hiatus until Tuesday, September 9th. But get ready for a GREAT way to start off Fall! We will begin studying a book by Max Lucado entitled *Facing Your Giants*. What better way to end the summer?!?!

Come join some wonderful discussions and even enjoy some dessert. We meet every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in Portable A (re-starting 9/9). If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Susan Klusmann at 301-3561.



“Judas Asparagus” and Other Misconceptions

"The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is One', but I think He must be a lot older than that."

"Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars."

"Solomon had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise but that doesn't sound very wise to me."

"Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution."

"Jesus had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him."

Some of you have probably received cute email with quotes such as these. They give us a child's view of what they hear as religious and biblical information. Such cute misunderstandings make us smile.

Unfortunately, there are many adults in the church today whose religious education ended at about the 6th grade level. During middle school they got too busy with sports or other activities and then in high school they got a car and a part time job. At secular universities they had to take a multicultural class in world religions which taught that all religions are basically the same, including being meaningless in the “modern” world. Then they were busy with starting a career, getting married, and having kids. They’ve reached adulthood and they’ve matured in many ways but still they only have a 6th grade education when it comes to the Bible.

This really begins to hit home when their own children begin to ask questions about God. So, for some, this is when they get their children

involved in church and potentially begin to also take some adult classes. Unfortunately, there is then often a great deal of frustration or embarrassment as they try to learn about and deal with the Bible on an adult level.

Does any of this sound like you? The bad news is that you may have a lot of catching up to do. The good news is that SHPC is a loving and safe place to learn.

Jesus calls us all to be His disciples. That includes studying the Word as expressed in the Bible, fostering beliefs based on that Word, and then living our daily lives as if those beliefs really matter. Real Bible study is not just an academic pursuit; it is a life changing process.

I invite you all to set aside time this fall to get involved in some kind of class here at SHPC. Some of you may be continuing a lifetime of religious education and others may just be getting up the nerve to get past a 6th grade level. There are classes for

various levels and there are classes which are mixed so that those with more understanding can help mentor those just getting started. We all need to continue to learn and to grow as disciples. Jesus intended us to share the journey.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed." 2 Timothy 3:16-17, TEV (Today's English Version)


"If you make my word your home you will indeed be my Disciples." John 8:31 NJB (The New Jerusalem Bible)

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways."

1 Corinthians 13:11 NRSV
(New Revised Standard Version)



Deb Ballew, Cathy & Steve Beard, Susan Beckman, Hill, Linda Icenhauer-Ramirez, Carol Dittlinger-Ideker, Harriet Bonebrake, Pam Immitt, Aimee & Mike Killeen, Tamara Clift Bowman, Madeline & Bill Landry-Bell, Anna Brock, Debbie & Greg Littrell, Dee & Doug Budd, Laurel Merrell, Fran & Ted Calhoun, Harriet Miller, Klim Perry-Cavness, Annette & Rusty Ray, Lynne Rihner, Rebecca Barbara Christenson, Christie Clouse, Robertson, Anita & J.W. Cook, Tanya Bryant Savage, Ken & Coughlin, Kim & Roz Seiler, Sherry Larry Coulter, Hall & Smith, Kimbol Soques, Sally Jo Elliott, Carl Joyce Stewart, Sarah Floto, Renee & Mike Stranahan, Rita Forsythe, Deb Teague, Maria Tissing, Fowler, Sandy Sherry Todd, Susan Gable, Andrea White, Mary Lynn Gerlach, Diana Gill, Sheirer, Lori & Jeff Laura Gore, Kim Grubb, Ann Hartman, Greg Heidel, Sandy Whitmire, Ruth Ann Widner, Chester Wuest, Caren Zysk



Your opportunity to join a growing group of SHPC Christians who have experienced the life-changing experience of Cursillo is just around the corner.

Cursillo #26 will be held at beautiful Camp Buckner September 25-28, 2008. Join fellow believers for a time of renewal, fun and fellowship. Come home to the Austin Cursillo Community, where you will find love, support and lots of new friends.

