

The Shepherd's Watch



What about January?

After all the bustle of the Advent season, it's easy to think—well, January **MUST** be calmer!

But in real life, January is where we take a deep breath, regroup, and look out into the year ahead.

In this issue, we start out by thinking about orderliness, re-connecting with LIFE, and then digging into what our Adult, Senior Adult, Children, and Student Ministries have in store for us in 2008.

Come connect!

What Would You Like to Order?

The transition from one year to the next is always an interesting time. We come off the ever-present “Hustle of the Holidays,” only to find the new year staring us straight in the eyes. Presents are still looking for a place to be stored, the house needs cleaning, and we start looking for a personal trainer because Grandma's pie was a little too good this year.

Somehow in the midst of all this disorder, we're supposed to re-order our lives with our New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions have always struck me as being a little funny. On some level, they are an attempt to make life better, easier, or happier. They are experiments—will making this change in my life lead to an improvement?

Our UpStreet virtue for the month is quite fitting during this time of resolutions and life re-ordering. We are studying the virtue of **orderliness—arranging things to make your day easier**. The orderliness we're studying is not experimental, though, because it's how we are made by God.

Though we can tell students what God has to say about orderliness, the real teacher is observation - seeing how parents, friends, and others in the congregation live out this virtue in their lives. So **I encourage you for this new year to re-order your life in the way God says will truly make the day easier: choosing to rest, putting God first, and experiencing everything in its season.**

Choosing to rest seems counter-intuitive. However, if it seems like you need more hours in the day, you probably really need more rest in your life. Have you heard that time flies when you're having fun? Well life is easier when you are well-rested.

Putting God first is also counter-intuitive. When life is too full, the natural responses are to work harder or to choose what you are truly going to do. The danger here is that we naturally choose to do the things that are merely urgent, rather than the things that are truly important. Putting God first takes care of what's important, and the rest falls into place.

Experiencing everything in its season is a liberating idea. There is a time to laugh, and a time to cry. There is a time for struggle, and a time for peace. Everything has its season. If you are crying now, do not be ashamed. The season for tears comes to all, and you will laugh again. If your peace is being threatened, do not fear. The season for peace will come again. Life is diverse and exciting, and for that I lift praises to God.



Great News on every page...

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SHPC Staff Guide

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

Sermons for January

Jan 6	Ephesians 3:1-12
	Beyond Yonder Star
Jan 13	Mark 1
	A Father's Blessing
Jan 20	Mark 2
	Acting On Purpose
Jan 27	
	The Rev. Dr. Doug Fletcher will be preaching

LIFE

I don't believe I have lived through a New Year's celebration without someone asking me about my resolution for the year ahead. Not that I mind being asked—I don't. In fact, there is something about the new year which causes most of us to naturally reflect on the year that has just ended and has us gazing at the year ahead. "Reflects" is actually an appropriate word here because the change of the calendar becomes a mirror that gives us a wonderful opportunity to assess how we are using this life that God has given us.

Of course there are the easy markers that we all use to measure life's ups and downs: health, weight, money, etc. But these markers are just one part of life's equations and a simple reading (such as money up, weight down), does not answer the greater questions. Is my life making a difference? Are my relationships growing stronger? Am I using the gifts that God has given me to their full extent? These and other questions might get us closer to the heart of the matter.

This year you might consider taking a little time to ask, "What are the markers in my life that will really matter?" What resolutions, if you accomplished them, would make a great difference in the way you live your life? Then you can set down the new markers for 2008 and commit them to God for the new year.

Interestingly, this process is not just important for us as individuals but also for us as a

community of faith. It is easy to measure our church's "success" or set resolutions by the markers of attendance or budget. But if we do that we will be missing the bigger questions and the bigger opportunities. So the same question that we ask ourselves will apply to our church—"What resolutions, if we accomplish them, would make a difference in the way we live our life as a church?"

Last year we answered this question as a congregation. The result was 6 resolutions that we are bringing into the new year. Each month in the newsletter we will focus on one of these resolutions. They will be the markers that we set down and commit to God.

Resolution 1 To become a praying church by developing a comprehensive prayer ministry.

Resolution 2 To connect people as they grow in discipleship by adding an intentional small group ministry.

Resolution 3 To involve every member in the life of the church through "Worship plus 2."

Resolution 4 To deepen our experience of worship by expanding our music Program.

Resolution 5 To reach out in evangelism to growing areas of our community.

Resolution 6 To create effective plans for a move to the new land.

Happy new year!



Love God above all

Immerse ourselves in Bible study

Fulfill Christ's Great Commission & call to serve

Encourage deep Christian relationships



VALENTINE'S 2008 SILENT AUCTION: *Powering the Mexico Mission Trip*

The VALENTINE'S 2008 SILENT AUCTION, powering the MEXICO MISSION TRIP, needs your love! Will you help? All proceeds from the Valentine's Silent Auction at the Valentine's banquet in February 08 will go towards the Mexico Mission house-building project in June 2008. Special thanks and a round of applause to our SHPC members who donated a variety of wonderful items & services last year!

Can we count on you to contribute a donation for the Valentine's 2008 Silent Auction? Your silent auction gift contribution makes you part of the team that builds the homes for deserving families. Kindly sign up your gift donation in the narthex, now until the end of January. We would be honored to have your support and to see you at the Valentine's Auction & Banquet!

Donation suggestions: *Game Tickets, Vacation Home for a weekend, Airline Tickets, Concert Tickets, Hunting lease, Fishing Trip, Anything for children, Anything for adults, Automobile services, Daycare services, Tutoring, Eye care, Dental care, Gym memberships, Artwork, Handcrafted Items, Books, Coaching/Training sessions or Lessons (Piano, Spanish, Cheerleading, Gymnastics, Tennis, Golf, Personal Training, etc.), Jewelry, Dinner at local Restaurant, Bed and Breakfast certificate, Specialty stores, baskets (A&M, UT, Barbeque, Golf, camping, Coffee, Dolls, Chocolate, Wine, etc.), kayak, Games, Computer, Phone, ipod, Instrument, Antique, Home Repair, etc...*

Questions: Gaston Broyles at 301-8357 or Shirley Domicoli, shirley@pureaustin.com



This spring Adult Ministry will be focusing on the Gospel of Mark. Larry will be preaching a sermon series on Mark and we've come up with two different ways you can participate in deeper studies of Mark. One is by joining a "Journey Group" and the other is by attending a "Manuscript Class."

