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## Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

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Issue: #42

August 12, 2011

From Pastor Andy



### **Oppressive Conditions**

As I sit down in my office to write this article, it is 105 degrees outside. I can feel the heat "drafting" through the slight gap between my exterior door and the floor. The air conditioner doesn't stand a chance.

In north Texas, we are on day 34 of consecutive 100 degree temperatures, and there is no end in sight. The topic of the heat wave is trending now on Yahoo! It seems every conversation begins with "Surviving the heat?" or ends with "Stay cool!"

Recently, we all have had the experience of stepping outside in the searing heat and literally hunching over, instinctively trying to protect ourselves as if the sun were accosting us. This heat is truly oppressive. It's enough to convince us to give up, in a sense, and just stay inside. Any time spent in it leaves us feeling utterly drained and sapped of our usual energy.

There is a lesson here, and it's not about proper hydration or the importance of high SPF sunscreen. It's about walking in someone else shoes.

There are people in the world, even in our local community, for whom the conditions of daily life are oppressive. They have a history of being "beaten up," and therefore their starting point is to feel timid and defensive. It is a challenge to muster up the energy to "go for it" one more time. Oppression,

### 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!

**Our Fall Kickoff will be August 28!**  
**If you would like to lead a class of amazing kids, please contact Jana.**

**Created by God**  
 Created By God is a human sexuality seminar for 5th & 6th Graders. If you would like for your 5th or 6th Grader to participate, please let Jana know.  
**Registration ends September 7 - there is a \$30 registration fee.**



**Acolyte Training - 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th Graders**  
 If you would like to serve as a leader in worship, be an acolyte!  
**A training session for all new and returning acolytes will be held on September 18 at 12:15 pm.**  
 Contact Jana if your child is interested in participating.



**Childcare Position Available**  
 Holy Covenant currently has a Childcare Worker position available. Applicants must be available on Sunday mornings from 8:15 am to 12:15 pm and

like 34 consecutive days of +100 degree temperatures, will do that to a person.

In addition to raising temperatures (and tempers), this heat wave has the power to raise our level of empathy and compassion.

\* \* \*

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he described such "beaten down" persons as "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3). There were people in the crowds gathered around him that day who lived in oppressive conditions and who undoubtedly felt drained and sapped of hope. To them, Jesus says something remarkable. Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to you" (again, Matthew 5:3).

What does this mean? Should we put ourselves in a position to be oppressed, so that we can become poor in spirit and qualify for the kingdom? Should we glory in the poverty of our spiritual life and emotional well-being? Of course not! Praising spiritual poverty misses Jesus' point entirely. To quote Dallas Willard, author of *The Divine Conspiracy*, "Those poor in spirit are called 'blessed' by Jesus, not because they are in a meritorious condition, but because, *precisely in spite of and in the midst of their ever so deplorable condition*, the rule of the heavens has moved redemptively upon them by the grace of Christ."

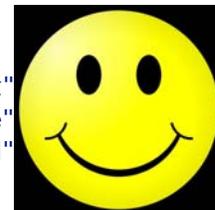
Being poor in spirit does not earn a place in the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom is not something that is earned; it is graciously received from the hand of Jesus. In Matthew 5:3, Jesus offers the kingdom to the oppressed in the crowd, those whom we would least expect, to make this point. What amazing grace!

Stay cool, Pastor Andy

### How to Be Happy: Jesus Explains

#### Jesus' Wisdom for Daily Living: A Sermon Series Based on the Beatitudes

- 8/14: "Blessed are the Pure in Heart"
- 8/21: "Blessed are the Humble"
- 8/28: "Blessed are the Merciful"



### Parenting Class

#### "Raising Kids Who Grow Up Without Giving Up on Faith" Sundays, August 14-28 9:45 -10:45 am in Room 113

Do you want to instill in your child a vibrant commitment to Christ?

occasionally on evenings during the week. You must be 18 years of age or older to apply. If you are interested in this position, please contact Jana Jones for more information.

