



The Shepherd's Watch

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May 2010

Issue 5

Adding Your Unique Perspective

In his book, *The Thirteen Apostles*, J. Ellsworth Kalas says,

The Spirit of God doesn't operate in a vacuum; it deals with the stuff of our daily lives. God meets us where we are and speaks to us in the circumstances of our unique, individual lives. Sometimes, in fact, it seems that the Holy Spirit finds voice in the very uniqueness of our special circumstances and personality.

I believe this was very true with the original Disciples and is just as true with those of us who are disciples today.

When Jesus gathered together the original twelve Disciples, he chose an unlikely group of very different men who would not normally be expected to get along together. Of course, there were some fishermen and some brothers who had a few things in common, but even one pair of the brothers were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder"—which doesn't make them sound the perfect choice for getting along in a group. And there were also some men who would never have been expected to be in the same room together, much less work together as colleagues. The two that were potentially the most opposite were Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax collector.

By the time of Jesus, the Zealots were a powerful Jewish political party. They were an extreme group who wanted nothing less than the complete overthrow of the Romans. In fact, their rebellions against

Rome would eventually lead to the complete destruction of Jerusalem. The more extreme Zealots participated in assassinations of both Romans and of Jews they saw as collaborators. So how could Simon the Zealot possibly be part of a group that also included Matthew the tax collector?

Tax collectors were not looked on kindly by any Jews but were especially hated by the Zealots, not just because they didn't like paying taxes but because tax collectors were collaborators who worked for the Romans to help subjugate their own fellow Jews. My guess would be that the first time the Disciples shared a meal together, Matthew probably made sure never to turn his back to Simon.

Why in the world would Jesus pick these two particular men and how in the world could they ever get along? We don't know. The Bible never explains it. All we do know is that eventually these two very different men put aside those differences to work together for the greater cause of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, fast-forward to today and walk into any of our *Disciple Bible Study* groups. What will you see? There are likely to be about 8 to 12 people sitting around tables with Bibles and Study Manuals open, sometimes sharing their thoughts in small groups of 2 or 3 and some-

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SHPC Staff Guide

Larry Coulter	Senior Pastor
Mike Killeen	Associate Pastor
Britta Dukes	Associate Pastor
Sherry Smith	Adult Ministry
Kim Arthur	Nursery Ministry
Chris Gordon	Elementary Ministry
Zack Uzzle	Music Ministry
Beth Watson	Music Ministry
Pattie Lawrence	Director of Preschool
Belva Koerth	Office Manager
Kimbol Soques	Communications

Sermons for May

May 2	Hezekiah and the End of Israel 2 Kings 17-19
May 9	Mother's Day Hope in the Face of Impending Disaster Jeremiah 31:31-34
May 16	Daniel in the Lion's Den Daniel 1-3, 6
May 23	The Nation Returns Ezra 1-6
May 30	The Place of Coincidence Esther 1-9

times hearing each others' ideas in the whole group. There is a trained group leader who leads the group through the discussion process based on the weeks' readings from the Bible but does not "teach" the group in the traditional sense of the word. The leader is also a participant.

And is this a very homogenous group of like-minded people with similar backgrounds? Not likely. There will be men and women, young and old, married and single, Republicans and Democrats, native Texans and those from other faraway states or foreign countries, some who were raised in the church and some who have never studied the Bible before, some who think they might just know it all and some who are afraid because they worry they have nothing to offer the class. The one important thing they do have in common is that they have decided they want to learn more about what it looks like to try to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

So, what happens then? In September, this unlikely group begins to gather once a week and struggle together to get to the meaning of the scripture they have read individually during the week. They start out a little hesitantly, concerned about saying something that might offend someone or sound stupid. But then, over the course of the nine-month study, they begin to relax and get to know each other. They will probably never become unanimous on most issues but they will get to know each other well and appreciate each person's

unique perspective. In fact, it is often those with the least-biblical backgrounds that end up asking the most probing questions that make the "wise ones" re-evaluate what the sacred words mean. Eventually, this disparate group of folks put aside their differences to work together for the greater cause of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sound familiar?

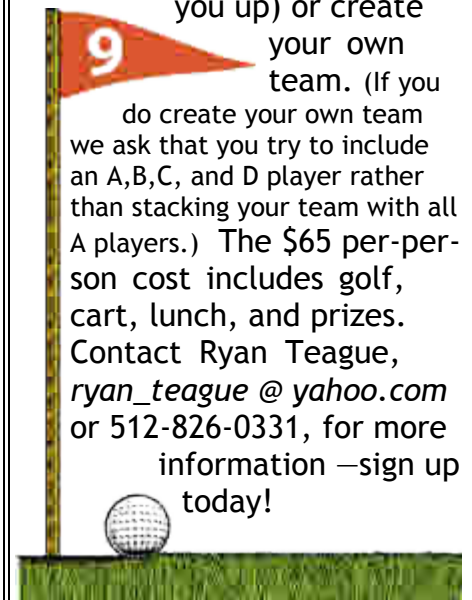
I am very proud of our "Disciple disciples" when I look around the church and see them stepping up into all sorts of leadership and mission. They are answering phones in the office, ushering people into church services, teaching our children and youth, arranging mission trips, serving communion, fixing the leaky roof, visiting the sick, and managing the church budget. They have taken their very different gifts and talents and put them to use for the same cause. Read further in this newsletter to see how you can meet some of these people and find out more about *Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*.