Know someone in this list? Ask them about Cursillo or visit austincursillo.org. Applications can be found on the website. We will be praying for you!



Thank you, IHN Volunteers!

You have followed God's command and shown compassion for our brothers and sisters in their time of crisis. Several of you put in double or triple time! May God's blessings be returned to you. ALL OF OUR GUESTS WANTED TO TELL EVERYONE THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE AND THAT THEY APPRECIATE IT!

Thank you! Don Greathouse, Kelly Griffith, the Sunday Nite Group, Seller, Raynell Barry, and volunteers Melnyk, the Guerne Family, Tom & Sheryl & Mark Morgan, Tary & Nita from our supporting churches Faith Mo O'Meara, Marsha Holt, Jane & Bill Snyder, Stefan & Pat Haag, Tiffany Presbyterian Church and Abiding Hall, Monica Williams, Derek Fisher, Kapture, Mark Knox, Judy Behr, Mike Love Lutheran Church Glenna Jaeger, Tommy Sprotte, Jody Young, Carol Brandt, Jane Staton, Barrett, Ben & Tammy, Griff Belva Koerth, Pam Gunter, Kim

If we've missed your name or misspelled it, please let one of us know and we do apologize. Kim Grubb k4grubbs@yahoo.com /565-9485, and Sue Frye sue.frye@frostbank.com/699-7315

SAM News

(senior adult ministry)

Fellowship Bridge Group will NOT play the second Friday in September. Since IHN will be here during our usual week, we will wait until October before we gather again.

Our July winner was Mary Dee Hamman; Lee Ann Merrifield was our August winner.

The Golden Years Lunch Bunch will gather Saturday September 13th at 11:30 a.m. at Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, 5601 Brodie Lane in Sunset Valley.

For reservations please call Blanche or Mail Hunter at 301-2275 no later than September 8th.

"Groan" along with us! Our next Groan-Ups Games will be on Tuesday September 9th in Room 7 at 10 a.m. Bring your favorite game or learn a new one! Refreshments provided. Call Jim Black at 892-2982 or james7388@sbcglobal.net ... or just come!

Mary-Martha Circle will meet Thursday, September 4th at 10 a.m. in Portable B. Our study this year will be *Jubilee—Luke's Gospel for the Poor*. This study consists of nine lessons and the first one will be presented by Laurel Calhoun. For more information please call Laurel Calhoun, our new Moderator, at 892-5530.

Men, join us for **The Great Adventure** to explore a man and his world beyond the everyday. The 20-week program will put the roof on the house of masculinity and create a vision for a man's future and destiny. The study will help men rediscover the adventure in life through a greater understanding of who they are. **It will challenge men to consider several questions they are continually asking themselves:**

**“Who am I?” “What are my dreams in life?”
“Do I have courage to pursue those dreams?”**

For more information, please contact Clift Bowman, Men's Life Coordinator, 288-5839, cbowman24@austin.rr.com, or visit www.mensfraternity.com to read more. **We will begin in early October on Tuesdays at 6:15 a.m.** and meet through mid-December (10 weeks), take a holiday break, and then rejoin in mid-January and wrap up in late March (10 weeks). Cost for the workbook is \$20 to \$25; sign up sheets will be in the narthex beginning in early September.

The next Women's Wednesday Night 7-week series, *Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent* will begin Wednesday, September 10th, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. This is Beth Moore's newest study, taking an in-depth look at Psalms 120 - 134. We'll have the unique opportunity for personal reflection and worship while exploring the background of each psalm and psalmist. Just as a song or poem can express feelings of fear, doubt, hope, and joy, these 15 psalms model how we can voice our own petitions and praises to God, who is always available and ready to hear us. Modern-day believers can learn much from these treasured Psalms in their journey toward greater intimacy with God.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged so that enough study books can be ordered and available the first evening of class. The cost of the books is \$13.00. If you wish to register please do so by Tuesday, September 2nd. Questions? Contact Roz Seiler: (hm) 301-1197 (cell) 965-8294 (email) rozsa@austin.rr.com

LIBRARY MYSTERY

Several volunteers are busy getting our library ready for automation: taking inventory, putting barcode labels on all items, and downloading electronic records from the Library of Congress. Soon everyone will be able to borrow and renew materials quickly and efficiently. (In the meantime, all the materials are still available for borrowing, using our previous card system.)