### Youth Ministry



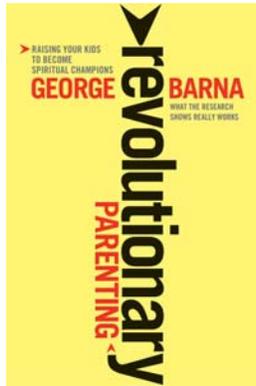
#### Stockholder's Reception

Sunday, Aug 14, 6-8pm  
**All are invited** to join us as we celebrate all of the youth mission trips this summer, made possible by many generous donations. Please join us for desert and youth presentations about the trips!

#### Youth Fellowship Fall Kickoff

Sunday, August 21, 6-8pm  
 All youth, 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to come to the fall kickoff, featuring great food, fun, and more!

#### Advocates for Justice & Peace



In his book "Revolutionary Parenting," George Barna reveals ways to shape your child's spiritual life while they are young. Barna also shares surprising truths about which popular parenting tactics just aren't working.

Join Pastor Andy Lewis for a discussion of this book. (Books are \$10)

### Open Invitation

#### Administrative Counsel Meeting on Monday, August 15th at 7 pm in Room 113

The Ad. Council meets monthly to assess and evaluate our ministries, to explore new ministry possibilities and to make strategic decisions to help Holy Covenant become even more effective at making disciples of Jesus Christ. This year, the Ad. Council is composed of 12 people, who represent various ministry areas and points of view in our church. These 12 have "voice and vote;" however, any member of the church or staff is welcome to attend the meetings, learn with us, and voice your opinions. **These meetings are open.** Feel free to join us.

#### FREE Haircuts for Kids

#### Tuesday, August 16 Thursday, August 18 in the Covenant Center

For kids 3 to 19. Parent permission slips required for kids under 18. Compliments of the Paul Mitchell Cosmetology Career Center.



### New Saturday Night Contemporary Worship Service



#### Saturday, August 20 5:00-6:00 pm

We are excited about the development of this new service on Saturdays! Monthly "preview" services are planned through December, with hopes of a weekly service beginning in January. Join us in a casual, family-friendly atmosphere for worship led by a praise band! Childcare will be provided for young

kids.



**Fan Drive**

The Advocates for Justice & Peace are accepting donated new and used fans for those in our community without adequate air conditioning. Please bring your fans to the Holy Covenant narthex.

Contact Jana Jones or Andy Lewis if you would like more information.

**CPR Training**

**Thursday, August 25**

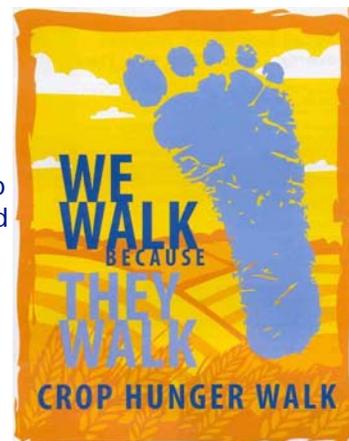
**9 am to noon in Room 210**

If you are interested in attending, please contact Sheryl Toney [stoney@hcumc.org](mailto:stoney@hcumc.org) or 972-492-1371.

**Metrocrest CROP Hunger Walk**

**Saturday, August 27**

Metrocrest Social Services will host their annual CROP Hunger Walk on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. In this interfaith event, walkers raise awareness of hunger and raise funds to help fight hunger in our community and around the world. The CROP Walk will kick off at Holy Covenant (8:30am, registration 8am) in Carrollton.



We often forget that people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day just to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. The CROP Walk is a way to symbolically acknowledge their struggle and to take a stand against hunger in our community and our world.

Water and other support for comfort and safety will be provided along the approx. 2.0 mile route. Additionally, sno cones, popcorn, face painting and a bounce house will be available on Holy Covenant's grounds after the Walk for f or walkers and their families.