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:27-28 NIV



Shepherd of the Hills Golf Tournament **Saturday, June 12th /** **Signup deadline May 12th** **@ \$65/person**

The SHPC Brotherhood is organizing a church wide golf tournament on Saturday, June 12th. The format will be 4-person Team Scramble. If you can walk and swing a golf club (men, women, teens, pros, & hackers), come join us! Sign up individually (we will match you up) or create your own team. (If you do create your own team we ask that you try to include an A,B,C, and D player rather than stacking your team with all A players.) The \$65 per-person cost includes golf, cart, lunch, and prizes. Contact Ryan Teague, ryan_teague@yahoo.com or 512-826-0331, for more information—sign up today!



The Story Reading List: May

The following is a reading guide outlining the chapters that will be used in worship the next Sunday. Follow along and join us as God's story unfolds.

Readings for the week, beginning with Sunday

May

- | | | |
|----|------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Chapter 16 | The Beginning of the End |
| 9 | Chapter 17 | The Kingdoms Fall |
| 16 | Chapter 18 | Daniel in Exile |
| 23 | Chapter 19 | The Return Home |
| 30 | Chapter 20 | The Queen of Beauty and Courage |

—by Bob Beardslee, *Disciple* leader

One of the major tenets of our reformed faith is the primacy and supremacy of Scripture. Calvin expressed this in Book One, Chapter Six of his *Institutes of Christian Religion*: “[T]o this end God has added the light of His word to make Himself known in salvation, giving with Himself. Scripture crystallizes ideas about God which have been very confused, scatters the darkness and shows us the true God more clearly”. This is also clearly stated in the Westminster Larger Catechism in questions three and five. Question three asks “What is the Word of God?” and answers “The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience.” Question five asks “What do the scriptures principally teach?” and answers “The scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.”

A major problem the reformers had with the Roman Church was to get the Scriptures to the common people. Luther was adamant that Holy Scripture was to be one of the pillars of the reformation. The beginning of the Presbyterian Kirk (church) in Scotland under the leadership of John Knox stressed an educated clergy and laity (regular people, like us!) based on the Holy Word of God. That emphasis continues to this day in the Presbyterian Church.

Why study the Bible indeed!

The major program at SHPC for Bible study is the *Disciple* series. We’re now pre-registering for *Disciple* classes starting this September and signup information is available online at the church web site members.shpc.org or from Sherry Smith or Bob Beardslee.



Everyone is invited!

Disciple 10th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, May 16, 2010
Music * Food * Fellowship
(and information about *Disciple*)

Join your SHPC family for a picnic style meal in and around the FMC after the 11:00 service on May 16th.

The main dish will be provided. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share! We will celebrate together 10 years of *Disciple*—ship through the *Disciple Program*! Come hear a bit about the program as we share a meal and some music together!

The Library Project Is Finished!

After two years, the library is now totally automated. We switched to circulating books via the computer last year, but then decided to scan and add an image of the cover of each book to the computer catalog. Thanks to the hard work of several library committee members, the scanning project is complete (almost complete, that is. See below for what's holding us up.)

Q: What was wrong with the old system? I liked just signing a card to check out a book.

A: The card-based system was very error-prone. Through the years, our card catalog had developed a number of filing errors, making it inaccurate. Sometimes, too, the borrower's card for book A would be put in book B; then the wrong person would get an overdue notice and book A would still go missing.

Also, processing new books was slow and labor-intensive; each one took over thirty minutes to complete—and that was when the card stock didn't jam in the printer. With the automated system, we can tap into the Library of Congress and download professional cataloging, finishing each book in about five minutes!

Q: Why can't we just use an honor system, borrow a book without signing it out, and return it when we're finished?

A: When someone else is looking for a book borrowed on the honor system, there's no way to know if the book is checked out and how soon it will be returned. Right now,

Library News



we're waiting to scan five books that have disappeared, three from the children's section.

Q: I really don't feel confident about using a computer; what can you do to help?

A: Not to worry. The librarian is often in the library between services on Sunday and can help you find and borrow a book. If not, you can still rely on the card system; the card catalog is being retained for your use—although new books aren't being added. To borrow a book without using the computer, just sign it out on the clipboard next to the computer; we'll shift it over to the computer for you. Remember, though, to use the barcode number, not the title, because we have multiple copies of some of our books. (The barcode to use is a little one at the top of the back cover; it is a four-digit number with the name of our church above it.)

Q: Do I need to check a book out if I just want to use it in the library?

A: No, we're not that fussy. We do ask, though, that you take one of the red markers from the shelf over the computer and use it to mark where the book belongs so you can return it to the right place when you're finished.

Any other questions? Just call our librarian, Margaret Nakamura, for information, suggestions for new books, or other topics.

Adult Ministry

Disciple 1 Class Project: Micah 6

Each year, most *Disciple* classes do some sort of service projects that go quietly unnoticed. This year I thought I'd share one of the spring projects. During Lent, the *Disciple 1* class decided to each fast for one meal a week and set aside the amount of money saved to purchase food for the Micah 6 food bank of Austin. Linda Williams, a

member of the *Disciple 1* class and a member of Micah 6, accepted the food stuffs on behalf of the food bank. For more information about *Disciple 1* and the service project, ask class leader, Bob Beardslee; for more information about Micah 6, check out this article from the April 21, 2010 edition of the *Austin-American Statesman*: www.austin360.com/food-drink/blessings-in-a-basket-a-morning-at-the-589866.html.

Hey Moms—

we're inviting you to carve out 8 whole hours for yourself this summer...

please join us from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for 4 Thursdays (June 10-July 1). Childcare is available for infants-5th grade with advance reservations.

Each of these weekly gatherings offers a time to gather with other moms and share about our lives and families. We talk about big stuff, small stuff and whatever other stuff is on our hearts and minds. We laugh often and sometimes cry. We eat. And... we have lively discussions regarding the parenting material we are studying.

