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# Holy Happenings

May 2010

## Holy Smoke Cook-Off and Picnic



Join us for a day of food, fun and fellowship on Saturday, May 22 for HCUMC's 1st Annual Holy Smoke Cook-Off and Picnic. Lunch will be served from 11am-1pm. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Enjoy moonwalks and games for all ages. Teams will be competing for the best BBQ and chili, and there will be a Baked Goods judging as well. Bring the family and enjoy the day with us!



### Confirmation Sunday

May 2nd 11:00 Worship Service  
(Communion will not be served this Sunday; we will celebrate our monthly communion on Sunday, May 9th).

### Senior Sunday

May 23rd 11:00 Worship Service

\*\*\*\*For more information, see Page

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SUNDAY, MAY 30

8:30 and 11:00  
Worship Services

**KEN MEDEMA**

Internationally Acclaimed  
Performer

See Page 3



Rev. Jay Jackson  
Senior Pastor

# Holiness

One of the songs the Praise Band often performs and leads in worship is "Holiness". This song speaks to what the Christian longs for and what God desires from us. It begins:

*Holiness, holiness is what I long for.  
Holiness is what I need.  
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.*

The second stanza substitutes the word "Faithfulness" for "Holiness". There is no question in my mind or doubt in my heart that God desires from each of us both holiness and faithfulness. The question, and the challenge, comes in the applicability of those words in describing the desires of our hearts. Do we long for holiness and faithfulness? Do we believe that these are the things we truly need?

In this season of Easter, as we reflect upon the gracious love of God in our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the call of God is one of both holiness and faithfulness. We have been exploring the Lectionary passages from the Book of Acts since Easter Sunday and will continue to encounter them in our worship through Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. These passages describe the holy and faithful living of the early followers of the resurrected Lord and Savior as a reminder and an encouragement to us who are called to similar holiness and faithfulness today.

This month, we begin with Confirmation Sunday on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and later celebrate Senior Sunday on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both of these occasions mark milestones and transitions of great significance in the lives of these young people, whom we are entrusted to teach, nurture, and lead into authentic discipleship in Jesus Christ. This reminds us of the significance beyond our own wants and needs for holiness and faithfulness in our life witness to these young disciples of Jesus Christ. I pray it awakens us to the deeper and more meaningful longing and need we all have for holiness and faithfulness in our ongoing lives in Christ.

This month, I call each of you to serious response to the call of God and to the deep longing and true need for holiness and faithfulness in our lives. I encourage you to join me in prayer, study of the Scriptures, worship, communal fellowship, and service as means of grace in our search and fulfillment of these deep longings and true needs of our lives. I look forward to making that journey with you. See you at church!

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**Signs of Life** Our congregation is overflowing with signs of life. This month, we are blessed by so many celebrations together. We celebrate Confirmation Sunday, (May 2<sup>nd</sup>) when twenty-one of our young people will profess faith in Jesus Christ, and will officially join our congregation. We give thanks for the ongoing ministries of Discipleship, and the new opportunities presented to us to learn more about our God. We are welcoming several new babies into our church family: new life... literally. We are thrilled to celebrate the gift of good fellowship as we picnic together on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and enjoy some friendly competition with our Cook-Off. All of these signs of life direct us to God.



Rev. Stephanie Lind  
Assoc. Pastor

As we witness signs of life in our church family, we also remember the earliest signs of life in Christ carried by the first generation of Christians. Our preaching this month will focus on the Acts of the Apostles, and the power of their witness to the world. Many people came to believe in Jesus because of the signs of life they witnessed through the apostles. The signs of life at Holy Covenant can be just as powerful, witnessing to the grace and love of Jesus Christ for all people. Let's celebrate life together this month! Thanks be to God.

Welcome to  
our new  
members

Lolly Avant

Jason Gaines  
and Carsonna  
Kay-Gaines

Jose, Misty,  
Jackson &  
Vincent  
Olivares

Jacqui Lovett

Rick Cotton

Dennis,  
Linda,  
Donovan &  
Hannah Dees

## A Note From The Finance Committee

Friends in Christ,

As you know, many exciting things are happening at HCUMC - people joining the church and confessions of faith are on pace to far exceed 2009 levels. Ministries are vibrant and HCUMC is reaching out and serving people in the community and the world. Our Jump Start program is well under way. However, the future of Jump Start may be in jeopardy. Therefore, we are writing to you today to ask for your assistance and your prayers regarding the funding for the ongoing operations of the church.