Only one thing is missing. No, *lots* of things are missing! Please check to see if any of the below items followed you home without being signed out; they can be identified easily by the spine label. If we have to replace these materials, it will deplete most of the library's annual budget!

If you find any of these titles, please just put them in the book return box in the church library.

Nonfiction:

Harper's Bible Dictionary
The Message (Eugene Peterson's New Testament paraphrased)

Archaeology of the Bible
The Lost Gospel; the Book of Q
Prisoner for God (Bonhoeffer's letters from prison)
Pilgrim's Progress in Today's English
Calvin for Armchair Theologians
Love for a Lifetime
Keeping the Servant Spark
Contemporary Worship
Book of Common Worship
The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion
Leading Children in Worship
Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity
Myth, Sacred History and Philosophy
Women of the Fourteenth Moon

Fiction:

Peace Like a River
A Light in the Window (Mitford series)
Out to Canaan (Mitford series)

Videotapes:

Great People of the Bible and How They Lived
Apocalypse: the Story of the Book of Revelation
The Gospel According to Matthew

Thank you for helping us with our automation project!

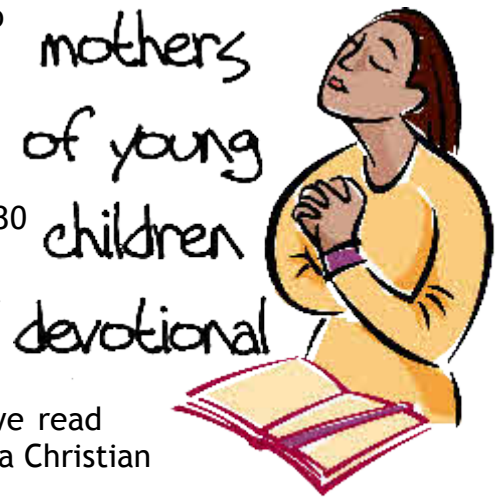
Adult Ministry

The Mothers of Young Children (MYC) Devotional Group - Fall 2008

'Do you ever feel guilty for mistakes you've made as a mom - real and perceived? For not acting the way other people expect a mom to act? For not living up to your own expectations of mothering perfection? You're not alone!'

This is an excerpt from the book we'll be reading this fall: *Motherhood: The Gift Guilt that Keeps on Giving* by Julie Ann Barnhill. We'll be meeting every Thursday morning from 9:30-11:30 am, September 25 - December 11 (not including Thanksgiving, or the week Interfaith Hospitality Network is at our church, Dec. 4). Childcare is provided for \$2 per child, per session, with a maximum cost of \$5 per week. There are scholarships available.

Come join us for a lively discussion and meet new friends as we read through this book by Julie Ann Barnhill, and view this topic from a Christian perspective. If you're interested, please sign up at www.shpc.org/adult/classes_other/myc.php by September 12 (you can sign up later, but you'll just be in charge of ordering your own book). You can also email me, Susan Sprouse, at susansprouse@hotmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!



Coming to a SHPC portable near you this fall: Foundations—Rise of the Sermon.

The darkness of the night surrounds you as a chill develops in the air. The streets are empty, and in the distance you hear the bark of a lone dog. You struggle to remember, but you can't. What was it that Larry talked about in last Sunday's sermon? You know there was something important about it, but it is like grasping at smoke to recall the message.

But then, up in the sky against the grey clouds a light appears. What is it? A Bird? A Plane? Superman?

No! It is Foundations to the rescue! With their super powers, they help drive away

the darkness and you once again remember what Larry actually talked about.

OK, so this is not going to be the next great blockbuster movie, but it *is* something that the Foundations group does.

