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Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

In This Issue

[Walking Through a Dark Valley](#)

[Sorry! We Were Jerks](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)

[SALT Ministry](#)

[New Saturday Night Contemporary Worship](#)

[Christianity is Not a Spectator Sport](#)

[The Auction is Coming! The Auction is Coming!](#)

[Messiah](#)

[Trunk or Treat](#)

[Serving in Worship](#)

Issue: #46

October 7, 2011

From Pastor Andy



[Walking Through a Dark Valley](#)

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

Many would say that we are walking through a dark valley these days. Our nation's politics are dysfunctional, our economy is limping along, and the Cowboys seem incapable of holding a big fourth quarter lead. For many, the lights of hope and security and joy are distant and dim.

It seems that even our church family is being dragged into a dark valley. We are struggling with the recent news that our church staff will likely be reduced in 2012, and we are anxious about the future - especially, the future of our youth program. Finding ourselves in this dark valley, we have bemoaned our situation, voiced our concerns, and burned the midnight oil at meetings, hoping to uncover a palatable solution. We want out of this dark valley...and fast!

Turning to the scriptures, I find that God does not promise us as people of faith that we will never walk through dark valleys. Occasional times of confusion, frustration, disappointment and conflict come to us all. What the scriptures do promise is that we are not alone in the dark valley and that, because God is with us, we have nothing to fear. The rod of our Good Shepherd will ensure that every one of the sheep will be safely accounted for. The staff of the Good Shepherd will ward off any threats to our well-being. The Lord, our Good Shepherd, will look after us and protect us as we walk through the dark valley. The Lord offers us comfort and peace, even while we are in the dark valley.

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!



Acceptance & Commitment Therapy Workshop

Free workshop for those who have or work with children with autism spectrum disorders. Led by Dr. Amy Murrell and a team from the UNT Contextual Psychology Research Group Saturday, October 22 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the sanctuary. Learn strategies to deal with stressors that might be experienced daily. Better understand the children and build a relationship with them. If you would like to attend, please e-mail Ashley Cope at actpworkshop@gmail.com.

Youth



Youth Events

- Oct 9 - Coffee House
- Oct 16 - WOW, youth led worship
- Oct 23 - Mission Activity, distribute flyers for Trunk or Treat
- Oct 30 - Trunk or Treat

Adult

Friends, the words of Psalm 23 may have been written down 3,000 years ago, but these words are for us today. Now, as then, we can attempt to make our way through the dark valley ruled by fear. Ruled by fear, we may find our way out, but it won't be pretty. Or, we can walk through the dark valley with unwavering faith in our God - a faith that God will comfort us in our grief, a faith that our youth and our staff members and our church are in the loving hands of God and will be alright, and a faith that helps us turn toward one another as a church family for strength and support.

Fear or faith. The Psalmist proclaims that we have nothing to fear with the Lord at our side, guiding us, protecting us and keeping us united in love. I believe the Psalmist, I believe in the power of God to see us through this dark valley, and I believe in you.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Andy Lewis

Sorry! We Were Jerks!

Sermon Series

There are lots of people who have been hurt by either the church or Christians. Please give us the opportunity to truly say we're sorry and to show you that we are committed to bring a different kind of church.