This summer, we'll be looking at **Parenting 101: The Basics of Becoming a Proactive Parent**. This 4-week course helps parents outline a plan



Mom to Mom

for parenting based on your family's priorities and values. The four weekly sessions are:

Week 1 - Navigating Through Troubled Waters

Week 2 - Developing a Parenting Plan

Week 3 - Managing the "Balancing Act"

Week 4 - Keeping Your Family Strong

Parenting 101 is intended to help you learn the basics of becoming a proactive parent—a parent who keeps your family headed in the direction God wants you to take.

The cost is \$8, plus childcare if needed (\$8/1 child; \$16/2 children; \$20/3 or more children). For more information, contact Pastor Britta at [britta AT shpc.org](mailto:britta@shpc.org).

FELLOWSHIP BRIDGE GROUP will play the **second Friday, May 14th**, at 7 p.m. in Room 7. Our hostess will be Mary Dee Haman. Please call Virginia McNutt at 288-7187 or Martha Meador at 288-3341 by Tuesday, April 11th if you would like to play.

Even a church needs a spring cleaning! On May 1st we are having an all-church clean up day. Please plan on joining us at 9 a.m. to help keep our facility looking its best!



Meet your newest leadership...

The new members of the SHPC leadership team have been working hard since they were installed (yes, that's the Presbyterian word for it!) at the end of January. After a hard-working weekend retreat at the beginning of February, they've all been diligently doing the jobs you've elected them to. Thank them the next time you see them!

the Class of 2012

Elders

Deacons



Cindy Baschnagel



Gaston Broyles



Jennifer Bullock



Karen Davis



Dale Shumaker



Laura Morales



**Linda Icenhauer-
Ramirez**



Dick Klusmann



Mark Schroeder



Retreat participants gather for a picture among the Bluebonnets that graced Camp Buckner.

SAM News

(senior adult ministry)

Senior Moments for May

submitted by Stefan Haag

FEBRUARY WAS PACKED WITH events for seniors; so the SAM Council used March to prepare for the annual SAM Spring Retreat in April and make preliminary arrangements for events in May and June.

AS YOU COME TO him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5, NIV

FOR TWENTY-THREE SENIORS, APRIL 6th marked the beginning of two days of beautiful spring weather, glorious bluebonnets and Texas paintbrushes, three presentations by Michael Brundeen, former SHPC intern and current pastor of Jackson Woods Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi, and an update on the master plan for SHPC's land on HWY 290 West and worship service led by Larry Coulter. Lynn Wright provided each participant with a smooth stone, inscribed with the scripture from 1 Peter 2:4-5—the theme for the retreat—to commemorate his or her attendance at the retreat. We enjoyed the Bluebonnets, the presentations, our morning devotionals, the worship service and the meals—! Camp Buckner and its staff again lived up to its hospitable reputation. We hope that more seniors will attend next year when we return to

Camp Buckner during the first or second week in April. What a perfect opportunity to worship, grow, and connect with other seniors from SHPC.

Speaking of February...

SAM COUNCIL HOSTED A Driver Safety Course on February 25, 2010 presented by Gerry Smolinsky with AARP. Twenty-eight people attended the four-hour course held in the FMC. The intent of the program was to improve older driver skills in areas involving yield right-of-way, improper turning, and incorrect lane changing. Older drivers often have problems in driving situations that require quick response, full vision, and interaction with other drivers. Completion of the course offered par-



The armadillo safely crosses the road and avoids being part of the lunch enjoyed by participants in the Driver Safety Course

participants the potential to receive a discount on their auto insurance premiums—a great benefit on top of the chance to connect with SHPC friends old and new.

And looking ahead...



ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 5TH, a group of seniors will head to the **Museum of Fine Arts—Houston** to view the **Sargent and the Sea** exhibit. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m., travel to Houston by minivans, tour the museum, and return to the

church by 7 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for seniors, and a café is located in the museum. We're eagerly looking forward to the opportunity for fellowship that always occurs when SHPC seniors get together.



AFTER LAST YEAR'S DROUGHT, it's time to spend a few hours or days, perhaps even weeks, on the yard and the plants. On **May 18th**, Rosina, a staff member at the Natural

Gardener on Old Bee Caves Road, will provide the program for the **May Soup to Nuts Luncheon, which begins at 11 a.m in the Family Ministry Center (FMC)**. Her presentation will provide information about tending your plants naturally, native plants, and deer- and drought-resistant plants. Following her presentation, we will enjoy a luncheon catered by our own Beth Watson. The cost is \$6.50 per person. Reservations should be made by calling Pat Haag (288-3479) or Annie Ward (373-8803) by May 14, 2010.

YOU'LL WANT TO MAKE sure to join us on May 30th as we celebrate Senior Adult Sunday. Seniors will be involved in both worship services, and the SAM Council is planning special activities for all SHPC seniors, including a pot-luck dinner and beanbag baseball as well as other games after the 11 a.m. service. Look for the details in the weekly announcements.



AS ALWAYS, THE MEMBERS of the SAM Council welcome your ideas for events and activities. Contact me (288-3479) or any council member, or e-mail us at sam@shpc.org.

Association of Retired Christian Men

submitted by Ron Miller

WHILE WE CALL OURSELVES retired, this is not precisely correct. We are a mixed bag of men. Some of us are very active in the life of SHPC; some are part-time employees in the community and some are fully retired. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of each month

throughout the year for coffee, cookies and fellowship. Each meeting begins with prayer and a short Christian devotion which sets the tone for the meeting, but does not set the entire agenda. Attendees are encouraged to bring concerns for group discussion and we have ranged far and wide, but we have always attempted to keep Christianity as the central part of each discussion.