Foundations is a young family group which meets weekly, and allows you to come together and explore the bible in a casual environment. Part of our studies focus on exploring the previous Sunday's sermon and seeing how it applies to us individually, as a married couple, as a family, and as a faith community. But Foundations offers so much more. It is a place to build great friendships, share your joys and sorrows with one another, and to have fun. The class is open to all and targets young families—please

come join us (childcare is available)! If you are interested in more information, please contact John Gillis (453-7866) or James Lee (577-7470).

The Foundations annual Fall Retreat is coming up. This is a great way to spend a weekend with the other Foundations members in a very informal setting. This year we will be heading to Mo Ranch in mid-October for a weekend of spiritual growth, family time, and just plain fun. For more details, contact Chris Gordon at cgordon1@austin.rr.com.

Foundations classes are planned to start back up September 17th. Watch the "yellow pages" for more details!

Foundations

Whiner or Victim?

Senator Phil Gramm created quite a ruckus a while back when he said that he thought the country's current economic problems were largely in our minds...that we're really just a bunch of whiners. He caught a lot of heat for that, in part because he would seem to have plenty of money and power—how could he possibly understand what it's like for those of us with much lesser financial means?!

Right on, Budget Guy! I certainly didn't ask for gas prices to go sky high. And what about rising food prices and this whole mortgage mess... tell me how all of this is just my imagination! And just because I don't like what's happening and I say so doesn't make me a whiner. Seems to me I'm really a victim!

I'd rather be a whiner than a victim.

You're kidding, right???

Not really. I think of a victim as someone caught up in something beyond his or her control—something they're rather helpless to do much about. When someone's whining, however, there's usually something they could do to make things better if only they'd stop whining long enough to do it. I don't like to feel helpless, so I'll choose to be a whiner, and then do something about it.

You're clever with the words, BG, but calling myself a "whiner" instead of a "victim" doesn't do diddly for gas prices, food prices, or anything else, for that matter.

No, it doesn't. But opening your mind to the possibility that you're not a helpless victim might put you on track to being better prepared for the next thing to come along.

Next thing? Is something about to happen that I should know about?

I don't know what, nor do I know when. But I do know that this won't be the last rough patch for the economy. Economic downturns are a part of life and you *can* prepare for them. Whatever form the next one takes, *now* is the time to start preparing for it.

The sad truth is that we've become a nation of overspenders and undersavers. We do it as individuals, and the government does it for us collectively. The savings rate has been around 0% for some time now, and in many months, the average household has spent more than it has had in income.

I try not to think about it too much because it scares me. While economic downturns have always occurred, they're coming more frequently, starting much more rapidly and becoming more severe.

And what do we do? We call upon the government to fix it, to eliminate any and all pain so we can continue doing whatever we want to do without concern for the consequences. The government is only too happy to oblige—it means more power for the politicians. And where does the money come from to fix things? Higher taxes and an increasing the national debt, both of which just tend to make things worse the next time.

Okay, so economic downturns come and go, they don't all look the same, and you think they're coming more often and getting worse. What am I supposed to do with that? What will happen, will happen...I can't change it!

No, you can't change the course of the economy, but you can prepare yourself to better weather future downturns:

1. Start easy: Eliminate unnecessary fees
2. Then get rid of as much debt as possible
3. Finally, build up a cash reserve

Eliminating Unnecessary Fees

Do you find yourself paying late fees and over-the-limit fees on your credit cards? How about fees for over-drawing your checking account? Those fees are a waste that you can quickly put an end to! All it takes is a little discipline and a little attention to your finances.

There's been a lot written lately about the fees banks and credit card companies charge, and demands for Congress to do something about them. I find that incredibly

continued, next page

ironic! Here we are, a country founded on the idea of independence, a people that prides itself on empowering the individual, and we want the government to step in and do something for us we could easily do for ourselves! If you pay your bills on time, watch your credit limit, watch your checking account balance, it doesn't matter what fees are charged - you won't have to pay them! And the banks and credit card companies are powerless to stop you!!

Getting Rid of Debt

When it comes to debt, credit card debt is the worst. Most people with credit cards are carrying a balance and not because of a significant financial emergency. No, they're using their credit cards to fund their lifestyle. Could that be you?

