



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

In This Issue

[Falling](#)

[10 Great Dates](#)

[Worship + 2](#)

[Valentine Bake Sale](#)

[In Training](#)

[Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show](#)

[Church Directory Portraits](#)

[We Want Your Sensitive Papers!](#)

[Christ's Foundry](#)

[Holy Communion Servers](#)

[Prayer Corner](#)

Issue: #29

February 11, 2011

From Pastor Andy



Falling

I have discovered and am now enjoying a wonderful resource for daily prayer called [Common Prayer](#) (Zondervan, copyright 2010). It is a guide to morning, midday and evening prayers that draws upon the spiritual insights and perspectives of a wide variety of Christian traditions over the centuries. This rich book was assembled in part by a young adult named Shane

Claiborne, founder of a new monastic community in inner-city Philadelphia (www.thesimpleway.org).

The morning prayer time for February 14 begins with some interesting information about Valentine of Rome (d.269). "A Christian priest in Rome, Valentine was known for assisting Christians persecuted under Claudius II. After being caught marrying Christian couples and helping Christians escape the persecution, Valentine was arrested and imprisoned. Although Emperor Claudius originally liked Valentine, he was condemned to death when he tried to convert the emperor. Valentine was beaten with stones, clubbed, and, finally, beheaded on February 14, 269. In the year 496, February 14 was named as a day of celebration in Valentine's honor. He has since become the patron saint of engaged couples, beekeepers (J), happy marriages, lovers, travelers, young people, and greetings."

This weekend, when love is in the air and on our minds, I want to share a powerful insight with you: our religion is meant to be "less of a theory and more of a love affair" (G.K. Chesterton). In the lyrics of a popular, contemporary Christian song by Jason Gray,

I need more than a truth to believe
I need a truth that lives, moves and breathes to sweep
me off my feet
It ought to be more like falling in love than something to
believe in
More like losing my heart than giving my allegiance

Children's Ministry

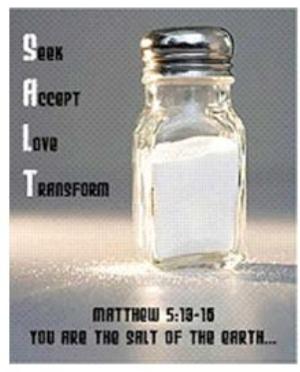
Kids' Sunday School



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!



SALT Ministry

New volunteers are always welcome to join our SALT (Seek, Accept, Love, Transform) Ministry. These volunteers work with students at Davis and Furneaux Elementary Schools. If you are interested in tutoring, please contact Jana Jones for more information.



Vacation Bible School 2011 - PANDAMANIA!!

PandaMania is coming to Holy Covenant July 11-15! If you would like to serve on the Leadership Team, please contact Jana Jones jjones@hcumc.org.



Bible Retreat for 3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders

Thursday, March 17 - 10 am to 2 pm
Wear green and come have fun as we learn about God's Word together!
Contact Jana Jones by

Caught up, called out, come take a look at me now
It's like I'm falling in love...
Falling in love with Jesus brought the change in me

Better than a bouquet of fresh flowers or a box of gourmet chocolates, God's boundless, self-giving love for all humankind is presented to us in Jesus - the fact that he would come at all, to live with us as one of us; the way he pulled back the curtain of God's heart, kept no secrets, and shared truth and light; his sacrificial death on the cross, which communicates the depth of his love for us; the resurrection, which vindicates his life of love.

That kind of love calls for more than a subtle nod of assent or even a pledge of allegiance. God yearns for us to be swept off our feet - overwhelmed by Goodness and Truth - and return that love with our whole heart.

The most important "fall" in the Christian faith is not what happened in the Garden of Eden. It is what happens when we fall in love with Jesus.

The closing prayer for February 14 in Common Prayer is as follows: "O Love that keeps the heavens turning, draw us to you in all our yearnings."

