



Special
points of
interest:

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Holy Happenings

February 2011



We're still accepting registration forms for children age 4 through 3rd grade. Forms can be found in the church office or on the church website.

Practices will start the week of February 14th, and the first games will be held Saturday, February 26th.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Party

Plan to join us on March 8th at 6:00pm for our Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party. Wear your purple, green and gold and enjoy the food, parade, beads and festivities.



A Weekend of

H.O.P.E.

Healthy Options + Prayer & Encouragement

LADIES

Join us for our annual HCUMC Church Women's Retreat

February 18-20, 2011

Heartland Country Inn & Retreat Center in Independence, TX

See Page 6 for more information.

Authentic Faith Witness



Rev. Jay Jackson
Senior Pastor

The New Year has brought an amazing amount of new opportunities and planning activity at Holy Covenant. We had a great turnout for our Leadership Training earlier this month. Upward Soccer is receiving tremendous support from the congregation and will soon be in full swing in February. A very successful mission trip to Florida has left its mark on our team and a number of folks there. Personally, I have tried to get a step ahead instead of falling a step behind in the heavy responsibilities of our vibrant ministry. Part of that effort has focused on worship planning for the next six months for both Sunday morning services and for our *ENCOUNTER* service on Wednesday evenings. I am also working with our Staff Parish Relations Committee on hiring another staff person as part of our **Jump Start** grant commitments to extend community outreach and expand our evangelistic efforts for Jesus Christ. Needless to say, God is offering us a great deal of opportunity at Holy Covenant.

As I reflected on the thrust of our worship planning and other ministry activity, the same recurring theme kept surfacing. That theme is **Authentic Faith Witness**. Last summer during my month of sabbatical, I was introduced to a book by Gary Thomas entitled *Authentic Faith*. That book really touched me in a deep way. The thrust of the book focuses on the often unwanted and unexpected aspects of life that, if experienced faithfully, can shape our lives authentically into what God desires for each of us. My *ENCOUNTER* service messages for the next several months are focusing on these opportunities God holds for us in the sometimes rocky and often surprising journey of life.

As I reflected on our broader ministry together, as well as my personal journey, I am convinced that **Authentic Faith Witness** is an overriding theme for our entire ministry together this year. I also feel that it encapsulates my personal desire for my life in Christ, not only in the days ahead, but also for the entirety of my life journey.

During the Lenten Season just ahead, we are going to be undertaking some new and innovative approaches to wrestling with some of the questions that often boggle our minds and distress our hearts with the hope of discovering God and authenticity of our faith, even when answers aren't so clear. I am committed to this exploration. I hope you will join me. See you on Sunday!

Welcome to
our new
Members

Jennifer
Duncan

Ryan & Kate
Bromm

Scott & Leslie
Warren

A Psalm in my Heart

There is a Psalm in my heart. It sings:

*"O Lord, Our Lord. How majestic is your name in ALL the earth!
When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and
the stars that you have established;
What are human beings that you are mindful of them... mortals that
you care for them?"*
Psalm 8:1, 3-4



Rev. Stephanie Lind
Assoc. Pastor

In the hustle and bustle of the last few weeks, I have struggled to find time to be still with God. I have neglected to reflect on the presence of God in our midst. Instead of my morning quiet times, I have found myself praying on-the-go... almost as a second thought. I have not been mindful of God. This Psalm reminds me to stop. It tells us to take time to look around at all the earth. Imagine the One who created it. Know that the Creator is mindful of us. Why then, am I not always mindful of the Creator? Today, take a moment to stop what you are doing. Give thanks and praise to the God of all creation, who cares intimately about each life created.

Children's Sunday School



February's Big Theme: The Bible teaches how to live.

February's Big Idea: We believe that the Bible helps us discover what God wants us to be and

do.

February's Bible Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Deuteronomy 6:5



Parents Night Out

Feb. 12 from 4-8pm.

Please register your children by Feb. 10th.

Be My Valentine

The Children's Sunday School Classes made Valentine cards for our country's soldiers. Remember to keep the soldiers in your prayers.



Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Monday June 13- Friday 17.

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 2011-2012 school year. The CDC will hold registration Jan. 24th - Feb. 8th. Remember, current students and church members get priority in the draw! So, if you know someone looking for a great early childhood center, give them our name!