IN THE PAST, WE have had some notable discussions led by The Reverends Larry Coulter, Britta Dukes, Michael Killeen and David Evans, who was the organizing pastor of SHPC. Our own The Reverend Faries McDaniel is a regular participant and leader of our group. What have they talked about? Britta presented a detailed discussion about the children's ministry which has been very instrumental in the growth of our church. Michael presented a somewhat complex discussion concerning the reconstruction of the church—in a broader sense than just SHPC. Bob Beardslee led one of our more notable discussions; it centered on the development of our land out on U. S. Highway 290, as a sort of progress report. Bob has also presented commentary on various political positions being considered by the Presbyterian Church USA which helps us stay in tune with Presbyterians across the nation.

OUR NEXT FORMAL PRESENTATION has Faries McDaniel and Stefan Haag teaming up to produce "Aging Well as Senior Adults." This may be one that we should invite some of our middle age folks to attend because time is fleeting!

So, YOU CAN SEE that some thought is brought to bear for most of our discussions even if the coffee is SHPC coffee. Although some of our topics raise opposing viewpoints among our Christian friends, we always part with prayer and return the next time as good friends praising the Lord with hearts full of Christian fellowship.

OUR MEETINGS IN MAY are on the 13th and 27th in Portable B at 10:00 A. M.

A RESERVATION IS NOT needed, but you may contact Ron Miller, 512-892-1862 or ronald.miller1333@sbcglobal.net for further information. Please watch the yellow pages in the Sunday bulletin for additional information regarding our group.

SAM Groups in May:

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE: Thursday, May 6th at 10 a.m. in Room 7. Our lesson is number 8, "Matthew, The Successful Man," from our study *The Thirteen Apostles*. Following our meeting, we will enjoy a covered dish luncheon so bring a dish to share. ALL women are cordially invited to attend.

GROAN-UPS GAME DAY: second Tuesday, May 11th, in room 7 at 10 a.m. No reservations needed. Join us for games, or bring your favorite game so that we can learn it.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CHRISTIAN MEN: May 13th & 27th at 10 a.m. in Portable B. No reservation needed. Join us for Christian fellowship and stimulating conversation. Questions? Contact Ron Miller, 892-1862 or ronald.miller1333@sbcglobal.net.

GOLDEN YEARS LUNCH BUNCH will be at the Cherry Creek Catfish Parlor, located at Man-

chaca and Stassney, Saturday, May 8th, at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Pauline Beezley, 442-5633 or [pbeezley AT austin rr.com](mailto:pbeezley@at.austin.rr.com) by Tuesday May 4th.

SOUP TO NUTS LUNCHEON: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the Family Ministry Center. The program is presented by Rosina, a staff member at The Natural Gardener on Old Bee Cave Road. The luncheon is being catered by Beth Watson, and the cost is \$6.50 per person for a sandwich, pasta salad, and dessert. Reservations should be made by calling Pat Haag (288-3479) or Annie Ward (373-8803) by May 14, 2010.

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY: Sunday, May 30, 2010 at both services. Join us after the 11 a.m. service for a potluck dinner and games in the FMC. Experience the fun that is the Senior Adult Ministry at SHPC!



Thank you, IHN Volunteers!

Thanks to our volunteers during the week of March 21-28, 2010, we cared for 2 families with a lot of small children. The volunteers were very involved with the feeding and after dinner activities. *You have followed God's command and shown compassion for our brothers and sisters in their time of crisis. May God's blessings be returned to you.*

The next time IHN will be hosted at SHPC is July 11-18th. Sign up will begin June 13th.

Thank you! Claudia Lauber, Lauren and Lisa Laird, Nita Snyder, Wayne Crowley, Pat Haberman, Rosemarie Barnett, Lorie Lopez, Maria Tissing, Leslie Woods, Denise Berry, Liz Maxfield, Mary and Alex Aversa, Lisa and Samuel Teeple, Kim Grubb, Laura Gore, Matt

& Kim Arthur, Laura Bost, Linda Wheeler, Catherine Hilton, Judy Behr, Gene Wright, Lara Manier and Stuart McIntire and volunteers from our supporting churches Faith Presbyterian Church and Abiding Love Lutheran Church

We can't do it without our GREAT volunteers! If we've missed your name or misspelled it, please let one of us know and we do apologize. Stuart McIntire stuart78704@yahoo.com / 788-445.

Preschool News

The students enjoyed a joyful and adventurous springtime at SHPC Preschool. The true highlight was the Easter Season as the children learned about Jesus' resurrection with a variety of creative lessons and activities. The wonderful director and staff continued to provide enriching, hands-on learning opportunities. From transforming the preschool into a pony-riding rodeo and a tree-covered rainforest, to teaching about different types of transportation and space, the little ones gained lots of knowledge in class and in chapel. The preschool advisory board has also been hard at work to develop new ideas to expand current program options, so stay tuned!

Jesus died on the cross for us. That was so nice of him.
—student from three-year old class



The Cuddlebugs get ready for the egg hunt!

Children's Ministry News

Hey! Check out the new face in Children & Family Ministry!

Her face isn't *new*, precisely, but she IS new to the SHPC Children's Ministry team!

Chris (Christina) Gordon has taken on the role of Director of Elementary Ministry. From Up-Street & Live B.I.G. to KidStuf and Club H2O, Chris will be our go-to person for all things elementary! As the newest paid member of the Children's Ministry team, Chris will free Pastor Britta to focus on nurturing the children and families at SHPC, while looking ahead and

envisioning the future of the program

More about Christina (Chris) Gordon: Born and raised in northwest Arkansas,

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Arkansas and a Master's degree in Family & Child Studies from Texas State University in San Marcos. She has held professional positions in non-profits and school districts, working with children and families, student parents, and community collaborations. When she is not at the church, she works as a technical writer and editor for First Order Consulting. Chris volunteers with Tau Beta Sigma, a service organization for college band students, and CampLIFE!, a non-profit dedicated to providing camp experiences to Armed Services Gold Star families. She is married to the rock star percussionist at the 9:30 Sunday service (who is also named Chris!), and together they enjoy traveling, camping, and checking out the live music scene in Austin.



