

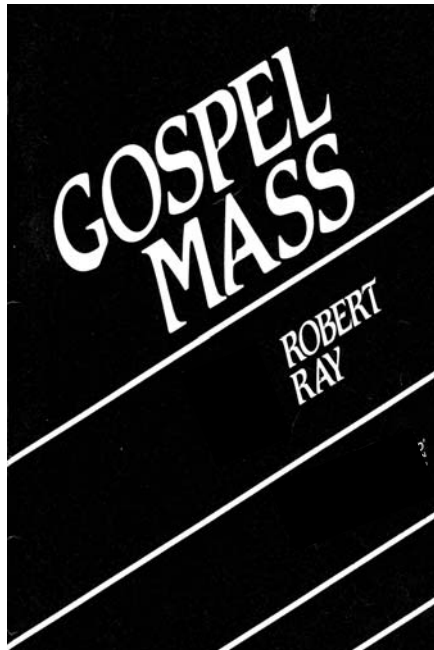


Special  
points of  
interest:

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# Holy Happenings

March 2011



Join us for this celebrated work,  
conducted by the composer Dr.

Robert Ray,  
and featuring Grammy-  
nominated soloist  
Cynthia Wilson.

See Page 8 for more information!

**\*\* ONE SERVICE \*\***

**Sunday, March 27 at 10:30!**

**Sunday School Hour Changed to  
9:00 - 10:00am**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME BEGINS  
MARCH 13**

Remember to set your  
clocks ahead 1 hour on  
Saturday, March 12

**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper  
and Mardi Gras Party!**

**Tuesday, March 8  
6:00pm**



**Ash Wednesday Service**

**March 9 7:00pm**

**\*\*No Wednesday Night Live Meal or  
Classes\*\***

# A Season of Excitement



Rev. Jay Jackson  
Senior Pastor

I write this month with great excitement about the many things happening at Holy Covenant. God is very evident in His gracious presence among us. This Saturday we are starting our first season of Upward Soccer with around 40 children ages 4-8 participating. In addition to these children, countless coaches, volunteers, and prayer partners are engaging in this outreach and nurture ministry on the playing field. The season is scheduled to run through the end of April with games on Saturdays mornings and practices throughout the week. Come and experience the work of God through this exciting and engaging sports ministry.

Right around the corner, we will begin our Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM on March 9th. This will be preceded by our 2nd Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, March 8th at 6 PM. During Lent, we will be sharing in a special sermon series and church wide study, Fearless, the Courage to Question. We will be employing social media and some innovative opportunities to engage one another in conversation regarding some of the questions we have pondered regarding our faith. This will provide an excellent opportunity to engage seekers and new folks to the Christian faith in dialogue during this holy season. There will be alternative class offerings for those who are not in existing classes. I will be encouraging some Facebook dialogue and blogging throughout this series to help us all grow in our understanding as we ponder these questions regarding our faith.

On March 27th, we will join in one combined worship service at 10:30 AM which will include a performance of The Gospel Mass by our choir with acclaimed soloist Cynthia Wilson and the composer, Robert Ray, conducting. Sunday School will begin one hour earlier at 9 AM on the 27th. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this special worship experience.

ENCOUNTER continues to offer a unique mid-week worship opportunity as part of our WNL activities from 6:30 - 7:05 PM on Wednesday evenings. If you haven't checked it out, come join us for a blessed contemporary worship experience.

These are just some highlights of the many things God is doing here at Holy Covenant. Be sure to be part of God's work that is increasingly evident in so many ways here at Holy Covenant and bring a friend to experience it with us. See you at church!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Welcome to our new members:

Mary Larranaga

Brent, Joellen, Julia & Brooke Busby

Joseph & Diana Moles

Vonne Muller

Debra Ann Dorn

Scott, Kaitlyn & Julie Poploski

Charles, Nicole & Nicolas Mott

Bill & Karen Petry



# I Live B.I.G Sunday School March

B.I.G. Theme: God is always with us.

B.I.G. Idea: We believe that God promises to always be with us.

B.I.G. Bible Verse: "The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need." Psalm 23:1

The Children will be learning about how God was with Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, and Joseph.

*Palm Sunday*

*Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic April 17*

## Meet Covenant Kids Child Care Staff

Donna Sloat(1) and Cheryl Guerra(2) for many years have tenderly cared for our infants. They enjoy watching them grow.