More on Missions

Military Updates Needed – Please take a moment and update the addresses of your loved ones serving in our military so that they can be remembered in future mission correspondences. Reply to Carol@holycov.org.



Tutors Needed – If you would like to be a part of the Golbow Elementary after school tutoring team on Mondays and/or Wednesdays, please be in touch with Stephanie at Stephanie@holycov.org

New Years Resolution; Adopt a Ministry – If your Sunday School class has decided on a special ministry to support during 2011, please fill out the form in your SS folder or contact Nancy Krahel at nkrahel@hotmail.com with your ministry & class member contact so that they can be included in our Outreach meeting information sharing.

KCM Gala on April 9 – Mark your calendars. Visit kcm.org or visit back next month for more information.

Remembering Haiti One Year Later – Although it's been a year since the massive earthquake in Haiti, the Haitians are still struggling to rebuild their lives and turn chaos into tranquility. The government estimates that 230,000 people died, 300,000 were injured and 1,000,000 were left homeless. It is estimated that 810,000 are still living in make-shift tent housing. Please continue to pray for these people and watch the upcoming bulletins to see ways that your family can remember God's people in Haiti.



Florida Missionaries – Many thanks to Holy Covenant's team of 14 missionaries who went out to Florida City to assist a mission church on the outskirts of Miami. It is such a blessing to see folks taking vacation days to build walls, lay linoleum, work with children and numerous other expressions of love and compassion.

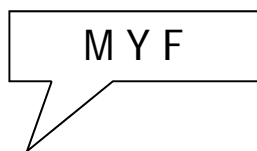
The church is compiling a **Congregant Business Listing**. If you own or run your own small business and would like to be included, please send your contact information and what type of business it is to Carol at carol@holycov.org. This listing will be sent out to all church members in March. Thank you.

We are dedicated to modeling the genuine love of Jesus Christ through authentic worship, active discipleship, caring fellowship and sacrificial service for the purpose of bringing God's kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.



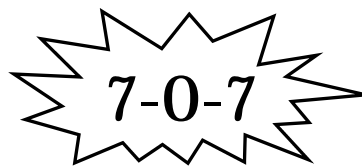
All-youth worship begins at 9:45am. Jr. High and Sr. High classes divide immediately following announcements and worship

(don't forget to sign in)



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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

IS BACK!!!

ENCOUNTER

contemporary worship service

6:30pm - 7:00pm See you there!



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*

WHAT ' S COMING UP?

Sunday, 02/06/2011 Souper Bowl for Caring

Sunday, 02/06/2011 YOUTH SUPER BOWL XLV Party 5pm – 8pm



Upcoming Retreats

Confirmation Retreat Feb 18th-19th @ Pine Cove

Motives...there's always an AGENDA

"You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world." *Matthew 5:8*

Jesus said, "If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me."

Matthew 10:39

Peace, *Shawn & Demi*

HCUMC WOMEN'S RETREAT

A Weekend of H.O.P.E. Healthy Options + Prayer and Encouragement

Our focus is on health & wellness: body, mind and spirit. These three components go hand in hand and each one affects the other. The key is to find a balance with all of them and to live a life in pursuit of the peace and joy of Christ.

Heartland Country Inn & Retreat Center is located in Independence, TX just outside of Brenham. It's just a little over an hour away from home and is a beautiful drive through the country. At Heartland, cozy houses with porches are scattered around the facility.

Each house has its own individual kitchen area for snacks and morning coffee. The dining hall provides a picturesque view of the lake and is connected to our meeting room. Virtually every house is handicapped accessible. Your fee of \$165 includes two nights stay (all linens are provided) and four delicious meals (3 on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday).

Come join us for a time to refresh, renew and re-energize physically, emotionally and spiritually. For more information or questions, contact Laura Douglass at laura@holycov.org.



The Chancel Choir started the year off with a retreat to Camp Tejas.

