



Special
points of
interest:

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Holy Happenings

February 2010

Enjoy a night of music & dancing with the
Ed Gerlach Band

When: Sunday, February 14

Time: 7:00-10:00pm

Dessert will be served

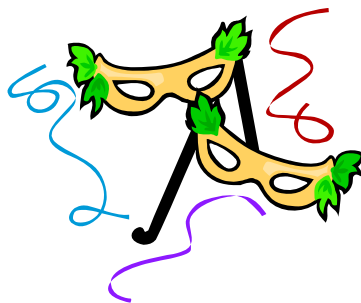
Child Care available by reservation: contact the church office at
281-579-1200 or judy@holycov.org

For more information, see Taylor's article on Page 6.



Mardi Gras Party & Pancake Supper

Mark your calendars and grab your beads! Join us, **Tuesday, February 16th at 6:00pm** for fun, fellowship, kid mask



decorating and a pancake dinner for our Mardi
Gras

celebration. Bring your bicycle or wagon decorated to parade through Covenant Hall for throwing beads or come dressed in Mardi Gras Attire

Hope to see You there!

Save the Date: Sunday, February 28th

Dr. John C. Holbert renowned expert on Old Testament takes us on a trip through scripture.

8:30 and 11:00 Services

"The Surprises of Grace" Genesis 33:1-12

Special Jazz Ensemble by: The Taylor Davis Quartet

9:45 Sunday School Hour

"The Joys and Challenges of the Hebrew Bible"

12:30 Church Luncheon and Presentation

"God is a Moabite Woman; The Book of Ruth"

Lunch will be provided.

Child Care available by reservation please contact Judy Koehn at
judy@holycov.org





Rev. Jay Jackson
Senior Pastor

A word from.....

Love is in the air. As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, we see the emergence of a season of love. Stores are filled with cards, candy, flowers, stuffed animals, and other expressions of love. Our weather has begun to reveal the emergence of spring after some unseasonably cold weather. These signs of love reflect the kind of amorous love that so captivates our attention. I have already officiated at two weddings this year and have another on Valentine's Day.

In the midst of this love explosion, I have been reading and reflecting on Paul's letter to the Corinthians. In fact, we will be focusing on passages from 1 Corinthians for the next several weeks, including the chapter of love, 1 Corinthians 13, on January 31st, the eve of the month of love. However, the love addressed in 1 Corinthians 13 is very different from the amorous love that dominates this time of year. It focuses on agape love...selfless love...the kind of love that God has offered us in Jesus Christ and the kind of love that we are called to bear into a world of hurt and brokenness.

With Lent around the corner, I hope that we can reawaken to the kind of love that is eternal and godly. I pray that we will not only express our affectionate love for those closest to us, but abundantly share selfless love to all of God's people that we encounter. As we enter a time of repentance and desire for forgiveness, may we more readily offer forgiveness to those who have harmed us, that we might abide in a communal love that is steeped in forgiveness.

This month, we offer the opportunity to fellowship and dance to the music of the big band era on Valentine's Day at 7 PM. Three days later, we will begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM. As we also offer the opportunity to prepare our hearts and lives for the Lenten call to repentance, forgiveness, and God's selfless, agape love, may we receive that gift of love anew and share it abundantly with one another in the days ahead.

Welcome to our
new members:

Todd, Cathy,
Brooke & Brandon
Spanheimer

Taylor Davis &
Elizabeth
Durham

Shirley Brodeur

Michael, Stephanie,
Sydney,
Jackson & Emerson
Skuodos

Marc & Susan
Benson

Calvin,
Jennifer,
Madelyn &
Ryan Hurford

Preparing for the Wilderness

Halfway through this month, we enter the *season* of Lent, during which we wander through the wilderness. This *season* gives us space to trudge through the wilderness of our lives, where it is easy to find ourselves distanced from God, and from any sense of order. Perhaps there is wisdom in wandering the wilderness for a bit. Perhaps in the chaos and in the loneliness of that dry and weary place we find ourselves calling out to God most fervently. Let this season of Lent be one during which we let our guard down and walk through the wilderness, without fearing scarcity, without fearing vulnerability, and without fearing attack. Let us trust that God wanders with us.