The Journey Groups will be small groups of 8 to 12 people that will gather each week in someone's home or at the church to discuss questions based on some of the main themes of Mark. These groups will meet for about 7 weeks during Lent and will be on various days of the week. This will be a great place for everyone to "plug in" and form relationships. (For more details see the related article.)

The Manuscript Class will be led by Rev. Larry Coulter. This class will be on Wednesday mornings and will go from January 9th to April 30th (with some holiday breaks) for a total of 14 classes. During each class Larry will hand out portions of Mark and use it to teach how he studies scripture. You'll be underlining, circling, digging, and discussing. Then, near the end of each class Larry will do a talk about some essential point of theology contained in that day's section of scripture. (For more details see the related article.)

Neither of these class options will require much outside reading or preparation. They are both designed for busy people who will commit to a short-term weekly class but don't really have time for much outside study. If you wish, you may participate in both programs. You don't have to sign up for the Manuscript Class. We do need you to sign up for the Journey Groups so we can group people by available days of the week and neighborhood areas.

"Mark" your calendar now!

I am always excited about the opportunity to connect what we experience in worship with what we study and discuss during the week. I hope you will prayerfully consider taking advantage of

one or both of these exciting new options.

He [John the baptizer] proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:7-8

Blessings,



Join a "Journey Group!"

New Small Group Opportunity ~~~ Lenten Study on the Gospel of Mark

This spring, during Lent (February and March), we are starting a new small groups ministry called Journey Groups. The format for the groups is a simple discussion built around questions from the book of Mark, our scripture for the spring sermons.

The purpose of Journey Groups is two-fold. First, to give people a place where they can grow in their interaction with the scriptures.

Second, to create a place where significant relationships can develop.

The groups will meet once a week at various times (depending on the schedule of the leader and group members). Each group will have between 8 and 12 people and each gathering will last 1-½ hours. Some groups will meet in homes and some at church. Childcare will be provided but must be requested in advance.

If you would like more info, contact Dale or Shannon Shumaker at shannonshumaker@austin.rr.com or 358-4044. Also look for sign-up info in the narthex in January.

Library News



CHECK THE DISPLAY IN THE LIBRARY FOR NEW BOOKS

FIC GOD *Evensong* - Gail Godwin continues the story of Margaret Bonner begun in *Father Melancholy's Daughter*.

FIC SCH *Startling Joy* - "Simple moments in complicated lives will pull you in."

FIC GUL *Home Town Tales* - "Phillip Gulley takes you [to a special place] in these tender stories...inspired by his own home town."

FIC KIN *Gideon's Gift* - "With this book, [Karen Kingsbury] creates an unforgettable holiday tale of one small act of love and faith that will give the greatest gift of all."

FIC RIV *The Prince* - "David was a man after God's own heart" An interesting follow-up to Larry's sermon series from Fall 2006.

FIC RIV *The Prophet* - Amos, "a man of solitude, who felt at home among the hills...a man of conviction who heard when God called."

FIC GIR Reading fans of the Joshua series will enjoy this addition-*The Parables of Joshua*.

FIC ALC Randy Alcorn, the author of the book, *Heaven*, has written a fiction book, *Deadline*.

FIC KID *The Mermaid Chair* is by the author of *The Secret Life of Bees*.

FIC BLA *Cape Refuge* is one of three in a series recently added.

Check on these and other fiction books in our church library.

Do you like markers and colored pencils?
Then you are going to love

The Gospel of Mark Manuscript Study

Beginning on January 9th and each Wednesday this semester we hope you will join Larry Coulter as we dig into the Gospel of Mark. As we study this fast-paced gospel, we will be learning a Bible study method called a "manuscript study."

What is a manuscript study? A manuscript study is a technique using a copy of a biblical passage with no chapter divisions or paragraph divisions. The page layout has no editorial comment, textual notes, cross-references, or other things that may pre-dispose us to look at the Bible through someone else's "eyes." We will focus upon the text itself. Armed with high-lighters, pens, or multi-colored felt tip markers, we will highlight, underline, draw circles and boxes, bracket, draw arrows—often reaching rather advanced stages of art! We will color-code different things we find significant and learn together about this marvelous book. Come try out this fun way to learn God's truth.

Icing On the Cake

every Tuesday morning
10 a.m.-noon in Portable A

A new women's group called "Icing on the Cake" meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon in Portable A. If you remember hula hoops, the Beatles, Elvis, and Go-Go boots, then this might be the group for you. We're a group aimed toward women 45-70, and our goal is fellowship, friendship, Christian study and spiritual growth.

For info, call
Susan Klusmann
at 301-3561.





Riding a gondola in Venice

Adult Ministry



Dave Smith and the *first* emperor



Il Duomo in Florence

Italy Study Journey Memories

We traveled by plane, bus, boat, train, and gondola. We ate at hotels, tourist traps, and sidewalk cafes. We saw the sights and met the locals. We worshipped, learned, prayed, and laughed. We had a wonderful and unforgettable adventure together



Enjoying fellowship

Larry props up the Tower of Pisa



Rome's Coliseum



Men's Life: where we've been & where we're going

We had over 35 men meet weekly this fall and discuss Authentic Manhood's *Winning at Work & Home*. The 16-week program gave the men in our church an opportunity to deepen and enrich their relationships with their families and workplace. At the same time, the program challenged each of us to write down ten potential moves to focus and implement to enhance our relationship with our spouse, children, and our co-workers. **We will begin the third year of Authentic Manhood in late August 2008 and will encourage you to sign up in mid-summer.**

While you're waiting for August...

Beginning January 15th, Men's Life would like to give you the opportunity to meet weekly for breakfast (6:30 a.m.) to improve your communication skills with the significant women in your life. We will

discuss one chapter per week of *Cracking the Communication Code*. If you are interested in joining us please contact **Clift Bowman**, 288-5839, or cbowman@austinsilentmarket.com.