To date in 2010, contributions for the general operations of the church are running below our monthly expenses. **The monthly amount that we are running behind is about \$10,000 per month or about \$2,500 per week.** If this trend continues, cuts will have to be made in staffing and programs. If this is required, it will bring our Jump Start efforts to a complete stop.

There is a solution to this situation and we all need to help. First, please pray for our church, our staff and our church leaders. Secondly, if you are behind in your pledge, please bring it current. Thirdly, please consider increasing your pledge and making a special contribution to the Operating Fund.

We are excited about God's plan and the future of our church. We hope you are, too. Thanks for your help.

Holy Covenant UMC Finance Committee

## Music Ministry News

What an April we have had! We started with celebrating the risen Christ, found ourselves midstream with a great pops concert, and finish with two wonderful weeks of music from the Children's Choirs.

Speaking of children serving in our music ministry, many thanks to Kim Sharp and Julie LeCompte for all of their hard work with the Children's Choirs. These two women do a fabulous job with our children, not only in teaching them music, but also in teaching them the importance of leading in worship. There is, no doubt, a special place in heaven for both of you; you are so greatly appreciated!

We have two major announcements to make:

First, on Sunday, May 30, internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter Ken Medema will be leading us in worship. Blind since birth, Ken masterfully tells stories through song using incredible vision. He will be in both the 8:30 and 11:00 services, and his anthem - as well as our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme - "Bound for Greater Things," will be sung with our Chancel Choir. You won't want to miss this incredible Sunday!



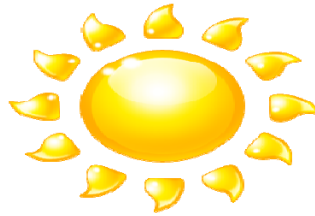
Ken Medema

Secondly, we are starting a summer choir for the month of June. Have you ever wanted to sing with the choir on Sunday morning, but maybe you don't want to commit to Tuesday evenings just yet? Join us, then, each Sunday morning in June as we form the choir "Morning Song." Here is how it will work: each week, we will rehearse for about 45 minutes before each service, doing music that is easy enough and accessible enough to put together for worship that day. Each week a different song, each week a different group of singers. Sound like something you might be interested in? We would LOVE to fill the choir loft, so I hope you will join us for this exciting month of music. For more information, call Taylor Davis in the music office!



## Summer Fun for Covenant Kids

We have some fantastic summer activities planned for the kids. High Seas Expedition Vacation Bible School will kick off the summer with a splash, followed by more water fun at the Splash pad on Clay Road. Lone Star College's Children's Theatre is presenting Aesop's Fables in July. For an active inside activity join us for bowling at Ten Pins Bowling Alley.



Back by popular demand is Jean Kuecher, master puppeteer. She will hold a puppet workshop where the children will have the opportunity to create their own puppets and perform their own original puppet show.

Pizza, games and fellowship are always a big hit at Chuck E. Cheese.

To join in on the fun, decide which activities you would like to attend, then fill out a registration form (found at the Sunday School check in desk or in the front office) and return it to Miss Amy or Miss Barbara.



Covenant Kids worshipped with us in song.

## Covenant Kids Sunday School



**May's B.I.G. Theme:** All people can serve God.

**May's B.I.G. Idea:** We believe that each of us can serve God.

**May's Bible Verse:** "For we are God's servants, working together."

1 Corinthians 3:9

## CDC News

We had a wonderful time at our Fundraising Dinner on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone seemed to have a good time eating, bidding and visiting. We were happy to see so many faces from our church family! The CDC staff would like to thank all those individuals who participated to make this event a success. A special thanks to all the VIPs who put in so many hours of their time "pounding the pavement" asking for silent auction donations. We're looking forward to our Mother's Day Breakfasts for our preschoolers the first week of May. The children have been working hard to make a special present for their moms. It will be a very special week!



# DEEPLY ROOTED YOUTH MINISTRIES



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!!

Confirmation Sunday 2010 will be on May 2 during the 11:00 worship service. We are so excited for the 21 Confirmands who have participated in this journey of becoming full members of HCUMC.

We would like to thank Blake Stovall and Candy Stephens who have been teaching the Confirmation class this year. We would also like to thank the Pastors, Friends in Faith, Parents and others involved in this meaningful time of spiritual formation!



**SENIOR SUNDAY:** Senior Sunday will be May 23. Information should have already gotten to you. If your child did not receive information for Senior Sunday, please e-mail [youth@holycov.org](mailto:youth@holycov.org) and we will make sure you get this info. Senior Scholarship info was included as well.

