

HOLY HAPPENINGS

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

October 2011

Inside the Issue:

Heartwarming and Fall Festival
Pg 3

More on Missions
Pg 4

Christmas Time's A-Comin'
Pg 7

Catch the Spirit...the Spirit of Giving
pg 8



New to the church?
Come have
Coffee with the Pastor
October 9th at 9:45

Fall Festival
and
Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 30th
4:00-6:00 pm
Holy Covenant UMC
22111 Morton Road, Katy

Come enjoy games, food,
moonwalks, prizes, candy, and fun!
For more information please call:
281.579.1200 or www.holycov.org



Free Admission
Don't forget to
wear your
costume!

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 2nd
4:00 PM

Pet Parade
(costumes welcome)

Games & Prizes

Stuffed Animal MASH Unit
(toy pet sewing repairs & blessings)

Hot Dog Concessions



22nd Annual Heartwarming Craft Show

Saturday, November 12th, 9am to 4pm
Over 65 artisans featuring a variety of
handmade items.

Sandwich Shoppe and Tea Room

Silent Auction Baskets
Proceeds Support Local Missions.

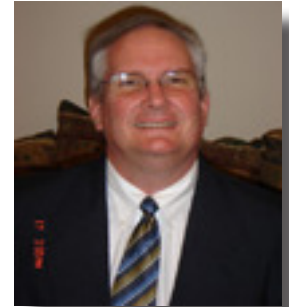
A Word From Jay

Stephanie, Kabamba, and I went to The Gathering, the pastors retreat, at Lakeview for 3 days last week. This is always a challenging thing to do...to get away from the day-to-day challenges of ministry and be intentional about refreshing your spirit and opening yourself anew to God's call. This retreat spoke to me in a powerful way as Doug Hester led our continuing education activity with a focus on "Clearer Vision" from his family systems orientation.

One of the real benefits from his sessions for me was an awakening to focus more attention away from the tasks of the day in order to dream and envision the path forward, seeking God's will and guidance for my ministry and life. It is so easy for us to get bogged down in the activities and tasks of the day and lose sight of the direction God guides us to follow. I have really been intentional about this over the past several years as we have redirected our work to include greater emphasis of a ministry based vision process in Vision 20/20 and formulated our basis for Jump Start (our ministry grant from the Annual Conference). Even with this changed focus, I still find myself drifting into the tasks and details that are part of those processes, as well as getting bogged down in the everyday tasks of ministry.

Today in our Staff Meeting, I asked our staff to spend a few minutes dreaming of what we believe God calls us to embrace as a vision for the ministry of Holy Covenant. It was a very informative process to share how we had similar areas of focus and concern for our church and its ministry. It was clear that we all saw our church as becoming more committed to expanded ministry, connected to the community, cooperative in approach, more nurturing in discipleship and empowering in execution of our ministry. I hope and pray that these are the dreams and vision that we all share in our ministry at Holy Covenant. We have been offering new and expanded opportunities for growth and discipleship, our worship is increasingly dynamic, and our church is attracting many new souls finding something powerful of God here that is stirring their hearts and feeding their souls. May we all find that together at Holy Covenant. May we also unite to grow in our faithfulness and discipleship through the power of Jesus Christ at work among us.

We are kicking October off with a bang. October 2nd is World Communion Sunday with a special opportunity for us to assist retired clergy across our globe find support for the basic essentials of life in their retirement. Later that afternoon, we are expanding our annual Blessing of the Pets with food, activities, and even a Mash Unit for the repair of stuffed animals. We continue a vibrant Wednesday Night Encounter ministry with meal, worship, and classes for all, including Confirmation each Wednesday evening. We close out October with our Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat from 4-6 PM on October 30th. This is an important time in God's work here at Holy Covenant. I encourage you to be present and open to the direction of God for you and for our ministry together. See you at church!



Grace and Peace,
Jay

More on Missions

WOW! What a wonderful day of service we all experienced at our "All Church Mission Day on Saturday, September 17. We started out with breakfast, a devotion, and then circled up in prayer around the entire Covenant Hall. There was no doubt that the spirit of the Lord was with us! The youth went to Caine Island where they entertained the elders in song and games while the children focused on pets, making dog biscuits, kitten blankets, and folding newspaper to line the cages at CAPS.

A group of women sewed pillowcase dresses for Dress a Girl Around the World (every girl in every nation should have one dress to wear!) while others filled goodie and hygiene bags and boxes for Christ Clinic, the homeless ministry and the military. We also had a round table of coupon clippers, also providing assistance to the military. We had gardening teams at the Pregnancy Help Center (PHC) as well as at Katy Christian Ministries (KCM) community garden. Women hung and sorted donations at the KCM Resale Store and others hung and painted trim around the church grounds. What an outstanding day of service! Many thanks to all of you who participated in this day of service and be on the look out in the future for ways to continue to serve, as extensions of the Lord!