Cracking the Communication Code is by Dr. Emerson Efferichs, author of *Love and Respect* (2004). One of the biggest challenges of marriage for both men and women is lack of communication. After three decades of pastoring, counseling married couples, and conducting marriage conferences Dr. Efferichs has discovered that the wife speaks a "love language" and the husband speaks a "respect language." They don't realize this, of course, but because he is speaking one kind of language (respect) and she is speaking another (love), there is little or no understanding and little or no communication. The key to any marriage is a mutual understanding of each other's language. It is mutual understanding that leads to good communication. The book was written to help you apply the principles from the *Love*

and *Respect* book so that you will learn to communicate more effectively by gaining mutual understanding.

Three other books are also being considered for study:

She Calls Me Daddy by Robert Wolgemuth. This book is about three important issues that dads with daughters need to understand: Honor, boundaries, and balance.

Raising a Modern-Day Knight by Robert Lewis. How does a boy become a real man, one with character, conviction, and vision? Who confers upon a boy the title and responsibilities of manhood?

The Man in the Mirror by Patrick Morley. This book is written for men grappling with the pressures and stress of everyday life. The book covers solving our identity problems, relationship problems, money problems, time problems, temperament problems, and integrity problems. It is a book written by a man, for men.

CALLING ALL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS!

... come on and KidStuf with us!

Grandpa Henry, Gordo, Sam, Cammie, Vinny, Marshall, Tyler and the crew have got some great stories to share with you and your family on the virtues of orderliness, kindness, courage, joy and patience. Don't miss out on the fun and feel free to bring a friend or two!

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Wednesday of every month, January - May:

January 16 :: February 20 :: March 19 :: April 16 :: May 21

The production runs from 6:30-7:15; with pizza dinner beforehand from 5:15-6:15p.m. For more information, please contact Britta Dukes at 892-3580, ext. 107 or britta@shpc.org



Children's Ministry News



**Family Day Retreat
Come One, Come
All, Come Short, Come Tall...
This Spring We Are Going To Have A
Ball!**

Date: Saturday May 31, 2008

Place: Bastrop State Park (Refectory Dining Hall)

What: Fellowship, Food, Games, Swimming, FUN

Camp sites are available for reservations through the park system—call 389-8900 (M-F 9A-6P). The Deer Run Campsite is the closest to our Dining Hall (The Refectory). These campsites go quickly, so book early if interested! For more information contact Lisa Crawford at 301-5178 or lisacrawford@austin.rr.com.

Save these dates...

Family Day Retreat

May 31

VBS

July 14-18

Club H2O

August 11-15

UpStreet kick-off

September 7

ORDERLINESS

ARRANGING THINGS TO MAKE YOUR DAY
easier

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to present Britta Dukes as our nominee for the position of Associate Pastor of Children and Family Ministries at SHPC. After determining what qualifications and characteristics we were looking for, reviewing her application and interviewing Britta, the committee unanimously supports Britta as the top candidate for this position. Want to learn more about why we feel this way? Watch your mailbox for a let-



PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE

ter with background information and highlights of her qualifications in early January. Then join us on Sunday January 6, 2008 when Britta will preach during services and the congregation will have a chance to vote on our nomination. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Tammy Boehman, Katy Bourgeois, Wayne Crawley, Paul Stein & Lynn Wright

Preschool News

SHPC Preschool families have certainly felt the spirit of giving this year. We delivered a large amount of new toys and clothes for the Travis County Sheriff's Department Brown Santa drive. The children have been learning about being generous, and the donation showed what giving families we have here at SHPC Preschool!

We helped celebrate Jesus' birthday with our annual Preschool Program on Monday,

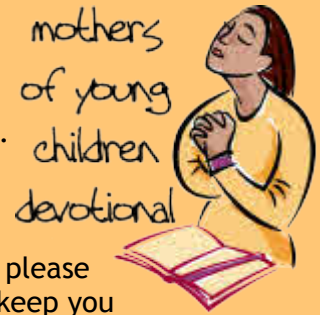
December 17th. Cy Albertson graciously played the piano for our program, while the toddlers, two-year old and three-year old classes sang beautiful Christmas songs and our four-year olds presented The Greatest Story Ever Told.

Our staff and families have enjoyed a long winter break, and will return to school on Wednesday, January 9th. When preschool begins, we will enjoy learning about dinosaurs, nursery rhymes, and winter. Along with our winter unit, we will have a great time at our Snowball Bonanza.

Thursday Mornings starting February 7th from 9:30-11:30 am

MYC will be meeting for a spring devotional to read and discuss *The Power of a Positive Mom* by Karol Ladd. This book offers seven time-tested principles from the trenches of motherhood. We'll learn how to use them positively; including how to pray life-changing prayers for our children and ourselves, and how to grow an attitude of gratitude in our children. This group is also an awesome Christian support group for moms, and a great way to plug into the church and make new friends.

We'll meet every Thursday morning through May 8th (except March 13th, which is Spring Break, and March 27th). Childcare cost is \$2 per child per week, with a maximum cost of \$5 per week. There are scholarships available, so please do not let the childcare cost keep you from joining us!



Interested? Email me, Susan Sprouse, at susansprouse@hotmail.com, or call 328-2869. Please let me know by January 18th if you'd like to join so I can have time to order our books. I look forward to hearing from you!

Fellowship Bridge Group will play the second Friday in January—the 11th—at 7 p. m. in Room 7. Our hosts will be Jim & Martha Meador. Please call Virginia McNutt at 288-7187 or Martha Meador at 288-3341 by Tuesday, January 8th if you would like to play.

The Golden Years Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch January 12th at Red Lobster, 3815 South Lamar Boulevard at 11:30 a.m.

The restaurant would like the number of reservations a week before so please call Barbara Challis at 444-9290 or Virginia McNutt at 288-7187 to make your reservation.