If so, think about this: Would you take out a loan to go out to dinner? That would be pretty foolish, wouldn't it. But if you charge a meal while carrying a balance on that credit card, that's exactly what you're doing! Just stop and think about what that meal is actually costing you once you include the finance charges it accrues for months at 9%, 12% or maybe even 18% or more!

How much extra money would you have each month if you weren't paying finance charges? It wouldn't matter what the rate was—by not carrying a balance, you wouldn't be paying it. Then you could get a cash rewards card and have the credit card company pay you! How does an extra \$1,000 sound? That's what I got last year from my cards.

If you want some ideas for how best to get rid of your credit card debt, check out the Budget Guy archives at shpc.org (look under "Special Items and Helps" in the "Adult Ministry" section). Don't have Internet access? Just call me at 301-1246 and I will send you copies of the applicable articles.

Including articles about getting out of car debt. Instead of taking out car loans for shorter and shorter periods of time until we're able to pay cash, we're taking longer and longer loans—some as long as eight years! Anything longer than 42 months, and you'll owe more on that new car than it's worth the instant you drive it off the lot. What kind of sense does that make?

Yeah, I know, when you need a new set of wheels you can roll your old note over into your new note. Such a deal! You get to keep paying for a car you no longer have for another five, six or seven years. What kind of hole does that leave you in when times are tough?

As you know, the Bible offers the hope of eternal salvation; nowhere, however, does it say we need eternal debt to get there. In fact, it contains many passages that speak strongly and clearly *against* taking on debt.

Building a Cash Reserve

There also are several passages in Scripture that advise us to build a cash reserve. All it takes is a little discipline, but we seem to have a problem with telling ourselves "no." All that's really required is giving up buying something today so that you can have the money for something more important tomorrow. Isn't that what being an adult is all about? Being able to think past today and make good decisions for the longer term?

The Budget Guy archives have several articles that will give you some tips on getting a savings plan going. Hey—what have you got to lose? If you put aside some money today and tomorrow you decide you were wrong, you can spend the money then. If you spend it today and tomorrow you decide you were wrong, well, too bad for you!

Whiner or Victim

The truth is, I don't want either of us to be a whiner or a victim. I want us to be able to weather financial hard times no matter what form they take. I want us to be able to focus on the lives God wants for us, rather than lives clouded by money problems.

What say you?

Want a little help with some aspect of your financial life? Call the Budget Guy, Allen Gunter, at 301-1246 or send an email to BudgetGuy@SHPC.org. I will help you in any way I can, and it's free and completely confidential.

For a wonderful look at what the Bible says about money, check out the Crown Financial Ministries Small Study Groups. Contact Chris Gordon (484-1905; cgordon1@austin.rr.com) or Roger Wade (301-4921; rcwactuary@austin.rr.com) for more information.



Our guests are coming!

IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) guests are families with children who, because of a crisis situation in their lives, have lost their homes. The program provides for them to live at Austin area churches while they find housing and get back on their feet.

During the week of **September 7th – 14th**, four IHN families will live at our church and will be fed and sheltered by volunteers at our church. This is your opportunity to help these families through this time of crisis. Tasks performed by hosts (SHPC folk and members of Faith Presbyterian Church and Abiding Love Lutheran Church) include:

Move-in: Sunday 12:30 - move guest's belongings and bedding into rooms and set-up

Breakfast Servers: 5:45 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.

Dinner Preparers: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Overnight Host: 8:00 p.m. to 7:15 a.m.

Evening Host: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday Hosts and lunch: several shifts

Supply Donors: all week

Transportation Volunteers and Linen Washers.

Move-out: Sunday 6:30 am - load guest's belongings on trailer, cleanup and straighten up church, transport guests to Day Center, and take trailer to next church

Young children make excellent hosts, because the guests are mostly young children. Sign up in the narthex for this volunteer opportunity or contact Kim Grubb 565-9485 or k4grubbs@yahoo.com.

