



Special
points of
interest:

- A Word from the Pastors, Page 2
- Covenant Kids, Page 3
- 25th Anniversary Celebration, page 4
- Deeply Rooted Youth, Page 5
- Mission in Action, page 6
- Spotlight on Ministry, Page 7

Holy Happenings

June 2010

SAIL ALONG WITH US AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!

Join us for a week filled with songs, games, snacks and stories!

Date: June 21 - 25

Time: 6:00 - 8:30pm

Cost: \$10 (includes a really cool tshirt!)

You'll get to know Scully, Marina, Wink, Salty and Lacy as we experience "God Sightings"

There's still time sign up - forms can be found on the visitor desk in the foyer.



Mission Trips and Prayer Partners

Please sign up to sponsor an HCUMC Missionary by supplying daily inspirational notes as well as goodies for their summer mission trip. Sign ups will soon begin on Covenant Walk. This year's mission trips:

Big House (Cameron, TX): July 8-11

UM Army (Tyler, TX): July 18-24

We have a lot of youth and adults going on trips this year. Please make someone's trip special by praying for them!

Faith During Struggles...



Rev. Jay Jackson
Senior Pastor

I have really been reflecting upon Romans 5:1-5 as I prepare to preach on it on May 30th. I know it will surprise some of you that I actually reflect on the scriptures in preparation for preaching...lol. This week I have been really captivated by these words from the Apostle Paul to the church at Rome. They are not only words for the Romans, but words for us today. That is not unusual for Scripture, but this week it has especially seemed timely for me.

The central theme of this passage deals with the shame associated with suffering. When we suffer, we can easily fall prey to shame. We ask, "Why am I suffering?" We wonder about what is causing us to suffer. Is God punishing us or testing us? Why do we feel oppressed?

Paul offers a very different response to difficulty, oppression, and struggle than shame. He proclaims that by remaining faithful that we can hold fast to hope...even boasting in the midst of our struggles about the hope we have in a faithful and loving God.

When you are struggling, where do you turn? When all seem to be bailing on you, who can you count on to be there? For me, there is no question...I can turn to God and the church! In the midst of difficulty and struggle, I know that God is faithful and that God works through the faithful he calls the church. I have experienced that first hand here at Holy Covenant and witnessed it countless times during my ministry with you.

The deeper questions I ponder as I reflect upon this passage and our present struggles are...Am I someone people can turn to in times of trouble? Are we, as the church, exhibiting faithfulness that enables others to find their hope in God through us?

I am praying that the fresh winds of the Holy Spirit blow afresh on us, the faithful, that we might experience anew the hope we have in and through a steadfast and loving God. Even more so, I pray that others will experience renewed hope through the faithfulness we offer in care and support for them in the midst of their struggles.

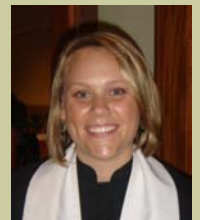
Welcome to
our new Youth
Director and
Family:

Shawn & Demi
Welling,
Tayler Dixon
and Annie
Welling

Winds of Change

The Season of Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit is in the business of transformation. We see this in the story of the first Pentecost and in the story of our church today. We are blessed to be going through a transformation. On May 17th, Shawn Welling, our new Director of Youth Ministries, and his wife Demi, began their ministry at Holy Covenant. On Pentecost Sunday, they, along with their daughters, Annie and Tayler, joined this church body. We are blessed to welcome them as they feel called to shepherd our young people in their faith journeys. The youth are already speaking of ways that God's Spirit is present in this time of transition.

This Church is a place where Christian formation happens. For me, Holy Covenant continues to be a place of *pastoral* formation. This Tuesday, June 1st, I will be ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. I have been serving for the required two years as a Provisional Elder, and am so grateful have been formed by this place. I am also **thrilled** that I will be reappointed to Holy Covenant to continue to serve as a pastor here. God's Spirit is moving here in ways that are beyond my imagination. I am hopeful that we will continue to be open to God's creative inspiration, present often through winds of change.



Rev. Stephanie Lind
Assoc. Pastor

Friends, as I write this letter, I am in prayer for my dear friend, Rev. Audrey Warren, and the community of Branches UMC in Florida City, Florida. Audrey is a solo pastor of this multi-lingual congregation that was burned to the ground in the early morning hours of Pentecost Sunday. As a minister of the Gospel, Audrey spoke words of reconciliation and forgiveness to her community who is struggling to understand why such a horrible thing would happen. Please pray for her church to respond to this disaster with grace and hope, all the while feeling God's Spirit gracefully and powerfully moving through their community.



