



The Newsletter

"Celebrating Christ, Community and Communion Every Sunday"

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Outreach Ministries Update

Blanket Sunday Offering Report

Alamo Heights has collected enough money to buy 44 blankets will be distributed by Church World Services. If you have not honored anyone yet, **IT IS NOT TOO LATE.** Just send in your money to the Church Office. The Steward will properly deposit your donation. Remember, it costs only \$10.00 per blanket.

~AHCC Food Pantry Blog~

Looking Back to 2015 and Forward to 2017: The July 2015 Food Pantry Blog provides an interesting start point for "Where we have been and where we are going." Let us compare:

Food Pantry Figures: For the second quarter 2015 (April-June), we provided basic food items for 1,098 individuals, using the grant from AHCC and donations from various AHCC members, and the corporate support from the San Antonio Food Bank, Panera Bread, SA Fresh, Trader Joe's, and Bird Bakery. In July 2015, the AHCC Food Pantry fed 414 clients. By comparison, for the second quarter 2016, we provided basic food items for 1,306 individuals.

Food Pantry Facts: We are a food pantry under the auspices of the San Antonio Food Bank. Their mission statement: The mission of the San Antonio Food Bank is to fight hunger in Southwest TX through food distribution, programs, education & advocacy. For more information about Food Pantries in San Antonio, contact-
http://www.foodpantries.org/ci/tx-san_antonio .

Food Pantry Happenings: There have been some changes among our corporate sponsors. SA Fresh, currently located at 5162 Broadway, was closed for the month of August, while they move and constructed the "NEW SA FRESH." The management changed its menu and could no longer support the Food Pantry.

Bird Bakery has doubled its space at the location on 5912 Broadway, by buying the vacant store next to the bakery. This move has allowed Bird Bakery to expand its business, where everything is baked on-site, in the "Upper Alamo Heights" Shopping Center. (Did you know that they give a military discount?) Bird Bakery still gives the Food Pantry donations of at least 100 pounds every week.

The Panera Bread location in the Shops at Lincoln Heights (999 E. Basse Road) is our local store, which is actively involved in the Panera Bread corporate value to give back to the community in which they do business. In the past three months, the Basse Road store has provided > 250 pounds of bread, bagels, cookies and pastry items per week. In May 2016, Panera Bread made a district policy change to no longer support church food pantries.

Trader Joe's in the Quarry Village (350 E. Basse Road) has been open since November 2012, and began a partnership with AHCC in January 2013 to provide vegetables, fruits, breads, dairy products and meats to us once a week. In the past several months, we have gotten additional food from Trader Joe's 2-3 times per month. In 2016, Trader Joe's continues to be a great supporter of the AHCC Food Pantry, with weekly donations and supplemental donations throughout the month.

We have added bread donations (>500 pounds!) from Central Market each week. This Corporate Sponsor began in January 2016, and looks to do more in Fall 2016.

All food donated by Corporate Sponsors are provided at no cost to AHCC! This is because we are a partner with the San Antonio Food Bank.

We look at this great gift with thanks, remembering the words of Matthew 7:7-8, (NIV)
7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

By Stephanie Blandford



From the Chair of the Elders

By Linda Hawkins

Articles from the General Board Chair, Stephanie Blandford and Elder Chair, Linda Hawkins will return in next month's edition of "The Newsletter" of Alamo Heights Christian Church.

News from the General Board and Congregation Meeting held on Sunday, June 26, 2016

Several Business items were discussed and **ALL** approved by both the General Board and the Congregation. The most important item on the agenda was the hiring of our Minister, Rev. Ed Palow. He begins his ministry with Alamo Heights Christian Church on July 1, 2016. We will be having an Installation Service on Sunday, August 28, 2016 followed by a Potluck Luncheon Honoring Rev. Edward Palow and his wife Jeanine. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.

Why not make it a point to get to know Rev. Palow by coming to church on the Sundays between now and the last Sunday in August. Summer vacations always make our attendance lower than usual so...start making plans to attend church when you are able.



**Rev. Ed Palow
New Minister for
Alamo Heights
Christian Church**

Do you have trouble hearing during Morning Worship?

We have received **NEW Listening Devices** for use during services in the Sanctuary. We now have 11 hearing devices with various ways of listening. The most important is even those who do not have hearing aids, but require help with hearing in the Sanctuary now have that capability.

If you have a hearing aid and it has a **'T Coil'** we can give you a special loop device that enables you to hear the service through your hearing aids. Please let Sarah Warren give you a chance to make Sunday

Worship a better experience. If you have the **'T Coil'** she needs that information to make hearing aids receive the sound through them.



A Note from the Deacon's Corner

Discerning our Gifts as Deacons Part Two...