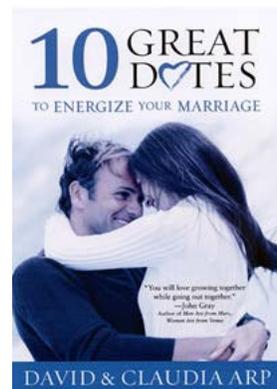
Blessings, Pastor Andy

10 Great Dates

February 11 - April 15

Remember back to your dating days-the excitement you felt? Now you can reclaim that same spark, connection, and creativity in your marriage through ten intentional, memory-making dates. This proven approach to relationship growth is low-key, purposeful, effective, easy, and fun, and will help you:

- * Communicate better
- * Put the sizzle back in sex
- * Process anger and resolve conflicts
- * Develop spiritual intimacy
- * Appreciate your differences
- * Balance busy lifestyles
- * And much more!



What Holy Covenant couples have said about 10 Great Dates:

"It has been very good for us. Has opened up communication in ways we hadn't expected. Brought us much closer after 24+ years being married. We had forgotten how to really talk. I would recommend it!!"

"I think the program is great- if nothing else it has forced us to take time for ourselves and focus on our relationship. It is easy for us to notice all the negative parts in our marriage (not that there are many!), but going thru this has pointed out to me just how good it is!!"

March 9 to reserve a spot for your child.

Youth Ministry

Youth! Mark your calendars with these dates for 2011:

- Mar 4-6 - Youth Annual Conference - for youth leaders at Bridgeport
- Jun 14-21 - Choir Tour
- Jul 3-8 - Junior High mission trip
- Jul 24-30 - Senior High mission trip
- Aug 7-13 - Youth week

Adult Ministry



Finding a "Cell" Sunday, February 27

As we hear more about Worship +2 over the next few weeks in worship and learn all about "Cell" and "Call" as vital parts of how we follow Jesus, the "cell" portion of this equation can sometimes be difficult. Finding a small group to join is not always easy. Questions you may have are "What are the groups we currently offer here at church?"

What are the new groups all about?" We can help! Please join Susan Kasten from our Engagement Team and Mark Millar from our Adult Education Team to help you find your way toward your new small group on Sunday, Feb 27 in room 113. Susan

kastens@verizon.net and mcmillar@att.net will be happy to talk with you and act as your 'personal consultant' to help you find *just* the right group where you can grow in

This eye-opening program is being repeated after 25 couples had "10 Great Dates" last year and LOVED IT! 10 Great Dates is a 10-week program that helps couples to reconnect and recharge their marriage - whether you've been married 1 year or 50.

Couples come to church to watch/discuss a brief DVD segment, and then are off on their dates to discuss the week's topic. Childcare is available every Friday for \$5 per child. Class begins Friday, February 11 and lasts until April 15. To register, visit www.hcumc.org or email Jennifer & Ryan Baumgardner - jendbaum@verizon.net

Worship + 2

Worship



Worship+Cell+Call

The Way Jesus Lived

Rich and Abundant Life for Jesus' Disciples

A new sermon series

2/13-27

Valentine Bake Sale

This Sunday in the Covenant Center!

your faith and make a connection here at church.



Microsoft Excel Classes

Interested in learning more about Excel? Join us in our computer lab from 7:00-8:30 pm on Wednesdays - February 16, February 23, and March 2. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jana Jones to reserve a spot.



Rev. Owen Ross Coming to Holy Covenant Sunday, March 6

Join Rev. Owen Ross from Christ's Foundry UMC in room 113 on Sunday, March 6 during the Sunday school hour (9:45 - 10:45 am) for his presentation of "Holistic Ministry: Establishing a Church and Community Center". Christ's Foundry is a church community in the north Bachman Lake area that just signed paperwork to begin construction on their brand new sanctuary and community center. Holy Covenant has been a partner church in helping Christ's Foundry to get to this momentous occasion in their ministry. Come and hear

BAKE SALE



SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 13
8:15 am - 12:15 pm
BUY SOMETHING SWEET FOR
SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE YOUTH CHOIR TOUR

In Training



Register Now

Sign up Sunday, February 13 or online at www.hcumc.org to take part!

Join others by doing the following:

1. Form a team or sign up individually

2. Set 3 goals

-Physical:

5K Walk

5K Run

1/2 Marathon

Full Marathon

-Spiritual:

Monday Morning Breakfast Club, Tuesday Morning Women's bible Study, 7 Week Lenten Study, Sunday School, or Private Routine

-Commitment:

Commit to the goal of being present for worship on 5 of the 7 Sundays of Lent

3. Start training

their senior pastor Owen Ross share how they have been creating community in this very special part of our city.