Sizzling Summer Trips

We have some great summer trips and activities planned for kids of all ages.

Puppet Workshop July 1
Children will create puppets made with materials that glow in the black light, practice original stories and then present puppet shows for their friends and family.

Splash Day
We will gather at the MUD 71 splash pad for some great water fun.

Aesop's Fables July 27
Lone star college will be presenting an interesting version of the old classic.

Ten Pin Bowling Aug 4
For some cool indoor fun join us for bowling.

Chuck E. Cheese August 11
Pizza, games and fun!

To register for one or all trips pick up a brochure from the welcome desk or the Sunday School check in desk decide which activities you would like to attend and return it to Miss Amy or Miss Barbara.



Thank you for your donations for the refugee families—they were so excited to open the boxes!

June Live B.I.G.

June's B.I.G. Idea

We believe that God will help us have the courage to do hard things.

June's Bible Verse:

"Be strong and let your heart take courage."

Psalm 31:24

June's B.I.G. Theme:

Wanted: Heroes for God



Mark helps to pass out clothes to the children.

CDC News

It's hard to believe that the school year is over and summer is here! The month of May brought warmer weather and many fun end-of-the-year activities like splash days, ice cream and cookie socials and graduation for our 4 year old and transition classes. We also had the opportunity to thank all our wonderful VIPs and parents with a special afternoon treat in their honor. Our volunteer of the year selection for the 2009-2010 school year couldn't be narrowed down to just one person this year. Emily Pritchett and Toula Hafle each worked tirelessly to seek donations for our spring fundraising dinner. That along with their many other volunteer activities earned them both volunteer of the year for 2009-2010. Thanks, Emily, Toula, and all our parent volunteers! The staff of the CDC wishes all our families a safe and happy summer. To those 4 year olds going off to kindergarten next fall, we know you're ready, but we'll miss you. Please come back and visit! To the rest of our students, we'll see you in September!

25th Anniversary Celebration



Save the Date

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church will celebrate 25 years on September 18 and 19 2010. Please mark your calendars today so you will be a part of this great event. On Saturday night there will be a dinner and gathering to view and share memories. Then on Sunday there will be one special service followed by a dinner.

We have set up a Facebook page. To see the Facebook page please search for Holy Covenant 25 Anniversary Celebration in Facebook. This already has several comments and pictures. So please visit it and leave your comments, pictures, etc.

We are looking for trivia and memorabilia to add to the file. Do you know the answers to these?

How many pastors has HCUMC had in its history?

When and where was the first service held?

What is buried under the altar of the current sanctuary?

We are looking for memorabilia to add to the list. If you have a bit of trivia you can post it on the Facebook page under the discussion tab in the "Do you know" area or email them to trengebert@yahoo.com. Please include the answer as well.

Start spreading the word to all current and former members of our church and save this date.

Summer KickOff-June 6

The Deeply Rooted Youth Ministries invites you to the 2nd Annual Slip `n Slide Summer Kickoff on June 6, beginning at 5pm. We'll have hotdogs and snow cones, and did we mention the 40ft by 100ft slip `n slide??? Bring a friend and join us as we celebrate the beginning of summer!



JUNE LUNCH BUNCH

SCHEDULE

June 10: Skeeters (Mason & Highland Knolls)

June 17: No Lunch-District Camp

June 24: Fuddruckers (Katy Mills Mall)

July 1: Sonic (Mason & Franz)

CAMPS AND MISSION TRIPS

District Camp: June 14-18 to Lakeview Conference Camping Center

Big House: July 8-11 to Cameron UMC (Cameron, Tx). WE NEED ONE (1) MORE ADULT TO GO AS WELL (contact Shawn or Demi at 281-579-1200)

UM Army: July 18-24 to Pollard UMC (Tyler, Tx). WE NEED ONE (1) MORE ADULT TO GO AS WELL (contact Shawn or Demi at 281-579-1200)

MorningSong

Many voices. One song.

June is upon us, which means MorningSong is here!

What is MorningSong? MorningSong is a new choir for the month of June, that is made of people of all ages who just want to sing. No auditioning, no experience required, no music degree necessary, and no rehearsal outside of Sunday morning. Here is how it will work:

Come 45 minutes before each Sunday service (8:30 & 11:00) and we will put together an easy piece of music. If 20 people show up, great. If 50 people show up, even better. All you have to do is come, ready to practice for a few minutes before each service. Each week, a different song, each week a different set of volunteers!

