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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: #48

November 4, 2011

From Pastor Andy



Vindication for the Long-Suffering Fan

The Bible is an impenetrable and mystifying book for many. Perhaps the greatest reason it is so difficult to understand is that the cultural contexts that shape its writings are so different from our 21st century American experience. It is a real challenge for us to place ourselves in their shoes, to see the

world as they saw it.

So, when something from our everyday experience surfaces that can help us see the world like one of Jesus' Jewish contemporaries, for example, I think it's worth some reflection.

* * *

I am writing on Wednesday afternoon, October 26th, and I am on pins and needles. In just a few hours, the Texas Rangers will play game 6 of the World Series, and they will have a chance tonight to win it all.

I have been following the Rangers since I moved to Texas in 1981. Many of you, no doubt, have been following the club since it moved to Texas in 1972. The futility of the franchise, which extends even further back into the past when the team was known as the Washington Senators, has been well chronicled: zero American League Pennants; zero trips to the World Series; and until last year zero playoff series victories. Look up the definition of long-suffering in the dictionary, and you will find a picture of a life-long Rangers fan.

But, all of that could change tonight. The reputation of the franchise, redeemed. The years and years of being a loyal

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!



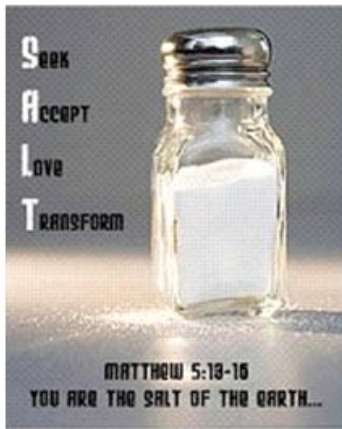
Acceptance & Commitment Therapy Workshop

Saturday, December 3 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the sanctuary

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.

If you would like to attend, please e-mail Ashley Cope actpworkshop@gmail.com.



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.

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

fan, justified. Dedicated Rangers fans will be watching tonight on the edge of their seats, holding their breath when Albert Pujols steps into the batter's box, thrusting their fists into the air when a Rangers run is scored, agonizing or rejoicing over every out, every pitch. Could this finally be the year when our hopes are fulfilled?

It has been said that baseball is like a religion. Look into the stands at the game tonight during a tense moment, and observe how many people have their hands clasped together, as if in prayer. Perhaps we can learn something about our religious tradition from this "religion."

I honestly believe that the life-long Rangers fan - who dares to dream in spite of so many years of disappointment, who scours the roster each spring training in search of a Savior, who is on the brink of witnessing the unprecedented and the unthinkable - is a lot like many first century Jews we encounter in the New Testament scriptures.

For them, it had been long, long time (centuries) since there had been any real victories. The Jews had been crushed, first by the Assyrians, then by the Babylonians, and most recently by the Romans. They longed for a Savior, whom they called the Messiah, to come and lead them to season of winning, but they were perennially disappointed. Still, there were some faithful Jews who continued to dare to have hope.

If you want to begin to understand what the big deal is in the Bible about waiting for the Messiah, ask a true, die-hard Rangers fan what it would mean to them for the Rangers to win it all.

If you want to understand Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem (Luke 19:29-40), picture a World Series victory parade through Arlington, with thousands of jubilant fans lining the streets.

You may think sports are silly. You may be right. But, watch the 9th inning of the game tonight with a real Rangers fan, and it will give you new eyes through which to read the Bible. :)

Grace and Peace, Pastor Andy Lewis

Blessed to Be a Blessing

**Nov. 6:
Being a Blessing to Others Takes Sacrifice**

**Nov. 13
Commitment Sunday:
Blessed to Be a Blessing -
Rev. Dr. Larry George,
preaching**





Family Advent Festival

A time to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas...
 Sunday, December 4
 from 5:30-8:00 pm
 More details coming soon!

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
- 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 Hammons family; Paul Chapman; Nancy Cardenas; Dale

Time Change

Sunday, November 6

Remember to set your clocks back!



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).

Payne; Ben Ruggles; Ben Chapman; Sue Moser; Hugh Dixon; Linda & Michael Miller; Stephen Ministry leaders; Rosemary Stierhoff; Cris Hinkley and Dot Molencupp; Joni Taylor; Dick Ellis; James Ross; Julie Bowes; JoAnn Wiggins; Bernard Hardy; Ira McAnally; Marcus Oakley; Joey Crumpley; Jessica and Philip Stallings; Brenda McMurtrey; Geraine Allen; Joe Webb; Sara Ray's father; Donna Hatter's daughter; 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 Serfin; Verne & Dorlis Glass; Sandie & Mark Loudermilk; Jeff Jones; Ray Rivera; Donna Crawford; 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;

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

New Saturday Night Contemporary Worship Service



Saturday, November 12

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!

S and S

**What is S and S?
Come and see for yourself!**

We will have a Thanksgiving Lunch on Friday, November 18 @ noon in Room 113. We will provide the Turkey and all you need to bring is yourself and a side dish to share. Be prepared to visit and eat a feast! Please RSVP to Eileen Ritter (972-492-3715) by November 11. See you all there!



Messiah Concert

Holy Covenant Wesleyan Choir at Meyerson Symphony Center

Twenty-nine members of the Wesleyan Choir participated in singing Handel's "Messiah" with the Turtle Creek Chorale, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and over 300 singers comprising the Partners In Harmony massed choir on October 23.

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, Gabriel Bridges; 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.



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



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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@dccd.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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