



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

Seek with God's heart **Grow** in God's word **Serve** all God's people

In This Issue

**"Love, Sex, and Marriage"
Sermon Series Underway**

SALT Ministry

LWI Update

New in Adult Ministries

Under the Sea with ECDP

United Methodist Reporter

Children's Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

We will set sail July 12-16 and experience the deep, rolling waters of God's love! Registration will begin in April, but save the date on your calendar now! Planning meetings for our leadership team will begin in February. If you're interested in helping, please contact Jana Jones at jjones@hcumc.org.

Youth Ministry

Youth Fellowship Sundays, 6-8pm

-January 17 - Banana Night!
Everyone wear something yellow for this fun-filled evening where every activity/discussion has to do with bananas!?!?

Issue: #1

January 15, 2010

Welcome to the first issue of Holy Covenant's new newsletter! You are receiving this because either you requested it, or you previously subscribed to the *Covenantree* newspaper. In an effort to save time, money, and paper, we are encouraging subscribers to switch to the email version of the newsletter. If you would like to switch, please notify Elise Webb at ewebb@hcumc.org. If you prefer the paper version, we will continue to send it to you.

From Pastor Andy



"Love, Sex, and Marriage" Sermon Series Underway

The Narnia Chronicles, a series of imaginative, fantasy novels that double as Christian allegories written by C.S. Lewis, include a tale called The Horse and His Boy. In this book, the author describes the relationship between two characters, Aravis and Cor, with his tongue firmly planted in his cheek.

"Aravis also had many quarrels (and, I'm afraid even fights) with Cor, but they always made it up again: so that years later, when they were grown up they were so used to quarrelling and making it up again that they got married so as to go on doing it more conveniently."

Sondra and I have been married now for more than 15 years - certainly long enough to understand the humor in the quotation above. We are blessed to enjoy (what at least we consider to be!) a healthy, happy relationship.

- Jan 24 - W.O.W. - Worship on Weekends - Join us for worship for youth, led by youth!

Winter Retreat - Feb 12-14

All youth (7th - 12th grades) are welcome on this retreat to Oklahoma. It will be a Love Fest, in honor of Valentine's Day! We will have awesome small groups, fabulous worship experiences, a terrific visit to Turner Falls, and incredible food (thanks Rocky!). Be sure to register soon and please encourage your friends to sign up too. Only \$50. Registration forms available in the youth office. Sign up today! All forms and payment should be turned in to the youth office.

**Drug Free Night
Sunday, Jan 31**

Parents 5-6pm

Youth 6-8pm

-Parents, do you worry about your youth in our current drug saturated culture? Counselor (and member!) Shannon Johnson will be joining us at a special parent meeting to share information and answer questions for us.

-Youth, do you wonder what you can do to help your friends stay away from drugs or what to do if you have a friend with a drug problem? Shannon will be leading a program for youth fellowship to cover pertinent issues for youth. And she is hoping to bring a special guest to speak with us too!

Adult Ministry

**New Beginnings
Sunday School class**

Beginning Jan. 17, we will begin studying New Testament Stories from the Backside by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Using an approach similar to his other "Back Side" books, J. Ellsworth Kalas opens up new possibilities of insight into selected New Testament stories by entering them through the "back side" -- through a unique starting point, a creative retelling, a new "lens", or the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character. Includes 12 stories and a study guide

Sometimes we still quarrel, but much less now than in the beginning. Over the years, we have learned a lot together. Our shared faith has taught us a lot about how to better love one another.

It is a real joy and privilege for me to share some of what we have learned and more importantly what the Bible teaches about love, sex, and marriage. By now, this six-week sermon series is well-underway. I pray that whether you are young or old, married or single, a newlywed or approaching your 50th wedding anniversary that this sermon series will be a blessing to you and will enrich your relationships.

Looking ahead, there are a few creative ways for you to engage in this series.