## MISSION TRIPS AND CAMP!!

**Big House:** July 8-11 to Cameron UMC (Cameron, TX). Forms on the Deeply Rooted bulletin board and cost is now \$135 for youth and adults. **WE NEED ADULTS TO GO AS WELL!!**

**UM ARMY:** July 18-24 to Pollard UMC (Tyler, TX). Forms on the Deeply Rooted bulletin board and cost is \$275 for youth and adults. Money and forms are due ASAP. **WE NEED ADULTS TO GO AS WELL!!**

\*\*Scholarships and breakfast transfer forms are available on the Deeply Rooted Bulletin Board!

**District Camp:** June 14-18 to Lakeview Conference Camping Center. Forms on the Deeply Rooted bulletin board and cost is \$250 for youth and \$150 for adults. Money and forms are due by May 2. **WE NEED ADULTS TO GO AS WELL!!**

## SUMMER KICKOFF—June 6

Last year we had a blast eating hotdogs, making s'mores, and hanging out with each other...oh yea and the 20ft by 100ft slip 'n slide slicked down by 32 bottles of baby oil!!! The Deeply Rooted Youth Ministries invited you to the 2nd annual Slip 'n Slide Summer Kickoff on June 6 from 5-7pm. Bring a friend and let's have a blast!



## Mission in Action

Prayer Partners - are needed to help support our Holy Covenant missionaries this summer. This ministry involves writing a few notes, supplying a few goodies and most importantly praying for the missionary you sign up for while they are on their mission trip. Watch for details on Covenant Walk in May.

**Refugee Ministry** – "The Hole in our Gospel" by Richard Stearn, and its message "to act" took on an entire new meaning for the Nu Covenant SS class as this inspired them to become involved with our refugee families. They packed up sandwiches, footballs, Frisbees, volleyballs, jump ropes, and soccer balls and headed off to a Play Day which the class organized. As soon as the balls started bouncing, the kids came out. Oh they came! The class continues to stay involved by responding to their needs and just recently held a "Spring Clean" clothes drive, helped in filling out job applications and Food Bank forms, contributed pantry items, as well as the regular visits. Sometimes after these visits, I can't help but wonder if we are the giver... or the receiver.

**Relay for Life** – Holy Covenant was one of the largest groups that participated in the recent walk for life on April 9 – 10 in Katy Heritage Park. Many thanks to all of our team coordinators, our walkers, our sponsors, and those who came out to root us on.

**Pregnancy Help Center Annual Baby Bottle Blessing** – Be on the look out for Baby Bottles as we begin our annual drive collecting change between Mother's Day and Father's Day. The Baby Bottle Blessing is a fun way for families to collect money that will help the PHC! The Pregnancy Help Center provides Christian hope, healing and education at times of great need.



Pick up your bottles on Covenant Walk on Mother's Day and place your spare change inside (bills or checks are accepted also). Return them to the church by Father's Day (look for laundry hampers on Covenant Walk or in church office). For more information, contact Anita Bradford at [perdy@hotmail.com](mailto:perdy@hotmail.com) or Sheila Bradford at [sheilabradford@swbell.net](mailto:sheilabradford@swbell.net).

**Outreach Needs You!** Do you have a passion to take a lead role fostering a ministry that you think that Holy Covenant should support. Are you interested in leading up a Prison Ministry, a Homeless ministry, a Linus-Blanket Making Ministry or others? If so, please contact Nancy Krahel at [nkrahel@hotmail.com](mailto:nkrahel@hotmail.com) or plan on coming to the next meeting which is usually during the third week of the month.



Young @ Heart enjoying a picnic lunch at a Katy park.

What do you know about the Methodist Children's Home in Waco? If you're like most of us, the answer is very little and here's your chance to change that! On Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Young at Heart group of Holy Covenant United Methodist Church will be traveling to Waco for a guided tour.

The Methodist Children's Home is a non-profit child care ministry affiliated with the seven United Methodist Annual Conferences of Texas and New Mexico. Founded in 1890, the Home began as an orphanage and has developed into a comprehensive program serving more than 1,000 children daily through residential care, a Boys Ranch, foster care and a college program. The Methodist Children's Home offers hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.



We will be leaving the church at 7:30 AM on May 24<sup>th</sup> and will return late that afternoon. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, contact Sandra Houghton to reserve your seat on the bus.

## Spotlight on Ministry: Discipleship Team

Have you ever tried to drive somewhere new, a place where you have never been before? Most often we pull out a map, look up the route on-line, or use a handy GPS guide. We could rely on road signs, call someone for information, or as a last resort, stop and ask for directions. (A task that is harder for some of us than others.) The successful journey is seldom made without good direction. The same is true of our Christian walk.