Senior Adult Ministry

Hurry, the time is near!

submitted by Carol Cunningham

We still have spaces left, but the time is running out to reserve your place at the Mid-Week Senior Adult Retreat at Camp Buckner on April 8th, 9th, and 10th. **Reservations must be made prior to February 1st.** \$40 will hold your place until then, or if you wish to pay the entire amount, which is due by February 1st., you may send a check payable to Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church or SHPC to:

Sally Jo Elliott
6806 Edinburg Cove
Austin, Texas 78749-2402.

The cost is \$120.00 per person with double occupancy or \$170.00 per person for a single occupancy. This entire payment covers room for Tuesday night and Wednesday night and 5 meals. For more information contact any

of these SAM Council members as soon as possible:

Bob and Bobbye Barkley	891-9947
Jim Black	892-2982
Harriet Cavness	261-3496
Carol Cunningham	441-8563
Sally Jo Elliott	892-0845
Faries McDaniel	892-9464
Ron and Trinkia Miller	892-1862
Ruth Weese	892-7652

Pastor Larry Coulter will lead the retreat in exploring "A Legacy of Faith." Whether you long to know more about the history of our faith journey or how to leave a legacy for your descendents, this retreat is for you! It is a perfect time of year for renewal and enjoying the beauty of God's Texas hill country or just spending time with friends. Sign up now!

GROAN UPS GAMES DAY on Tuesday, January 8th in Room 7, 10 a.m. till noon—Come and share laughs and groans with other grown ups as we play board or card games, tell jokes, tease one another and generally enjoy the company. Solid and liquid refreshments are provided. RSVP to Jim Black at 892-2982 or just come ahead.

Mary-Martha Circle will meet Thursday, January 3rd at 10 a.m. in Portable B

Our lesson is Number 12, "He Who Weighs the Heart" from our study *Proverbs and Parables*. **All women are welcome!** For more information, please call the moderator, Norma Burchard, at 394-0131.

2008

SUMMER CAMPS

Having fun and growing your faith

SUMMER 2008. REGISTRATION
STARTS NOW

Camps

June



The Great Escape Mid High Colorado!

An incredible mid-high adventure featuring awesome music, white-water rafting, amazing speakers. Great Escape is the best summer experience around. This camp fills up fast. Pre-register with Mike to insure your spot

June 20th-28th. \$500

July



Fun in the Sun High School We hit the fine sands of South Padre Isle with our high schoolers. Along with over 700 kids from around the nation, our students will dance, sing, compete, hit the waves and learn about God in one of Texas' most beautiful locations. Funny and challenging speakers, small groups where you can talk deeply, seminars that will help you grow deep in your relationships. Sign up now

July 13th-18th. \$400



Everlast & Evermore

THE GREAT ESCAPE

COME TO CAMP!

Summer camps offer key experiences for students to grow in faith and community with new friends from all over the USA.

WHY SEND THEM OFF TO CAMP

First, these camps are completely amazing. Second, the speakers that they bring in are top notch and will have messages that will blow your kids away. Camp is where kids take major leaps of faith. It is at camp that they begin to understand what it is like to have a relationship with God, because at camp they are exposed to Him everyday.

Community is also a big deal at camp. Friendships are forged that will last thru the years. At camp your kids begin to see what it is like to really live out their faith in a setting where other kids are doing the same. The community

that they experience gives them a taste of what heaven might be like.

Camp is for parents, too. If your student is nervous about going far away...join them. Parents are a great addition to any big adventure.

From our beaches in South Padre to the mountains of Colorado, God will be at work in the lives of our kids. Make sure camp is on your shopping list for this summer.

Pastor Mike



Mexico Mission Adventure & Club H2O

Mexico Family Mission? Yep, for the past several years we have been taking our students and their families to Mexico to serve.



The Mexico Mission Adventure is our most popular trip of the year. The trip is truly amazing. From the moment you sign on you begin to realize that this trip is something very different. You start out only knowing a few folks but by the time you leave you feel like you have been adopted by 60 wonderful folks from SHPC.

I won't kid you, the work that gets done on this trip can be hard and the conditions a bit rustic but we all come home changed for the better. When we leave we know that we have built more than just a few homes. We built relationships with our brothers and sister across the border. Mark your calendars



Taking a break from the work in Reynosa as our teens and SHPC families build several homes on our annual Mexico Mission Adventure

and make plans to join us this year. We already know that just about everyone from last year will be there...

sooooo, join the house building family, sweat a little bit for God

and make some memories that will last a lifetime.

**Mexico Mission Adventure
June 8th-13th**

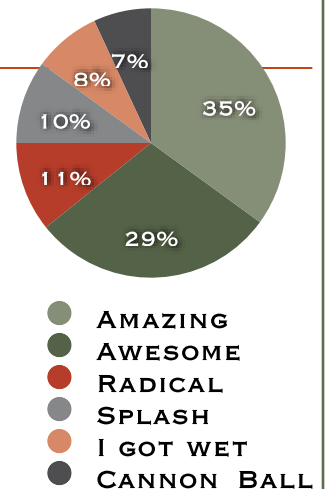


Club H2O is all about beating the summer heat with trips to different water spots all week long. This year is going to be a huge splash. Make plans to join us at this year's club!

4 out of 5 agree— Club H2O is really fun.

Only 4... the fifth was still in the pool when the survey was taken! Club H2O is our week-long adventure with our 4th-5th grade students. We will be checking out all of the cool splash spots in Austin. So if you like to swim, splash or get people wet, Club H2O is the place for you.

Dates for Club H2O will be posted soon.



Sex, Drugs & Rock-n-Roll

Sunday Night
January 27th



There is a lot more going on in life of an average teenager than you may know. You don't want to miss this seminar.

Pastor Mike

The Secret Lives of Teens. A deep and honest look into current teen culture.

There are things going on that they really want you to know about but can't figure out how to tell you....

What happens at their parties? What does "hooking up" mean to them? Are their friends all on drugs? Where does

their faith fit into the mix of life, school and friends? What do those song lyrics really mean? Have you ever wondered what was really happening in the life of your teen? If you have, then join us at this in-depth parenting seminar offered by the Student

Ministry of Shepherd of the Hills. Pastor Mike Killeen has over twenty years of experience working with teens and dealing directly with their lives. Join him and invite some friends at this Tools for the Journey seminar on January 27th

Tools for the Journey Parents Seminar 6:30-8:30

Welcome, New SHPC Members!



