



**Special  
points of  
interest:**

- A Word from Jay, Page 2
- Music News, page 4
- More on Mission, page 6
- "Turning a Chicken into a Cow", Page 7
- A Call to Action - It's Not Too Late, Page 8

# Holy Happenings

April 2011

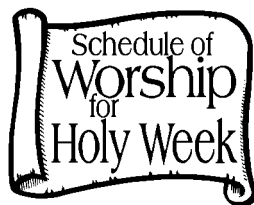
## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Through communion rail offering, you have an opportunity to support UMCOR with its emergency disaster relief efforts, including Japan.

Following the 11:00 worship service, join us in Covenant Hall for lunch, and engage in a mini mission projects that will reach to our community, our region and our world. For more information, see page 6.

## Palm Sunday Picnic & Egg Hunt

Join us **Sunday, April 17th** for our annual Palm Sunday picnic and egg hunt. Following the 11:00 service, the United Methodist Men will serve hot dogs, hamburgers and the fixins' for \$3 kids age 11 and under, \$5 for age 12 and up, with a maximum of \$15 per family. Bring your favorite dessert to share. Not only will we have the egg hunt, but there will also be a moonwalk, crafts, and you can get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! It's always a good time of fun, food, and fellowship - see you there!!



Maundy Thursday  
April 21 7:00pm

Good Friday  
April 22 7:00pm

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

No Adult Sunday School; Children's Sunday School 9:30am



Rev. Jay Jackson  
Senior Pastor

Welcome to  
our new  
members

Tom & Ellen  
Craddock

Ethel Ward

## He Is Risen!

### He is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Now, let the church arise!

When I was in seminary, a wise professor of preaching by the name of Dr. Zan Holmes taught me that you haven't preached until you have shared the Gospel, the Good News, and also shared God's Call, the challenge, that springs forth in response to that Good News of what God is doing through Jesus Christ. Every time that I preach or teach or even write a newsletter article, I remember what Zan Holmes taught me and attempt to be faithful to that wise instruction.

As we head toward our annual Easter celebration, I find myself reflective of what God is doing in our midst, the continued brokenness of our world, and the call associated with the dissonance between what is and what should be. In other words, I find myself compelled to examine what is happening and where God is calling me and each of us into the continued work of Christ. In the midst of this examination, I find it easy to get caught up in the "not yet" of what God is doing in Jesus Christ to such an extent that I lose focus on the Good News of what God has, is, and will do through the power of Jesus Christ. Our faith proclaims that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. It also proclaims that in the end, and really in all that happens between the beginning and the end, that God is victorious. That is Good News!

Easter is not intended to be limited to an annual celebration. Every Sunday, the Christian Faith community gathers to worship as a remembrance and celebration of our Easter Faith. In truth, we are called to carry that remembrance and celebration into our Mondays and every other day as we live our Easter Faith through the witness of our lives.

We cannot ignore the reality of the brokenness of our world. Earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters, wars and other conflicts, the ravages of violence and indifference, broken relationships and inner turmoil should all lead us to recognize the importance of God's love in Jesus Christ. This great love should be demonstrated through the witness of our lives. The response of love is a profound call upon our lives. As we believe that Christ is risen and that God is victorious, even in the face of the human ignorance, indifference, and fear that placed Christ upon the cross, we are called to awaken and arise to the call of God to respond faithfully and profoundly to the brokenness of our world that Christ has entrusted to his disciples...to you and me.

I want to take a moment and celebrate some of the Good News that I see presently witnessed among us. I am in awe of the care and concern that is daily shown to not only our church family, but also to so many in our community and beyond. Examples of this include the recent care and outreach to a family with no church that lost a loved one in a car accident, the massive outpouring to those who have been suffering health issues and hospitalizations, and the response to a theft that impacted a youth in our congregation. I want to celebrate the way in which our church has faithfully reached deep within through Stepping Forward in Faith to reduce our building debt to enable greater ministry support. I want to celebrate the Upward Soccer ministry that offers new opportunities for fellowship and outreach in our community. I want to celebrate the tangible ways in which we have turned our resources toward opportunities to touch the lives of others from Katy to Peru to Japan. I want to celebrate the Song of Zoe youth choir, the children's choirs, and the youth praise band...all offering opportunities for our children and youth to share their gifts with the church. I want to celebrate the countless ways the Good News of Jesus Christ is being lived out throughout our church family and beyond.

I hope you will join me in this celebration as we continue to respond to God's call. Easter services on April 24<sup>th</sup> are 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM. See you at church!

# I Live B.I.G. Children's Sunday School



**April's B.I.G. theme:** The tomb is empty!

**April's B.I.G. Idea:** We believe that the Resurrection lets us know that

Jesus is always with us.