SHPC Preschool is hiring!

Shepherd of the Hills Preschool is hiring staff for the upcoming school year. We are looking for people who have lots of experience working with young children. If you are interested in joining a team that ministers to children or want to know more about this position, please contact preschool director Pattie Lawrence, 892-7528.

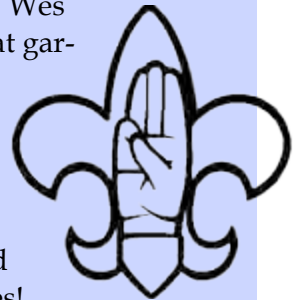
Congratulations!

SHPC's own **Wes Ballew** will be celebrated tonight for earning his **Eagle Scout** ranking, the highest award a Boy Scout can earn.

For his project, Wes created a habitat garden and upgraded the landscape at the Sunset Valley City Hall, which included planting 40 trees!

Wes is a member of Boy Scout Troop 395, chartered November 1, 1982 by Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church.

Congratulations, Wes!



Here's the scoop:

Our final KidStuf production of the year will be held **Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Family Ministry Center. To make this Grand Finale even more special, we are ending the evening with some sweet treats for parents and children. Please join us for a fun-filled program on the virtue of **PATIENCE**, and a delicious end to a great year!



PATIENCE

WAITING UNTIL LATER FOR WHAT YOU WANT NOW

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

submitted by Cathy Beard

Know what “refugee resettlement” or “RST” means? Refugee resettlement is the SHPC name for our work with Refugee Services of Texas (RST) in resettling—helping a new refugee into US society by providing not only physical items such as furniture and household goods but providing volunteer time to do things like driving them to appointments, assisting in job searches, taking them on outings, and teaching them practical things like bill paying and grocery shopping. RST refugees come from all over the world; right now the main groups coming in to Austin are Burmese, Bhutanese, Iraqi, and Cuban.

Recently Steve and I visited with a new family who arrived just a month ago from Baghdad. Even though we could not speak each other’s language, we were served apples along with hot sweet coffee in antique tiny cups. We tried to communicate as best as we could. As we sat on the sofa I noticed two pictures on the walls of a religious looking figure, similar to a portrait of Jesus, except donning a black beard! The elderly gentleman followed my gaze and exclaimed “John the Baptist!” I excitedly asked, “Sabeen?” and he said, “Yes!” Then I took a chance and asked “Goldsmith?” and once again he exclaimed, “Yes” and then instructed his daughter to go get a hammer. It was a small hundred-year-old hammer handed down by his father for use in their goldsmith trade!

Another family we’re helping is a young family from Burma. They lived in a Thai refugee camp for only seven months, an unusually short time. When we asked why, he said that, prior to the refugee camp, he was in prison for six years for protesting against his country’s atrocious human rights violations. As we often are, we felt humbled and reminded of the amazingly strong human spirit shining through. I thought of our church and how “we are blessed so that we may



be a blessing.” How can we do that? By being a friend, a mentor and by setting an example of our great Christian faith.

In May or June our first sponsored family for 2010 will arrive—we are

gearing up now. We still need: a couch, a table and chairs and a sewing machine. Also, volunteers are needed for setting up their apartment, airport pickup, driving to various appointments, and general assistance in adjusting to American life!

A Refugee Resettlement update: Thank you, folks who have recently hired Mr. Say, a struggling single father, to make some money by doing odd jobs like raking, weeding, and sweeping. If you have any jobs outdoors that need doing, please consider hiring a refugee! Come and share your many blessings and help them make a better life for themselves by welcoming them into your life. You will be blessed abundantly!

Contact Cathy Beard at 263-9910 or cathybeard@austin.rr.com for questions and information about this interesting and rewarding mission opportunity!



Bruce Roberson & Rebecca Robertson
2326 Light Wind Dr
Corpus Christi, TX 78414
Rebecca’s email: rrobertson52@gmail.com
phone: 512-796-7672

Cyndi Penrod
14500B Harris Ridge Blvd.
Pflugerville TX 78660-5402

Update from Manyamula: December 2009

submitted by Mo O'Meara

Tom and I traveled to Malawi, Africa from Dec. 1, 2009 to Dec. 11, 2009.

When the Manyamula congregation completed their church renovations, they invited SHPC to the sanctuary dedication. Tom has been there a number of times, but I decided it was time I got to visit Malawi, "the warm heart of Africa." Since I had had the joy of hosting Manyamula pastor Clement Munthali and synod youth director Chimwemwe Mhango during their visit here, I knew the trip would be special.

Getting ready to go, I was especially anxious to meet and build some kind of a relationship with the women of the Manyamula congregation. To show my intention, I decided I would take tote bags made by the ladies of SHPC. I put out the word and our ladies really started pumping out bags! I also decided to bring donated sewing supplies, since Malawian women make their families' clothes. We ended up taking 2 huge suitcases of gifts—including 140 beautifully sewn tote bags and sewing supplies for the women.

We spent 3 days and 2 nights in Manyamula. The church, grain bank, manse (*mon-say* to them), and primary school form a rough square around a large open area with the church on one side of the square and manse on the other side. Pastor Clement did a beautiful job with the renovations, tying together the exterior of the church and manse. He

also made all of the furniture in the manse! The inside of the church has a clean white finish.

