

# HOLY HAPPENINGS

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

August 2011

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## Wednesday Night Encounter

Fall 2011 Kick-Off

September 7th - 5:45 PM

Come dressed in your favorite camouflage, patriotic, or military attire, as we

Support the Troops and our new Ministry for the Military.

Food

Fellowship

Military-theme Activities

Opportunity to Donate Care Package Items

Encounter Worship

New Classes

More Information on page 6.



## CDC Registration

Spots are still available for the 2011-2012 school year in the Child Development Center.

## Childrens & Youth Back to School Bash!

Join the Childrens Back to School Bash August 14th following the 11:00 worship service and the Youth from 4:00 - 7:00 for:

Fun, food, entertainment, and a Concert.

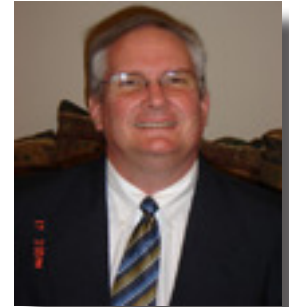
## Morton Road Expansion

The widening of Morton Road Continues. Please use extreme caution during the construction when entering or exiting the property.



# A Word From Jay

In the midst of the heat of summer, especially in the midst of the drought we have experienced this summer, it is hard to believe that a new school year and fall are just around the corner. Today at staff meeting I asked the entire staff to recognize and embrace that plans must begin to take shape for the season ahead. As I did that, I was full of thanksgiving for the season we are presently experiencing. I have been personally blessed by the emphasis on God's Amazing Grace that has been our focus through the month of July. The sharing of grace testimonies and our dedicated journey into better understanding God's grace have been powerful and impacting. I have seen this in the reactions and responses that are evident throughout the congregation. To paraphrase Brad Nugent, in the midst of a drought, God's grace has poured like heavy rain upon all of us. I am also thankful for the arrival of our new Director of Worship and Music Ministry, MJ Gallop, and our new Associate Pastor, Rev. Kabamba Kiboko. They are augmenting a formidable staff and laity to lead our church into exciting new opportunities in God's gracious work among us.



Exciting things are ahead for us. ENTRY POINT provides an excellent opportunity to engage and assist folks in embracing the Christian Faith through an abbreviated confirmation like process geared toward older youth and adults. We will begin that journey in August during the Sunday School hour through Labor Day Sunday. I am already getting a lot of interest in this opportunity. If you are interested, more information is available on our website. We are also preparing for a new year of Wednesday Night Encounter, formerly known as Wednesday Night Live. Exciting new opportunities will augment our blessed mid-week encounter with God and one another. There are also exciting plans for new classes. Among these new classes, the pastors will begin leading a Sanctuary Bible Study focusing on the passage that is preached that Sunday. This class will begin the second Sunday of September, 9/11/11.

It is an exciting season ahead here at Holy Covenant. I hope you will actively be a part of it. See you at church!

Grace and Peace,  
*Jay*





# Journey of Faith

It has been a month already since I came to this place of radical hospitality! Your hospitality made my journey of faith so enjoyable; it made me pause and thank God for you. Let me express the same hospitality to you by inviting you to join me in spending some time together in a new class: **Entry-Point Confirmation Class**. (See flyer)

This moment together, which I like to call “the rest area of our journey of faith,” will allow us to talk about various signs that we encounter continually during our journey of faith. What I refer to as signs are not necessarily miracles or wonders. Rather, they are the key elements of our basic beliefs as Christ-followers. Such elements are crucial aspects of our faith journey. For some, this will be an opportunity to revisit such elements and discuss them at a deeper level.

For others, this might be the first time that you intentionally sit down to learn about these basic elements. Whichever it may be, it is all right! Whether we are new to our faith or old-timers, we all need to visit the basics in order to nurture our faith and thus be strengthened.

As we continue on our journey of faith, we need to consult our Divine map, which is the Bible. That is why I assert that the Bible is our Entry Point to Entry-Point Confirmation Class. The **Bible is the Entry Point to the Entry-point Confirmation Class** because “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Ti 3:16 KJV). One should note that the Greek verb for “is given by inspiration of God” is one word theopneustos which is literally translated as God-breathed. This Holy Book contains all the teaching necessary to engage in conversation about who God is, who we are, what nature is, and the relationship between God, Humanity, and Nature. Note that as you enter biblical texts, you may eventually find some passages that surprise or confuse you. That, too, is all right! We will stand up and go through this bumpy road together, knowing that it is God’s very breath. We will hear God’s word, sometimes like Job, in the whirlwind. But we will always return to our rest area. Then, we will be able to thank God for the Holy Spirit that is leading us on a true adventure! Come and let us experience and enjoy together the breath of God, the adventure, and the rest area as we examine the various signs of our journey of faith.



Shalom  
Kabamba

## Children's Sunday School:



August Sunday School : Live B.I.G. (Believe in God)

B.I.G. Theme: We can help others

B.I.G. Idea: We believe that God wants us to help others.

August Bible verse: *“Children, you show love for others by truly helping them.”*

I John 3:18

The children will learn about helping others as they explore the Bible stories of Naaman, the Centurion's servant, Dorcas, and how the church at Antioch sent an offering to the people in Jerusalem. They will discover that we can help others by asking for God's help and having faith. Putting into practice what they have learned, the children will collect clothes and food to donate to others as a part of the church wide missions day, September 17.



## Splash Day Recap:

We had a great turn out for Spalsh Day. Everyone of all ages had fun in the water!



## Back to School Bash

August 14, 2011



Back to School Bash!