**April's Bible Verse:** "It is true! The Lord has risen." Luke 24:34

The children will be learning about the time Jesus cleared the temple, and when he washed the disciples feet. After exploring the events of Holy week and

Easter, the children will discover ways we can welcome Jesus into our lives and praise God for Jesus.



## Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic

Kids, bring your Easter basket and 12 filled eggs on Sunday, April 17. Following the 11:00 worship service there will be a picnic (Methodist Men will be serving hamburgers

and hotdogs \$3 for children 11 and under \$5 for adults) and Easter Egg hunt as well as games, face painting, and pictures with the Easter Bunny.



Get ready for an adventure of a lifetime!

At Pandamania kids will discover that God is wild about them- a fact that will change them forever. Pandamania 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 Pandamania activities that help faith flow into real life.



**Date: Monday, June 13- Friday, 17**

**Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Registration forms are on the bulletin board outside the Children's ministry office and at the Sunday School check

## Music News

The spinet piano in Covenant Hall is looking for a good home. With a little TLC, this piano could be the perfect starter piano for that beginner pianist. All you have to do is arrange to move it! For more information, contact Taylor at 281-579-1200 or [taylor@holycov.org](mailto:taylor@holycov.org)



We are embarking on a fun and touching project for Mother's Day! Between now and April 3, we will be collecting letters to, and stories about, Mom.

And just in time for Mother's Day, these stories will be bound in a compilation book that you can give to your Mom. The books are very high quality – like something you'd buy at Barnes and Noble – and will be filled with the stories and letters from the Holy Covenant family.

25% of all book sales go to Song of Zoe scholarships, you have a priceless gift to give to Mom... what could be better?

To get started, simply go to [www.holycov.org](http://www.holycov.org) and click on the *My Letter to Mom* banner at the top of the page.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call Taylor at 281.579.1200 or email at [taylor@holycov.org](mailto:taylor@holycov.org).



Holy Covenant welcomes Rev. John Thornburg as he leads us in world music, Sunday, April 3 at 8:30 and 11:00! John is a preacher/singer who believes in the transforming power of the gospel. He loves to laugh with others and at himself. In his 22 years of parish ministry, he was known as an innovative worship leader and teacher as well as an inspiring preacher. His mentors for this ministry include people like composers Jane Marshall, John Ferguson and Alice Parker, song enliveners John Bell and Alison Adam, ethnomusicologist Michael Hawn, singer/songwriter Billy Crockett, worship leaders Mark Miller and Jorge Lockward and poets Mary Louise Bringle and Thomas Troeger. He has led singing in local churches from Boston to Berkeley, at youth gatherings and retirement centers, and at both regional and national conventions. He has also led singing in several west African congregations during his work with the Cameroon Mission of the United Methodist Church.

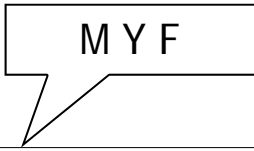
**We are dedicated to modeling the genuine love of Jesus Christ through authentic worship, active discipleship, caring fellowship and sacrificial**



All-youth worship begins at 9:45am. Jr. High and Sr. High classes divide immediately following **announcements and worship**  
(don't forget to sign in)

**ENCOUNTER**  
contemporary worship service  
6:30pm - 7:00pm See you there!

**SAVE THE DATES:**  
May 8th Confirmation Sunday  
May 15th Senior Sunday  
June 12th Summer Kick Off



Time for fun, fellowship and food! This is a great environment for our youth to build Christ-centered relationships through games and a relevant lesson from scripture.  
**Snack Supper \$1**



Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.  
*Matthew 7:7*

Upcoming Events

- April 3 - "Share An Hour" church-wide service day.
- April 10 - MYF Freedom Walk 2011
- May 8 - Confirmation Sunday
- May 15 - 5:30pm Senior Sunday Dinner Reception



Lenten Sunday School Series

- Are there such things as miracles in the world today?
- As you ponder that check out "Fully Alive" by Flyleaf: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3RYWOYoEk> and
- "Smell the Color 9" by Chris Rice <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp2WgqBHYqM>

## Jesus came as the Prince of Peace

"The Father is with me. I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world." *John 16:33, The Message*

Now that we are well into the Lenten season, how can you make this time before Easter something meaningful that you can apply to your life everyday? Take heed to the words of Jesus.

Peace be with you, Shawn & Demi

## More on Missions

**MKT-Home Repair Mission Project** - Many thank to the team of volunteers who hard-planked, painted, repaired fences, as well as worked on other repairs, a week ago. We are proud to be a Covenant Church of Katy Christian Ministries (KCM) who supplies us with the opportunity to serve with this mission. Thanks Bill LeCompte for your stewardship and to the Young at Heart for such a fabulous lunch!

