

## **President's Message December 2006**

As the holiday season is upon us, I like to reflect on the year and take time to appreciate all of the blessings that I have been given. Have I been healthy this year? If so, everything else is not as pressing. I have seen friends pass away this year, way too young, so I need to take time each day to appreciate the beauty of life. Have I done good for others? Have I put others needs before my own? Have I been a good spouse, parent, friend, and congregant, involved in the community? Most of these questions are not ones that I can answer myself. As every one of us does, I try my best to balance my life between what others expect of me and what I expect of myself. I don't have to be the best person in my community, my state or even my own house. The standards that I try to live up to are my own. Have I been the best person that I can be in my various roles? Each of us gets to ask these questions of ourselves all the time. It just seems that we tend to focus on ourselves in December and January more than other times. As you think about what you will do in 2007, try and have some time and energy for all facets of your life. It is the balance between home, community and self that will make you the best person that you can be, and the one we want to spend time with.

May you be blessed with Shalom during this season as well as throughout the year.

Howie