Dale & Shannon, Kayleigh & Alyssa Shumaker

Former members of First Presbyterian, Austin, Dale is a principal at a small engineering firm and Shannon currently stays home with their daughters.



Sid & Mary Helen MacAllister

The MacAllisters have been in church together for 50 years. His father was her preacher; her father was his Sunday school teacher. Raised in Weimar, TX, they have lived in Austin since 1994



Robert (Bob) & Lee Ann Merrifield

The Merrifields live in Oak Hill. Bob is a retired college instructor; Lee Ann a retired elementary teacher. Bob is an active volunteer with several groups; Lee is an avid bridge player.



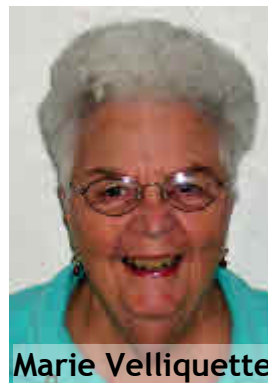
Shae, Kimber, Connor & Cade Wilkins

Kimber & Shae are originally from New Braunfels. Connor is 3 years old, and Cade was born December 4th. They write, "We're excited to grow our family and faith in this great community."

Melissa has spent her life working with people—first with people with disabilities, and now with college students. Her mom, sister, and nephews also live in Austin. She writes, "I'm so happy my dog found this church!"



Melissa Lutke



Marie Velliquette

Marie grew up in Austin, but after UT & marriage she moved away. After 12 years she returned, widowed with 3 children. Retired from teaching special ed at Dawson Elementary, she is a former member of St. Paul Cumberland Church.



J.W. & Marilyn Cook

J.W. & Marilyn have 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren. Marilyn works as a dental office manager, and J.W. is a regional manager for a contract food service company.



Michael & Renée Forsythe

Renée & Michael have been married 20 years and have four children: Lucas (17), Mitchell (15), Maria (11), and Ariana (8). Renée & Mike met while attending UT and have lived in Austin their entire marriage. The family has attended SHPC since 2001. They write, "We look forward to being a part of the SHPC community and sharing our faith."



Jon-Marc & Kristin Garcia

They write, "Thank you for welcoming us to SHPC! We look forward to worshipping with you."

Born and raised in La Grange, Mark is a musician and rancher, with three grown children—Erich, Christopher, and Bonnie.



Mark Lehman



Byron & Catherine Hilton

Both baptized in the Presbyterian Church, Catherine's father was a Presbyterian minister. They have two children and three grandchildren who live in Austin.

Deborah was originally from Dallas; Steve from Dayton, OH. Deborah grew up Presbyterian; Steve, Methodist. They are excited to be joining SHPC and becoming involved!



Steve & Deborah Wagner



DeAnne & Cameron Rais

DeAnne recently moved back to Austin and they are looking forward to growing with SHPC.

Whose job is it, anyway?!

I had most of an article already written for this month when I came across something in the newspaper that got me to thinking. It was an article about how Congress is looking into possible regulations on credit card fees, interest rates, etc.

As I've noted in some of my past articles, I'm no fan of credit card companies. But I'm also no fan of the government doing for me what I can do for myself. Because the simple truth is that we don't have to pay a single dime in credit card fees or interest payments if we just pay on time and never carry a balance.

I understand that you might have run up credit card balances because of big medical expenses, a job loss, or some other unfortunate event. But for most of us, the reality is that we have credit card debt because of choices we have freely made—things we just had to have to make us happy (we thought) or make us look good at the office or to our neighbors (we hoped). Or maybe it was those Christmas presents we just had to buy (that were exchanged, broken or forgotten a year later), or our desire to live as good as we think someone else is living (never mind that they're actually in debt up to their eyeballs).

Credit cards are incredibly two-faced. On the one hand, they make so many things so much easier. You don't have to worry about making sure you have enough cash in your wallet; you don't have to carry a checkbook around; if you lose a credit card, you're out \$50 (at most); a credit card's about the only way to shop on the Internet.

Unfortunately, credit cards also have a deceptive, seductive side. Buy something with a credit card and it doesn't feel like it's really costing you anything...your wallet isn't any thinner, your checkbook balance isn't any smaller (at least not right then and there). And who can remember what all they've charged so far this month to know that the amount is getting too high?

Look, there's no question that the credit card companies are constantly looking for ways to

suck you in. "Convenience" checks, low interest rate balance transfers, cash advances, to name a few. And then there's the fine print with all the little "gotcha's" like the fact that your payment not only has to be there on a particular date, it has to be there by a particular time on that date. And this bit about raising your interest rate even though you've been paying on time just because of changes in your credit report in other areas sure makes me suspect that those who are running the credit card companies aren't particularly devout Christians.

But for all that, the bottom line still remains that the credit card companies can only do it to us if we let them. And it's *our* job, not the government's to keep them from doing it. We have the power!

Sure...you wish you didn't have credit card debt. You try to pay it down, but things just keep coming up. It's hard to get the monthly payments in on time because you're living paycheck-to-paycheck. You can't pay much extra, if anything, because there's so little left over after all of the other bills are paid.

But step back for a minute and be honest with yourself. Just how bad do you want to be free of credit card debt? I'll bet that once you decide something is really important to you, you take care of it. Credit card debt will be no different. If you really want to eliminate it, you can.

While the process that will work best for you depends on who you are and your particular financial situation, the starting point is the same for everyone—the decision to make getting out of debt a priority. Make that decision yourself—today! Stop giving away your future, your kids' college, your own retirement by forever making interest payments and paying credit card fees.

Decision made? Great! Then get started—today! Read the articles I've written in the past about different ways to attack credit card debt. You'll find them on the church website at www.shpc.org/finance/budget_guy/bg_archive.php under the heading "Getting

continued, next page

Out of Debt." It won't take you long, and you'll get a lot of practical ideas.

There's also a lot of information on the Internet, and many books have been written about getting out of debt. (Look for them at your library, borrow them from a friend—just don't go to a bookstore and put them on your credit card!)

