

Holy Covenant  
United Methodist  
Church



Special points  
of interest:

January 10,  
2010 will be  
the 5th  
Anniversary of  
Sunday  
Breakfast at  
Holy  
Covenant!

In celebration  
of this  
anniversary,  
come and  
enjoy special  
toppings for  
your  
pancakes, like  
blueberries,  
strawberries,  
cool whip,  
etc., and  
thank those  
who make this  
ministry  
happen  
through their  
joyous service  
each Sunday  
morning.

# Holy Happenings

January 2010

## Wednesday Night Live

January 13, 2010

6:00pm - Fajita Dinner with entertainment  
by a Latin-American Christian band  
Cost: \$3 per person or \$12 per family

Classes begin January 20th

## Jump Start Your Ministry Leadership Training

If you are a current or new Council on Ministries or Church Council Member for 2010, there will be a leadership training event held in the Choir Room on January 16th beginning at 8:30am with a light breakfast Please RSVP your attendance to Lori at 281-579-1200 or [lori@holycov.org](mailto:lori@holycov.org)

## Special Worship Event on Sunday, February 28th

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 28th, as we welcome Dr. John C. Holbert, Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Holbert will be preaching at both the 8:30 & 11:00am worship services, facilitating an all church Sunday school, and be speaking during lunch immediately following the 11:00 worship service. Dr. Holbert will be highlighting the good news of the Hebrew writings of the Old Testament. You won't want to miss this special worship opportunity.

## Welcome Taylor Davis, Director of Music and Worship Ministries



We rejoice to welcome Taylor Davis as the full time Director of Music and Worship Ministries of Holy Covenant. Taylor comes to us most recently from Fullshear United Methodist Church, where he has served as Director of Music for 6 years. He is a 2003 graduate of Centenary College of Louisiana, where he earned a Bachelor of Sacred Music degree. As a composer, his music has been performed all across the US, Europe, South America, South Africa and Asia. He is widely published and increasingly in demand, with his music being sung by church choirs, award winning collegiate groups, and the Grammy nominated Conspirare. Taylor's love of the Church and Sacred Music is contagious. It is our joy and honor to welcome him to the ministry of Holy Covenant!

# Rebirth



Rev. Jay Jackson  
Senior Pastor

If you are a new member or are thinking of joining the church and would like more information on Holy Covenant join Pastor's Jay, Stephanie, and Stacy at

Coffee With the Pastors

January 10th at 9:45am in The Gathering Place

During a season of great expectancy, I find myself on the cusp of Christmas. I write this letter just before we are ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ anew during our Candlelighting Services on Christmas Eve just two days away. I love Christmas and all of the hope and promise that is represented in our celebration of Christ's birth. This year, that celebration takes on even greater meaning as I reflect on all of the amazing things God has done in our midst this year and look forward with great expectation at what God has in store for us as a community of faith in the year ahead.

I believe we are continually going through experiences of rebirth as individuals and as a community of believers. There are certainly marked rebirths that occur during baptisms, confirmation, and other special moments in our life journeys. The Bible and our faith tradition speak of a transformational rebirth that takes place in our lives. I believe this rebirth also happens on a communal level, as the church embodies Christ and awakens to the call to change the world and lives with the power of Jesus Christ.

Holy Covenant is experiencing a rebirth that is exciting and filled with promise. We have joined in a communal effort to refocus our ministry to impact and transform our community and beyond. Stepping Forward in Faith is allowing us to focus our resources on ministry rather than debt. Jump Start is enabling us to expand our ministry and accelerate our reach into a growing area undergoing rapid change. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will join in a communal reaffirmation of our baptism to celebrate our rebirth through the Holy Spirit and remember Christ's baptism.

I am excited to be part of God's transformational work in our midst. I am excited to share with you in this exciting adventure. I hope you will join me in welcoming our new Director of Music and Worship Ministry, Taylor Davis, as he joins our staff on January 4<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will pray for our efforts to hire a communications liaison to assist us in spreading the news of what God is doing among us. I hope you will make plans to join us and invite guests for the WNL Kickoff on January 13<sup>th</sup>. I also hope you will take time to join in the other exciting ministry opportunities ahead. Many are highlighted in this newsletter. Most importantly, I hope you will join me in a commitment to be faithful and fruitful in the days ahead. I look forward to seeing you at church.

