



## Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

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### Children's Ministry

#### **Get Moving**

There is growing concern about childhood obesity in our country. Would you like to participate in a program that could be life-changing for families? Get Moving will provide health and nutrition information necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This is for kids and parents to participate in together. We hope to begin this program in our community in the spring. Over the next few months, we are looking for

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September 24, 2010

From Pastor Andy



#### **A Light of Civility**

A recent article in the Dallas Morning News commented on the declining level of civility in our nation. Based on a new study cited in the article, "two out of three Americans consider a general lack of civility to be a major problem, and 72 percent think this poor behavior has gotten worse in recent years." The following areas were scolded by the survey participants as the least civil: government/politics, highway traffic, talk

radio, and high schools.

Places of worship ranked far down the incivility list; however, given the way the Christian religion has become intertwined with politics and is a significant presence on talk radio, there is little doubt that many people surveyed would associate Christians with this problem in our country. The tone of much of the recent debate surrounding the so-called Ground Zero Mosque only underscores this connection.

Pam Jenkins, who is a part of the research team behind the new study, defined incivility as "rudeness and a lack of respect for those who have different points of view and who don't share the same view of the world."

When I first arrived at Holy Covenant about two year ago, one of the messages I heard over and over again from church members was that this congregation was unique because here "we agree to disagree with love." You could say that Holy Covenant has made a commitment to civility.

Our church members are not homogeneous in their beliefs. We come with a wide array of religious backgrounds. We have different points of view and varying theological understandings, which means that it will not always be easy to "love one another" and show each other respect.

But in light of the perceived decline in civility in our country, it is

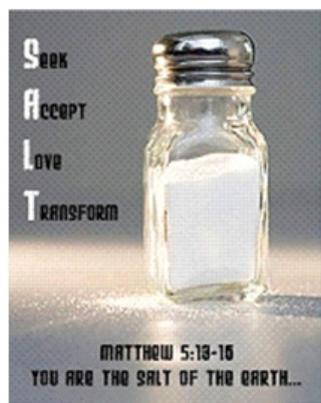
individuals interested in planning activities, mentoring kids and their parents, promoting this effort within our community, and coordinating short health/nutrition seminars presented by local professionals. If you are interested, please contact Jana Jones [jjones@hcumc.org](mailto:jjones@hcumc.org) or Kathy Garcia [kgavinagarcia@yahoo.com](mailto:kgavinagarcia@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Fall Sunday School



Classes for Toddlers through 5th Grade at 9:45 am! Sunday School will BEE fun with Buzz! Learn to know Jesus, feel his love, and have a friendship with him!

### S.A.L.T Update



As we strive to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, we are building relationships with teachers, students, and families through tutoring and mentoring at Furneaux and Davis elementary schools.

Pray about where God might be calling you to serve this school year - you have the chance to make a difference in the life of a child and

important for the Church - our church - to be a light of civility in the darkness. At Holy Covenant, we have the opportunity to model for our community a healthy and holy way to engage with complex issues, to have dialogue without demonizing those with different opinions, and to listen to and learn from one another. We have the opportunity to show our community that many Christians want to be a part of the civility solution.

These opportunities will present themselves in a very concrete way during my next sermon series, which is called "Where the Rubber Meets the Road." In this series, we will explore how our Christian faith connects with controversial issues like immigration (on 10/3), racism (on 10/10), and even homosexuality (on 10/17). On each of these Sundays, there will be a special class setting during the Sunday School hour in which people can engage further in civil conversation on these topics. I hope you will come, not to watch a potential train wreck but instead to prayerfully listen to, learn from and ultimately love one another.

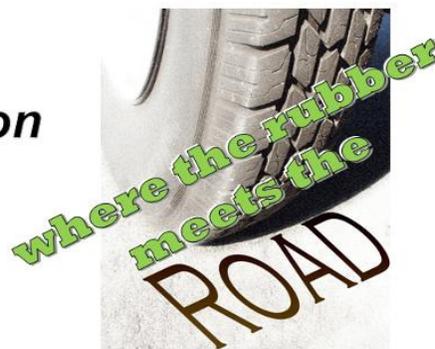
To play with the metaphor in the series title, when the rubber meets the road, heat and friction are indeed generated. But, only when the rubber meets the road can we move forward. Otherwise, we are just spinning our wheels.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Andy

## Where the Rubber Meets the Road

### Sermon Series

9/26— *Biblical Social Justice*  
10/3— *Immigration*  
10/10— *Racism*  
10/17— *Homosexuality*



## Coffee House Discussions



Sundays at 9:45 am  
Covenant Center

Join us next **Sunday, September 26th** for our first session of the "Where the Rubber Hits the Road" Sermon Series and Coffee House. The sermon will focus on Biblical social justice. During the Sunday School hour, the Advocates for Justice and Peace will host a special "Coffee House" discussion in the Covenant Center. The

discussion will focus on economics and Biblical justice, and will be facilitated by special guest Dr. Joerg Rieger, Endowed Professor of Constructive Theology at Perkins. Dr. Rieger teaches systematic and liberation theology, with special interests in theology in cultural studies, class, and economics. His

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