MUSIC NEWS from Taylor Davis

Musically speaking, 2011 is off to a great start! Here is a little "behind the scenes" look at what's going on:

Our Children's Choirs continue to grow and thrive under the care of Kim Sharp and Julie LeCompte. And, we've added a third group just for our music- and challenge-hungry 5th graders! **Need: If you could accompany our youngest singers on the piano, we could use your gifts! Simply contact Taylor in the music office.**

Our youth choir, Song of Zoe, continues to lead worship at both services on the last Sunday of each month. And we're looking forward to teaming up with Sun Creek UMC as we tour to Hilton Head, S.C.! **Need: If you know of a 7-12 grader who loves to sing, we'd love to have them join us! We rehearse every Sunday from 4:00-4:45 in the choir suite.**

The Chancel Choir, after a very full Christmas season, has hit the ground running. Our sights are set on a Lenten offering: Robert Ray's celebrated *Gospel Mass*. Based on the traditional Ordinary Mass - which is typically sung in Latin during the season of Lent, this setting is in English and is in a full gospel style. Robert Ray himself will work with our Chancel Choir and conduct the piece on Sunday, March 27, with Grammy-nominated soloist, Cynthia Wilson! **Need: You don't have to have a music degree to come sing with us. Don't miss this opportunity to sing with one of the nations finest gospel composers and soloists!**

**NEW YEAR
&
GREAT TIMES AHEAD!**



By the time you're reading this, the Young at Heart will have returned from our first outing of the new year; a trip to the **Crighton Theater** in Conroe for a production of **"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"**. Coming up over the next several months, lots more activities are planned and you will want to make sure you plan to join the group for more great times together.



Some of the guys check out Bill's antique Chevy during last year's Day in the Park.

To celebrate **Valentine's Day**, YAH will travel east to the **San Jacinto Battleground and the Monument Inn**, always a great place to enjoy a great seafood lunch and for those who are interested, a visit to the San Jacinto Monument for a spectacular view of the historic site of Sam Houston's victory over Santa Anna that won freedom from Mexico for the new Republic of Texas. If you haven't signed up for this trip, contact Corine Hurst to get your name on the list as soon as possible.

March 5th will mark a return trip to the **Texas Opry** in Magnolia, one of the most "talked about" outings of 2010! Tickets for the show will be only \$10 each, so be sure and join us for some good ole country music and great fun. We will have dinner at the Opry as well. Dinner will be an additional \$10 plus tip and includes a salad, entree, drink and dessert. If you missed this trip last year, mark your calendars now because it's sure to "book up" fast!

April 20th will mark our second annual **"Day in the Park"**... this time our picnic will be at Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy. Fried chicken and drinks will be furnished but bring a side dish or dessert to share and come enjoy the spring weather, maybe a little fishing in the lake, walking the park's trails and just a great time to visit and relax.



A peek at some Texas History in Gonzales, Texas

In addition to the outings mentioned above, we will have our regular "potluck" luncheons in Covenant Hall on the third Wednesday of February and March (The Day in the Park Picnic will replace our monthly luncheon in April).

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



We wish to thank everyone who helped so selflessly with prayers, food, time and energy during our move last month. In addition to family, the crew from Holy Covenant was awesome. We never would have accomplished the complete move and clean-up in such a timely fashion without all of your help. We feel blessed to be part of such a loving, caring congregation, and we sincerely thank each and everyone of you who participated.

God's Blessings- Dick and Nancy Strege

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



2010 Financial Update:

Income:	\$1,289,568
Expenses:	1,293,293
Net Loss	\$3,725
SFIF Funds Received	\$427,466
Loan Balance	\$2,283,773

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry and mission of Holy Covenant UMC. Year end tax statements were emailed and mailed out at the end of January. If you didn't not receive yours, please contact the church office as soon as possible.



Who are we looking for?
Cancer Survivors and Caregivers

What will you do?
Provide one-on-one support to others newly diagnosed with cancer or caring for someone with cancer.

How much time will it take?
You can support as few or as many people as you like. Most support is provided over the phone or email.

What if I want to do more?
Opportunities are available to make hospital visits by volunteering in a number of Houston-area hospitals.

What makes CanCare special?
CanCare volunteers realize the blessing of using their own experiences to make the journey less frightening for someone else who may just be starting a battle with cancer.

Is the service free?
Yes. We are a nonprofit organization and our services are provided free to anyone fighting cancer.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

**If you or a loved one
has experienced cancer
and you have a passion
for helping others,
we need you!**

For those fighting cancer...
HOPE MATTERS

Become a
CanCare Volunteer
February 25 - 27, 2011

Contact us for info:

713-461-0028
volunteer@cancare.org
www.cancare.org

CanCare, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3)
nonprofit organization based in
Houston, Texas.