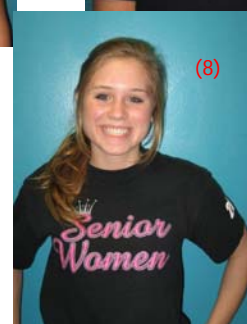
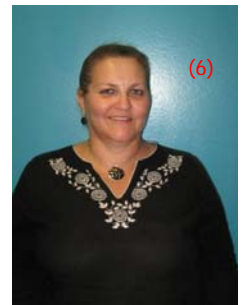
Donna Keller(3) has been a faithful member of our childcare staff for many years and has cared for children of all ages.

Glenda Czaplewski(4) and Adriana Perez(5) care for our toddlers in Nursery 2. Adriana leads the 3 and 4 year olds in Wiggle Worship.

Laura Garcia works with the 2 year olds

during Sunday School and also assists in Wiggle Worship.

We have made some additions to our child care staff. Welcome back Adriana Velasquez(6) . We are delighted to have her return to our team. She loves working with all ages. Filomena Andringa(7) has an abundance of experience with children due to her 7 children and 22 grandchildren. Brittny Adler(8) is our youngest staff member. She is full of energy and enthusiasm as she works with the 2 year olds.



## More on Missions

**Valentines to our Military** - The Children's Sunday School classes made nearly 80 valentines that were sent to those serving in our military. Please update the addresses of your loved ones serving so that they can be remembered in future mission correspondences. Reply to [Carol@holycov.org](mailto:Carol@holycov.org).

**Tutors Needed** - If you would like to be a part of the Golbow afterschool tutoring team on Mondays and/or Wednesdays, please be in touch with Stephanie at [Stephanie@holycov.org](mailto:Stephanie@holycov.org)

**Katy Christian Ministry Gala - April 9** - The KCM Gala is one of the two major yearly fundraisers used to generate revenue for the many programs needed for this ministry. As a covenant church of KCM, we were asked to provide a basket for the Silent Auction. If you, your group, family or SS class can contribute towards a "Family Fun Night" basket, we'd really appreciate it. One class is providing a big popcorn machine that we'd like to fill with games, movies, tickets, or anything that could make this a "classy" attraction. Contact Nancy Krahel at [nkrahel@hotmail.com](mailto:nkrahel@hotmail.com) for auction donations or if you'd like to share a Holy Covenant table. Visit [ktcm.org](http://ktcm.org) for ticket information.

**Recycle Drive of the Month - Soles 4 Souls** - be a part of this drive and drop off a pair of gently used shoes in a bin in the narthex or Covenant Hall. This is a humanitarian relief effort that provides "soles (shoes)" for "souls (God's children)" in many parts of the world. Visit <http://www.soles4soles.org> for additional information on this ministry.

**Relay for Life** - April 8 - 9. Holy Covenant Teams are forming now as we plan on walking for a cancer cure right here in Katy. Visit Covenant Walk on March 6 & 13 to sign up for a team or to get a luminaria candle to light in remembrance or honor of a loved one. Contact Suzie Carter for more information at [suziecarter1983@yahoo.com](mailto:suziecarter1983@yahoo.com).

**Dress A Girl Around The World Sewing Day:** On Saturday, April 2, join in the fun as we sew dresses for little girls who live in impoverished areas around the world. Bring your sewing machine, if you have one. There are plenty of tasks for anyone who does not sew but would like to take part in this worthwhile effort. For more information, call Modelle Brudner at 281-497-3361 or email at [modelle.brudner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:modelle.brudner@sbcglobal.net).

**MKT Home Repair Project** - Saturday, March 26, Katy TX. Sign up on Covenant Walk on March 6 and 13 or contact Bill LeCompte at [bnjlecompte@comcast.net](mailto:bnjlecompte@comcast.net)

### SHARE AN HOUR!!

On Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Holy Covenant has the opportunity to **SHARE AN HOUR**. This an All Church Mission Experience that allows us to serve side by side after we worship together. As we **SHARE AN HOUR** we will be engaged in every ounce of our Christian identity, and will live fully into our Baptism. We will worship together, learn together, fellowship/eat together, and serve together. Here's the skinny:

### COME WORSHIP.

Offer your praise to God. (Normal Sunday Schedule 8:30 and 11:00am worship. 9:45 Sunday School) Gather around the Communion table with Christ and one another. We will have the opportunity to donate to UMCOR's "One Great Hour of Sharing" by giving to a communion rail offering. UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. They were the leading supporter to the Haitian people following last year's earthquakes. They also do important work, teaching people all over the world about sustainable living, empowerment of women, the values of education, and caring for the marginalized, all with the grace of Jesus Christ.

