Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

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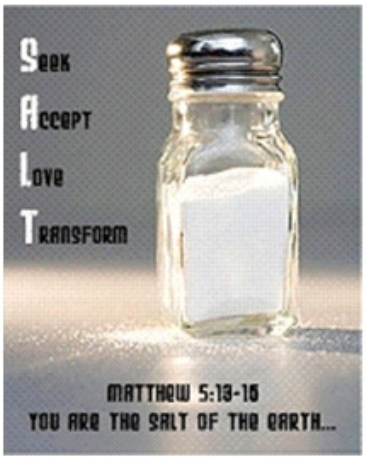


Our work at Furneaux and Davis

Issue: #8 **April 23, 2010**

From Pastor Andy

May Sabbatical

At daybreak Jesus departed [from the crowds] and went into a deserted place... Luke 4:42a

Reading through Luke's Gospel in particular reveals a clear pattern in Jesus' ministry: 1) heal the sick, proclaim good news to the poor and the hopeless, instruct the disciples, 2) take time apart for rest and rejuvenation, and 3) repeat. Even Jesus experienced the stresses and strains of being in ministry and recognized the importance of taking periodic breaks from the demands of the crowds. Jesus poured himself out, and so naturally he needed time to refill his own cup.

Years ago, I was surprised and pleased to learn that the United Methodist Church has provisions for clergy that allow (and even encourage) them to emulate Jesus' pattern and take periodic sabbaticals. I have "qualified" for a sabbatical, given my years of service as an ordained elder, for some time, but May seemed to be the kairos moment (ie. God's timing) for me to enjoy a time of rest and rejuvenation.

The last ten years for me have been a whirlwind. As the new millennium opened, Sondra and I were celebrating the birth of our first child and anticipating the end of my six-year journey of working full-time as a youth director and studying part-time as a seminary student. Shortly after graduation, I was appointed to plant a new United Methodist congregation in McKinney. The experience of being "parachute-dropped" into a new place and starting a church was incredibly demanding. It was full of the highest highs and the lowest lows. There were long stretches during which I might average 70 or 80 hours a week. I think I was running on pure

elementary schools has begun! As we strive to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, we are excited about building relationships with their teachers, students, and families through tutoring and mentoring. We currently have 68 volunteers serving in the schools, and we always welcome new helpers! 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. Contact Jana Jones (jjones@hcumc.org) or Tom Miller (thomas.miller@teampcs.com) if you would like to be involved.

Vacation Bible School 2010

We will set sail July 12-16 and experience the deep, rolling waters of God's love!
Registration will begin on May 10 for kids ages 4 years through 5th Grade.
Our next Leadership Team meeting will be May 6 at 6:30 pm.
If you're interested in helping, please contact Jana Jones at jjones@hcumc.org.

adrenaline for the first three or four years of that project. Then, just as things were beginning to settle into a manageable routine, Sondra and I had our third child and three months later learned that we would be reappointed to serve Holy Covenant. Both of these changes have been wonderful blessings, but at times we have sensed a need for some rest of biblical proportions! I can relate to Bilbo Baggins, when in the first book of The Lord of the Rings trilogy, he confessed, "I feel thin, like butter spread over too much bread."

In June, it will be two years since I arrived to serve as your Senior Pastor. That feeling of being in transition has faded for most all of us. The church is blessed with a gifted and dedicated staff, and we are moving forward with our Vision for ministry in exciting ways. Giving and attendance in worship, two indicators of a congregation's health, are both on the rise. We have Spirit-driven momentum and tremendous lay leaders who are capable of keeping it going. So, I am grateful to our church's Staff-Pastor-Parish-Relations (S.P.P.R.) Committee and to Holy Covenant in general for supporting me and my family as I seize this moment and take a one month sabbatical from May 3rd to May 31st. I believe that this time away will only enhance my ability to serve the church upon my return and for many years to come.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Andy

Sermon Series

The Prodigal God

April 25 - *Moved By the Sight*

May 2 - *Join the Party*

Spring Mission Project

Saturdays, April 24 and May 1

The Mission Committee has coordinated with Senior Adult Services for a Spring Mission Project in our local community. We will work on two Carrollton/Farmers Branch residences addressing code and/or safety issues for the senior owners. The first

Summer Sunday School

Classes for Toddlers through 5th Grade begin on Sunday, May 30 at 9:45 am!
Please consider teaching so our regular teachers have a much-deserved break.
This is a 12-week commitment. A training will be held on May 16.
Contact Jana Jones if you would like to help.
KIDS! We will be using a fun new curriculum this summer! Sunday School will BEE fun with Buzz!
Learn to know Jesus, feel his love, and have a friendship with him!

