



Special
points of
interest:

- CDC News,
page 3
- Stepping
Forward in
Faith, page 4
- More on
Missions,
page 6
- Baby Bottle
Blessing,
page 6

HolyHappenings

MAY 2011

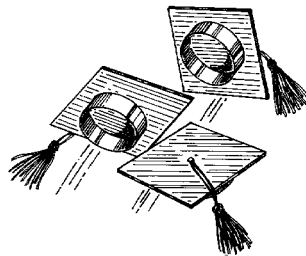
Join us on Sunday, May 15th at a reception for Taylor Davis in Covenant Hall following the 11:00 worship service as we celebrate his time on staff here at Holy Covenant, and wish him well as he moves to 1st UMC in Fort Worth, TX.



Confirmation Sunday

May 8, 2011

11:00 Worship Service



Senior Sunday

May 15, 2011

11:00 Worship Service

Interested in
joining Holy
Covenant?



Coffee With the Pastors

May 15th

9:45-10:45

in

The Gathering Place

Hey Kids! Don't forget to sign up for Vacation Bible School - Ms. Amy and Ms. Barbara have more information on Page 3. It's going to be lots of fun!



Easter Faith



Rev. Jay Jackson
Senior Pastor

Welcome to
our new
members

Ethel Ward

Mike Hulen

Linda Goad

John, Crissy
& John Ross
Stratta,
Olivia Imhoff

This is an exciting time to be part of what God is doing at Holy Covenant!

I know that I have extraordinarily high expectations and can be very challenging as a pastor. I hope that those high expectations and challenging tendencies do not diminish my genuine love that I have for each of you and the powerful presence of God's spirit that is evident here in so many ways.

It is easy to become captivated by the challenges that face each of us individually and as a community together. We struggle with loss, relationship issues, and illness; yet, in the reality of these challenges, the caring and loving nature of this church family is powerfully evident. We are frustrated with an uncertain job market that includes cutbacks in our local school districts; yet, the supportive nature of the family of God is made evident in these circumstances. We feel overwhelmed at times with the changing landscape of our community and the continual transitions that keep us off balance; yet, change is the place where God works most powerfully to strengthen us and guide us to new possibilities.

I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the Easter resurrection faith that constantly reminds us that what the world perceives as defeat, God uses for the most powerful victory. Easter faith reminds us to live life abundantly and eternally in the face of the challenges of the day. I see this evident in so many ways here at Holy Covenant.

God is doing some truly exciting things in the midst of the challenges of our world. Here at Holy Covenant, God is sending us some amazing new and gifted people to augment our staff and our congregational family to lead this church to new possibilities and to impact our community in more powerful ways. The changes in our individual lives offer us opportunities to grow, to mature, to strengthen, and to experience new senses of hope and promise.

I hope and pray that you will be faithfully present and involved in the things God is doing among us. In May, we will welcome a new group of confirmands into our congregation, celebrate high school graduations, baptize new members of the church universal, welcome new members to our church family, and remember those who have passed from our presence during the past year...all in light of our Easter Faith that allows us to look beyond ourselves to the very real and powerful work of God. I'll see you at church!

Easter People

The Children's Sermon is one of my favorite moments of worship. There is something so pure about the way that children think. They look for concrete answers and reasons "why," yet they also are comfortable to wonder about things they do not understand. On Easter Sunday, I was blown away by the ease with which the children accepted and proclaimed the good news, shouting, "He is RISEN!" As I told and asked questions about the Resurrection story, it became clear to me that the children already knew it. They knew that the woman weeping at the tomb was named Mary. They knew that the angels told her not to weep. They knew that Jesus met her there, after the rest of the disciples had gone home. They knew the story, loved the story, and weren't afraid to tell the story. They knew the whole Resurrection Story because someone had already told them. A parent, a Sunday School teacher, a friend. Someone had already proclaimed the Good News to them, giving them something to proclaim to us on Easter morning.



Rev. Stephanie
and Friends

Our charge as Easter People is to tell the Good News of the resurrection. I wonder how our lives will proclaim it this May. We are never too old or too young, too busy or too bored, too serious or too goofy, too righteous or too sinful, to proclaim that He is Risen. Let's take a cue from the kids, and say it!



I live B.I.G. Sunday School

B.I.G. Theme: It's time for a change

B.I.G. Idea: We believe that god's presence in our lives can completely change us.

B.I.G. Bible verse: "Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten and everything is new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

This month the children will learn the ways that an encounter with Jesus can change lives.

They will be exploring the stories of the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, Paul, Lydia and Peter and Cornelius.

Parent's Night Out

May 14

4:00-8:00 p.m.