Mission Opportunity-A Different way to Serve: Refugee Resettlement

A refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country..."

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees

Are you new to SHPC or just looking for a different way to make a real difference by serving? Our partnership with Refugee Services of Texas, for the purpose of helping to resettle families from other parts of the world who must give up their country and come to a foreign land, is a rewarding and exciting mission opportunity that may be just what you're looking for.



Ee Sar and Ra Ki Mar with their children, Ju Be (7), Ju Nine (5), Sa Ah (3) and twins Hu Sein and Ha Sein (2)

Our current family, Ee Sar, Ra Ki Mar and their five children arrived from the refugee camp in Thailand three months ago. The next week they began English lessons and within four weeks Ee Sar was employed with the Hyatt downtown. He told me the other day his goal is to one day move his family to a better home and to drive and buy a car. I asked him what he misses about Burma and he said "Nothing, except my parents and other family members."

On June 21st Ee Sar and family, along with many other refugees from around the world, participated in World Refugee Day at St. Davids' Episcopal church. Volunteers from SHPC also attended this

event. The highlight that day for me was witnessing the naturalization ceremony of 20 refugees from countries including Bosnia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and Iran. One new US citizen had been a refugee for 16 years. This now 27-year-old told us the American dream is not a house nor color TV. She said the dream is freedom. Watching them take the citizenship oath, knowing they have had to pass tests on civics, American history and language, my respect for them was immense. I am proud that SHPC plays a part in helping the oppressed of the world find a safe and new life in our country—and specifically in our own town!

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please contact me, Cathy Beard (263-9910)

The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Psalm 9:9

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Sep	Curtis & Betty Williams	16 Sep	Anna Littrell, Rick Vaughn, Julia Manuel
2 Sep	Wally & Euna Faye Pryor, Ken & Roz Seiler, David & Gina Hauck, Andy & Alissa Hutton	17 Sep	Jo Williford, Jeanne Marie Thompson
7 Sep	Ben & Tammy Boehman	18 Sep	Bettye Lindsey, DeAnne Rais, Chris Parsons, Mariah Deonarian, Tara Chase, Camden Tracy
10 Sep	Chris & Brenda Parsons, Dave & Karen Harrington	19 Sep	Jan Fiedler, Denise Berry, Tommy Barrett, Jonas Olson, Joshua Bullock
11 Sep	Tom & Mo O'Meara	20 Sep	David Busse
15 Sep	Lydia & Bill Ellison	21 Sep	Trinka Miller, Jamie Kuper
16 Sep	Joanna & Chris Farwell	22 Sep	Glenn Ouzts, Sandy Gable, Chris Donnell
18 Sep	David & Marjorie Parmer	23 Sep	Jennifer Franco, Alison Howard
20 Sep	Leslye & Tron Womack	24 Sep	Bryant Savage, Beth Ann Cole, Chuck Moore, Claire Segura, Zachary Manuel
21 Sep	Lewis & Joyce Stewart, John & Susan White	26 Sep	Nona Jo May, Jenny Callahan, Greg Bourgeois, Kate Riffey
23 Sep	Shae & Kimber Wilkins	28 Sep	Elisa Donnell, Rachel Cloyd, Eli Johnson, Garrett Stowe
24 Sep	Britta & Glenn Dukes	29 Sep	Rebecca Berryman, Tom O'Leary, William Thomas
26 Sep	Stan & Jessica Wade	30 Sep	Larry Cunningham, Marcey French, Bailey Erps
29 Sep	Jerry & Stephanie Junkin		

1 Sep	Tony Adams, Chandler Palmer, Haley Busse	15 Sep	Diane Gensler, Jeannie Hood, J.W. Cook, Sam Lawrence, Emily Green, Chance Greene
2 Sep	Ruben Martinez, Nancy Zuraitis, Aimee Petty, Stacey Reynolds,		