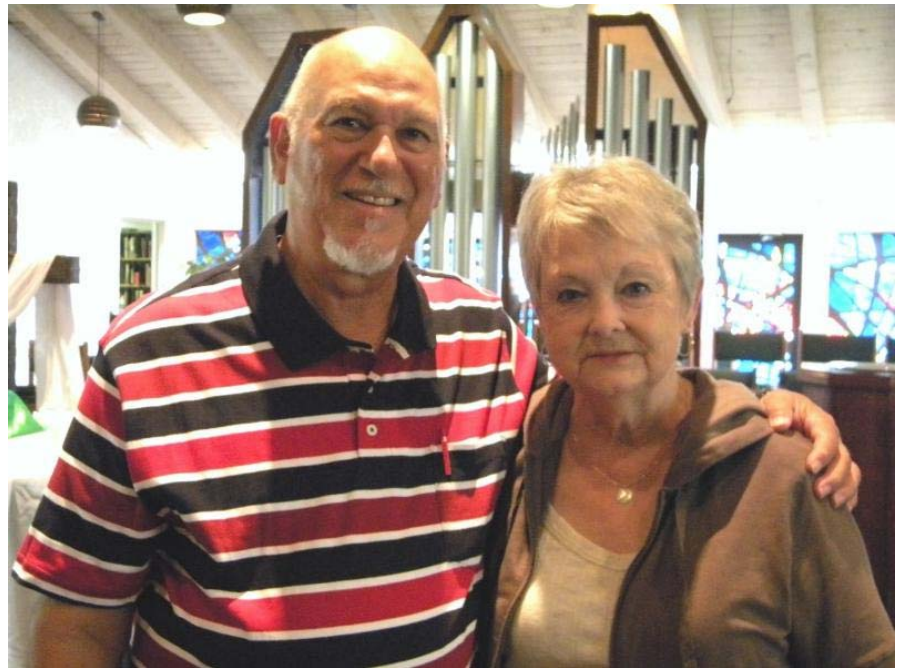


- Oct 9-** SORRY for repressing women
- Oct 16-** SORRY for being focused on ourselves
- Oct 23-** "Be The Church" Sunday!

Welcome New Members

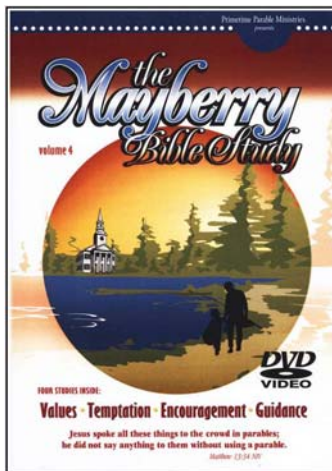


**L.I.F.T.
Ladies In Fellowship
Together**
October 27 at 6:30 pm
 Join the women of Holy Covenant in monthly gatherings on the fourth Thursday night of the month at 6:30 at a different home each time. Our agenda is to build one another up in Christian love. What could be better? Potluck, and loving support of our sisters in the faith! For more information go to our website www.hcumc.org.



Carlos and Anne Castro, joined July 31, 2011

Twilighters



**October 7, 2011
12 noon - 2 pm
Covenant Center,
Room 113**
 The Twilighters are

studying The Mayberry Bible Study this fall during their monthly meetings. This unique study uses TV episodes from "The Andy Griffith Show" to launch a discussion on Christian Living.

This fun group of senior adults meets monthly to share a meal, conversation and study. Contact Eileen Ritter eritter14@yahoo.com for more information. Join us in October!

Worship + 2



Kristen and Ashley Zambrano

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

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
Jana Jones,
 Children's and Young Adult Minister



Joanna Prees, joined September 18, 2011

SALT Ministry



Seek, Accept, Love, Transform

Interested in volunteering as a tutor? Learn about our ministry with Davis & Furneaux Elementary Schools. A small amount of time each week can make a big difference in a child's life.

Rev. Georgia Harrison,
Youth and Missions Minister
Cassie Wade,
Ministry Intern
Sheryl Toney,
ECDP Director
Carol Jones,
Bookkeeper
Elise Webb Odell,
Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The family of Louise Robbins; the family of Orville Downing; the family of Mary Lou Larson; the Wright family; Ben Ruggles; Ben Chapman; Sue Moser; Movalynn McKee; Hugh Dixon; Linda & Michael Miller; Stephen Ministry leaders; Rosemary Stierhoff; Cris Hinkley and Dot Molencupp; Joni Taylor; Dick Ellis; Julie Bowes; JoAnn Wiggins; Bernard Hardy; Ira McAnally; Marcus Oakley; Jessica and Philip Stallings; Brenda McMurtrey; Geraine Allen; Brian & Meagan Webb; Sara Ray's father; Donna Hatter's daughter; Gene Blassingame; Patrick Connelly; Linda Hoovler; Nita Sharp; Joe Worthington; Virgil Ronning; Quentin & Melanie Martin; Josephine Anderson; Jeanne Curry; 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; Jeff Jones; Ray Rivera;

Contact Jana Jones jjones@hcumc.org if you would like to participate.

New Saturday Night Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday, October 8
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 2012.

Join us in a casual, family-friendly atmosphere for worship led by a praise band!

Childcare is provided for young kids.