SHPC offers the Crown Financial Ministries Small Study Group. This is a wonderful look at what Scripture tells us about handling money and our financial affairs coupled with some practical advice on the mechanics of getting it done.

And last, but hopefully not least, there's me—the Budget Guy. I can work with you to help you find the approach that's right for you. And help you get it working and keep it working. I can do a lot more in person than I can through the pages of this newsletter. I've done it for others, why not you?

It's part of my ministry at SHPC. It won't cost you anything...no late fees, no interest charges...it won't show up on your next credit card statement. It's strictly confidential...not even Larry

will know. And the only commitment is the one you make to yourself and your family to finally get the credit card monkey off your back.

You can even take me out for a test drive. We'll just sit down, kick things around for a little bit and see if anything makes sense. Uncomfortable? I'm history. Think something might work for you? I'm your ally, your resource, your biggest cheerleader (although I *refuse* to put on a short skirt and wave pom-poms in the air).

So don't wait for Congress to do whatever it is they might end up doing. Who knows how long it will take or what it *might* actually be? At best, they will slow the rate at which your debt increases—Congress certainly won't simply eliminate it for you. After all, whose job is that, anyway?

I'm here to help you improve your financial life. It's free and confidential. Just call the Budget Guy, Allen Gunter, at 301-1246, or send an email to BudgetGuy@shpc.org. For a wonderful look at what the Bible says about money, check out the Crown Financial Ministries Small Study Groups—contact Chris Gordon at 484-1905 for more information.

Wondering what's going on with the Terra Team?

We caught up with one of the members, Gaston Broyles, not too long ago and found out that...

...no news really is no news! The team continues to move forward, getting estimates for water and electricity service, but really, there's not much to talk about.



**Change
of
Address**

Blair and Anne Streit
6720 Hansa Loop
Austin TX 78739
(same phone #)

The Saul Family
10805 Greymere Court
Austin TX 78739

Wava Brock
9201 Portner Avenue
Apt.228
Manassas, VA 20110
phone: 703-335-8478

December


Mark & Mary
Cognetti
2 Dec Johann &
Hester Louw,
Tracy & Mark
Lord
5 Dec Steve & Deborah Wagner
9 Dec Jeff & Lori Whitmire
13 Dec Matthew & Kim Arthur
14 Dec John & Sandi Moehلمان
15 Dec Tim & Summer Whitten
18 Dec Gary & Nona May
19 Dec Bruce & Maryellen Albertson
20 Dec Steve & Elisa Donnell
21 Dec Heidi & Sam Pugh, Phillip & Jenny
Callahan
23 Dec Michael & Aimee Killeen
26 Dec Howard & Marian Bonebrake, Hal
& Sally Jo Elliott
27 Dec Tommy & Stella Warner, Richard
& Susan Klusmann, Don & Jody
Barrett
30 Dec Beaman & Carlen Floyd, Mike &
Jennifer Bullock, Daryl & Amie
Chalberg

January

1 Jan Robin & Stephen Lenertz
1 Jan Howard & Molly Wentworth
3 Jan Debbie & Rollin Breed
5 Jan Al & Ruth Olson
7 Jan Lynn & Mike Kelley
8 Jan Phil & Polly Kruczkowski
8 Jan Buddy & Ernie Lopez
19 Jan William & Bettye Lindsey
21 Jan Alex & Candice Valdes
22 Jan David & Cindy Breed
23 Jan Dan & Ramsay Mudgett
23 Jan Shae & Kimber Wilkins
25 Jan Jennifer & Terry Sims
31 Jan Lindsay & Elza Crump
31 Jan Robert & Joyce McLaughlin

December


1 Dec Ken Clapham,
Kerry Long,
Wesley Hackett
2 Dec Francis
Primeaux,
Kelly Coulter
3 Dec Clem Hofmann,
Jennifer Thielemans
4 Dec Cheryl Olson, Bo Wilkes, Gina
Hauck, Anne Streit, Sarah Wade,
Cade Wilkins, Taylor Robinson
5 Dec Tommy Warner, Sarah Lane, Jessi
Cruz
6 Dec Nan Goodman, Curtis Williams,
Betty Williams, Buddy Stranahan,
Sharon Peurrung, Sharon Beynon,
Derek Brinks
7 Dec Jamie May, Holly Spink, Alex Bay
8 Dec Sally Jo Elliott, Dena Young, Will
Natale, Taylor Costin, Brooke
Schneider, Addison Doherty
9 Dec Fred Rothert, Cy Albertson, Kyle
Landry

10 Dec Shelley Garrett, Madison Collier
11 Dec Lydia Ellison, Jana Collins,
Madison Vela, Luke Costin,
Graham Hutton
12 Dec Sam Segura, Dave Riffey
13 Dec Mark Craig, Cindy Baschnagel,
Elizabeth Fisher
14 Dec Ken Rosilier, Colin Lineberry,
Nicki Gell, Ben Valvano, Ashley
Adams, James Peterson
15 Dec Gene Wright, Mario Andrade,
Ashley Laird, Cora Lewis
16 Dec Lynne Stokes, Gary May, Sherry
Todd, Amanda Hyde, Doug Frye
17 Dec Marilyn Cook
18 Dec T Bob Reinhardt, Steve Lenertz,
Darcy Garrett, Max Roland, John
Thomas, Matthew Cabello
19 Dec Billy Baschnagel, Braeden Long,
Sebastian Segura
20 Dec Azam Waugh, Coleman Proctor,
Elaina Saul, Isaac Sprouse
21 Dec Marylou Busch, Mary Lynn
Sheirer, Pat Webb, Britta Dukes,
Dylan French, Ireland Ginko
22 Dec Barron Vela, Stacie Tracy, Aimee
Kirkconnell, Michael Munden,
Toby Dailey
23 Dec Sue Shamburger, Jim Meador,
Maria Tissing, Kristin Grance,
Brittany Budd, Cullen Clouse
24 Dec Howard Haberman, Mally Baum,
DeAnne Pearson, Mary Carnes,
Emily Pellerin, Christopher
Pearson, Simon Sprouse, Zander
Smith
25 Dec Mia Folkers
26 Dec Bill Stokes
27 Dec Ramsay Mudgett, Pamela Immitt,
Tim Whitten, Brenda Johnson,
Marc Padovani, Brian Lugo,
Hunter Slade, Olivia Brady
28 Dec Susan Klusmann, Terri Knox,
Martin Ramirez
29 Dec Frances Tomlinson, Sarah Peters