If you have ever wanted to dip your toe in the choir's pool, there is no better opportunity than MorningSong. If you have questions, contact Taylor Davis in the music office - taylor@holycov.org.

And soon enough, June will give way to July...an all new Music Month for us at Holy Covenant! We are busy jam-packing as much great music into the month of July as possible, and we will start off with a bang: Lonestar Blue Grass Band, Texas' most award-winning blue grass band, will join us in worship on Sunday, July 4 at both services. And afterward, they'll provide a little entertaining while we enjoy an indoor picnic!

So stay tuned for details of a busy summer!

Mission in Action

Bible Recycling

The Outreach Team will be collecting gently used bibles during the month of June. Bibles including notes and highlighting are acceptable. The bibles will be donated to Katy Christian Ministries for distribution to Domestic/ Sexual Abuse and Social Service clients. Look for the box marked "Bibles" on the food donation box in Covenant Hall. For questions contact Twilla Oman #281-347-7782 or twilla_oman@hotmail.com

Spanish Bibles

The Outreach Team recently donated 100 new Spanish bibles to Katy Christian Ministries to be distributed to their clients. The team wrote "May God bless you - from the friends of Holy Covenant UMC" on the inside cover of each bible.

Pregnancy Help Center Baby Bottle Blessing

The Baby Bottle Blessing collection is underway! On Mother's Day, we gave out 95 of the 125 bottles given to us from the Pregnancy Help Center. Bottles will be available to be picked up on Covenant Walk and in the church office each Sunday through Father's Day, June 20th. Please return your filled bottles on Father's Day so that we can return them to the Pregnancy Help Center. Thanks for supporting this vital ministry in our community!

Hurricane Ike Recovery

On May 15th, a group of 10 volunteers went out to the Stafford area to repair a home that suffered hurricane damage more than 1 ½ years ago. The team hung Hardi Plank, doors and window, laid down plywood and linoleum, worked fixtures and other smaller projects. Thanks to our many volunteers and our lunch bunch crew that made this trip a success. Trips will resume in the fall. For more information contact Orv Wiens at WiensOJ@yahoo.com or 281-881-5705.



HCUMC LIBRARY

If you like to read, check out the library at HCUMC. Newly located in Room 107, it has been re-organized and categorized. Many thanks to Brenda Terry, who took on this project. As she was busy sorting books, she also organized the curriculum for Adult Sunday School classes, which can be found in the black file cabinets located in the office hallway. If your class is looking for something new, stop by and see what we have available!

Spotlight on Ministry: Children and Youth

How often do you hear the cliché that “Children are our future”? We use it to emphasize the importance of training our youth to become faithful and productive adults. While this is true, we must not forget that the children and youth are very much a *present* part of our church.



There is no better way to teach kids about the love of Jesus Christ than personally sharing that love with them. We are blessed to have many volunteers that work with our children on a direct and consistent basis. Sunday School teachers and youth group mentors are two prime examples. The familiarity of these adults nurtures our youth by creating a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. Kids thrive on this consistency even when it is shared by multiple adults serving the same group. If leading a class isn't your thing, consider serving as an assistant or a helper.

If a year-long commitment doesn't fit into your life right now, consider one of the many short-term opportunities to serve this ministry. A week of Vacation Bible School will make a lifetime of memories for many children. The kids are excited to learn, play, and discover new things with friends and adults at church. Summer camp is often listed as a turning point in the spiritual life of many young adults. And summer mission trips offer very real and tangible results that show our kids the importance of serving others. Adult volunteers often report, “It was better than I ever expected”.



Whether leading a small group or providing an occasional snack supper, there are numerous ways adults can help out with the Children and Youth Ministries at Holy Covenant. Please contact Amy Garcia, Shawn Welling, or the church office to learn ways that you can help. “Children *are* our future”, but the future is now!

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.

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

We Praise God For: The births of Christian Ray Walsh, son of Ray & Sarah Walsh and Emma Madison Obert, daughter of Doug & Allison Obert and granddaughter of Mike & Nancy Obert; The Confirmation Class of 2010

We Lift Up Prayers of Condolence: Sherry Rankin - father, John M. Holladay, Jr.; Scott & Leslie Warren - Scott's nephew, Ben Backstrom; Drew DeFoor - grandmother, Theresa Burleson; Howard Caywood - wife, Joan Caywood; Spencer Beard - grandmother, Elizabeth Conerly.



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!



Waiting in anticipation as the winners are announced...

Holy Smoke Cook-off May 22, 2010

The UMM were the winners of numerous awards



Amber and LeAnn present George his ribbon