Youth Ministry

Youth and Clergy Mission Day
Saturday, April 24
9:30 am to 2 pm

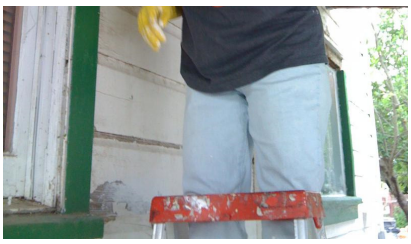
We will join youth & adults from around our Conference in a day of mission & worship. Meet at Holy Covenant at 9:30 to carpool to Arapaho UMC.

Sign up now for summer youth mission trips:

√ June 20-26, Youth Choir Mission Tour (grades 6-12) heads to South Texas. Rehearsals taking place now on Sundays at 5 pm in choir room. $25 deposit due now! Contact Rev. Debbie to sign up dchapman@hcumc.org

√ July 17-24, Senior High(grades 9-12) will go to Upper Sands Mountain Parish in Alabama to do home repair, gardening and canning for a group of 8 rural UMC churches.

√ Aug 1-6,Junior High(grades 7-8) will go to C2K in West Dallas to paint & scrape houses for elderly and disabled homeowners.



house is that of Mr George Vaux (1824 Belt Line). We will meet at the church at 8am on the 24th and convoy to Mr. Vaux's house at 8:15am.

The home maintenance work consists of siding replacement, painting, and fence repairs. There are opportunities for all skill levels.

Come join us in fellowship as we help our neighbors as Christ taught us in James 2:26, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead." If you have questions, please contact Rick Davis (972-814-5325).

New Member Luncheon

Sunday, April 25
in Covenant Center Room 113

All new members of Holy Covenant who joined in 2009-2010 are invited to attend a "New Members' Luncheon" on Sunday, April 25 after the 11 am service. We hope that you and your family will join the staff and the Engagement Committee members for this time of fun and fellowship. Please RSVP to Rev. Wendy if you will be able to attend the lunch - wcurran@hcumc.org.

Austin Street Centre Food Donation

Saturday, May 1

Holy Covenant's turn to feed the homeless at Austin Street Centre is Sunday, May 2. Drop-off time for the food is Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in the Covenant Center kitchen.
Please provide

- 12 sandwiches (of any type, individually wrapped)
- 12 pieces of fruit
- 12 hard-boiled eggs (still in the shell)

Donations of juice packs or bottled water are also appreciated. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Contact John Engles at 972-242-0143 if you have any questions or need additional information.

ARTICLE HEADLINE

Handbell Concert **May 2nd, 6:00 p.m.**

Adult Ministry

Greek Night

There are still a few slots open for adults who wish to go on a "Greek Night" adventure on Saturday, April 24. The evening will begin at 5:00 PM with Vespers Service at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas and commence with a tour of the church immediately following the service. After the tour, the group will enjoy an evening of fellowship together at Kosta's Café in Plano. It's the perfect chance to learn more about the Eastern Orthodox churches, how our Greek neighbors practice their faith and a great opportunity to ask questions. Reservations are required; participation is limited to 40 people. Please contact Rev. Wendy - wcurran@hcumc.org ASAP to reserve your spot or to obtain more information. We hope you'll join us!!

Informational Meeting About Stephen Ministry -

Sabbatical for Senior Pastor Andy Lewis

The word 'sabbatical' has origins from the Greek words 'sabba' meaning "to cease the use of"* and 'tikkos' meaning "delicious steaks"**. So who better to enjoy a well-earned sabbatical than our pastor, Andy Lewis? The United Methodist Book of Discipline has provisions that allow for full-time clergy who have completed six consecutive years of service in the conference to take a sabbatical. The idea is that such breaks encourage congregational self-sufficiency and allow Andy to experience personal and professional development that will enhance our relationship going forward. Andy will begin his sabbatical on Monday, May 3rd, and return to service on Tuesday June 1st If you have any questions or concerns about this please don't hesitate to talk with Andy or any members of the SPPR. What a blessing that our church has such a strong staff that allows us enjoy this wonderful gift!