As disciples of Jesus, we have many tools available to us that provide guidance and direction as we strive to follow his example and teachings. By studying the Bible, reading Christian literature, listening to speakers, or discussing topics within smaller groups, we are better equipped to make the most of our journey through life. The goal of the Discipleship Team is to make those tools available to the community in and around Holy Covenant.

The Discipleship Team serves the adult segment of Christian Education in our congregation. The focus of the team falls in three main areas: Adult Sunday School, Non-Sunday classes, and special study opportunities.

Adult Sunday School is the most prevalent study opportunity within Holy Covenant. We try to reach the largest range of topics and interests across a diverse membership. While many classes have remained steady in membership for long periods of time, many classes change over time to meet the evolving needs of participants. The Discipleship Team tries to ease this transition and looks for new classes and studies to involve more people in the program.

Non-Sunday class opportunities include studies on week nights, Sunday evenings, Wednesday morning, and the second largest gathering, Wednesday Night Live (WNL). Choosing topics of study finding instructors for each semester is a large part of the Discipleship Team's effort. The goal is to involve and appeal to the largest number of people and remain relevant to their lives outside the walls of the church.

Special study opportunities include special guest speakers or workshops. Discipleship will typically coordinate "all-church" studies around a special topic in the Fall. They also arrange studies for special seasons on the church calendar such as Lent, Pentecost, or Advent.

By definition, Christian disciple is one who embraces and follows the teachings of Jesus. In order to follow those teachings, one must *know* those teachings. A good place to start is in one of the study opportunities at Holy Covenant. The Discipleship Team didn't draw the map, it merely tries to keep them stocked on the shelves. If you are interested in learning more about the Discipleship Team, please contact Deb Lewis, Bill Oglesby, Kim Sheehan, 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.*

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## Member and Guest Registration Update

**Attention all members and guests of Holy Covenant!**

Don't forget to record your attendance every Sunday by signing the blue registration pad at the end of every pew. This is extremely important every Sunday that you attend worship. Please include every family member who is in attendance. This includes those children who may be in the nursery or Wiggle Worship. You may write all family members' names on the same line or in the comment section. Don't forget to include any household information that may need to be updated such as a new phone number or address. When registering your family please use your first and last names so that those volunteers recording the weekly attendance know exactly who you are. Attendance registration is very important so that the Equipping Team can follow-up on those who have been absent.

## Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

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office@holycov.org  
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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!

## God is Good All the Time....All the Time God is Good!!!

The United Methodist Women (UMW) continues to be blessed by God!!! Our main fundraising event Heartwarming celebrated its 20th Anniversary in November 2009. UMW was able to collect \$8,000 for missions in this rough economy. Praise God!!! Because of the generosity of many, many people and the surrounding community, UMW was quickly able to purchase the new refrigerator in the kitchen. Praise God again, the refrigerator did not go out until AFTER Heartwarming or there would have been no Chicken Salad Sandwiches. UMW also helped purchase a new highchair for use in Covenant Hall. The rest of the monies raised have been distributed to the following organizations: HCUMW Discretionary Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Children's ministry, Youth ministry, Retreat Scholarships, CanCare, Christ Clinic in Katy, Pregnancy Help Center, KCM - Domestic Abuse Center, Breath of Life Children's Clinic - Katy and Relay for Life.

On another note, please be prayer about how you can help with this ministry. The President's position is open for the upcoming term September 2010 thru May 2011. There are other ways to serve: on the UMW board, the Women's Retreat, or helping with Heartwarming.

This is a wonderful group of women who love Holy Covenant and love serving God!!!

Marty Cheadle & Suzanne Larson



United  
Methodist  
Women

## By Our Prayers

**WE PRAISE GOD FOR: Births:** Maverick Dean Meloni to Jeff & Mindy Meloni, and Connor James Runty, to Matt & Colleen Runty. **Baptisms:** Carter Robert Bostick, son of Andrew & Shannon Bostick; Jackson Diego and Phillip Vincent Olivares, sons of Jose & Misty Olivares; Jason Gaines

**WE LIFT UP PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCE FOR:** Taylor & Elizabeth Davis, Elizabeth's grandmother; Jim & Rhonda Porter, Jim's Uncle Tommy Thompson; Dan & Meri Scott and family, Dan's grandmother, Erma Jane Lingo; Luanne Zacek, niece Kelsey; Kevin & Barbara Pennington and family, Barbara's grandmother; Beth Sizemore, Beth's father John Edward Reese.