PandaMania *Where God is Wild about You!*



Take a walk on the wild side

PandaMania

Vacation Bible School

June 13-17

6:00-8:30pm

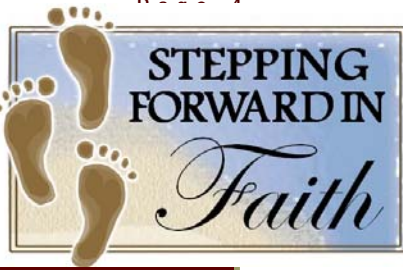
Register Now!

CDC News

We had a wonderful time at our Fundraising Dinner on April 14th. Everyone seemed to enjoy eating, bidding and visiting. We were happy to see so many faces from our church family! A very special thank you goes to The Searchers Sunday School class for their donation of several baskets. The CDC staff would also like to thank those individuals who participated to make this event a success, especially 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 an awesome week!





Stepping Forward in Faith

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is our pleasure to provide you with an update on Stepping Forward in Faith. It has been just about two years since our first fruits offering.

For those of you who may be new to the church, Stepping Forward in Faith is a capital campaign that the church started in mid-2008. The purpose of Stepping Forward in Faith is to free up funds so that we can spread and grow the missions and ministries of Holy Covenant. We are freeing up funds by reducing the Church's debt service and reducing our overall debt, so the funds may be used in other ways. The first fruits offering was the first time we contributed to the campaign.

So here are the results two years into the program. Pledges to date are \$1.5 million, of which the church has received \$1.1 million or about 74% of the pledged amount. Thank you for your faithfulness to our church.

So what have you done through Stepping Forward in Faith? The Church's debt balance has gone from \$3.7 million in March of 2008 to \$2.3 million today - a reduction of \$1.4 million or 40%. Because of the reduction in debt the Church's monthly debt payment has been reduced from \$29,000 per month in 2008 down to our new payment starting in March of a little over \$16,500. This has freed up over \$150,000 a year to support the missions and ministries of this church. This is great news for our Church.

Think of all the things that God is doing through His Church. Holy Covenant is such a dynamic church with so many things going on. If you are in doubt, check with someone on Council on Ministries. The funds that we have freed up from reducing this debt have gone to increase the budget for missions and ministries by 65% over the 2008 time frame. We have also added a full time music director, started programs such as Upwards Soccer, added the Encounter worship service and the list goes on and on. The point is that, through God, great things are happening at Holy Covenant.

We still have a ways to go. Another year of Stepping Forward in Faith should take the debt below \$2 million, but we need to move it further. We look forward to the day that Holy Covenant is debt free. To meet that goal, the Stepping Forward in Faith team will be coming to you over the next year with an opportunity for you to commit or recommit as we extend the program. Thanks again for your faithfulness to Holy Covenant.

David Wehlmann and Bill Oglesby
Co-chairs of Stepping Forward in Faith



On Sunday, May 29th, we will have a reading of names of loved ones who have passed on to the Church Triumphant. If you have a name that you would like to add, contact Carol in the church office at 281-579-1200, or email her at carol@holycov.org.

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



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 GOING ON

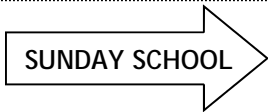
- May 1 - All mission trips and camp forms DUE
- May 8 - Confirmation Sunday
- May 15 - 5:30pm Senior Sunday Dinner Reception
- June 6 - 10 Jr. High Mission Trip (Humble, Texas)
- June 12—SUMMER KICK OFF PARTY



LUNCH BUNCH THURSDAYS RETURNS

JUNE 16th @ DOUBLE DAVE'S PIZZA @ 11:00am

(Mason Rd. and Highland Knolls)



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)

LUNCH BUNCH - EVERY THURSDAY during Summer 2011. We will meet for lunch at a Katy area restaurant and then return to the church for devotion and fellowship. 11am—2pm



- June 6-10 Jr High Mission Trip @ Humble, Texas **\$245**
- July 10-16 Sr High Mission Trip @ Port Arthur, Texas **\$275**
- July 18-22 District Camp @ Lakeview **\$275**

More on Missions



Ahamaree and Friends

One Great Hour of Sharing - Our Mini-Mission day was a huge success as members stopped by and visited mission opportunity areas from Our Community, Our Region, and Our World. We not only had the experience of making hygiene, manna & party bags, cutting coupons, sorting shoes, Sunday School supplies and food pantry items, and making cards but also were able to find out about how these efforts serve those in need. Thanks to all of you who helped partake in a mini-mission opportunity and we'll look for you the next time around!

Relay for Life - Many thanks to all of you who supported Holy Covenant at our Relay for Life Event on April 8 and 9th with your donation and/or presence. Thanks to Suzie Carter for being our church coordinator! This year in particular, as it was held just down the street in Katy Park, it was nice to see the Holy Covenant banner and all who represented our church.