* probably not true

** definitely not true!

Twilighters' Luncheon and White Elephant Swap

Friday, May 7 at noon

May 4

At times, navigating through life may be challenging for us - loss, grief, recovery, death, change - all can zap our strength and challenge our faith. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone to journey with you through the difficult times? To pray with you and to be the calm presence of Christ to help you restore the peace to your soul. Stephen Ministries is a complete system for training and organizing lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around our congregation - and this ministry is coming to Holy Covenant. Stephen Ministers are lay members of our congregation who become trained, supervised caregivers to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people. Please join our Pastor Wendy and our Care Committee for an informational meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 7 PM in room 113 of the Covenant Center as we explore what this transformational ministry will bring to Holy Covenant and if God may be calling you to become a Stephen Minister. More information about Stephen Ministries can be found on www.stephenministries.org.

Music Ministry

Youth Choir Tour deposits due NOW!

We need a good count of youth

Watch the mail for your letter with details!

Annual Junktique

Saturday, May 8
7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring your un-used and unwanted treasures to the Covenant Center on Thursday May 6th and Friday May 7th.

Please, do not bring anything to the Covenant Center prior to these dates. If your items are too big for your car, let us know and we will send a truck to pick them up.

The Holy Covenant Revelation Ringers and Singers will be out with coffee and donuts early through mid-afternoon with a hot dog lunch for sale.

For help with pickups on Thursday and Friday, please contact John Engles jlengles@verizon.net, Jim McKee J9McKee@gmail.com or Dante Paa marilyn.paa@verizon.net.

Lord Save Us From Your Followers

May 16, 23 & 30

If you were to meet ten average Americans on the street, nine of them would say they believe in God. So why is the Gospel of Love dividing America?
Dan Merchant put a white jumpsuit clad with 'religious' bumper stickers and decided to find the reason. After talking with scores of men and women on streets all across the nation, and also

choir on our tour to South Texas ASAP. A deposit of $25.00 is due now. Contact Debbie Chapman or Susie Shatzsall if you have any questions or concerns. dchapman@hcumc.org or 972-849-5372

Annual Junktique (garage sale) Youth Choir concessions!
Saturday, May 8
Contact Vicki Davis at bunchads@verizon.net to volunteer time or food donations.

Join a Choir!
Youth and Adult singing choirs are open to new members year round! Maybe you want to come to a rehearsal to check it out before joining. We'd love to have you. Youth (grades 6-12) rehearse on Sundays at 5:00 pm in the choir room (SE corner of Sanctuary) and the Adult choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm also in the choir room. Questions or concerns, contact Rev. Debbie Chapman, Minister of Music at dchapman@hcumc.org or 972-849-5372

Orchestra!
Holy Covenant has been blessed with a new volunteer, Joe Selby. He is putting together an orchestra to provide music for worship and periodic concerts. Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Contact Joe at joe.selby@verizon.net for more information.

Missions

Summer Lunch Program
Childhood hunger doesn't take a summer vacation. Holy Covenant Mission Committee is gearing up to feed kids during

interviewing many well-known activists in today's "Culture Wars," Dan realized that the public discussion of faith doesn't have to be contentious.

The Adult Education Committee invites you to experience the movie "Lord Save Us From Your Followers" by Dan Merchant. Sunday May 16 7:00 pm, room 113 in the Covenant Center. Engaging, unpredictable, and challenging, it will change the way you talk about faith! Visit HCUMC's Bumper Sticker Man when you sign up in the Narthex. After seeing the movie, join us for conversations on May 23 and 30 that will lead to action and change outside the church, inside the church, inside our heart, anywhere that needs changing. Contact Terry Fox for more information: tfoxtx2@verizon.net.