**Sewing Mission Project** for Dress a Girl Around the World -A team of sewers will be making pillowcase type and T-shirt dresses on **Saturday, April 2**, in Covenant Hall. These dresses go to girls in impoverished areas around the world with the thought that every girl should own a dress. Over 150 dresses that were made by our Covenant Sewers last fall went to the children of Haiti with our hopes of this time going to Peru and accompanying our team of missionaries in June. For more information, contact Modelle Brudner at [Modelle.brudner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Modelle.brudner@sbcglobal.net).

**Relay for Life Cancer Walk** - Friday, April 7-8. Come and support the cause by your sponsorship, luminaria purchase or by just coming to Katy Park on Morton between 7 PM and 7 AM and support our cooking/walking teams. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more information, contact Suzie Carter at [suziecar-ter1983@yahoo.com](mailto:suziecar-ter1983@yahoo.com).

**One Hour of Sharing** - Sunday, April 3! Come be a part of this opportunity to worship together, learn together, eat together, and then serve together. Through a communion rail offering, you will have an opportunity to support UMCOR (United Methodist Core of Relief) with its emergency disaster relief efforts, including a special designation to Japan if you choose.

For the hour following the 11:00 service, you and your family will have an opportunity to have lunch and then learn about and engage in a mini mission project in Covenant Hall with projects in **OUR COMMUNITY** (manna bags, sorting food, making gift bags), **OUR REGION** (sorting literature for Branches UMC in Florida, UMCOR bags), and **OUR WORLD** (sorting shoes, making cards).

**LADIES - SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**UMW Women's Retreat**

**March 2-4, 2012**

*For more information,  
contact Sue Meadows.*

Sign Up for Group Tickets  
to a **Houston Dynamo**  
**MLS Soccer Game!**



Friday, April 29th, 7:30pm  
Tickets are \$16 each  
Sign up on Covenant Walk, or contact LeAnn Jackson at  
281-347-2471 or  
[jaynleann@gmail.com](mailto:jaynleann@gmail.com).

# Turning a Chicken Into a Cow

**ZOE Ministry**  
Empowering Orphans in Africa

It seems impossible, right? What kind of miracle must it take to turn a chicken into a cow? For ZOE Ministry, miracles such as this are happening more and more. ZOE Ministry is a ministry of the church that works to empower



Rev. Stephanie Lind,  
Assoc. Pastor and  
Friends

orphans in Africa to break the cycle of poverty. ZOE goes into communities where the orphans are already living, and brings them together in supportive groups. Then, ZOE connects them with local churches and offers the orphans resources and training which **empower them to pull themselves out of poverty in 2-3 years.**

That is how a chicken turns into a cow.

After her parents died, 15-year-old Vestine started her own business of processing and selling flour at the market each week. She purchased a chicken so that it would produce eggs and fertilize the family garden. This led to her learning how to invest in animals. One chicken turned into three. Then three chickens grew into a small herd of goats. Now she is only a few Rwandan francs away from purchasing her family's first cow. This will allow her siblings to go to school, and will provide food and shelter for them all. ZOE Ministry empowered this miracle.

ZOE addresses six areas needed to permanently transform the lives of orphans by breaking the cycle of poverty and moving them from dependency to self-sufficiency. The areas are: **Food Security, Health and Hygiene, Small Business Training, Cultivating Faith, Providing Homes, and Community and Education.** For more information, please visit [www.zoeministry.org](http://www.zoeministry.org).

As we prepare for the glory of Easter Sunday, we have a chance to empower people to live into the fullness of life offered through Jesus Christ. **In lieu of Easter lilies, we invite you to give to ZOE Ministry in honor/memory of those who have loved and empowered you.**



Peace,

Stephanie

## CDC News

Our annual fundraising dinner and silent auction is quickly approaching on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>! Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, and can be bought in the CDC office until April 12<sup>th</sup>. Even if you don't want to eat, come by and bid on all the great baskets and auction items. We've got gift certificates to restaurants, spas, and sports activities. In addition, there are tickets to museums, Schlitterbahn and the Astros! It's going to be a wonderful night! Bidding starts at 5:30 and will end at 7:15 pm.



We're also looking forward to our Mother's Day Breakfasts for our preschoolers the first week of May. The children have been working hard to make a special present for their moms. It will be a very special week!

**Holy Covenant United Methodist Church**

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www.holycov.org

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

## Call to Action - It's Not Too Late

Holy Covenant-

The extension of The Grand Parkway to US 290 is vital to the continued growth and welfare of our area. The long range efforts of our congregation and our Jump Start Grant were predicted on the growth associated with this vital road expansion moving forward in a timely fashion. As your pastor, I encourage everyone to respond in support and forward it appropriately.

Thanks,  
Jay

In an email received from the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce:

**It's Not Too Late...The Texas Department of Transportation Needs to Hear from Katy!**

**A follow up submission of letters of support will be sent to TxDot.**

**Absolute deadline is April 7, 2011**

The letter of support or comment form should be forwarded to  
[ann@katychamber.com](mailto:ann@katychamber.com).