## Baptized for Life

As we move into a new year, I am overwhelmed by all that is God is doing at Holy Covenant. We begin in 2010 remembering that as baptized Christians, we are called to LIVE for God. We are baptized into Jesus' dying, so that we can live fully with God. We see this life when we tutor children at Golbow Elementary, when we work alongside one another for Hurricane Relief, when we choose to serve those who are homeless in our community, and when we passionately worship God.

Holy Covenant is alive in Christ. As we return to our seemingly ordinary routines this January, let us not forget the truth of our God who entered into ordinary circumstances to bring extraordinary and incomparable love and mercy. I am so thankful for this community who chooses to fearlessly follow God, whose love may seem impractical, whose mercy may seem illogical, and whose joy may seem unattainable. As we live into the fullness of life with God, let us be faithfully bold in all that we do!



Rev. Stephanie Lind  
Assoc. Pastor

# Children's Sunday School



January Overview

B.I.G. Idea: We believe that Jesus grew, he learned more about God and what God wanted him to do.

B.I.B. Theme: Jesus is God's Son.

Bible Verse: "Jesus grew in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." Luke 2:52



*Having fun at Parents Night Out*

## Wednesday Night Live: Friendship 1st

Elementary age children will embark on an adventure this spring during WNL. Children will learn to apply biblical truths to practical, hands-on skills, and will learn what it means to live as the body of Christ. Children will:

- \*learn how friendships form
- \*practice friendship skills
- \*discover and grow a friendship with Jesus.

Class begins January 20. Please register at the Children's Sunday School sign in desk so we can plan accordingly.



## Inside Story Headline

**JANUARY 2010 CALENDAR:**  
(Wed. and Sunday Activities)

- Jan. 3 Combined MYF (5-7pm)
- Jan. 6 Youth Council Midweek (6-8)
- Jan. 10 Combined MYF (5-7pm)
- Jan. 13, 20, 27 WNL (6:30-8pm, dinner @ 6)
- Jan. 17 Guys/Girls Night Out!! Time: TBD
- Jan. 24 Combined MYF (5-7)
- Jan. 29-31 Mid Winter!! \*\*
- \*\*Mid Winter \$\$ and forms due (\$100) Jan. 11

### CONFIRMATION 2010!!

Attention Junior Highers and parents of those who have not participated in Confirmation. We will begin Sunday Jan. 10 in Rm. 114 of the Ed building. Confirmation is the process where youth journey through the faith and become full members of Holy Covenant. E-mail Garrett Cone at [garrett@holycov.org](mailto:garrett@holycov.org) with questions...

### 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!

## 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



### PRAISE GOD!

Baptism of Donald & Erica Bailey's son, Elliot Vidor Bailey; Baptism of Allen & Angela McConnell's son Ethan Joseph McConnell; Birth of a Grandson to Eric & Cheryl Golbow whose name is T.J. Golbow; for the marriage of Mike Burdette and Carol Cooper; for our college graduates, Travis Stent from SHSU and Erin Lamb from St. Edwards University; for answered prayers regarding employment; and for the messages of hope, peace, joy, and love we experienced in word and in music during Advent for which we are truly thankful!

### CONDOLENCES

Mark & Jill Frie (Jill's mother, Doris Parker); Gary & Melva Copeland (Melva's mother, Dorothy White); Nancy Piecuch's mother, Jessie Curtis, who was a member of HC; Matt & Colleen Runty (Colleen's father); Michael & Joanne Brock (Joanne's father, John Schoenwaelder); and Mark & Valerie Sabol (Mark's father).

## February Events

Sunday, February 14th - Enjoy a night of music and desserts in Covenant Hall beginning at 7:30pm

Tuesday, February 16th - Celebrate Fat Tuesday with a Pancake Supper and special events for the children, 6:00pm

Wednesday, February 17th - Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7:00pm



## News from the CDC.....

What a wonderful holiday season we celebrated! From manger scenes and Santa Claus to reindeer prints and Christmas songs, the halls were full of joy and excitement. The Christmas programs that the preschoolers presented were a true blessing and got all who came to watch in the Christmas spirit. When the children return in January, the preschoolers will be working hard to prepare for Father's Night. This event gives our dads, grandfathers, etc... a chance to participate in a fun evening of activities with their children. Finally, it's almost time to register for the 2010-2011 school year. The CDC will hold registration Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. If you know someone looking for a great early childhood center, give them our name!

### Heifer International

Thanks to your generosity, the church was able to purchase 56 flocks of chickens, 32 flocks of ducks, and 30 flocks of geese through Heifer International. Your gifts will help improve the lives of many families throughout the world. For more information on Heifer International visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).