### EAT LUNCH.

At noon, we will have an opportunity to fellowship and eat lunch together. (\$3/person (\$12/family max).

### SERVE.

There will be tables spread out around Covenant Hall at which you can do a variety of mission projects with people of all ages. Here are a few options: putting together Manna Bags (to offer the homeless in our community), assembling Hygiene Kits (to send through UMCOR to places suffering after natural disasters), sorting food for the KCM Food Pantry, making Care Bags (for our Upward Soccer players and Golbow Tutoring students), and Sorting Shoe donations (for the people of Haiti through Soles for Souls), to name a few. Childcare will be provided for those who need it, but all projects are kid-friendly!

### LEARN.

Near each "Mission Station" will be an "Education Station" where you can learn about the ministry you are serving. This allows us to be informed servants, and helps us to know how we can teach others to serve.

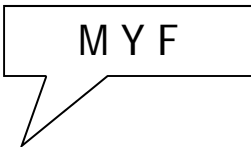
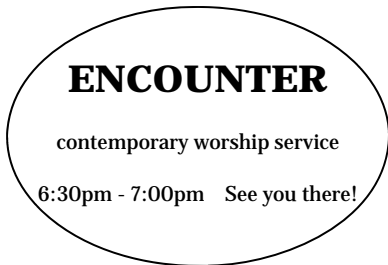


Rev. Stephanie Lind  
Assoc. Pastor

Throughout the month of March, we will be collecting goods for the manna bags, hygiene kits and KCM Food donations, as well as used shoes for the shoe drive. Look for more details to come! Come Share an Hour on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be an important time for us to BE the body of Christ. Hope to see you

there!

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)

**SAVE THE DATES:**  
May 8th Confirmation Sunday  
May 15th Senior Sunday  
June 12th Summer Kick Off

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

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*

Upcoming Events

Midwinter Mar 4th-6th @ Forrest Glen (meet at Holy Covenant at 4pm on Friday March 4th )

Mar13 - 14 Alternative Spring Break in Galveston, Texas \$40



SOUPER BOWL FOR CARING

Thank you to everyone who helped this year with giving your spare change. Because of your help the youth department was able to donate \$908 to Katy Christian Ministries during the Souper Bowl For Caring drive.

**FREEDOM...it ain't FREE.**

*Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do...It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! Galatians 6:15*

As we approach the Lenten season I hear talk of what individuals are 'giving up' for Lent, as if eating Ritz Crisps instead of Cool Ranch Doritos for 40 days constitutes a sacrifice that will lead one into a deeper understanding of the Mercy that frees all captives. One of the primary themes of Calvary is freedom...from selfishness; we now have a legitimate choice to serve something other than ourselves.

*Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want. 1 Peter 4:1-2*

Peace, Shawn & Demi

## Member Care Ministry



Member Care is a very special ministry at Holy Covenant. I fear it may be the best kept secret at the church.

Member Care is a ministry that shares the love of Christ with the brothers and sisters of Christ at Holy Covenant. We are blessed by blessing others. Everyone can participate.

There are several opportunities to use your gifts and be a blessing to others:

- \* We provide meals for members who have had a baby, are ill or have lost a loved one. The Covenant Saints.
- \* We offer transportation to members for doctor visits or treatments.
- \* We visit church family members at home or in the hospital.
- \* We help with home repairs.
- \* We co-ordinate a Grief Support Group
- \* We offer minor Auto Maintenance
- \* The Encourager Team is an active part of the Member Care ministry; we send cards and notes of encouragement to members and their families.
- \* The Prayer Team, Stephen Ministry, Second Family Care, Funeral Guild are also vital ministries of the Member Care Ministry.

We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. All that we do is done to the glory of God. Recently, 18 volunteers gave of their time and talents to help repair a home of one our members. We are all blessed and many of us left with aching backs, sore knees, legs and bodies, but we shared God's love and had wonderful fellowship. The 18 have adopted a new name—The Alieve Team!!

We need many volunteers. There is never a week that goes by that The Member Care Ministry Team isn't called upon to serve. If you are willing to help with the care of the Holy Covenant family, please contact Brenda at [rterry011@comcast.net](mailto:rterry011@comcast.net) or 281-347-9069.