Rev. Stephanie Lind
Assoc. Pastor

The Judean Wilderness



Vacation Bible School



Save the date for a voyage of a lifetime. At High Seas Expedition kids will explore the mighty love of God on a journey that will change them forever!

MONDAY, June 21—
FRIDAY, June 25



CALLING ALL CUB SCOUTS, BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS!!

Sunday, February 14th is Scout Sunday, and we want YOU to participate at the 11:00am worship service!

Girls Scouts-contact Kath Williams (281-855-9066) or Janet Hulen (281-398-3756); Cub & Boy Scouts-contact Drew DeFoor (281-435-6106) for more information.

What's New with Covenant Kids

Covenant Kids Choir We welcome Taylor Davis our new Music minister as part of our Covenant Kids Choir. Rehearsals will begin February 3 at 6:50 in Choir room for children in 3rd-5th grades and in the chapel for kids in Kindergarten—2nd grades.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
FEBRUARY 13
4:00-8:00PM
CONTACT JUDY KOEHN AT
281-391-2052
FOR YOUR CHILD'S RESERVATION



CDC News

Our preschoolers had a great time bringing their dads and grandfathers to Father's Night. The dads of our 3 year olds enjoyed a night at preschool, while the dads of our 4 year olds participated in an exciting night of science activities. The highlight of the evening for the 4 year olds and their dads was watching the mentos geyser experiment out in front of Covenant Hall. It was a great two nights!

Believe it or not, it's time to register for the 2010-2011 school year. The CDC will hold registration Jan. 25th - Feb. 9th. There will be a kindergarten readiness seminar on Monday, Feb. 8th in the choir room at 6:30 pm for all who would like to know more about kindergarten and our transition program. Anyone is welcome to attend. So, if you know someone looking for a great early childhood center, give them our name!

Missions

American Cancer Society -Relay for Life

For everyone interested in being a part of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the big Kick Off Party will be on January 28 at 6:30 PM in Covenant Hall. Come learn more about the relay, sign up a team, and ask questions. Relays are held all around the country with this being the major fundraiser event for the American Cancer Society. The Katy-West Houston Relay will be held this year on April 9-10 at the Katy VFW Park. The relay is open to all so we encourage you to join a team, help fight for the cause and represent Holy Covenant while doing so. To find out more about starting a Holy Covenant team or to sign up for a team, (Sunday School team, WNL Team, Family Team, etc.) contact Suzie at suziecarter1983@yahoo.com, at 832-766-0314 or by going directly to the web at relayforlife.org/katytx. **If you are registering a Holy Covenant Team, please use the prefix HCUMC just before your team name so that we will all be grouped together.** For those of you wanting to join in but don't have a team, feel free to join HCUMC-SOLO team.



Mike & Joyce at the 2009 Relay for Life

Haiti Relief

Thanks to all of you who responded so graciously with your monetary gifts, your prayers, and/or your health kit bags for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. In one weeks time, along with the Child Development Center, we were able to collect 315 health kits showing our love and support in their time of need.

Hurricane Ike Recovery

On February 20, we will be taking a day trip out to the gulf area to rebuild the lives of those who are still in need nearly a year and a half later after the hurricane. For more information or to sign up, stop by Covenant Walk or contact Orv Wiens at WiensOJ@yahoo.com. (No experience necessary!)

Tutoring @ Golbow Elementary

Our second semester tutoring program will begin on January 25 and will continue weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:40-4:40pm. If you would like to be a part of this after school program, please contact Kerrin Browning at kerrin.browning@gmail.com.

BINGO Coordinator Needed for Grace Care Community Center – We try to meet the first Sunday of the month for about an hour or so and have various volunteers help with the logistics. For more information, contact Twilla Oman at twilla_oman@hotmail.com

A new bike was a Christmas gift for our refugee family from Burundi.



SEASONAL MISSION OUTREACH RECAPS: During the Christmas season we had several ministries we participated in, such as shoe-boxes for Samaritan's Purse, Angel Tree ministry, Santa's Sleigh, gifts for our refugee family from Burundi, handing out blankets and coats, and helping families at Mayde Creek Elementary that were outside of KCM zoning. Thank you so much for your numerous donations and support. And many thanks to Amy Garcia, Twilla Oman and Modelle Brudner for their assistance in coordinating these projects.

