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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: #50

December 2, 2011

From Pastor Andy



Music's Mark

Years ago, I went Christmas caroling with a group from my church. We focused on singing for our shut-in members, and so our journey ended at an assisted-living center in our town where several such members lived. While there, we walked up and down the halls, singing as we went, pausing in the threshold of open doorways and occasionally chatting with the residents between carols.

We concluded our visit by singing our "best" few carols in the large activity room where the residents tended to congregate. As we entered the room, I noticed a man in a wheelchair who seemed pretty out of it. We had passed him in the hallways earlier, and I had tried to talk with him, but he seemed incapable of engaging with people. As we set up and prepared to sing, he did not even acknowledge that we were there or that anything unusual was about happening.

But, something unusual did happen.

First song. No response from the man. Second song. Again, no response. After about 15 minutes of singing, we finished with Silent Night. As soon as the first "silent night" carried into the air, the man looked up. He knew this song, and it stirred him out of his waking slumber. He started to mouth the words and "sing" along. He smiled. He remembered.

Music leaves a lasting mark on our soul. It's no wonder that the radio stations have been playing Christmas tunes round the clock

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.

Music Ministry

Christmas Eve Choir!

7:00 pm and 11:00 pm
Candlelight services

All ages, family and friends are invited to be a part of the Christmas Eve Choir.

Come at 6:45 pm to prepare for 7:00 pm service and 10:45 to prepare for 11:00 pm service. We will lead the carol singing and sing one anthem "Night of Silence." Come join us! The anthem is unison (one part) and easily learned.

Youth Ministry

Youth Caroling and Christmas Party!

Sunday, Dec 11
6-9 pm

All youth are encouraged to join us for the annual Caroling and Christmas party! Meet at the church

for over a week already. They reconnect us to past Christmases and the hope, joy and love of the season in a deep, soulful way like few things can. And, as evidenced by the man in the story above, the beautiful and powerful music of the season that grows specifically out of our faith tradition leaves its mark on our souls as well.

We are blessed to have a Music Ministry at Holy Covenant that shares that music with us in so many, varied ways: the Children's Musical on Sunday evening, December 4th; Handel's Messiah in our Sunday morning worship services on December 11th; beloved hymns and carols from week-to-week in worship; contemporary arrangements of classic hymns in the Contemporary Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. on the 24th; and, our youth singing Christmas carols to Holy Covenant's shut-in members on Sunday evening, December 11th.

I am looking forward to journeying through the Advent season with you, rekindling old memories and making new ones, all to the sound track of the glorious music here at Holy Covenant.

Blessings, Pastor Andy Lewis

Christmas Outside the Box

Sermon Series

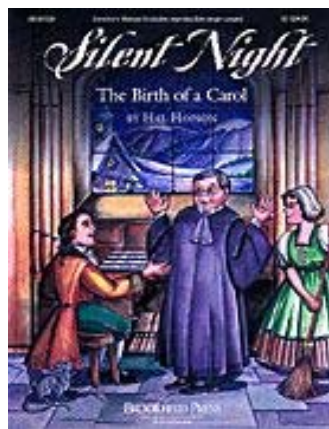
As we approach Christmas 2011, come and be re-awakened to the radical belief that God in Jesus came to shake up the status quo and to change lives - including yours.

- 12/4 - An Unlikely Vessel
- 12/18 - The Mundane Is the New Sacred
- 12/24 - Surprised by Christmas



Silent Night Children's Musical

by Hal Hopson



Music Machine Children's Choir Presents "Silent Night" by Hal Hopson
The story of how this popular carol was written.

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011

6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

The musical is a part of our Advent Festival that starts at 5:30 pm.

Immediately following the musical, families may enjoy a live nativity.

at 6pm. We will split into small groups to go caroling to shut-ins and all meet at the Selby's house for a party. Bring a snack and a gift (under \$10) for the gift exchange. An offering will also be collected to buy PlumpyNut, a nutritional food supplement for undernourished children. Know a shut-in that would like youth to come caroling? Email Georgia (gharrison@hcumc.org) with name and a phone number.

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

Pearl Lopez; Ruth Cayler; Susan McAnally; Brenda Jo Anderson; Paul Chapman;

Family Advent Festival

A time to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas
Sunday, December 4
5:30 - 8 pm

Join us for dinner, fun crafts, a children's musical, and a LIVE NATIVITY!
Sign up in the narthex for crafts and dinner - cost is \$20 per family.



New Saturday Night Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday, December 10
5:00-6:00 pm

We are excited about the development of this new service on Saturdays! Monthly "preview" services are planned, 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!

Handel's *Messiah*

Sunday, December 11

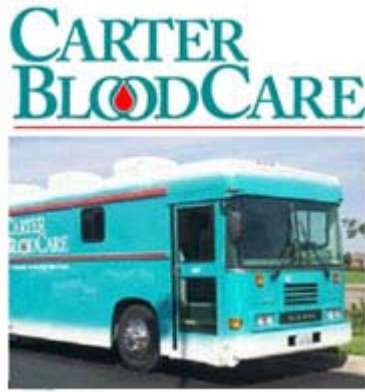
8:30 and 11:00 am
Worship
Wesleyan Choir, Chapel Hill UMC Choir, Soloists and Orchestra



Blood Drive

Sunday, December 11
8 am to 1 pm
in the Covenant Center

Nancy Cardenas; Dale Payne; Hugh Dixon; Linda & Michael Miller; Stephen Ministry leaders; Rosemary Stierhoff; Cris Hinkley and Dot Molencupp; Joni Taylor; Dick Ellis; Dwayne & Nikeria Holmes; Norma McCormack; Robyn Goss & family; James Ross; Julie Bowes; JoAnn Wiggins; Bernard Hardy; Ira McAnally; Marcus Oakley; Mitchell & Ashley Wert; Joey Crumpley; Jessica and Philip Stallings; Brenda McMurtrey; Geraine Allen; Joe Webb; John Heathington's mother; Sara Ray's father; Donna Hatter's daughter; Patrick Connelly; Linda Hoovler; Nita Sharp; Joe Worthington; Virgil Ronning; 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; 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; Kim Gobble; Dave Erickson; Noel Tardy; Jeannie Deringer; Arthur Alaniz and family; Bill Hill; Jay & Kathy Cash; Rosie Alexander; Kate Bushmann; Jess Beltran;



Give the gift of life! Donate blood.

Angel Tree

Through December 14

The Angel Tree is now in the narthex. Choose an angel and return it with an unwrapped gift for a child in need this Christmas. Join us in adopting these angels and buy them gifts as a Holy Covenant tradition!



Youth Sponsored Coat Drive



Through Dec 15

Got extra coats and jackets in your closet? The youth are sponsoring a coat drive so bring coats and jackets (any size) to church to donate to Metrocrest. They will be given to those in our area in need.

SALT Ministry

Seek, Accept, Love, Transform

Interested in volunteering as a tutor?

Learn about our ministry with Davis & Furneaux Elementary Schools.

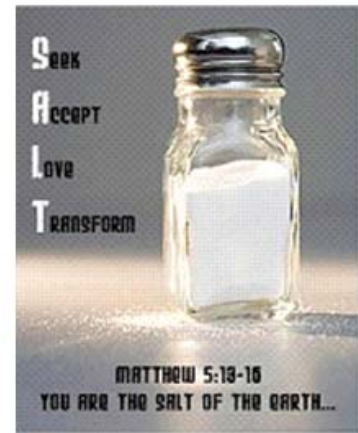
A small amount of time each week can make a big difference in a child's life.

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

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

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

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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



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@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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