HCUMC responds to those affected by the **Texas Fires** by contributing nearly \$3500 to UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief during the service on Sunday, September 11. For more information on continued support in this mission, contact either the church office or visit UMCOR's website. Your gift to US Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #901670, will help UMCOR respond to this emergency, when you earmark your check "Wildfires 2011."

October Recycle Drive - Help Cover up Our Community as we collect gently used (clean) coats and blankets to distribute to those in the Katy community during the colder months ahead. A collection box will be readily available just inside the doors in the foyer area going to Covenant Hall.

Katy Christian Ministries 13th Annual Golf Tournament - November 7 at the Willow Fork Country Club. Team and individual sponsorships are needed. Visit www.ktcm.org or Nancy Krahel at nkrahel@hotmail.com for more information.

Adult Mission Trip Opportunity - MLK Weekend, January 2012 to Florida City, near Miami. Our mission is to continue where we left off last year, working with Branches UMC with repairs to the parsonage, church, and helping with registration at the church, for a day of service for all of the Florida City Community. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Stephanie.. We need to see if there is enough interest to go forward in the next few weeks.

Much to Celebrate

One of the gifts of CHURCH is that we get to celebrate life together. Last week, I announced at Wednesday Night Encounter that I am engaged to be married! Thank you for celebrating with me! Matt and I are so grateful for your prayers. I am especially grateful for Matt's goodness to me and to his 7-year old son, Isaiah. I am brushing up on my knowledge of Legos and Super Mario Brothers as I prepare to be a family with them. We believe in the importance of being surrounded by a community of faith who loves and supports one another well. Thank you so much for your kindness to us.



We have so much to celebrate within our Holy Covenant family. As Fall sneaks up on us, we can look around and see our church family all together again. Just like a marriage, we choose each other. In September, when the 3rd Graders clutched their new Bibles to their chests with pride, I was reminded of the luxury that it is to have children in the church. There are so many churches that long for young people, and here we are busting at the seams with the great insights and questions of children. Their families choose to be in relationship here. My prayer is that our church family will continue to do the important work of building each other up. When we work for the Kingdom together, we do more good than when we attempt to work alone.

In September, we celebrated the All Church Mission Day. With 150 people in service to our community that day, Holy Covenant did the important work of being the hands and feet of Christ together. I feel full of gratitude as we were able to do some good Kingdom Work that day. Let's keep doing this good work together.

Thanks be to God!
Peace,
Stephanie



Holy Covenant UMW
H.O.P.E.
Womens Ministry
(Healthy Options + Prayer & Encouragement)
...I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you.... 3 John 2

Fitness:

Sunday evenings @ 5:00 pm in Covenant Hall. Weekly sessions include Yoga, Pilates & Strength Training, Dance & Zumba. There is no cost and childcare is available.

Bible Studies:

Wed. morning study at 9:15 AM, Room 126. Current study: "The Shelter of God's Promises" by Sheila Walsh. Cost of book is \$10. Beth Moore study, "David: Seeking A Heart Like His", Wed. evenings at 7:05 pm, Room 202. Cost of workbook is \$15.

Please go to www.holycov.org for current information.

Youth

Calling all parents and youth ministry volunteers! HCUMC Youth Ministries is having a Vision Sharing meeting October 16th at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary to discuss some of the wonderful things taking place in the ministry. We will share our vision for the future of this ministry, and more specifically, plans to fulfill the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline's call to provide biblically sound teaching on human sexuality.

This is also an opportunity to connect with other parents, and to see where you fit in as a volunteer in this important ministry! Please make every effort to attend. Also, join us for dinner in Covenant Hall at 6:30pm after our meeting has adjourned.

Upcoming October dates:

Sunday, 2nd - Youth Event @ Cypress UMC 2-4pm
No youth group at 5pm

Sunday, 9th - Youth Praise Band @ 12:30-2:00pm
Youth Group @ 5pm, dinner @6:30pm

Sunday, 16th - youth group @ 5pm, dinner @6:30pm \$1

Sunday, 23rd- Youth Praise Band @ 12:30-2:00pm
Youth Group @ 5pm, dinner @6:30pm

Saturday, 29th youth special event (more info to come)

Sunday, 30th - Fall Festival. All youth are encourage to participate and assist children's ministry. (more info to come)

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - Wednesday Night Encounter has started. Please join us for dinner, worship and small group time.