Everyone can participate by either joining in on the Walk or making a donation through one of the Walkers who will be raising funds. **25% of the funds raised go directly to Metrocrest Social Services.** The remaining funds are used by Church World Service in their global hunger fighting programs.

Sign up tables and donation packets are available in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. Please contact Rick Davis (972-814-5325) if you have questions. Online donations for Holy Covenant's Team can be made at [www.cropwalkonline.org](http://www.cropwalkonline.org) by clicking on *Find a Walk/Texas/Metrocrest Walk*.

**Worship + 2**



**Jon Lasley**

Worship: 11:00  
 +1 (Cell): Youth Sunday School, UMYF  
 +2 (Call): Youth Choir, Youth Bells, Mission Trips

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

**8:30 and 11:00 am**  
 Worship Services  
**9:45 am**  
 Sunday School for all ages

**Staff**

**Cabaret by request**

**Saturday, September 10**

This year we are recycling some favorites as well as presenting some new songs that we hope will become favorites. (If you've got a last minute request - let us know soon!) Some of the highlights of the show this year will be a salute to our military heroes.

**Rev. Andy Lewis,**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Debbie Chapman,**  
Associate Pastor, Music  
Ministries

**Jana Jones,**  
Children's and Young  
Adult Minister

**Rev. Georgia Harrison,**  
Youth and Missions  
Minister

**Cassie Wade,**  
Ministry Intern

**Sheryl Toney,**  
ECDP Director

**Carol Jones,**  
Bookkeeper

**Elise Webb Odell,**  
Administrative Assistant



Reserve seating is available up front! A table for four can be reserved for only \$20. We have a limited amount of space, so call the church office soon to reserve yours! There is no charge for general seating. Donations to the Music Ministry will be happily accepted.

Save the date: September 10 at 7pm

If you have a photo of yourself or a loved one in uniform, please email it to

[jendbaum@verizon.net](mailto:jendbaum@verizon.net) so we can honor you

during the Armed Forces salute!

Life is a CABARET! Come join us!

## Sing Handel's Messiah

**Sunday, October 23**

### Meyerson Symphony Center

*YOU are invited to join the Holy Covenant Wesleyan Choir members as they participate in this concert with the Turtle Creek Chorale and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. A registration form will need to be submitted for each singer. A fee of \$35.00 covers the music and a learning CD. Scholarships are available if needed. Chapel Hill UMC is also participating as are many other churches in the Metroplex. In addition to the rehearsals listed below, we will do a Saturday rehearsal with Chapel Hill in August (exact date TBA).*

For the third year in a row, the Turtle Creek Chorale is pleased to invite you to sing with us! Eight years ago, we began a program called *Partners In Harmony*. Its mission is to appeal to religious organizations willing to affirm our belief that every human being is created equal. Today, *Partners In Harmony* comprises over FIFTY religious institutions. As in years past, we are honored to welcome you to our *Partners In Harmony*.

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra joins the Turtle Creek Chorale, choruses from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, the Texas State University at San Marcos Women's Chorus and our *Partners In Harmony* massed choir for this momentous event.

This year's *Partners In Harmony* massed chorus will perform selections from Handel' MESSIAH. The concert will take place at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center on **Sunday, October 23, 2011**.

Singers of all voice parts (SATB) are welcome.

[Rehearsal and Concert details are as follows:](#)

#### Rehearsals

Sunday, October 9	7-10 PM	Holy Trinity Catholic Church*
Sunday, October 16	7-10 PM	Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Saturday, October 22	1:30-4 PM	Meyerson Symphony Center