Food, fun, entertainment and doorprizes!

For kids kindergarten – 5th grades

Lunch will be served following the 11:00 worship service.

Games and entertainment will follow.

Matt Robison an artist and storyteller will be here to share a message with us and conduct a Cartoon Workshop.

## Parents Night Out

August 13, 2011

Parents, do your children need a break from you? Would they like for you to go out to dinner and see a movie? If you answered yes to either of these questions then sign your child/children up for Parents Night Out, Saturday, August 13 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. To register e-mail Judy Koehn at [judykoehn8@gmail.com](mailto:judykoehn8@gmail.com).

Beginning in September, we will be alternating ever month with Parent's Night Out a Kid's Day Out. The first Kid's Day Out is scheduled for September 10 from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

The Children's Ministry at Holy Covenant is searching for Eager hearts to volunteer in several areas of ministry. We are looking for:

1. Sunday school teacher- 4 yr. olds
2. Asst. teacher – 4 yr. olds.
3. Sunday school teacher- 2nd grade
4. Asst. teacher-2nd grade
5. Asst. teacher-Kindergarten
  
6. 6 volunteers to work with children on Wednesday evenings during WNE



## Wednesday Night Encounter:

(Same game, New Name)

We are pleased to announce that our Wednesday night programming will resume on September 7, two days after Labor Day. The biggest change in this year's program is a new name for the program. Formerly known as Wednesday Night Live, the evening will now be called Wednesday Night Encounter. The name change calls attention to the theme of encountering Christ through the various activities and programs offered. The elements of the evening will include **Encounter Fellowship**, **Encounter Worship**, and **Encounter Classes**. The format for the evening will remain the same. **Encounter Fellowship** will entail gathering for a meal and a time visiting in Covenant Hall. Served at 5:45, meals are prepared by various groups or Sunday school classes and provide an excellent opportunity to visit with current friends or make new ones. These delicious and low-cost meals provide a nice mid-week break from the busy routine so many families face. Cost is \$3.00/person; \$12.00/family.

**Encounter Worship** will resume with the mid-week service in the sanctuary from 6:30 to 7:00 each week. This time of praise and worship is less formal than our regular Sunday services but provides a great chance to reconnect to Christ during a busy week. This is also an excellent opportunity for people who are unable to attend on Sunday to have a regular worship experience.

**Encounter Classes** will offer studies in a range of topics and interests. Whether Bible based, topical, character study or life-application, a wide selection of courses will be available for your enjoyment. There will even be a "drop-in" study for those who struggle with regular attendance due to work or travel. Come enhance your faith and take this opportunity to grow.

You will be among many members that still say, "Wednesday Night Live" for a while. The best way to overcome this habit is to practice "Wednesday Night Encounter" as you talk it up to your friends. Look for more details in the bulletin and sign ups on Covenant Walk. We'll see you there!

## This Is My Story...This Is My Song

Something special happens when God's people sing. This "something special" has been my driving force since I was a teenager. I first encountered it as a high school junior in a group called the Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra. Through that experience, I got my first taste of choral singing and music ministry and I've been chasing after it ever since.



This last week I was flooded with many deep, precious memories. I met with my choir one last time and recounted many of our fond memories together. This past Sunday I had to say "farewell" to a congregation that I have grown to love very deeply.

Also, last week, along with several colleagues and friends, I attended the Alleluia Conference at Baylor University, an annual summer event for church musicians and worship leaders. Being amongst these friends and mentors who share with me this deep bond of music and faith is always an enriching time, and it was especially poignant this year during this transitional time. For instance, I got to attend the conference with a former student who is now studying church music at Baylor. I also witnessed my good friend attending the conference side-by-side with his former choir teacher. I was especially surprised to see the "choir pastor" of the All-State Youth Choir from my high school days, and I was thrilled to get to sing "At the Name of Jesus" conducted by Cindy Berry—one of those pieces we sang in that group that got me hooked on choral music.

I don't know what exactly is that "something special" that brought us all together in the same place last week, but it's the same "something" that has called me to Holy Covenant. I think it would be best if I just blame it on the Spirit of God, whom we are told "intercedes with sighs too deep for words" in our weakness. (Rom. 8:26) These "sighs" transcend our music, whether it is trained or untrained, ancient or modern, local or global, high-brow or low, cathedral or homeless shelter. It's the song of those whose only have in common that they have been captured by the love of God. That is our story, and that is our song, and I am thrilled to be joining with you, Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, in that song!

M.J. Gallop  
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## Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

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

Meeting the needs of People With the  
Power of Christ



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church

## Youth

### What's coming up:

8/2/2011	Jr. High Summer Bible Study in Room 209
8/3/2011	Sr. High Summer Bible Study – Oglesby's
8/7/2011	YOUTH GROUP @ 5pm
8/9/2011	FINAL -Jr. High Summer Bible Study in Room 209
8/10/2011	FINAL- Sr. High Summer Bible Study – Oglesby's
8/14/2011	Back to School Concert 4pm – 7pm in Covenant Hall
8/21/2011	Promotion Sunday – NO YOUTH GROUP
8/28/2011	Youth Group Meets at Ritters on Fry Rd @ 6pm

All youth who are interested in participating in youth praise band please join us for our parent and youth meeting in the sanctuary at 4pm on Sunday 8/7/2011. We will go over the schedule for the remainder of the year. Please call Shawn in the youth office if you are interested but unable to attend the meeting.

Sunday School begins at 9:45am.  
Youth Group meets at 5pm on Sunday evenings.