Presbyterian leadership from the whole country attended the dedication and even the Malawian government sent a representative. Tom's sermon highlighted Africa's contributions both biblically and historically. We presented our gifts to the congregation, the highlight being the beautiful parament made by Dee Merrell. The dedication service was Pastor Clement's last day at Manyamula. He received a promotion, so he and his family have moved further north. And we also had the opportunity to meet the new pastor, Pastor Kenneth Muyira.

I met a number of ladies from the Manyamula Women's Guild and was thrilled to find out that they had newly started a sewing program to raise money for their many charity activities. I

Ladies of the Women's Guild & SHPC totes



presented SHPC's gifts to the chair and secretary of the women's guild. They were very touched and excited to see all of the sewing supplies. I suggested they look within their community and find a need that could be met through their sewing project—perhaps making uniforms for

health care workers. Several non-electric sewing machines have been purchased. Several ladies have taken sewing classes so they, in turn, can teach others. They even are also hoping to build a house that could be rented out with the proceeds going towards their charity work. Not only do they work hard, but they sing while they do it; we were serenaded several times by the Guild. Our friends in Manyamula were as warm and welcoming as I had hoped; go and see "the warm heart of Africa" for yourself! (Read more at members.shpc.org.)



The exterior of the new sanctuary



Sandy Hill
3409 Bonney Rd.
Apt B
Austin TX 78703

Aimee Kirkconnell
801 West 5th St.
Apt 512
Austin, TX 78703-5455

Eric & Kathleen Manchin
3202 Thousand Oaks Drive
Austin TX 78746
Phone: 512.963.9583



The Power of God's Love Working Forever... through the Endowment Fund

submitted by Marilyn Wade, Endowment Committee

In the past few years, we have celebrated God's love for us and our love of our mothers by contributing a part of the Caring Forever Endowment Fund to someone nominated by our congregation. The nominations have been submitted, and the task force appointed by the Session is carefully reviewing and considering each one. The recipient will be announced on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9th.

Here's how the Endowment Fund works: Contributions are invested, and the earnings are awarded. So your contributions stay in the Fund forever, generating other dollars that are awarded in later years...to expand and enrich the mission and ministry of our church. Think of the power of that! A contribution you make today will still be helping others 25, 50, even 100 years or more from now!!

So please continue your support by contributing to Caring Forever 2010. On Mother's Day (May 9th), there will be a special Caring Forever 2010 envelope in the bulletin for any contribution you are able to make. And if you want to make your contribution in honor of your mother, or any other person, just complete the form below. We have special Mother's Day cards to send to mothers, and special notes for others to let them know of your thoughtfulness and love.

Of course, you don't have to wait until May 9th to contribute. You can put a contribution in the offering any Sunday—just be sure your check includes the note "Endowment Fund." (If you'd like a contribution envelope, there are some in the wall rack in the narthex.)

Have questions? Just ask an Endowment Committee member (Gaston Broyles, Deb Erlanson, Beaman Floyd, Marilyn Wade, or Doug Wilkins).

Caring Forever 2010 Dedication Form

(Please Print)

This contribution is in honor memory of:

Name _____ (This is is not my mother)

Please send an appropriate card to:

Name _____

Address _____

This contribution is being made by: _____

Allison & Jeff Gerald (with Natalie & Megan) recently moved to Austin from Grapevine, TX. Both grew up in San Antonio, and are happy to be close to family again.



Slade & Courtney Cooper, married for four years, enjoy running, cycling, camping, and live music. Slade is a residential real estate appraiser, and Courtney works for REI while pursuing an RN certification.

Hollis & Vada Boehme, a former physicist and school librarian respectively, really enjoy reading. Hollis also likes building things, and Vada enjoys quilting.



Radmon Rice, a senior at Austin High (go class of 2010!), is thinking of attending Louisiana State in the fall. He plays trombone & soccer, and loves music & animals.



Duane & Tish Pietsch, with their three wonderful children, **Grayson (12)**, **Caden (5)**, and **Brylie (3)**, are proud to call Austin home.



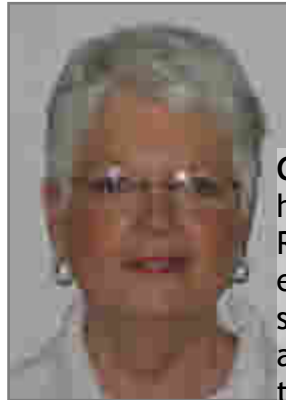
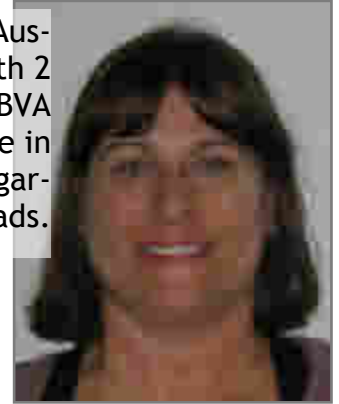
Jack & Jean Floyd have been enjoying SHPC for an number of years. They're looking forward to being members & participating in the life of the church.

Welcome, New SHPC Members!

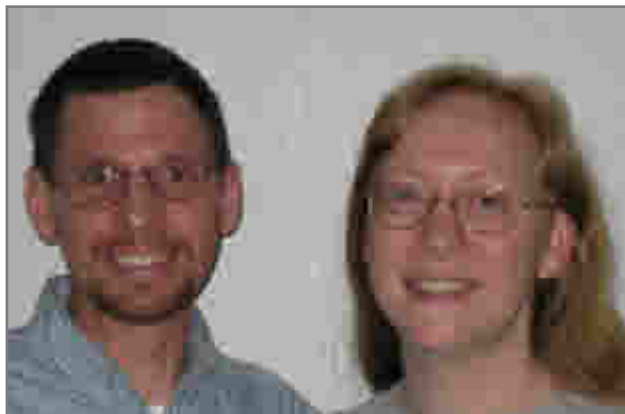


Cliff & Susan Martin are both retired, and have 3 children & 2 grandchildren. They have a wide array of interests, including books & building things

Clare Branson has lived in Austin since 1983. Divorced with 2 grown sons, she works at BBVA Compass Bank. She's active in the Austin Junior Forum, gardens, cooks, and reads.