## *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

The Yull family; Lucy Tucker; Sandra Kiplinger; Hugh Dixon; Linda & Michael Miller; Stephen Ministry leaders; Rosemary Stierhoff; Cris Hinkley and Dot Molencupp; John & Rachel Heathington; Joni Taylor; Dick Ellis; Linda McAdams; Ira McAnally; Marcus Oakley; Rechele Bonner; Jessica and Philip Stallings; Brenda McMurtrey; Geraine Allen; Ed Webb; Donna Hatter's daughter; Gene Blassingame; Patrick Connelly; Linda Hoovler; Nita Sharp; Joe Worthington; Mike Partridge and family; Virgil Ronning; David Ross; Quentin & Melanie Martin; Josephine Anderson; Jim McKee's sister, Cyndi Benedict; Scott Curry's mother, Jeanne; Claudia Buntyn; John & Elizabeth Rudolf; John Michael; Sheila Anderson; Stephanie Flangin; Bill Anderson;

DoReen Burbidge; Azlynn and John Hooper; Larie Engles' mother; Jak Kinder; Philip Sorrell; Susan and Jay Graham; Nicki & Don Luce & family; Sandy Serifin; Verne & Dorlis Glass; Sandie & Mark Loudermilk; Doug Jones' brother Jeff; Ray Rivera; Jim Hartley; Rachel Herrera; Brooke Johnston; Diane Bullock; Joy & Scott Leiding & family; Dale Bryan & family; David Zepf; Cindy Fergesen; Noel Tardy; 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; Sandy Bever & family; the Hickman family; the Dooley family; Jackie Franklin and family; Anna Hixon; Ann Michelle King; Huffman family; the Pifer family; the Bailey family; the Witcher family; and Hannah Chijioke and family.

#### Our loved ones in the military

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

\* Holy Trinity Catholic Church is located at 3811 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas, TX 75219. Rehearsals will take place in the Community Life Center. Free parking available in church lot.

#### Concert

Sunday, October 23 8:00 PM (Exact call time TBA)

#### Cost Per Performer:

\$35 - includes registration fee, rehearsal CD and Novello piano/vocal score. All singers are asked to use this edition in rehearsal and performance.

\$25 - includes registration fee and rehearsal CD only.

Registration may be completed online at [www.turtlecreek.org](http://www.turtlecreek.org) (click "Partners In Harmony" link) or return the enclosed form. I encourage you to copy and distribute this form freely. We ask that forms be returned to the Turtle Creek Chorale office no later than September 23, 2011 in order for scores and rehearsal CDs to be mailed in a timely fashion. (Holy Covenant participants should return their forms and checks to Debbie Chapman.)

The choirs will sing the following choruses:

4. **Chorus - And The Glory Of The Lord, 2:40**
7. **Chorus - And He Shall Purify, 2:18**
12. **Chorus - For Unto Us A Child Is Born, 4:02**
17. **Chorus - Glory To God, 1:43**
44. **Chorus - Hallelujah Chorus, 3:51**
53. **Chorus - Worthy Is The Lamb. Amen, 7:32**

For more information on the complete TCC season, visit <http://www.turtlecreek.org/index.php?/season/>



## Carrollton West Pet Hospital

[www.CarrolltonWestPet.com](http://www.CarrolltonWestPet.com)

3729 Old Denton Rd.  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-1828

Lynda VanAntwerp, DVM  
Leigh-Anne Morris, DVM  
Anna Osofsky, DVM  
*Diplomate, ABVP, certified in Avian Practice*  
Ashley Braniff Champagne, DVM  
Jon Paa, DVM

Whiteside.



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*Mike & Rose Lovell*

1630 Valwood Parkway at Luna Rd., Carrollton, TX

e-mail: [metrocrest@embroidme.com](mailto:metrocrest@embroidme.com) web: [www.embroidme-metrocrest.com](http://www.embroidme-metrocrest.com)

Piano Lessons at Holy Covenant!



Jonathan Kaan is teaching piano lessons at Holy Covenant. You can contact Jonathan at [jkaan@dcccd.edu](mailto:jkaan@dcccd.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.



We are welcoming and open to all people; black or white, yellow or brown, you are welcome here; rich or poor, young or old, you are welcome here, gay or straight, citizen or sojourner, you are welcome here.

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