There are two sides to this committee...The receiving side and the giving side. We cannot do everything, but we try to do something. If you have a need, please contact the church or myself.

In His Service, Brenda Terry



Spring is a great time at the CDC! Flowers, butterflies and other insects begin to decorate the halls. Our transition and four year old classes are working hard to prepare for kindergarten next fall. And, of course, we will hold our annual fundraising dinner on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30. We will be serving chicken with penne pasta in cream sauce, salad and bread. Red sauce will also be available. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Tickets will be available at the end of March and must be purchased in advance. Along with dinner, there will be a silent auction and bake sale. We've got a pair of Astros tickets and restaurant gift certificates already, so start saving your pennies to bid!! Proceeds from this dinner event will go towards improvements at the CDC. You don't want to miss this night of fun and fellowship! **Remember - all church members and friends are welcome!**

## CDC News

***POLISH YOUR BOOTS, DUST OFF YOUR HAT AND GET READY!***

***(BUY AN EXTRA BOTTLE OF SUNTAN OIL TOO FOR NEXT MONTH...)***



Have you ever seen such talent in a group of young people? Last month, the Young at Heart traveled to the Crighton Theater in Conroe for a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". This classic musical adaptation of the biblical story was staged by a group of youngsters who are part of a Christian Theater Group from the Woodlands. Seeing them perform and realizing that the oldest person on the stage was only eighteen (and the youngest was about 10!) you could hardly believe what you were watching! If you ever have an opportunity to see these young people exhibit their God-given talents, don't miss it!

Speaking of talent...by the time you're reading this, we will probably have made our second trip to Magnolia to the *Texas Opry*. At this writing, the seats on the bus are all "sold out" for the Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> trip and we're expecting another great night of food, fun, fellowship and some top-notch country music. The *Texas Opry* has been playing to capacity audiences for approximately twenty years; their band is extremely talented as are many of their guest performers. This is our second trip to the Opry as the group thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Magnolia last year.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Second "Annual Day in the Park" on Wednesday, April 20. This time we'll be gathering at the pavilion in Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy. Fried chicken and drinks will be provided, but bring along a side dish or dessert to share along with your lawn chairs, fishing equipment, walking shoes and sun tan lotion! This picnic will replace our monthly pot-luck luncheon so we hope you can be there!



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

**CDC Children, Teachers and Parents welcome the Trail Riders!**



**Yee Haw!!**



## Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

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Katy, TX 77449

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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!

## Music News

by Taylor Davis

### Gospel Mass

The Lenten season is knocking on our door. Come March, we will look inward as we are challenged by 40 days of servanthood and sacrifice, leading up to Holy Week and the Easter story. Traditionally, this has been a time of incredible music making. For centuries, composers have been challenged by the Lenten season; how do you write music that connects the singer and the listener to a story that changed the world? The answer for good many composers is to write a Mass, using the Kyrie (Lord have mercy), Gloria (Glory to God in the highest), Credo (I believe), Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy), Benedictus (Blessed is he), and Agnus Dei (Lamb of God). But the "Ordinary of the Mass" sounds so inaccessible. And it can be. Texts that are hundreds upon hundreds of years old, sung in dusty Latin, in a sometimes "dark" format. Especially in the Methodist church, where we don't recite each of these texts week in and week out, it can be a little disconnecting.

That's where Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" comes in. He broke ground on the work in the late 1970's, and made huge waves with his English-Latin combination setting of the aforementioned texts, in a true gospel/jazz style. It is a work that has been lauded for decades now, and performed thousands of times over its 30 years in print. And on March 27, the Chancel Choir will be singing the "Gospel Mass" in a special service that begins at 10:30.

But to make things even more fun, Dr. Robert Ray will be conducting his work that morning, as Grammy-nominated soloist, Cynthia Wilson, sings the solos. The morning will offer an incredible worship opportunity, and I hope that you will find the service as a chance to connect with the Lenten season.

### Letters to Mom

We are embarking on a fun and touching project for Mother's Day! Between now and the end of March, we will be collecting letters to, and stories about, Mom. And just in time for Mother's Day, these stories will be bound in a compilation book that you can give to your Mom. The books are very high quality - like something you'd buy at Barnes and Noble - and will be filled only with Holy Covenant's letters and stories. The best part: a percentage of the sales will go to scholarships for youth and children's music! What could be better - a custom gift for Mom, and a chance to support youth and children's music!

Stay tuned to [www.holycov.org](http://www.holycov.org) for more...