Add to your prayer list

Joys - Francis Tomlinson shares that test results for her daughter, **Linda Duke**, were all good news; Linda does not have cancer—**Joyce Davis**, uninjured in a multi-car accident on Highway 71 on August 6th—**Wendy Waters**, sister-in-law of **Madeline Brock**, came through her mastectomy surgery with flying colors and does not have to have further treatments—**Cara & Bo Burgener** are delighted to be expecting a baby, due around January 14th—**Brian Szczepepanek**, home from Iraq—**Farrah & Clay Stowe** joyfully announce the recent birth of their daughter, **Braelyn Sage**; brother **Garrett** and grandmother **Rebecca Robertson** are delighted—**Rosemarie Barnett's** 2 ½-year-old friend, **Grayson Rigby**, is doing very, very well following surgery to repair a hole in his heart—**Gloria Drake** has a new grandson, **Colby James Rouleau**, born June 26th

Sorrows - **Dee Merrell's** sister in law, **Betty Stewart**, died August 2nd at age 62 after a battle with cancer—**John Cason**, friend of **Tom & Jan Fiedler**, passed away of liver failure on July 18th while waiting for a donor liver—**Marilyn Wade's** father, **Jack Brasher**, passed away June 9th

Please pray for — **Ramsay Mudgett's** daughter, **Patricia Scogin**, and her family, physical and mental health following gastric surgery—**Susan's** father **Steve Salch**, preparing for a second round of chemotherapy—**Beaman Floyd's** friend **Bobby Glenn & his family**, recurrence of renal cancer—**Margaret Roberts' nephew, Donny Dailey**, his wife **Joyce** and their son, **Greg**, hospitalized after being hit by a car—**Vanessa Erps' friends David Bulger & family**; David suffered a heart attack and will be undergoing placement of a pacemaker—**Fred Bonebrake**, younger brother of **Howard Bonebrake**, massive brain hemorrhage—**Sally Schilstra**, continued health concerns—**Amadeo Andrade**, son of **Mario Andrade**, health and healing—**Rev. Linda Reinhardt**, God's care and mercy as she continues to struggle with her health and physical well-being—**Cliff Wilkins**, brother of **Doug Wilkins**, diagnosed with lung cancer—**Gerald & Amanda Merits**, as they deal with Gerald's heart disease—**Lara McPhail**, daughter of **Gene & Sue Shamburger**, hospitalized with PTP, a serious kidney disease—**Joy Essary**, now home but continuing knee replacement rehabilitation—**Todd Plybon**, co-worker of **Karmen Miller**, returning to Afghanistan—**Karmen Miller's** father, **John Loucks**, age 90, recovering from a broken hip—**Gloria Drake's** dear friend **Carl Meyer**, going to Uganda on a medical mission in December—**Wes Ballew Sr.**, ongoing tests for serious heart issues—**Jane Staton's** friend **Bob Cervenka**, diagnosed with lymphoma cancer—**Jane Staton's** friend **Jimmy Young**, who lost his wife **Connie Saturday**, July 19th—**Gordon & Marsha Holt's** daughter, **Susan Chamberlain**, recovering from arthroscopic surgery—**Gordon & Marsha Holt's** granddaughter, **Allissa Rodriguez**, recovering from oral surgery—**Fran Miller's son's father-in-law**, serious injuries—**Carol Gilchrist's** daughter's friend **Caitlin Kral**, one year old and seriously ill—**Carol Gilchrist's** daughter's friend **R.C. Peterson**, terminal cancer—**Sara Schultz and her family** as they mourn the loss of her father—**Ann Hayes' relative, Greg Hayes**, fighting recurring complications as a result of his hepatitis—**Judy Behr's** younger sister, **Cheryl Miles**, lower back pain and depression—**MSgt Britian Yocum**, married to **Rebecca Robertson's** niece **Stacey**, deployed to Kyrgyzstan until November 2008—**Dorothy Crouse**, very ill and receiving care at Marbridge Nursing Center—**Pat Penwell**, recovering from a severe inner ear problem requiring hospitalization—**Bob Brown**, outpatient surgery—**Marilyn Wade's** mother & family—**Marisa Stromberg-Larry Coulter and his family**, as they enjoy this sabbatical time—**Pastor Clement Munthali & the congregation of Manyamula Presbyterian Church**—**Pastor Chimwemwe Mhango and his family**