Pastor Wendy and I need your input. On January 24th, Wendy will be preaching a sermon titled, "What Women Wish Men Knew About Women." Ladies, tell us what you think by texting Pastor Wendy at 2140in Similarly, I am preaching a sermon on January 31st titled, "What Men Wish Women Knew About Men." Guys, tell us what you think by texting me at 2140in

We have a hunch that this series will generate a lot of discussion after worship on Sundays, and we want to be available to join you for some of these conversations. Pastor Wendy will be at Escape Coffee and Donuts (on Hebron Pkwy. near Old Denton Rd.) on Monday morning, January 25th from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. to talk with you, entertain your questions, and generally pick up where we left off in the sermon on Sunday.

You and your spouse will have the opportunity to renew your marriage vows at a special Marriage Covenant Renewal service at Holy Covenant on Valentine's Day (Sunday, February 14th). This brief service will be in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed reception in the Covenant Center. Please contact Pastor Wendy, wcurran@hcumc.org, if you are interested.

May God bless you and your relationships in 2010,

Pastor Andy

Breakfast Club

God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time by Archbishop Desmond Tutu is the next book this early morning group will discuss. This Breakfast Club study begins at 7 am on Monday, Jan 11 in room 113 of the Covenant Center.

Visitor's Class:

New to Holy Covenant? Join us for a discussion and tour of our church and ask as many questions as you want!
Sunday, January 24, 12:15 PM
OR Sunday, February 7, 9:45 am, in Covenant Center, room 113.

Financial Peace University

There will be an informational meeting for Financial Peace University (FPU) on Thursday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. FPU is a instructor-led financial class from a Christian perspective. Dave Ramsey, well-known radio talk-show host, and his writings are the basis of this study. All are invited to join us on the 21st for a preview of the class topics and format. We will take registration for the class at that time. Materials and registration cost \$100 per family unit (couple or single), and include a workbook, CDs, and informational book. The preview meeting on the 21st is free. This class is open to HCUMC members and to the community. Please feel free to invite friends or family who might need a little Financial Peace to join us.

People who have attended a FPU class in the past and have their own materials are invited to join us for a refresher class. Future classes will be Thursday nights at 7 p.m. and will meet for 13 weeks to complete the study. People who are interested or would like more information are invited to email Douglas Curran at douglas@douglascurrendesigns.com or Sheli Erenberger at shelieren@verizon.net or call the church.

SALT Ministry

Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. In response, Holy Covenant is embarking on a new opportunity within our local community. We will be adopting 2 elementary schools - Furneaux and Davis - and working to build relationships with their teachers, students, and families. This effort will be called our SALT Ministry.



Seek... Long-term relationships with our neighbors and community with no strings attached

Accept... Take the church outside the walls - meet people where THEY are

Love... Expose people to Jesus first...and Holy Covenant second

Transform... See God change lives as the Gospel is communicated in a real and relevant way

This ministry will allow us to serve where our passions and purpose intersect, while defining our church within the community. Possible volunteer opportunities will include mentoring, tutoring, helping with special events, and more. Pray about where God is calling you to serve - you have the chance to make a difference in the life of a child and show the good news of Jesus by being generous with your time. There will be opportunities to sign up to volunteer and other ways you can contribute to this important ministry. Contact Jana Jones (jjones@hcumc.org) or Tom Miller (thomas.miller@teampcs.com) if you would like more information.

Music Ministry

It is time to join a choir!

Revelation Ringers and Singers (grades 6-12)

Summer Tour to South Texas June 20-26, 2010

Join us for rehearsals:

Sundays at 4:00 pm for Ringers

Sundays at 5:00 pm for Singers

Children's Music

Rehearsals have begun for the new year!

Pre-school - Sundays during 11:00 worship, immediately following children's time

Grades 3-6 - Handbell rehearsals in Sanctuary at 5:30 pm

Grades 1-6 - Snack supper in Rm 113 of the Cov. Ctr. at 6:10 pm

Grades 1-6 - Singing choir in Rm. 206 of the Ed. Building at 6:30 pm

Adults!