Contact Jana Jones jjones@hcumc.org or Andy Lewis alewis@hcumc.org if you would like more information.

****Come to the service, then leave your kids from 6:00-9:00 for a Parents' Night Out!****

If possible, e-mail Jana to make a reservation.

For kids ages Infant-5th Grade - a snack will be provided.

Cost is \$5/child or FREE if you attend the service and show your bulletin!



Christianity is Not a Spectator Sport



Ever Thought About Being a Stephen Minister?

Holy Covenant UMC will be training another class of Stephen Ministers starting on Saturday, October 15th. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. If you think you might be interested, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Debbie Chapman* dchapman@hcumc.org, *Susan Rardin* susie.greg@verizon.net, *Donna Hatter*, or *Susan Kasten* kastens@verizon.net.

The Auction is Coming! The Auction is Coming!

Saturday, October 15

Holy Covenant's annual dinner and auction is almost here! Saturday, October 15-an evening filled with good food, good fun, and good fund raising. All we need now is-MORE auction items, MORE dinner reservations, MORE raffle tickets sold! Please support the auction committee and your church to make this event

Grant Russum and family;
 John Cloninger & family;
 Nathan Berry; Jim Hartley;
 Rachel Herrera; Brooke
 Johnston; Diane Bullock;
 Joy & Scott Leiding &
 family; Dale Bryan &
 family; David Zepf; Dave
 Erickson; 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; Chase Gattis;
 the Koeth family; Rob &
 Jaycinta Kambach; the
 Hickman family; the Dooley
 family; Jackie Franklin and
 family; Anna Hixon; Ann
 Michelle King; Huffman
 family; the Pifer family; the
 Bailey family; and the
 Witcher family.

Our loved ones in the military

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

the great success it has
 always been. All the details
 can be found at the church
 website www.hcumc.org-
 spread the word!



Messiah

**Holy Covenant Wesleyan Choir joins the Turtle Creek
 Chorale for *Messiah* performance!**

**October 23, 2011, 8:00 pm
 Meyerson Symphony Center**

Twenty-nine members of the Wesleyan Choir from Holy Covenant UMC will participate in singing Handel's "Messiah" with the Turtle Creek Chorale on October 23. The Partners In Harmony program began eight years ago. Its mission is to appeal to religious organizations that affirm our belief that every human being is created equal. Today, Partners In Harmony comprises nearly 50 religious institutions.

This concert features the Turtle Creek Chorale, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and over 300 singers comprising our Partners In Harmony massed choir performing portions of one of the most beloved works in all of classical music. George Frideric Handel's MESSIAH.

Click on the link below to get your tickets to this great event. You won't want to miss it. You can also contact Pastor Debbie for more information at dchapman@hcumc.org.

<http://www.turtlecreek.org/index.php?/season>.

Trunk or Treat

**Sunday, October 30
 6-8 pm**

Youth Sponsored
 All kids welcome
 Parents stay with your kids
 Bounce house & other fun activities!



Serving in Worship

Volunteers Needed

Worship is central to our life together. Working to ensure that our time together is meaningful and valuable are people who serve in special ways to ensure that things run smoothly. Two ways in which you could serve the gathered community is by being an Usher and/or Communion Server.



Ushers are those who ensure that all people (members and guests) are welcomed and directed into our sanctuary. They pass out bulletins and registration pads. They move among us to receive our tithes and offerings and present these gifts to God's altar along with our acolytes.

And finally they ensure our attendance is recorded and the gifts safely delivered to those who account for them. Ushers serve Sundays at 8:30 or at 11:00 on a rotating basis. If you want to serve in this capacity, please contact Cassie Wade, cwade@hcumc.org or 214-763-8084. New Usher orientation is scheduled for November 6 at 12:15 pm (following worship).

Communion Servers share the elements of Bread and Wine (juice) with all who gather at the Lord's Table. Communion is a unifying action within our community and a means of God's grace for everyone. Communion is a regular part of our worship life and is typically shared on the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Cassie Wade, cwade@hcumc.org or 214-763-8084. New Communion Servers orientation is scheduled for October 30 @ 12:15 pm (following worship).

Please give prayerful thought to serving our life together in these important ways.

Carrollton West Pet Hospital
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

EmbroidMe
 972-247-9933
metrocrest@embroidme.com

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

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.



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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