Greeters

Warm, friendly people are needed to serve as ushers in the narthex and greeters in the Welcome Center. We especially welcome families that would like to participate together. New folks every Sunday are coming to Holy Covenant for the first time. Let's all help make their first experience here their warmest so they may come to know Holy Covenant as the welcoming congregation that we are! Greeters and ushers rotate so that they serve only once per month. Please join our team of bright shining faces on Sunday morning. Let Pastor Wendy know if you are interested - wcurran@hcumc.org or let her know on Sunday morning.

Music Ministry

Music Ministry News

Come be a part of our wonderful music ministry. Contact Pastor Debbie for information, dchapman@hcumc.org



Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show

Sunday, February, 27

February 27 6:00pm—8:00 PM

Talent Show & SPAGHETTI DINNER
Free Admission, donations accepted

Delicious spaghetti dinner followed by an incredible talent show.

All talented individuals or groups are invited to participate:

Sign-up sheet by the youth office or see Georgia.

Offering taken will go toward summer youth mission trip.

Mark Your Calendars!

Church Directory Portraits:

Thursday, March 3

Friday, March 4

Saturday, March 5.

Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with the name? Are you a new member and wish you had something to help identify people? Help is on the way!



We are producing a pictorial family album! There is no cost to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating. You

Adult Choir - Wednesdays
7:30 pm in the Choir room
(SE corner of Sanctuary)
Advanced handbells -
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Children's rehearsals
Children's Handbells
(Sanctuary)- Grades 3 - 5
(grade 2 by audition)
6:10 pm - Snack Supper
(Room 113)
6:30 pm - Children's Choir
(Room A) Grades 1-6

Youth rehearsals
Bells - 4:00 pm
Choir - 5:00 pm (following
meeting)
Invite a friend and receive
a prize.

**New Members are
always welcome!**

ECDP



Registration Time is Here!

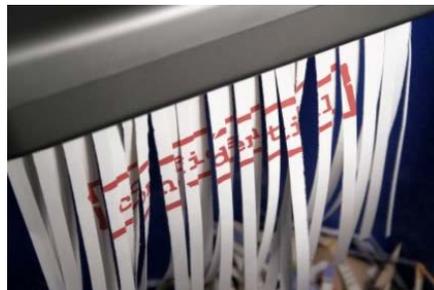
Do you have a preschooler or Kindergartener who needs a great preschool? Come and check out the Early Childhood Development Program! We began formal registration on February 8.

Children must be 1 by March 1, 2011 to attend our Children's Day Out program. We offer Pre School classes beginning at age 2 ½ (2 by March 1) and continuing through age 4. Kindergarten is offered for children who will be 5 by September 1. Classes are offered Monday-Thursday from 9:00-2:00. We offer specials in Music, PE, and Spanish as well as a computer lab and a science lab.

will be able to view your images electronically immediately after photography. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. Register today at www.hcumc.org for the time that works best for your family!

To make our directory a success, we need volunteers. Vicki Davis bunchads@verizon.net is coordinating the volunteers for our new directory. If you are interested in helping during our photography sign-ups, telephoning our members, or serving as a host or hostess during the actual photography sessions, please contact Vicki or call the church office (972-492-2432).

From the Green Team



We want your sensitive papers!

The Green Team will have a secure mobile shredding unit in the Holy Covenant parking lot on Saturday April 16. The mobile unit offers shredding while you watch to provide peace of mind that your personal and confidential

documents have been destroyed with the utmost privacy and security.

Please start going through your paperwork and plan to bring it up to be shredded. Don't spend hours doing this job yourself...let us do it for only \$5.00 for each paper-box sized container.

Some documents you might want to bring for shredding:

Tax information (older than 7 years)

Credit card bills

Department store bills

Old bank statements

ANY paperwork that has personal/confidential information which could be used to compromise your identity.

All money collected (above and beyond the cost of the shredding truck) will be used by the Holy Covenant Green Team to help care for our earth.

Tell your friends and family to bring their sensitive documents, too.