Singing Choir rehearse at 7:30 pm in the Choir room (SE Quadrant of Sanctuary).

Advanced Ringers (includes some youth) rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Interested in Ringing?

Bells Angels might be the group for you. This group of beginning and intermediate ringers would love to rehearse again, but more ringers are needed. Contact Debbie at dchapman@hcumc.org for more information.

Instrumentalists!

Would you like to play an instrument in worship? Would you like to join a group for regular participation? Do you dance or act? Do you like to be creative with your hands, sewing or making banners? Contact Debbie Chapman dchapman@hcumc.org for more information about these opportunities and for more information about any of our choirs.

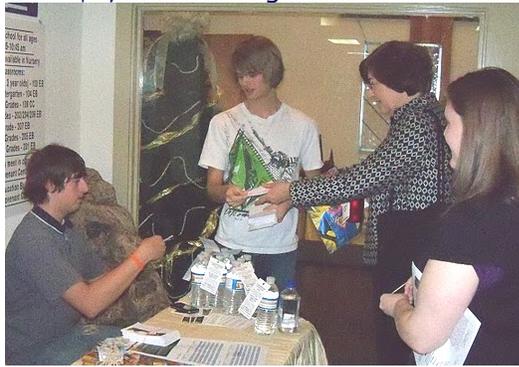
Missions

The Mission Committee creates opportunities to serve all God's people (local and global). Come join us! Visitors are welcome! We meet at 7pm on the 2nd Monday of every month. We support our

Living Water International Update

Above and Beyond

We would like to give thanks for the success of the Holy Covenant Living Water campaign. Our initial goal was to raise \$5,000 - enough to drill one well to help an entire village.



Imagine our surprise when our total was over \$14,000, close to three times that amount!

In a time when we might not have had as much to spend as in previous years,

our friends and neighbors gave with generous hearts.

In addition to providing clean water for two villages for a lifetime, we helped create a sense of



community with the rest of the world. Members of two communities know that people a world away cared enough to provide for a fundamental need - what an example of "loving thy neighbor."

Thank you for your part in this amazing success and join us in being proud of what we can accomplish together.

-Missions Committee

New in Adult Ministries

If one of your resolutions for 2010 was to take that next step in your spiritual journey with God or to make some new friends here at Holy Covenant, there are many classes/events to help you achieve your goal!

community, Senior Adult Services and Metrocrest Social Services with various activities throughout the year. We partner with other Holy Covenant committees and support them with their programs.

ECDP

Summer and Fall Registration for the Early Childhood Development Program will be Tuesday, Feb 2. Classes available for age 18 months to Kindergarten.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 and 11:00 am -
Worship Services

9:45 am - Sunday School
for all ages

Staff

Rev. Andy Lewis, Senior Pastor

Rev. Debbie Chapman, Associate Pastor, Music Ministries

Rev. Wendy Curran, Associate Pastor, Spiritual Formation

Jana Jones, Children's Minister

Georgia Harrison, Youth Minister

Sheryl Toney, ECDP Director

Carol Jones, Bookkeeper

Elise Webb, Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

The Oppliger family; the Bayard family; the Osserman family; the Thune family; the Ronning family; the Rardin family; Helen Montfort; Dick Ellis; Lauren Charters' Great Grandpa Huffman; Joe Eaves' mother, Jane; Anthony Garcia; Tommie & Floyd Miller; the Depew family; John & Rachel Heathington; Joni Taylor; Camille Proctor's father, Jack

Every adult is welcome to attend.

