

Holy Covenant
United Methodist
Church



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points of
interest:

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Holy Happenings

April 2010



HE IS RISEN!
Celebrate with us on
Easter Sunday

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am

Continental Breakfast in Covenant Hall from 8:00am until 10:45am. Bring your favorite breakfast item and join us as we fellowship together.

There will be no Sunday School classes. Child Care available for children through age 5 during all three services.

PANCAKES WITH THE PASTORS



Calling all kids!
Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17th, 9:00am for Pancakes with the Pastors at McDonalds on Mason Rd. See you there!

Nate Lucena *In Concert*

Saturday, April 17th
6:00pm

See Page 8 for more information!

A Time of New Life



Rev. Jay Jackson
Senior Pastor

I write my article in the midst of Holy Week, still experiencing the relatively quiet beginning to a dramatic and spiritually significant week. Now is the time of hectic, behind the scenes preparations for the important services ahead. There is a sense of excitement and anticipation that is hard to describe to someone who has not worked in the ministry of the church. I sometimes wonder what others are thinking and feeling during this prelude to the dramatic events ahead. Are people getting prepared? Are they excited? Or, are they more concerned about who is playing in the Final Four or who got kicked off of Dancing with the Stars or American Idol?

I experience such a mix of emotions this time of year. I am excited about the crowds, the unfamiliar faces, and the reconnections with friends I haven't seen lately. In contrast, I struggle with frustrations about the diminished significance that Easter, and the Christian Faith in general, have for increasing numbers of people. I get frustrated with Easter service advertisements that feature the Easter Bunny and the high profile pastor and hardly mention Jesus and the Resurrection. I get concerned that we are becoming increasingly apathetic to the life of faith that is to be lived in community through the church as we focus on cursory acknowledgement more than faithful discipleship.

This season is a time of new life and new possibility through the grace of God in the resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It should serve as a wake up call for all of us to become alive in Christ anew. Easter Faith is not just an annual experience, but one that should be lived into daily and observed faithfully and regularly. God calls us to more than we can sometimes grasp or embrace. May we hear God's call to live faithfully in all our days to the life in Christ that is abundant and everlasting.

I look forward to seeing this week at church...even more, I look forward to making the journey of faith with you in the weeks ahead.

Welcome
to our
new
members

Mike
Hulstrand

Wade
Chandler

Easter Boldness

In Disciple Bible Study, we are spending a few weeks with the book of Acts. One thing that strikes me is the urgency with which the apostles (who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus) wanted to share the story with everyone they encountered. I am humbled by my own lack of urgency. In my own quiet time with God, I wonder why I feel like there are more important things to communicate than the love of God. I wonder why wit and sarcasm often take the place of words of love and care. My hope for us this Eastertide is that the good news of the Resurrection does not lay stagnant in us. My prayer is that we will really believe that Jesus' resurrection happened, that Jesus' resurrection matters, and that Jesus' resurrection calls us to something new and bold. I hope that this Easter, the wonder of the resurrection will be overwhelmingly manifest in the hospitality of our church, so that the throngs of people who come on Easter will come to worship with us the next week and the next. I hope that our lives will speak the good news of the Living God as we proclaim with Easter Boldness that **Christ is Risen**, and is walking with us all.



Rev. Stephanie Lind
Assoc. Pastor

Palm Sunday Celebration



Hosanna,
Blessed is
he who
comes in
the name
of the
Lord>

Covenant Kids Sunday School April Overview

April's Big Idea:

We believe Jesus is alive and is always with us.

April's Big Theme: Jesus is alive!

April's Big Bible verse: "Remember, I am with you always."

Matthew 28:20



Brennyn had fun hunting eggs on Palm Sunday.

High Seas Expedition Vacation Bible School

At High Seas Expedition, kids will explore the mighty love of God on a journey that will change them forever! High seas Expedition is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the High Seas Expedition activities that help faith flow into real life.

So mark these dates on your calendar: June 21-25. The fun starts at 6:00 p.m. and will end at 8:30.