Christ's Foundry

From Owen Ross

Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission celebrates her first year of "self-sufficiency." 2010 was the first year since the birth of Christ's Foundry in 2002 that Christ's Foundry did not receive North Texas Conference Funds for operating expenses.

At the 2000 North Texas Annual Conference, the conference made a bold vote to plant a church in one of the poorest areas of the conference among a population that has traditionally shown



For further information including fees, check the www.hcumc.org website and look under ECDP school or call Sheryl Toney at 972-492-1371.

Green Team

Pond Cleaning

February 19 at 9:00 am
Help our Green Team beautify our adopted pond across the street!

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 Odell, Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Lee family; the Gauthier family; Stephen Ministry leaders; Sandra Kiplinger; Nicole Abed; Rosemary Stierhoff; Cris Hinkley and Dot Molencupp; Tina Ross; Nena Faulkner; Jaynie Ayoub; Jenny Martin; Joni Taylor; Dick Ellis; Mike Partridge and family; David Ross; Quentin & Melanie Martin; Josephine Anderson; Bill

little affinity towards Methodism. While this decision to reach out to the poorest in our conference was on firm theological ground, this decision had little financial logic since the probability of a financial return on the investment would be much lower than for those churches planted in wealthier areas. Of course, a conference knew that a conference cannot serve two masters.

Christ's Foundry began in 2002 as a holistic mission plant in the Spanish-speaking immigrant neighborhood north of Love Field in Dallas. At the mission's inception, the North Texas Conference covered 100% of the operating expenses. Conferences traditionally assist in funding church plants for around three years with the expectation that the new congregation will then begin to cover her expenses. Wealthier areas of a conference experiencing population growth are generally selected for targets of such church plants in order to increase the likelihood of financial success.

While the Christ's Foundry congregation has experienced an average increase of 20-30% in giving each year, congregational offerings still account for only a fifth of the mission's operating income. The financial bedrock of Christ's Foundry has been her 13 covenant United Methodist churches. Holy Covenant has been a covenant partner with Christ's Foundry since 2004. We not only support Christ's Foundry with an annual pledge of financial gifts to their operating budget, we support them with our prayers, presence, service, and witness.

With Christ's Foundry passing a year without North Texas Conference operating money, a new model for planting churches among the poorest has been developed. Christ's Foundry is looking to expand her covenant relationships in 2010 in anticipation of construction of a ministry center on the corner of Park Lane and Webb Chapel. In this new facility, new ministries will birth new opportunities for mutually transformative relationships to develop. Also in this new facility, Christ's Foundry will seek to equip other pastors in this model.

What was the North Texas Conference thinking when she voted to plant a mission in the North Love Field community? In the fourth chapter of Luke, Jesus announced, *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor."* That same Spirit and anointing is on the North Texas Conference. John Wesley said of the Methodist of his day, "Surely never in any age or nation, since the Apostles, have those words been so eminently fulfilled, 'the poor have the gospel preached unto them,' as it is at this day." May the we continue to seek such a day.

Thank you North Texas Conference for your eight years of financial support to the operating budget of Christ's Foundry, and thank you to everyone who has given to the building campaign. 2010 was a big year for Christ's Foundry, but 2011 is shaping-up to be an even greater year. Stay tuned for more news on construction that will soon follow this article. Visit www.ChristsFoundry.org for more information and to support this ministry of the North Texas Conference.

Blessingame; Jeanna Blessingame; Jim McKee's sister, Cyndi Benedict; Scott Curry's mother, Jeanne; Mark Suter; Claudia Buntyn; Robbin Oakley; Marcus Oakley; Sheila Anderson; Mark & Amy Ruggles; Bill Anderson; Dan Patman's niece, Lizz; DoReen Burbidge; Azlynn and John Hooper; Larie Engles' mother; David & Coby Mazucco; Jak Kinder; Phillip Sorrell; Susan and Jay Graham; Nicki & Don Luce & family; Heather Hinton's uncle Billy Fulton; Amy & Eric Bresie; Sandy Serifin; Verne & Dorlis Glass; Sandie & Mark Loudermilk; Doug Jones' brother Jeff; Ray Rivera; Chris Eldridge; Joy & Scott Leiding & family; Dale Bryan & family; Noel Tardy; Carol Blalock; Jeannie Deringer; Arthur Alaniz and family; Bill Hill; Jay & Kathy Cash; Rosie Alexander; Kate Bushmann; Jess Beltran; Jan Rollins; Annabella Chan; Rick Clement; Lisa Tenore; Vic Anderson; Jon Broom; Barbara Boothe; David Fettke; Rick Kaiser & family; the Hickman family; the Dooley family; Jackie Franklin and family; Anna Hixon, friend of Kim Eaves; Ann Michelle King; Jon Broom; Huffman family; the Pifer family; the Bailey family; and the Witcher family.