Charlene "Charlie" Morrison has lived in Austin since 1967. Retired since 2002, she loves every minute—quilting, spending time with family and friends, and taking day trips.



Bill & Charissa Ellis have been attending SHPC for a couple of years. Now that Charissa has graduated from Austin Presbyterian Seminary, they're excited to finally join the SHPC family!



Donn LeVie, Jr., married to Jeanette, has had a varied career so far. Now pursuing a master's degree in Christian Apologetics, he's the author of *It's All About HYMN*. A classical guitarist, he enjoys performing sacred music in churches around the country.

Not pictured: Gerard & Margey Maroney Harrison were recently married, but Margey has lived in Austin her whole life! As a business continuity planning consultant, Gerard writes recovery plans for large computer installations. Margey is a legal secretary for the Office of the Attorney General.



Lisa Zsohar
24219 Bear Claw
San Antonio TX 78258-7249

The Tim Waugh family
Sally Moaddeb & Mansour Sharif (Azam's parents)
9909 Derecho Bend
Austin TX 78737
Waugh's phone: 301-1395
Moaddeb phone: 301-8386

Ana Rosales
1044 Camino La Costa
Apt 2022
Austin TX 78752
phone: 680-2055
email anar0612@yahoo.com



Add to
your
prayer
list

Joys - Rachel & Jeff Cloyd, along with big brother Riley and big sister Julia, welcomed Roxanna Celeste to their family on April 19th—Mike & Cynthia VandeGarde (and 4-yr-old Jaxson) are delighted to announce the birth on March 1st of a son, Jace VandeGarde—Emma Eleanor Mize, granddaughter of Louis & Carol Mize,

was born February 28th to Mark & Gita Mize—

Sorrows - Lydia Ellison's sister, Alberta, passed away April 21st after suffering with cancer—Pete Lopez Jr., father of Brenda Gonzales, passed away April 18th—Mary Ann Wagner, sister of Jane Thompson, passed away April 19th— the Iraqi refugees' baby, born in November with a genetic disorder, passed away April 20th—Mal Hunter's son, age 50, recently died suddenly of an aneurysm

Please pray for — Jim Bennett, father of Connie Schroeder, recovering from spinal cord injury suffered in a car accident—Iris Bonilla, daughter of Pat Franzolino's caregiver

Bonnie Gomez, recovering from a cancer CT scan to check whether cancer is still in remission—Kay Jennings, upcoming knee replacement surgery on May 3rd—Marcie, daughter of Sally Schilstra's cousin, pregnant with twins due in July, hospitalized in San Antonio to treat a kidney infection—Gloria Drake's granddaughter, Matty Hamilton, being tested for kidney problems—Deborah Wagner's cousin Leslie Kroschewsky donated her kidney to Juliana Casey; pray for healing for both—Lori Whitmire, recovering from knee surgery—Clint Davis, nephew of Sally Schilstra and son of Sally's sister Diana, suffering from depression—three of Maryellen & Bruce Albertson's friends, Dick Litteaur, John Weilmaker and Alice Holiday; all three are struggling with cancer and all three are taking both chemo and radiation therapy—Mark Davey, nephew of Erica Taylor, being treated for cancer—our friends and mission colleagues in Reynosa, Mexico—the leadership of SHPC as they discern a path for our future—Master Plan Committee as they move through the next phase—Pastor Kenneth Muyira & 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:

Benjamin Rogers, brother-in-law of Candice & Alex Valdes... Susan White's friend Karen-Marie Hyland... Larry Roberman, brother of Lori Whitmire... Marco Vasquez, friend of Thure & Shannon Cannon... Darrel Debbish, father of friend of Meredith Warren... Keri Reeves and Jim Reeves, niece and nephew of Deb Erlanson... Eric Huerta, nephew of Michael McNelley's co-workers... Brian Lugo, grandson of Joy Essary and son of Jennifer Sims... Derek & Kristi Fisher's nephew, John Fisher...

ANNIVERSARIES

1 May Bill & Dorothy Stokes, Tim & Azam Waugh, Darren & Cassandra Stalbaum

3 May Ron & Annie Ward

4 May Will & Aimee Petty, Tom Nuckols & Sherine Thomas, Rachel & Jeff Cloyd

5 May Kim & Larry Coulter

6 May Mal & Blanche Hunter, Bill & Kim Grubb, Sam & Erica Taylor, Mark & Andrea Macera

8 May Eric Schultz & Liz Boyce, Clara & Bruce Oliver

10 May Charles & Suzanne Lunsford

11 May Blair & Anne Streit

12 May Ralph & Sarah Peters

14 May Karen & Tim Wheeler

15 May Marvin & Susan Sprouse

16 May Tommie & Daisy Bates, Kelly & Brian Melnyk

17 May David & Lisa Laird, Alfred & Rita Teague

18 May Tracy & Steve Reeves, Bryan & Stephanie Parker, Courtney & Alec Smith

20 May Rob & Karen Johnson, Greg & Katy Bourgeois, Linda & Glen Vorwerk

21 May Laren & Debbie Schiller, Dale & Shannon Shumaker

22 May Allan & Margaret Fetty, Todd & Jeanne Thompson

23 May Lori & Pete Seiferth

24 May Mark & Cecile Hanna, David Palmer & Linda Hargrove

25 May Jim & Karen Ayers, Sarah & Sean Gollither, Bo & Dana Wilkes, Barry & Dayna Wallace

27 May Nick & Jessica Goulding

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

18 May Chris & Cheryl Olson

BIRTHDAYS

1 May Grace Fowler

1 May Bill Ellis, Maria Sato, Justin Wallace, Tison Palrang

2 May Ken Johnson, Karen Harrington, Renee Philips, Glenn Dukes, Dayna Wallace, Carol Lee, Boniface Ngalamulume, Harrison King