5:45pm Dinner

6:30pm Encounter Service

7:07pm Small Group

Conscience...

Your conscience is a gift from God, a Holy Spirit compass that leads to an abundant life through obedience and humility (something that is violently opposed to our worldly instincts, especially as teenagers!). Meditate on these words from The Message that speak directly to what you face from day to day:

“Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. But if you're not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe—some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them—then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong.” Romans 14:22-23

Christmas Time's A-Comin'!

He Dwelt Among Us

A HOLY COVENANT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 11 – 6:00 p.m.

What's the perfect gift you can give away this Christmas that is uniquely yours and can bring joy and inspiration to hundreds of people? It doesn't even require you to swipe your credit card! It's your VOICE!

Did you sing with the Chancel Choir in a time past and have been thinking about rejoining? Are you someone who is new to Holy Covenant and enjoys singing and have been nervous about joining? Join us on Tuesday evening, October 11th, for a no-pressure Christmas rehearsal kick-off! At 7:00 p.m. come to the choir room for light refreshments and fellowship. Someone will greet you and assist you with getting your music in order and finding you a seat. At 7:30 p.m. we will begin rehearsing and will be finished promptly at 9:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you! As always, e-mail me if you have any questions or concerns at mj@holycov.org.

Song of Zoe (Youth Choir)

Last month, 17 youth and 7 adult sponsors and parents went to San Antonio for the 2nd annual Song of Zoe retreat. Through many varied adventures and much hard work, the group emerged safely home, ready to hit the ground running with their newly learned music and an excitement for the coming year and their new opportunity to lead worship weekly at 8:30 services.

In a youth culture that is often accused of being under-focused, over-entertained, and non-committal to church, this group has proven that, given an opportunity to serve, they will rise to the challenge.

It's not too late to get involved with Song of Zoe. New members can join at any point during the year—not just retreat. Rehearsals are each Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Music Encounter (Children's Choirs)

Children's choirs have gotten off to a great start, with October 2nd, World Communion Sunday, being their first Sunday to participate in Sunday morning worship. It is not too late to have your kids involved in Music Encounter on Wednesday evenings! This is a great opportunity to teach children how to make music and sing, but also to instill lifetime habits of praise and commitment to worship. All of God's children can, and should, sing. As we continue learning and preparing for future worship opportunities, as well as our Christmas festival on December 11th, be sure your kids take advantage of this priceless opportunity!



Children's Choirs will be singing on...

- October 2 – 11:00 a.m. worship
- October 23 – 11:00 a.m. worship
- November 20 – 11:00 a.m. worship
- December 4 – 11:00 a.m. worship
- Both services – arrive at 8:30 a.m.
- December 11 – 6:00 p.m. Christmas concert
- Rehearsal schedule TBA

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

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Katy, TX 77449

281.579.1200
office@holycov.org
www.holycov.org

Rev. Jay Jackson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Stephanie Lind, Associate Pastor
Rev. Kabamba Kiboko, Associate Pastor

Meeting the needs of People With the
Power of Christ



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Catch the Spirit...the Spirit of Giving!

We're gearing up full speed ahead in preparation for the Katy Community Thanksgiving Feast to those in need of a hot meal on Thanksgiving Day. This is a tradition that started with Antioch Baptist Church and due to its growth will be hosted this year at 1st UMC on Fifth Street in old town Katy. We hope to double the number of meals served. In 2011 the goal is to involve more local churches and ask each church to be responsible for supplying one particular food item to feed 800. Holy Covenant is being asked to supply the sweet potatoes. We are in need of individuals willing to make a batch of sweet potatoes that will serve 20 (#40 total batches needed). There are additional ways to get involved...set up, tear down, runners from kitchen to serving tables, assemblers of meals for delivery, delivery crews, and someone to oversee children's activities (Thanksgiving card making). In addition to the blankets, and the gently used coats that have been collected and distributed in the last couple of years, we will also be collecting non-perishable food items. Last but certainly not least, we will also be accepting cash donations for miscellaneous expenses (Styrofoam containers, silverware, sterno fuel, etc).

As those who have participated in the past can tell you, it is truly in the giving that we receive. The Spirit of giving that started this small Katy church reaching out to its surrounding neighborhood is contagious and can't be contained. We are passing it on!!!

The plan is to set up at 7AM – 9AM, with food arriving between 9AM- 11AM (staggering the food that is brought in), and serving of the feast from 11AM-2PM.

Please respond to Kathy Fraser at 281.415.1046(c) 281.394.5554(h) or kmfraser@entouch.net Page 8