Our loved ones in the military

Trevor Baucom, Precious Blackman, Jeff Christie, Clem Clemens, Sean Connelly, Tim Connelly, CJ Davidson, Collin Fender, Zach Glass, David Hunt, Oscar Jasso, Marco Mastrogiovanni, Kevin Merritt, Brand Oakley, Jake Oliver, Ashton

Holy Communion Servers



Pastor Wendy is looking to coordinate a team of volunteers to serve Holy Communion for both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Youth are especially welcome to serve! There's no experience necessary; a very brief training will be given after the teams are assembled. Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month. Please contact Pastor Wendy via email wcurran@hcumc.org, phone 972-492-2432 or between/after worship services on Sunday to let her know you're interested.

Serving Holy Communion is an amazing, spiritual experience and we hope you will offer your hands and heart to serve your church family.

Prayer Corner

It Is Well With My Soul

By Horatio G. Spafford

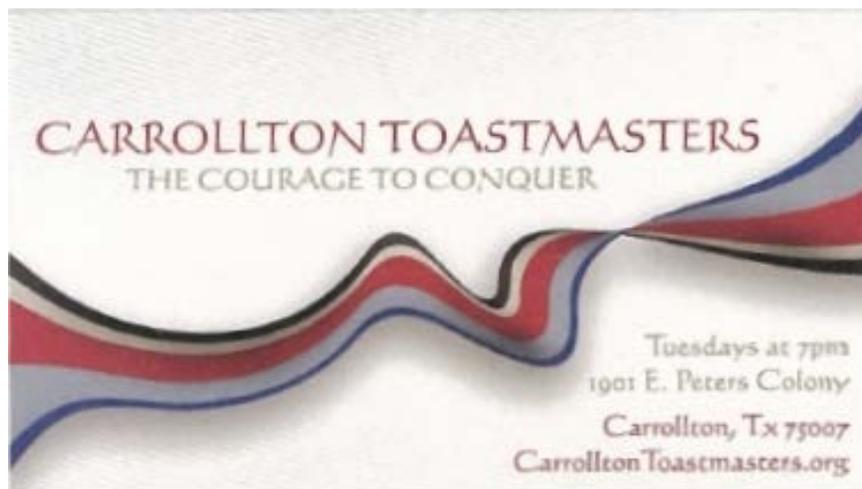
When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows
roll; what ever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.



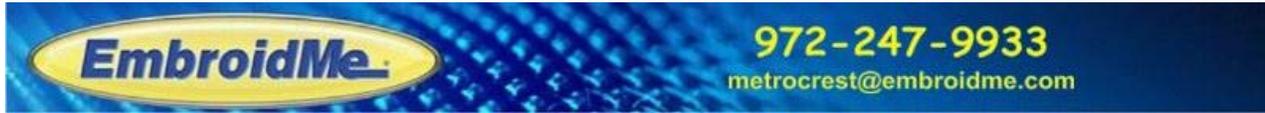
It is well it is well with my soul,
with my soul, it is well,
it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well it is well with my soul, with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.



Rudolf,
Ashley Wert, C.J.
Westmoreland, Brad
Wethington, & Jeremy
Whiteside.



Custom Embroidery

Corporate Apparel, Shirts, Caps, etc.

Screen Printing

T-shirts, Team, etc.

Advertising Promotional Items

Pens, Mugs, Magnets, Koozies, etc.

Mike & Rose Lovell

1630 Valwood Parkway at Luna Rd., Carrollton, TX

e-mail: metrocrest@embroidme.com web: www.embroidme-metrocrest.com

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@dccc.edu or at 972-505-1833 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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