3 May Cliff Bowman, Diane Ramirez, Nick Goulding, Andrew Petty, Blake Ayers

4 May Mike Forsythe, Sarah Stranahan, Karen Ayers, Suzannah Land, Courtney Wilkins, Joey Killeen

5 May Hal Elliott, Tim Scott, Sheryl Morgan, Lisa Laird, Chauvie Lunsford, Elizabeth Collins

6 May Barbara Ables, Debbie Chase, Mark Smith, Camille Philips

7 May Sharon Rothert, Jarrett Petty, Claire Gerlach, Abigail Bourgeois, Rachel Baschnagel

8 May Louis Mize, Don Anne Williford, Ray Litteaur, Devin Chalberg, Finley Milam

9 May Connie Trevillion, David Howard, Maia Batte, Grady Hicks

10 May Marilyn Skannal, Sean Ayers, Mary McLatcher

11 May Tracy Reeves, James Lee, Leslie Todd, Anna Floyd, Ethan Padovani

12 May Corinne Davis, Kathy Kalda, Muffie Peterson, Mike Devlin

13 May Will Thomas

14 May Steve Donnell, Andrew Bohl

15 May Kyle Folkers, Zack Smith, Zoe Smith

16 May Ruth Weese, Marvin Sprouse, Wes Thomas

17 May Tom Nuckols, Summer Whitten, Dorothy Wynne, Anthony Kirsch, Jaxson VandeGarde, Audrey Arthur

18 May Helen Turrentine, Ruth Stein, Cathy Busse

19 May Linda Vorwerk, Jeff Elliott, Trevor VanOsselaer

20 May Bear Wallace, Will Mattingly, Natalie Thompson, Nathan Thompson

21 May Ruth Olson, Mark Tarrant, Ben Boehman, Zach Reeves, Colson Farwell, Haydn Owensby

22 May Becca May, Alana Rooke, Caroline O'Leary

23 May Kim Klotz

24 May Raynell Barry, Mitchell Forsythe

25 May Brian Walsh, Alfred Teague, Jennifer Grance, Shawn McCoy

26 May Mal Hunter, Barbara Coleman

27 May Richard Nakamura, Marjorie Parmer, Chris Olson, Rhonda Biles

28 May Carolyn Deutsch, Marc Sonnier

29 May Ann Hayes, Lynn Wright, Andre Ngalamulume

30 May Junie Ledbetter, Matt Arthur, Brittiany Baschnagel

31 May Amanda Hall-Merits, Luis Franco, Louis Owensby, Tory VanOsselaer



May

EVERY WEEK

Sunday

9:30 a.m. The Ark, UpStreet, Faithwalk
 11 a.m. The Ark, Live B.I.G.
 6:30 p.m. Everlast, Student Lounge ::
 Everafter, FMC

Monday

7 p.m. Disciple 1, library

Tuesday

10 a.m. Icing on the Cake, port. B
 7 p.m. Disciple 2, library
 Deadline for Sunday announcements
 (yellow pages)

Wednesday

6 p.m. Evergreen, Student Lounge ::
 Foundations, port. B
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, rm. 5 ::
 Wednesday Evening Bible
 Study (WEBS), library :: Body
 & Soul Yoga, FMC
 7 p.m. Praise & Worship rehearsal,
 sanctuary :: Evermore, Stu-
 dent Lounge

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Mothers of Young Children
 (MYC) Devotional, FMC
 7 p.m. Worship Choir, sanctuary ::
 Jesus In the Gospels, library

1 Saturday
 9 a.m. All-Church Cleanup

2 Sunday

9:30 a.m. High school graduates recognized in worship
 The Ark & UpStreet; no Faithwalk
 11 a.m. Confirmands recognized in worship
 12 Confirmand luncheon
 5:30 p.m. Filo: Young Adults, library
6 p.m. Graduation Dinner, FMC

3 Monday

10 a.m. SAM Council Meeting
 Deadline for Sunday (May 9) announcements

4 Tuesday

7 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, rm. 7

5 Wednesday

8 a.m. SAM Trip to MFA-Houston

6 Thursday

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

8 Saturday

11:30 a.m. Golden Years Lunch Bunch

9 Sunday

Caring Forever Endowment Sunday **Mother's Day**

11 Tuesday

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

12 Wednesday

6:30 p.m. KidStuf, FMC
 Body & Soul Yoga, port. B

13 Thursday

10 a.m. Association of Retired Christian Men, port B
 7 p.m. Book Group, rm 7

14 Friday

7 p.m. Fellowship Bridge Group, rm. 7

16 Sunday

12 Disciple 10th Anniversary Celebration
JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

18 Tuesday

11 a.m. Soup to Nuts, FMC

21 Friday

JUNE childcare request deadline

23 Sunday

9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

Last day of school-year Sunday school

27 Thursday

10 a.m. Association of Retired Christian Men, port B

30 Sunday

9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

NO Sunday school; children are invited to participate in worship

5:30 p.m. Inquirers' Class, library

31 Monday

Church office closed

Memorial Day

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!