DEEPLY ROOTED YOUTH MINISTRIES



The girls had a blast having a pajama party, dancing, and watching movies at the January Girls' Night!

SOUPER BOWL of CARING

****Sunday, February 7, youth will be ready to collect your spare change for Souper Bowl of Caring. This ministry focuses on providing care for those in need. This year, the youth have chosen to donate all proceeds collected to United Methodist Committee On Relief and their specific efforts in Haiti. The youth have recognized a need and are asking that you would help by bringing your change and donations to Covenant Walk on Feb. 7.**

YOUTH CALENDAR

February 3: WNL 6:30-8:00

February 10: WNL 6:30-8:00

February 17: WNL 6:30-8:00

February 24: WNL 6:30-8:00

****WNL meets upstairs in the Youth Lounge**

February 7: Split Super Bowl Party (place and time TBD)

February 14: Combined MYF 5:00-7:00

February 21: Combined MYF 5:00-7:00

February 28: Combined MYF 5:00-7:00

****MYF meets in Covenant Hall unless otherwise noted**

ATTENTION: WE HAVE SOME NEW AND EXCITING THINGS THAT WE WANT TO DO HERE WITH THE DEEPLY ROOTED YOUTH MINISTRIES! IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS, OR WANT TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT GARRETT at garrett@holycov.org

SPECIFIC AREAS OF NEED: HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, WNL and MYF VOLUNTEERS

PULSE GROUPS!!

ATTENTION High Schoolers: Pulse Groups are a new small group discipleship ministry beginning in February. On Feb. 7, we will meet in the sanctuary after the 11:00 service for an informational meeting about these groups. If you are interested in great fellowship and meaningful spiritual growth...WE WANT YOU!

Iain Hunter blushes after picking a beautiful Barbie doll for his gift during the gift exchange at the Youth Christmas party!



Spotlight on Ministry: Inviting & Equipping

When you meet someone, what are the first things that you notice? Is it a friendly smile, a comfortable handshake or, perhaps, a warm personality? The same things that stand out when you meet individuals are noticed by visitors to a church. That's why we are so blessed to have a dedicated ministry team that makes our visitors feel comfortable and welcome.



Some team members are involved in publicizing the church through neighborhood publications and outdoor signage. The public is invited to join us for worship throughout the year and an extra emphasis is made during the holidays and special events.

Some people volunteer their time on Sunday mornings by serving as greeters before worship. Sharing a smile and welcoming folks at the door is a way to convey the love of Christ through the Holy Covenant family. Other volunteers serve in *The Gathering Place* to offer visitors a gift bag and answer any specific questions that they may have.

Another area of service for the I/E team relates to visitor follow-up. A call, card or email is a nice way to convey thanks to a visitor for sharing time with us. It gives them a specific point of contact to ask questions or gain additional information. As more neighborhoods grow up around the church, more help will be needed in this vital area.

Nothing beats the direct invitation of a neighbor or a friend to encourage someone to visit a church. We are blessed to have such a welcoming atmosphere created by friendly people in the Holy Covenant family. While much of this "comes naturally", the Inviting and Equipping team works intentionally to make others feel welcome. If you are interested in sharing your gifts in this important area of ministry, please contact Charlotte Shutt (281.599.3635), Liz Mason (281.391.0648) or the church office.

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.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE!!

Don't miss out on fulfilling one of your New Years Resolutions to become more involved in your church for 2010. Additional spots are now available to serve as an Usher. You will be able to serve 1 hour every 6 weeks or more. No experience necessary. Free on site training. Free parking. Remarkable Benefits Package. (Salary is negotiated by very high management.) To learn more or to submit your application, please contact Mike Burdette at 281-578-1665 or Tom Engelbert at 281-347-2369.

Music News

by Taylor Davis

Church family,

What an exciting and entertaining few weeks it has been already! I thank you for your support and words of encouragement as we experience this transition in the music department together, and work toward the common goal of excellence in worship each and every week. Your welcome has been warm and Elizabeth and I are grateful.

As you may have already heard, Ed Gerlach and his 16-piece big band will be here to help us celebrate Valentine's Day together. So make dinner reservations, save room for dessert, and then join the Chancel Choir as they host an evening of desserts and dancing in Covenant Hall. All of your favorite big band standards will be played (*In the Mood, Tuxedo Junction, New York, New York*), and the event and babysitting are FREE!