Breakfast at the Bee's

All Church Breakfast Saturday, May 22nd

3565 Frankford Rd.
Frankford & Marsh
(across from Walmart)

RAISING FUNDS FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MINISTRIES
COME FOR FUN
COME FOR GREAT FOOD
COME TO HELP HCUMC RAISE FUNDS

8 am to 10 am
Saturday May 22, 2010
$10 - Adults; $5 - kids 11 and under

Tickets will be sold Sundays at church May 2, 9, 16.
No tickets will be sold at Applebee's.
Turn your ticket in during the breakfast to receive a $5 coupon for a future visit to Applebee's!

Buffet includes: eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, hash brown, muffins, fruit. All you can eat!

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
BUY TICKETS FOR THEM

Frisco Rough Riders Game

Sunday, June 13 6 pm

the summer break. Volunteers are needed!

Stop by the volunteer tables during the month of May to see how you can help for as little as one hour.

We will be providing lunch on site for kids through age 18, at Davis, Furneaux, McWhorter Elementary schools, Holy Covenant and Peters Colony Learning Center.

Help families struggling to put food on the table and send students back to school well nourished and ready to learn.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 and 11:00 am - Worship Services

9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages

Staff

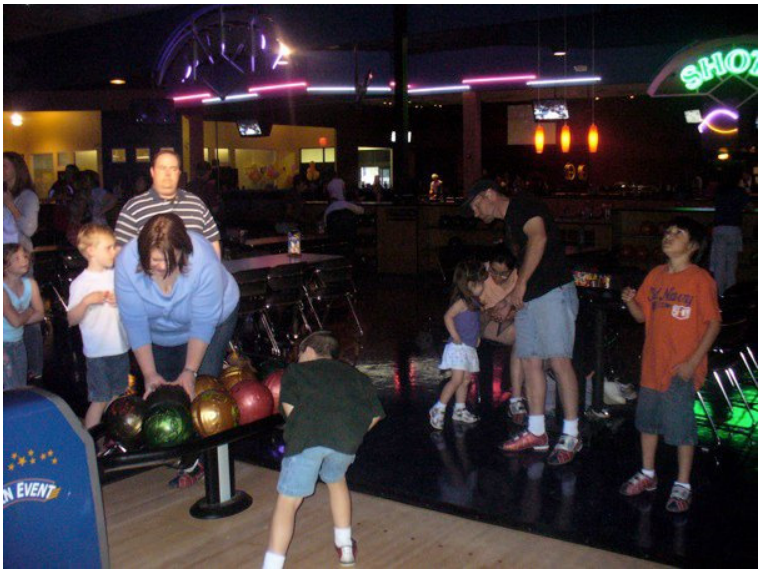
Rev. Andy Lewis, Senior Pastor
Rev. Debbie Chapman, Associate Pastor, Music Ministries
Rev. Wendy Curran, Associate Pastor, Spiritual Formation
Jana Jones, Children's Minister
Georgia Harrison, Youth Minister
Sheryl Toney, ECDP Director
Carol Jones, Bookkeeper
Elise Webb, Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

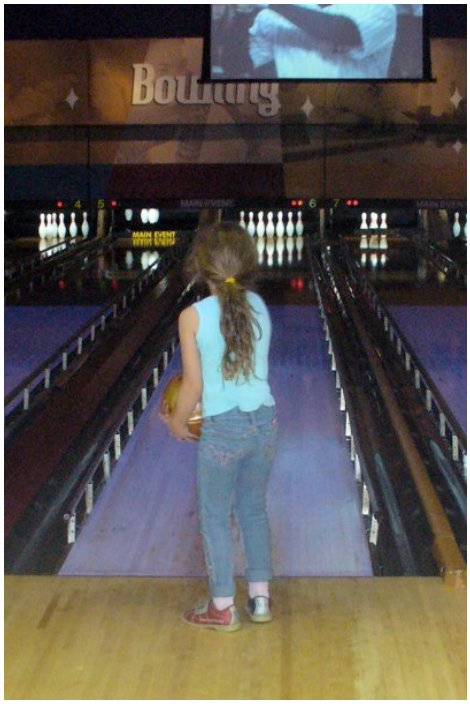
Dr. Pepper Ballpark

The Recreation Committee invites everyone for a party on the patio! Tickets are $25 per person and include not only a place on the Dr Pepper Patio for a great view of the Rough Riders vs. Midland Rockhounds game, but also a program, a limited edition 'Riders hat, and unlimited hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, and Dr Pepper products including Dasani water! Finally, children under 12 get to run the bases when the game is over. Sign-up online at www.hcumc.org.
Registration closes on Mother's Day, May 9th. Don't miss this fun night out with your Holy Covenant family! Childcare will be provided for those who want to have fun without the kids.