Registration has begun! Pick up a registration form at information desk in the narthex. Volunteers are needed to make this expedition a success. Questions? Contact Amy or Barbara at 281-579-1200

CDC News

Spring is a great time at the CDC! Flowers, butterflies and other insects begin to decorate the halls. Our transition and four year old classes are working hard to prepare for kindergarten next fall. And, of course, we will hold our annual fundraising dinner on Thursday, April 15th from 5:30 to 7:30. We will be serving chicken with penne pasta in cream sauce, salad and bread. Red sauce will also be available. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Tickets will be available at the end of March and must be purchased in advance. Along with dinner, there will be a silent

auction and bake sale. We've got a pair of Astros tickets and restaurant gift certificates already, so start saving your pennies to bid!! Proceeds from this dinner event will go towards improvements at the CDC. You don't want to miss this night of fun and fellowship!



Remember - all church members and friends are welcome!

Spotlight on Ministry: Outreach



Nancy, Bonnie and Twilla help at the KCM garden.

“Meeting the Needs of People with the Power of Christ” is the stated mission of Holy Covenant. Few groups within our congregation live this mission more fully than the Outreach Ministry. Drawing on the talents and responsiveness of church members, Outreach is the catalyst for our best efforts in serving others.

Three things stand out about the work of this team. The first is the wide range of projects that the ministry addresses. Whether helping with traditional holiday programs like Christmas Child Shoebox or the on-going efforts to feed the area’s hungry through KCM food drives, the outreach team serves a diverse constituency of programs and people.

Another awesome trait of Outreach is the direct nature of many of its efforts. Many times it is possible to support a cause with our goods, services, or cash. While this is beneficial in many cases, the most effective ministry is often when we give of ourselves. Whether tutoring a child or providing respite for a family caregiver, a personal touch or show of support can have a big impact on the lives of others.

The Outreach Ministry is also responsive. We know that needs are often large and unexpected. The hurricane recovery trips have given hope to families that had none. The Pregnancy Help Center serves women with nowhere else to turn. But outreach also includes helping people clear yards after a storm, or fixing the roof of a local home. The beauty of our Outreach Ministry lies in its ability to see a need and address it. The challenge of Outreach Ministry is the *amount* of need.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry and the important work they are doing, please contact Nancy Krahel (281.578.7107) or Mike Benjamin (281.599.7102). They are always looking for new team members who can help with ‘meeting the needs’.

This is part of an ongoing series that highlights the eight ministry teams that comprise the Council on Ministries at Holy Covenant. By increasing awareness of these teams and the work they do, we want to generate interest and move members to action within these groups. Please contact the ministry team leaders (or the church office) if you would like to be more involved.



The UMW collected 158 bears for the **Joe Joe Bear Foundation**. The Katy based charity donates the stuffed animals to MD Anderson hospital to children undergoing cancer treatment. The bears were blessed on Saturday at our annual Ladies Retreat at Heartland in Brenham.

DEEPLY ROOTED YOUTH MINISTRIES



ATTENTION SENIORS:

Senior Sunday will be Sunday, May 23. More information will come in the mail to you and your parents soon. We're excited to be able to honor you all as you move forward in life.

District Camp:

This year's District Camp is called Give: Takin' it 2 the next level. Forms are available on the Deeply Rooted bulletin board. Cost will be \$250 for youth, \$150 for adults. Forms and money due by May 2!

APRIL 11: BRING YOUR PARENT TO YOUTH NIGHT!!

Sunday Evening, April 11, from 5-7pm we invite any youth, parent, adult volunteer, animal...(ok maybe keep the pets at home)...to help us brainstorm and experience life together as part of HCUMC's Deeply Rooted Youth Ministries. We need YOU for new ideas, to experience fun, fellowship, and some food!



SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Mountain Top: Leaves for Tennessee June 4 and returns June 13. Forms can be picked up from J. Doehring and cost is TBD.

Big House: July 8-11 to Cameron UMC (Cameron, TX). I need forms and copies of insurance cards ASAP! Cost is \$125. Forms can be picked up on the Deeply Rooted bulletin board and final payment is due by April 11.

UM ARMY: July 18-24 to Pollard UMC (Tyler, TX). Forms can be picked up on the Deeply Rooted bulletin board. Cost is \$275 and final payment is due May 9.

Mission in Action

Relay for Life - April 9-10

Interested in joining a last minute HCUMC team benefitting the American Cancer Society? Interested in coming out to George Bush Park and showing your support (on line registration required for BBQ dinner & T-Shirt)? Contact Suzie Carter at suziecarter1983@yahoo.com, or at 832-766-0314. For additional questions, visit

relayforlife.org/katytx.