A progression of this spiritual growth can be summarized like this: We are **rooted** in the soil of God's Spirit, **fructified** to manifest the mind and heart of Christ, and then **gifted** for kingdom service.

Gifts are special powers or abilities given by God to build up the body of Christ. Gifts are essentially job descriptions for ministries. God wills the world to be whole and for gifts to serve God's purpose (2Cor. 5:18-20). The presence of Christ is known through the exercise of our gifts (Eph. 4:12-16). The threefold purpose of gifts is: (1) to build up the body of Christ (1 Cor.12:27, 14:12, and 14:26, 1 Peter 4:10); (2) to serve to reconcile the world and minister healing and blessing (Rom.12:2-8 and 1 Cor. 12:7; and (3) to honor and glorify God, the Giver of all Gifts (Jas.1:17).

Because there has been so much controversy over the proper use of gifts, perhaps some perspective might help. First, Disciples are definitely Charismatic people! The Greek word *Charis* means gift. Given this understanding, all Christians are charismatic. You are indeed gifted, and your giftedness is not intended to enhance your ego or exalt a personal agenda. Gifts are spiritual power for building up the kingdom of God, not to be squandered on selfish ends.

Second, we often lose sight of the fact that embodying Christ's love is more important than all the gifts combined. The following passages to study Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 thru Chapter 14, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4.

Third, because the names and exact number of gifts vary, you may find it more helpful to not consider them exhaustive or exclusive. Today's mainline church settings are not into martyrdom, tongue speaking, and snake handling.

Fourth, the key to discovering your gifts is to be clear on the goal in seeking the gifts: servanthood. Nothing more. Nothing else. Nothing less.

I encourage you to launch the discovery of your spiritual gifts. Obtain a handout from the Church Office – "A Spiritual Gifts Inventory To Help You Determine Your God-given Spiritual Gifts".

In addition to spiritual gifts, God has given each of us many other abilities, skills, and talents. We can employ these in our service to God and to others. Any of our talents, skills, and abilities – no matter how

insignificant or routine they may seem-can be used in a deacon's ministry. When you signed up to be a deacon, you made a commitment to continue your spiritual growth in a lifelong progression that transforms your personality, stretches your witness and service, and reflects the image of Christ. By learning to discern your gifts, learning to discern God's Spirit, and learning to apply your skills and talents to God's ministry. You may need to learn new skills to meet new situations in your church and in your community. Finally, I mean practicing spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, and worship in such ways that you grow closer to God and become a person available for God's mission.

In His Service,

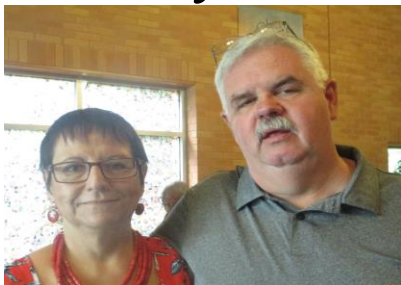
Parts of this article have been taken from "Your Calling a Deacon" by Gary Straub and James Trader II.

Membership Information

Summer months means that our membership will be going on vacation. If you travel some place special or just to see relatives, please let the church office know. Our Elders would like to know if you are having fun or need help due to illness.

We will be celebrating July Anniversaries/ Birthdays on Sunday, July 17, 2016. We hope to see all celebrants present.

Anniversaries for June 2016



Joe & Stephanie Blandford celebrated their Anniversary on June 30, 2016



Bob & Liz Jones celebrated their Anniversary on June 28, 2016

There was one other Anniversary in June that was Ron & Rosemary Toland on June 17, 2016. Ron only missed his 55th Anniversary by few days. We miss you, Ron!

Birthdays for May 2016



Bob Jones, Janet Jones and Rosemary Toland celebrated their Birthdays in May. They were forgotten in the May celebrants in June's Newsletter

Birthdays for June 2016



Eric Brown, Charlotte Cook and Sharon Tucker celebrated their Birthdays during the month of June



The Church Office needs to know when your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary is celebrated. Please call the Church Office 210-828-5728 and let Sarah know your information.

Up Coming Events

Saturday, July 9, 2016

8:00 am –Elders Breakfast Meeting in Kirtley Hall

Sunday, July 17, 2016

12:15 pm – July's Birthday / Anniversary Celebration in Kirtley Hall

Thursday, July 21, 2016 – ****DEADLINE to Submit articles or information for August's Newsletter & Calendar***

Sunday, July 31, 2016

11:00 am – The Steel Magnolias will be bringing our Morning Worship in Song and Praise. Be sure to tell your family & friends to attend this uplifting service.



Check the July's Calendar for additional events taking place at AHCC.