Bowling Night

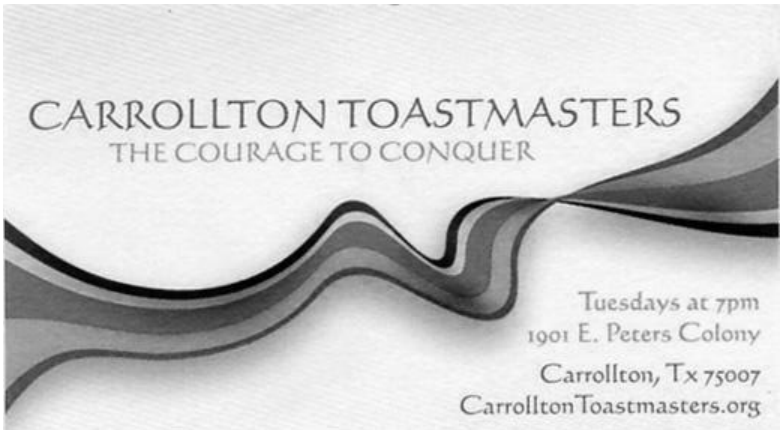


The Glaze family; the Svehlek family; Christy Marceaux's family; Julie Fuller; Chris Hinkley; Debbie Chapman; Bea Dixon; Bob Austin; Joni Taylor; Sue Poydence; Dale Kiplinger; Beverly Randall; Lindsay Reese; Dan Zambrano; Helen Montfort; Dick Ellis; Jerry Ronning's moth Lois; Gary Feltner's mother, Bonnie; Kevin Stahl's father, Harvey; Larie Engles' mother; Sue Moser's brother, Jimmy McCrary; Sue Poydence's sister, Joyce Hausler; Chris Mundell's mother, Rosemary; the Faulkner's nephew, Chris Richardson; Lauren Charters' Great Grandpa Huffman; Nicki & Don Luce & family; Virginia Taylor; the Depew family; Heather Hinton's uncle Billy Fulton; Colin Hinton; Steve Mazzucco; Amy & Eric Bresie; Carol Jones' parents, Verne & Dorlis Glass; Kali McNamara, Carol's niece, Sandie and Mark Loudermilk; Doug Jones' brother Jeff; Ray Rivera; MariaCreighton-Cabezas; Shane Slovinsky; Chelsea Chamberlain's friend, Steven Grillo; Jay & Kathy Cash; Rosie Alexander; Kate Bushmann; Jess Beltran; Jan Rollins; Annabella Chan; Rick Clement; Lisa Tenore; the Burlingame family; David & Jeremy Ross; Vic Anderson; Jon Broom; Barbara Boothe; the Frisbie family; Ron Watkins, Susan's father; Al Pope; Sara Shepperd; David Fettke; the Hickman family; 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; the Pifer family; the Bailey family; the Witcher family; and Adel Valarie and family.



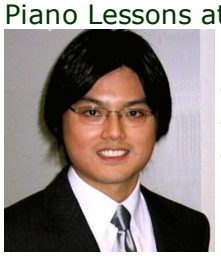
Our loved ones in the military

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



Katie Neff, MS, LPC-Intern with *Pastoral Counseling and Education Center* is currently offering counseling at Holy Covenant Thursday afternoons and evenings. Call (214) 526-4525 to make an appointment.
www.pcec-counseling.org

Piano Lessons at Holy Covenant!



Jonathan Kaan is teaching piano lessons at Holy Covenant. You can contact Jonathan at jkaan@dcccd.edu or at 254-495-2633 for more information. Jonathan graduated with honors from Baylor University with a Masters Degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance.

Our Vision ~
Connecting with our neighbors,

caring for our earth,
finding transformation through the love of Christ.

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