KCM Gala - What an outstanding turn out at the KCM Gala on April 9th which is one of the two major fundraisers of the year for Katy Christian Ministries. Again, it was nice to have a table for Holy Covenant and also such generous donations from the Sunday School classes for our "Family Fun" silent auction basket. Many thanks to all of you who supported the event with a special thanks to Twilla Oman for chairing up this big event!



Mary & Lola at Relay for Life

Prayer Partners - Stop by Covenant Walk the last half of May and sign up as a Prayer Partner for one of our adult or youth "missionaries". This is an opportunity to pair up with a person going on a trip and provide them with daily cards of encouragement and a few goodies on a couple of days as well as a commitment to pray for them on a daily basis. For those of you who are going on a trip and have not filled out your form, please go to holycov.org, under Outreach / missions forms and download your form.

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 or Sheila Bradford at sheilabradford@swbell.net.



And A Great Time Was Had By All!



As usual, food was more than plentiful at YAH's Second Annual Day in the Park.

On April 20th, Young at Heart held it's Second Annual Day in the Park with lots of fun, lots of fellowship and as always, LOTS of food! The weather was great and the company of others was even better.

Dottie and Ed look over a scrapbook of YAH pictures that Ed has taken this past year. Many thanks to Ed for all his work in collecting this record of activities.



In March, Young @ Heart celebrated Texas Independence from Mexico with a trip to the San Jacinto Monument and Battleground, and a seafood lunch at the Monument Inn.

Taller than the Washington Monument, this symbol of Texas independence is recognizable the world over.

A vital part of history, the Battleship Texas rests permanently at the San Jacinto Monument Park.



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

The Tribe Has Spoken. *Survivor: Africa* Winner to speak at

National Cancer Survivors Day Luncheon



Houston, TX... CanCare is proud to announce that **Ethan Zohn**, Winner of "*Survivor: Africa*," will be our keynote speaker for the 17th Annual National Cancer Survivors Day Luncheon on June 2, 2011 at The Westin Galleria Hotel beginning at 11:30 a.m.

For information and tickets, call 713-461-0028 or www.cancare.org.

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!

ZOE Ministry Gift Given In Honor Of:

Our children from Marty & Clifford Cheadle
Our children Ryan & Matthew from Chris & Lori Bode
My children from Nancy Krahel
One orphan in Africa from Sam Riggelman
Jim & Wendy Wylie from Jamison & Jayden Wylie
Our children Craig & Jamie from Mike & Lori Benjamin
My mother Katherine Bray from Katie Beaty
Our nephew & his wife, Ryan & Kim Barnett from Bill & Ann Oglesby
John Bauer from LaMonte & Crystal Lillard
Carl & Myra Schomburg from Jamison & Jayden Wylie
J.E.K. and W.E.F. from David A. Kocurek
Cliff & Norma Heil from Orv & Theresa Wiens
Ryan & Megan Sheehan from Kim & Terry Sheehan
Killian Sheehan from Kim & Terry Sheehan
Roger, Ruth Ann, David & John Lind from Stephanie Lind
Our Grandchildren from Edd & Pat Plesko
Mildred Brown from Ross & Brenda Terry

ZOE Ministry Gift Given in Memory of:

Lisa Gassiott from The Wylie Family
Josephine Bauer from LaMonte & Crystal Lillard
Our son, Daniel Payton Oglesby from Bill & Ann Oglesby
My granddaughter Elizabeth Ann "Ellie" Thompson from Katie Beaty
Jacques Tourneur from Eric & Cheryl Golbow
Rose Cyrene & Newton Crain from Larry & Vivien Crain
Denis Muckly from Larry & Vivien Crain

Marvin & Jean Hasselfeld from Joan Biondo
Aaron Chernosky from Wilma Heckelsberg
R.B. & Mae Copeland from Gary & Melva Copeland
Charles & Dorothy White from Gary & Melva Copeland
Bob & Dorothy Curbello from The Strauge & Sharp Families
Berniece Strauge from The Strauge & Sharp Families
Gary Patterson from Bob & Judie Patterson
Randy Pisciotta from The Lovett Family
Ron Lovett from The Lovett Family
My Father Ed Cogbill from Modelle Brudner
My In-laws, Ed & Heath Brudner from Modelle Brudner
Isabelle O'Keefe from Tony & Karen Scialo, Amy & Chris Bassett,
And Kristen & Arthur Hernandez
Sylvia Lunsford from Tony & Karen Scialo, Amy & Chris Bassett,
and Kristen & Arthur Hernandez
Jerry Newhouse from The Scialo's
Elmer & Ruth Wiens from Orv & Theresa Wiens
Our Parents from Edd & Pat Plesko
Harold Brown from Ross & Brenda Terry
Clifford & Lillian Terry from Ross & Brenda Terry

Additional Gifts Received From:

Judy Gray
The Skuodas Family