Hurricane Ike Recovery

Many thanks to our March 20th crew of volunteers who worked our recent hurricane recovery trip and also to our Lunch Bunch crew who provided lunch. Mark your calendars now for our next trip on May 15. No Experience necessary. For more information contact Orv Wiens at WiensOJ@yahoo.com or 281-881-5705.

Katy Christian Ministry GALA - Friday, April 23, 2010

KCM's major fundraising event will take place on Friday, April 23, at the Second Baptist Church. Come join the festivity as we hear a testimonial from former congressman, Tom Delay. For more information on seat, table, or other sponsorships, as well as for information on the many services that KCM offers, visit www.KTCM.org or contact Twilla Oman or Nancy Krahel.

MKT - April 17

Mark your calendars as we prepare to do some home repair work in our very own Katy area. Sign up on Covenant Walk or contact Bill LeCompte at bnlecompte@comcast.net for more information.

BINGO Volunteers Needed

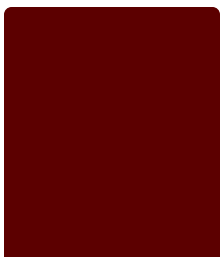
Come join in the fun as we play BINGO the first Sunday of the month at Grace Community Center. Plan on making this a group or family outing. To reserve your Sunday, contact Twilla Oman at Twilla_Oman@hotmail.com

Used Cell Phone April Drive

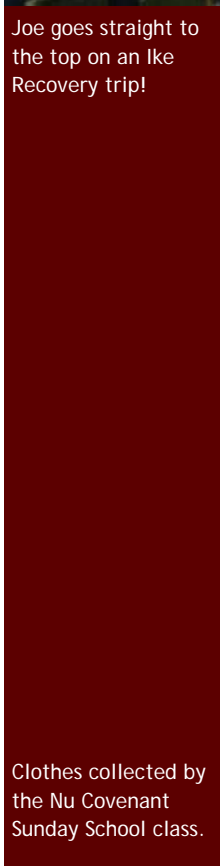
The *Cell Phones for Soldiers* program was started in April 2004 by 13-year-old Brittany Bergquist and her 12-year-old brother Robbie of Norwell, Massachusetts. Robbie and Brittany's goal is to help our soldiers serving overseas call home. They hope to provide as many soldiers as possible with prepaid calling cards. Through generous donations and the recycling of used cell phones, Robbie and Brittany have already distributed thousands of calling cards to soldiers around the globe. A donation box will be available throughout the month of April in the narthex to Covenant Hall. For additional information, contact Nancy Krahel at nkrahel@hotmail.com or www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com. This web site also has a free downloadable data eraser site.

Holy Covenant is collecting children and youth clothes that are in good condition to donate to the refugee families we are serving in the Westbury area. This is a great opportunity for children to give to other children and youth to give to other youth. Additional clothes that would be helpful are DRESS CLOTHES for adult males and females. Most of the adults are short to average height, and small to average size. Please only donate clothes that are clean, in good condition, and appropriate to be worn to school and/or a job interview. If you have any questions about these opportunities, please contact Rev. Stephanie Lind at stephanie@holycov.org or 281-579-1200, or Amy Garcia at amy@holycov.org.

Holy Happenings



Joe goes straight to the top on an Ike Recovery trip!



Clothes collected by the Nu Covenant Sunday School class.



***TWO
SPECIAL
DAYS!***

Interested in what's going on in your community? Then join YAH for a special luncheon and tour of the Miller Career and Technology Center on Wednesday, April 7. "Miller" is one of the best kept secrets in our community. It is a special high school featuring training in all sorts of careers from culinary arts and automobile technology to cosmetology and law enforcement.



We will be treated to a special luncheon in the "Old Town Bistro" prepared and served by culinary arts students under the direction of Ms. Patty Kenjura. The menu includes grilled chicken breast, buttered red potatoes, sautéed whole green beans, tossed salad with house ranch dressing, dinner rolls, apple pie a la mode with warm caramel sauce, & tea/coffee, all for the bargain price of \$7.75, including tax! After lunch, we will have a guided tour of the facility, meet some of the faculty and students, and see first-hand this important part of the education offered to our children and grandchildren through Katy ISD.