30 Dec Nancy Hines, Ronnie Cortez, Lilli
Geen, Tyler David
31 Dec Sally Schilstra, Steve Peurrung,
Lori Whitmire, Amberle Gallup,
Mary Kennamer, Chris Lenertz

January

1 Jan Bill Brock, Carol Mize, Brenda
Parsons, Madison Lee, Josh
Whitten
2 Jan Lindsey Ginko
3 Jan Catherine Hilton, Ron Miller, Mike
Berryman, Jeff Long, Austin
Walsh, Cassie Gunter, River Ginko
4 Jan Ken Frye, Hester Louw, Audrey
Prosser, Rachel Chambers
5 Jan Trevor Garrett, D.J. Breed, Sam
Cole, Hayden Schultz
6 Jan Deborah Rich, Lindsey Fetty,
Lauren Roberts
7 Jan David Kluckhohn, Sarah Crawley

8 Jan Edi Falk, Dick Klusmann, Brooke
Fertig
9 Jan Daniel Gonzales, Amelia Crawford
10 Jan Robert Vela, Cody Hackett
11 Jan Gary Mann, Bill Chambers, Shawn
Ashbaugh, Megan Meyer, Jessica
Erps, Elizabeth Farwell, Rhett
Doss, Kade Price, Juliana Cabello
12 Jan Paul Stein, Meredith Stevenson,
Alexandra Ramirez, Julia Wright,
Kaitlyn Morales, Emily Morales
13 Jan Jennifer Benner, Holly Penrod
14 Jan Ada Engler, Cathy Beard, Wesley
Ballew, Isabella Klotz
15 Jan Lauren Gray, Lauren Peterson
16 Jan Caren Zysk, Howard Wentworth,
Stephanie Tyson, Jake Wentworth
17 Jan Lisa Simpson, Norwood Williams,
Shane Wilkins, Abby Aardema,
Sam Aardema
18 Jan Jack Gilchrist
19 Jan Peggy Tinnes, Preston Wheeler
20 Jan Kent Stromberg, Kimber Wilkins,
Keith Ashorn, Allie Spink
21 Jan Georgia Edwards, Matthew
Lineberry
22 Jan Jim Black, Kate Fetty, Garrison
Land, Maggie Oliver
23 Jan Clyde Hudson, Sarah Morgan
24 Jan Pauline Beezley, Marie
Velliquette, Tiffany Kapture,
Carissa Milam, Elizabeth Cognetti
25 Jan Mike Icenhauer Ramirez, Griffin
Klein
26 Jan Roger Wade, Gloria Drake, Bill
Trevillion
27 Jan Rachel Parmer, Jane Guernsey,
Grace Buffler
28 Jan Pat Franzolino, Lisa Crawford,
Ashley Franco, Chance Valdes
29 Jan Dan Bjeletich, Erica Taylor, Rita
Teague
30 Jan Warren Hyde, Pattie Lawrence,
Paky Callahan
31 Jan Katy Sepeda, John McDaniel



Joys - Alex & Candice Valdes (and big brother and sister, Chance and Alexis) welcomed Carson Alexander on December 21st— Bill & Kim Grubb welcomed their first grandchild, Haydon, on December 5th in Albuquerque—Angela and Jeff Peterson (and Lauren) delightedly welcome James Jeffrey Peterson, born December 14th—Dennis Low, on his safe return from Iraq—Ava Simone Brock, daughter of Nathan Brock & Dana Amorella and granddaughter of Madeline & Bill Brock, arrived December 23rd—Kathy & Sam Segura, and big sisters Claire and Cassie, celebrated the arrival of little brother Sebastian Samuel on December 19th—Tom O'Meara, on his safe return to Austin December 13th—Christy & Brant Robinson (and Hunter and Lexi) welcomed Taylor, their new baby girl, on December 4th; Christy is Kim Coulter's sister—Shae & Kimber Wilkins, with their son Conner, happily welcomed Cade Austin on December 4th—Garrett & Lori Sonnier and their son Marc welcomed Gregory Paul on November 26th—Brian Lugo, grandson of Joy Essary and son of Jennifer Sims, has returned safely from Iraq; he is now stationed in Alaska—Tim & Summer Whitten welcomed John Dewie on November 10th—Bo & Dana Wilkes and big brother Drake welcomed Duncan Turner on October 30th —Louis & Carol Mize welcome their granddaughter, Mackenzie Jade Mize, born October 23rd in Plano, TX to their son Matthew, former SHPC member, and his wife Kisha

Sorrows - Lynn Wright's stepmother, Ruth Lunsford, passed away New Year's Day in Pampa, TX—Kim Grubb's mother passed away December 15th in Tucson—Ali Aardema, niece of Chris & Kristen Aardema, passed away December 20th—Earl Waugh, father of Tim Waugh, passed away December 9th—the wife of Angela Peterson's co-worker, Gautam Day, passed away on November 18th—Ken Engler, husband of Ada, passed away November 13th— Richard Chase's mother passed away November 12th in Baytown— Madene Adams, mother of Dinah Strayhorn, passed away in Victoria, TX on November 12th— Brick "Muddy" Sappington, grandmother of Beth Ann Cole, passed away November 5th—Long-time member Maurice "Esso" Essary, husband of Joy, passed away November 1st—Connie Trevillion's father, Leigh Weld, passed away October 30th in Houston—Doug Berry, brother of Brian Berry, died October 24th