Please pray for members of the Armed Forces, loved ones, and all world leaders involved in war zone crises including:

Jason Addison, son of Al & Jai Leigh Addison... Alan Robinson, former student of Carol Ideker... Brian Tiede, friend of Sherine Thomas & Tom Nuckols... Jeff Johnson, friend of Angela & Jeff Peterson... Clinton Purcell, Doug Budd's co-worker's son... Buddy Lopez... Keri Reeves, niece of Deb Fowler... Mark Karnauch, friend of Mario Andrade... Daisy Bates' nephew, Taiga Sevaetasi... Dennis Low... Scott and Brent Eads, sons of Sally Schilstra's friend... Charles Barclay II, friend of Doug Budd, & the 433rd Combat Engineering Squadron... Britian Yocum, nephew-in-law of Rebecca Robertson... Todd Plybon, co-worker of Karmen Miller...

August & September

AUGUST

24 Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Faithwalk
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship, Fab. Student Lounge

26 Tuesday

- 6 p.m. Handbell rehearsal, room 5

27 Wednesday

- 6 p.m. Parenting: The Early Years
Evergreen, Fabulous Student Lounge
- 7 p.m. Evermore, Fabulous Student Lounge

28 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. Disciple 1, library
- 10 a.m. Retired Men's Christian Association, port B

31 Sunday

- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship

SEPTEMBER

1 Monday

The office will be closed today for Labor Day.

2 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. Icing on the Cake, port. A
- 6 p.m. Handbell rehearsal, room 5

3 Wednesday

Preschool begins

- 6 p.m. Evergreen Evening Fellowship
- 7 p.m. Evermore Evening Fellowship

4 Thursday

- 10 a.m. Mary-Martha Circle, port. B

7 Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, NO Faithwalk
- 11 a.m. The Ark, Live B.I.G.
IHN begins
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship

9 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. Icing on the Cake, port. A
"Groan"-Ups Game Day, room 7

10 Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m. KidStuf!
Evergreen Evening Fellowship
Evermore Evening Fellowship
Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study, library

11 Thursday

- 10 a.m. Retired Men's Christian Association, port B
- 7 p.m. Book Group, room 7

12 Friday

NO Fellowship Bridge Group

13 Saturday

- 11:30 a.m. Golden Years Lunch Bunch
- 4:30 p.m. All-Church Party! BBQ cookoff, ice-cream judging, and welcome back, Coulters!

14 Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, Faithwalk
- 11 a.m. The Ark, Live B.I.G.
IHN ends
- 6:30 p.m. Inquirer's Class
Everlast Evening Fellowship

15 Monday

- 10 a.m. SAM Council

16 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. Icing on the Cake, port. A

17 Wednesday

- 6 p.m. Foundations, port. B
- 6:30 p.m. Evergreen Evening Fellowship
Evermore Evening Fellowship
Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study, library

18 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. Disciple 1, library

21 Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, Faithwalk
- 11 a.m. The Ark, Live B.I.G.
- 6:30 p.m. Inquirer's Class
Everlast Evening Fellowship

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

22 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. SAM Council meeting

23 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. Icing on the Cake, port. A

24 Wednesday

- 6 p.m. Foundations, port. B
- 6:30 p.m. Evergreen Evening Fellowship
Evermore Evening Fellowship
Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study, library

25 Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. Disciple 1, library
Mothers of Young Children Devotional (MYC)
- 10 a.m. Retired Men's Christian Association, port B

28 Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, Faithwalk
- 11 a.m. The Ark, Live B.I.G.
- 6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship

30 Tuesday

- 10 a.m. Icing on the Cake, port. A

OCTOBER

1 Wednesday

- 6 p.m. Foundations, port. B
- 6:30 p.m. Evergreen Evening Fellowship
Evermore Evening Fellowship
Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study, library

2 Thursday

- 10 a.m. Mary-Martha Circle, port. B

4 Saturday

- 1 p.m. Children at the Lord's Table Workshop

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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