Please contact Sandra Houghton to make your reservation and make arrangements to get your check for lunch to Sandra or place it in the Young at Heart box in the church office by no later than April 2. "Miller" is located adjacent to Rhodes Stadium at 1734 Katyland Boulevard. Our luncheon will begin at 11:30 am. For those who would prefer not to drive directly to "Miller" some of the group will meet at the church at 11:15 and carpool.

AND THERE'S MORE!

On Wednesday, April 21, at 11:30am, come join us for a Young at Heart Day in the Park when we will gather at the Harris County Katy Park (located at Morton Road and Katy Hockley Cutoff). We will meet at the covered pavilion on the left side of the road that runs from Morton thru the center of the park, where we will have a picnic lunch, enjoy the spring weather, play a few games and just enjoy the day! More details will be forthcoming as the date draws near, but the current plan is that Fried Chicken and cold drinks will be provided and we will each bring a side-dish, salad or dessert to share. (This event will replace our regular "Pot Luck Luncheon" for the month of April. The pavilion is ours for the entire day, so plan to come, relax, eat, play and just enjoy the fellowship!



Come make new friends, renew old acquaintances and join the fun as we celebrate life together!

By Our Prayers

We praise God for: The births of: Catcher Bradley to Keith & Sarah Smith; Logan James to John & Kathleen Terry; Aubrey Kathryn to Vence & Jennifer Salvato. Baptism of Wade and Nathan Chandler, sons of Darrel & Jennifer Chandler

We lift up prayers of condolence for: Kent & Linda McGowan (Kent's mother); Brent & Twilla Oman (Brent's brother, Brad); Charles & Nikki Jennings (Charles' father, Carl); Arnold & Linda England (Arnold's father); Debbie Carter (uncle); Ross & Brenda Terry (Ross' sister-in-law, Susan Terry); Mark & Cyndi Harrison (Mark's aunt).



Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

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Rev. Jay Jackson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Stephanie Lind, Associate Pastor

Meeting the Needs of People with the
Power of Christ



Holy Covenant United Methodist Church provides a friendly, family environment for worship, Christian education, fellowship, and outreach. Guests and members alike often comment on the immediate, comfortable acceptance they feel at Holy Covenant, as well as the care and compassion that they find amongst our membership. Our congregation is known for its strong reliance upon prayer, upon the study of God's Word, and upon the transformational power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Our mission at Holy Covenant is "Meeting the Needs of People with the Power of Christ." We believe that the true strength and nature of any church is to be a fellowship of adults, youth and children who use their talents and faith for the causes of Jesus Christ. We invite you to come and to join us as you claim your place in ministry, feed your soul, make Christian friends, and

Music Ministry News



After the winter we've had, it's hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner. In just a few days, we will shop for new clothes, celebrate bunnies, make enough food for family and friends to gather at the same table, eat enough candy to warrant a dental exam, and buy 98.6 million eggs (no, really, it's the official number from 2006!). Just like Christmas, it is so easy to get wrapped around the axle of details; it can become a chore to celebrate the risen Christ. But as Easter approaches, I challenge myself each year to pause and acknowledge the enormity of Christ's life, his sacrifice, and resurrection. It can get lost in the shuffle that his life and sacrifice directly impact me. He was a gift for me.

So this year, I challenge you to pause and see if you can wrap your arms around the gift. Perhaps we can rise above the clutter of details this Easter and find a way to celebrate like never before!

COMING UP!

Singer Nate Lucena, our soloist for the jazz service in February, will be doing a pops concert on the evening of Saturday, April 17th at Holy Covenant! We'll have a jazz quartet, a string section, and a fabulous soloist singing the music of Tony Bennett, Michael Buble, Ray Charles, the Jackson 5, and much more. Want to be a part of the fun? We'll take three requests, with one catch: if your song is selected, you have to tell the audience why that song matters to you. Was it your first dance at your wedding? Did it help you through a difficult time? Tell us your story and we'll play your song! Email taylor@holycov.org with your request and a brief story. The concert will be recorded live.



I hope you will join us for a wonderful evening! If you need nursery care for your children, please contact Judy Koehn at judy@holycov.org or the church office.

Call Taylor at the church office with any questions - 281-579-1200.