Also, Lent is fast approaching, and on February 28, with Dr. John Holbert of SMU as our guest speaker, we will have a jazz service in both the 8:30 and 11:00 services, with the Taylor Davis Quartet and singer Nate Lucena. You won't want to miss it this unique worship opportunity!

Young @ Heart News



The new year is underway and there's much to look forward to as we welcome 2010: trips, shows, luncheons, game days, and a special surprise for the month of April! Due to unusually heavy demand for the Harris County buses in April, we were not able to secure a date for a trip that month, but in disappointment comes opportunity; the chance to offer a new and different event. Still in the planning, keep watching for details as Spring approaches.

In the meantime, mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to join us for the "coming attractions":

February 7th – Trip to College of the Mainland Theatre for a performance of "My Funny Valentine"

February 17th – Monthly covered dish luncheon in Covenant Hall

March 6th – Road Trip (Details to be announced)

April – A new opportunity! (I wonder, I wonder?)

May 24th – Road Trip (Details to be announced)

June 13th – Matinee Performance of "On Golden Pond", Unity Theater in Brenham, Texas

January 20, 2010

Dear Jay:

It is with a grateful heart that I write to thank you and your congregation for its commitment to outreach and missions and The United Methodist connection. I am thankful for the more than 100% payment of Conference and District apportionments which translate into ministries that change lives for Jesus Christ.

In the midst of tough economic times your congregation makes a bold witness of its priorities and I am very grateful. Please assure them that this District and our Annual Conference are also good stewards of their treasure. For example, every dollar given to UMCOR now to help Haiti goes to direct aid. Our apportionment dollars take care of administrative costs. I am sure you know that three of the top UMCOR personnel were in Haiti to improve medical health care delivery when the earthquake hit. Rev. Sam Dixon and Rev. Clint Rabb died as a result of the disaster.

Now more than ever the world needs us to work together to share the hope and joy of Jesus Christ. May God bless all of you as you continue to reach out in service in Christ's name!

*Rev. Gail Ford Smith
District Superintendent*

Prayers & Praises

Praise:

The birth of Carter Robert Bostick to Andrew & Shannon Bostick; grandparents Steve & Pam Bostick, and nephew of Joanne Bostick

The baptisms of Marc Benson, Todd Spanheimer and Brooke & Brandon Spanheimer

Taylor Davis, our new Director of Music and Worship

The birth of Sophia Elif Vanden Dries, born to William & Camille (Kliewer) Vanden Dries; grandparents are Terry & Jan Kleiwer

Condolences To:

Bruce Mueller-mother; Mike Callahan-father; Kate Sunday-brother; Steve Herrington-uncle; Jerry Neugebauer-mother; Ryan & Brad Nugent-grandmother (and mother-in-law to Cyndi Nugent); Wally Newcomb-mother; Hendrix Rowell-aunt.

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

22111 Morton Rd.
Katy, TX 77449

281-579-1200
office@holycov.org
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 celebrate the Love of God!

Seasons of Life - Women's Retreat

Ladies, don't forget to register for the 2010 UMW Women's Retreat! The theme this year is Seasons of Life Through Faith and Friendship.

Date: February 19-21, 2010

Where: Heartland Country Inn

Cost: \$165 (includes room, meals and meeting facilities)

Get away with your Christian women friends and enjoy a weekend filled with fun, food and fellowship. Special entertainment on Friday evening will be performed by the Christian Comedy group, Minnie Pause and the Hot Flashes. To register or for more information, contact Suzanne Larson at katysula@yahoo.com.



Joe Joe Bear Foundation

Our Goal is to collect 100 teddy bears to be donated to children in area hospitals, especially M D Anderson.

Bring them to retreat or to the church office.

Bears should be *new* and close to 12" tall.

For more information about this Katy based charity go to www.joejoebear.org

UMW FACEBOOK PAGE: For those women who are in touch with the world through the internet, the UMW now has a Facebook page. You are all invited to become friends on Facebook to help keep in touch with the activities the women are involved in through the church. Search for Holy Covenant UMW and become a friend today. The United Methodist Women's group is open to all women of the church. You are all a valuable asset to the life of the church.