Please pray for — Carol Brandt, upcoming cataract surgery—the family of Jack Duke, the recently-deceased friend of Pam & Wayne Gonzales—Fran Miller's sister, Arlene Gray, recovering from surgery—Lynn Wright's father as this is the second wife he has lost to cancer—Jenny Fuller, friend of the Gilchrists', whose mother is battling advanced lung & liver cancer—the extended Aardema family—Sharon Rothert, recovering from surgery—continued healing for Rich Morales' father—Marisa Stromberg, thyroid removal to treat a malignancy that was discovered during the first surgery—Marvine Sass, recovering from surgery to repair her leg—Mary Lou Vasquez, friend of members Ruben & Suzanne Martinez, diabetic and battling lung cancer—Ann Hayes' husband, Don, released to come home under hospice care—the Gilchrists' friend, George Kennebeck, surgery on his arm for cancer—Morris Budd, Doug Budd's father, progressing satisfactorily after his heart surgery—Will Mattingly, senior high member of SHPC and son of Chris Boyd, hospitalized at Brackenridge, recovering from surgery to treat broken bones suffered in a serious car accident—Rory Peterson, husband of Muffie and son-in-law of Marvine Sass, recovering from neck surgery—Daisy Bates' nephew, Taiga Sevaetasi, deployed to Iraq on December 1st—Ross McDow, friend of Roger & Marilyn Wade, suffering from terminal brain cancer—the family of Bruce Baker, recently-deceased father of Pam & Wayne Gonzalez' friend Crystal—Derrick Gonzales, friend of Daisy Bates, hospitalized from a November 30th rollover accident—Bobby Jo Barker's sister, Mary Faye Palmer of Lewisville TX, hospitalized and very ill with an undiagnosed illness—Capt. Mark Karnauch, friend of Mario Andrade, returned to Iraq for another tour—Wood Livingstone, father of Anne Kirsch, blocked arteries in both legs—Doug Budd's brother Bill of Austin, back at work following successful implant of two stents—Joel Cabello's mother, Ema, chemo for recurrence of breast cancer and also having chemo-related heart problems—Deb Ballew's nephew, Brian Szczepanek, is in Iraq—continued strength for Jennifer Ramberg's father; his chemo/drug combo is preventing the malignant tumor from growing larger—Dinah Strayhorn's father, Tom Adams, and the family—George Rock, a friend of Rita Paschack's children—Rita Paschak, as she moves from her home to a new situation—DeAnne Pearson and her family; DeAnne's mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer—Bruce Albertson's sister, 78-year-old diabetic Dorothy Loisel of Phoenix, recovering from open-heart surgery—Elizabeth Ashmore, daughter of Gloria Drake, painful skin disorder—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:

Sheila & Reese Killpack, friends of Farrah Stowe... James Ewing, friend of Junie & Gaston Broyles... 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... Brett Hines, nephew of Georgia Crawley... Nathan Miller, son of Fran & Ted Miller... Clinton Purcell, Doug Budd's co-worker's son... Buddy Lopez... Keri Reeves, niece of Deb Fowler... Brian Szczepanek, nephew of Deb Ballew... Mark Karnauch, friend of Mario Andrade... Daisy Bates' nephew, Taiga Sevaetasi...

January

- 1 Tuesday** IHN continues
- 3 Thursday**
10 a.m. Mary-Martha Circle, portable B
7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal :: Disciple 3, library
- 6 Sunday Epiphany** IHN ends
9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, NO Faithwalk
10:30 a.m. **Congregational Meeting: Report from the APNC**
11 a.m. The Ark :: Children's Choir
6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
- 7 Monday**
12 SAM Council
7 p.m. Disciple 1, library :: Disciple 2, portable B
- 8 Tuesday**
10 a.m. "Groan"-Ups Game Day, room 7
- 9 Wednesday**
9:30 a.m. *Mark Manuscript Study*, portable B
6:30 p.m. Evermore Evening Fellowship
Foundations, port B.
- 10 Thursday**
7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal :: Disciple 3, library
Book Group, room 7
- 11 Friday**
7 p.m. Fellowship Bridge Group, room 7
- 12 Saturday**
9 a.m. Monthly Mission Morning
11:30 a.m. Golden Years Lunch Bunch
5:30 p.m. Family Game Night
- 13 Sunday**
9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, Faithwalk
11 a.m. **Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons**
The Ark :: Children's Choir
6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
- 14 Monday**
7 p.m. Disciple 1, library :: Disciple 2, portable B
- 15 Tuesday**
6:15 a.m. Men's Life
- 16 Wednesday**
9:30 a.m. *Mark Manuscript Study*, portable B
6:30 p.m. **KidStuf!**
Evermore Evening Fellowship
Foundations, port B.
- 17 Thursday**
9:30 a.m. Disciple 1, library
7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal :: Disciple 3, library
- 18 Friday**
Everlast ski trip departs
- 19 Saturday**
6:30 p.m. Eight Great Dates
- 20 Sunday**
9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, Faithwalk
11 a.m. The Ark :: Children's Choir
12 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 21 Monday**
Everlast ski trip departs
7 p.m. Disciple 1, library :: Disciple 2, portable B
- 22 Tuesday**
6:15 a.m. Men's Life
- 23 Wednesday**
9:30 a.m. *Mark Manuscript Study*, portable B
6:30 p.m. Evermore Evening Fellowship
Foundations, port B.
- 24 Thursday**
7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal :: Disciple 3, library
- 27 Sunday**
9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, Faithwalk
11 a.m. The Ark :: Children's Choir
6:30 p.m. Everlast Evening Fellowship
Tools for the Journey: the Secret Life of Tears
- 28 Monday**
7 p.m. Disciple 1, library :: Disciple 2, portable B
- 29 Tuesday**
6:15 a.m. Men's Life
- 30 Wednesday**
9:30 a.m. *Mark Manuscript Study*, portable B
6:30 p.m. Evermore Evening Fellowship
Foundations, port B.
- 31 Thursday**
9:30 a.m. Disciple 1, library
7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal :: Disciple 3, library
- 1 Friday** February
SHPC Officer & Staff Retreat begins

The Rev. Larry Coulter, Pastor
5226 West William Cannon Drive, Austin, TX 78749
www.shpc.org
The Rev. Michael Killen, Associate Pastor
Phone: 512-892-3580, FAX: 512-892-6307
church@shpc.org
Pastor's email: larry@shpc.org

Shepherd of the Hills
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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