10 Great Dates: This 10-week class kicks off Friday, Jan 15 at 6:30 -9:30 pm. Invite your mate to join you for 10 weeks of reclaiming that same spark, connection and creativity in your marriage. See www.hcumc.org for details. The class lasts thru Mar 19 and costs \$15/couple. Childcare is available for \$5 per child, per week. Contact Rev. Wendy Curran - wcurran@hcumc.org or 972-492-2432 for more information. Register at www.hcumc.org/10GreatDates.

What ARE My Spiritual Gifts and HOW Do I Use them?

Jan 17,24 & 31-9:45 am, Covenant Center, Room 113. Join HCUMC member Mark Millar and understand what spiritual gifts are, what *yours* are and how you can use them to spread God's love. Contact Mark mcmillar@att.net.

Pastor's Coffee: Monday, January 25, 7:30 - 9:00 am - Escape Coffee & Donuts. Interested in discussing the current sermon series on love, sex and marriage with a pastor? Join Pastor Wendy for coffee and let's talk.

Adult Computer Classes

Holy Covenant has a brand new computer lab that allows us to teach classes for kids and adults! We will offer classes on Microsoft Word, February 10 and 17, and PowerPoint, March 3 and 10. Rick Davis will be the instructor. Classes will be Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. The courses will last 2 weeks. If you are interested in these classes, please contact Jana Jones at jjones@hcumc.org or 972-492-2432 to register and specify which program (or both!) you want to learn. If you would like to take the class but are not able to attend on Wednesdays, please let Jana know and other options will be considered.

Coming soon:

"Every1 Invite 1" sermon series and study - Feb 21 - Mar 28

"Becoming a Justice Seeking Congregation" book study with Rev. Bill McElvaney - Feb 21 - Mar 14

"Soul Feast" - an exploration of spiritual disciplines with Pastor Wendy - spring 2010

For questions about any of these adult classes, please contact the person for each event or contact Adult Education Committee Chair, Gary Feltner - 972-394-9798 or gary_feltner@verizon.net.

Cabaniss; Pat Mills' aunt, Betty Roark; Sue Poydence's nephew, Jason Hargrove; Colin Hinton; Steve Mazzucco; Amy & Eric Bresie; Lisa Hobbs' father, Claude Cobb; Verne Glass; Sandie and Mark Loudermilk; Doug Jones' brother Jeff; Laela Quinn's brother, Michael Bell; Jay & Kathy Cash; Kate Bushmann; Jess Beltran; Jan Rollins; Annabella Chan; Rick Clement; Lisa Tenore; the Burlingame family; David Ross; Vic Anderson; Jon Broom; Barbara Boothe; the Frisbie family; Ron Watkins, Susan's father; Amanda Edmondson & family; the Dooley family; Jackie Franklin and family; Gary Poff, friend of the Dahir family; Anna Hixon, friend of Kim Eaves; Ann Michelle King; Jon Broom; Huffman family; and the Pifer family .

Our loved ones in the military

Trevor Baucom, Precious Blackman, Jeff Christie, Clem Clemens, Sean Connelly, Tim Connally, Zach Glass, David Hunt, Marco Mastrogiovanni, Brand Oakley, Jake Oliver, Ashton Rudolf, Ashley Wert, C.J. Westmoreland, Brad Wethington, & Jeremy Whiteside.

Under the Sea with ECDP



Visit ECDP "Under the Sea"

9:15-10:45 am Jan 25-29 in the Covenant Center
See learning activities, enjoy snacks, and tour the school.
Information about registration for fall & summer will be available. Classes available for 18mos-Kindergarten.
Call 972-492-1371 for further information.

United Methodist Reporter

If you previously had a subscription to *Covenantree* and wish to continue to receive the North Texas Conference issue of the United Methodist Reporter, please contact UMR directly.

Send your name, mailing address, church name (Holy Covenant UMC) and a check for \$25 payable to NTCUMC to:
North Texas Conference Ministry Center
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Plano, TX 75086-6128

Our Vision ~

Connecting with our neighbors,

caring for our earth,

finding transformation through the love of Christ.