



## Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

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**Issue: #75**

**November 30, 2012**

From Pastor Rusty



Dear friends,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

The first Sunday in December will mark the beginning of the Advent Season. These four Sundays leading up to Christmas are intended to help us all prepare for the coming of the Christ child. The more I watched commercials for "Black Friday" the more I thought how much we really do need some time to get ready, really ready, for Christmas. Every year we bemoan the commercialization of Christmas yet it seems like every year the

push to buy things, lots of things, as our way to celebrate Christmas becomes more frenzied.

The truth has always been that Christmas is really two separate celebrations. The truth is we have no idea what the real birthday of Jesus is. Because shepherds would not normally have sheep outside at night during the winter, it probably did not occur in December. But the story remains the same whether Jesus was born in March, July or October. The early church in the west designated the 25th of December as the day of celebration of Jesus' birth because it coincided with the Roman celebration of the New Year. The Christians in Egypt and the Middle East preferred Jan. 6th and still do. That's why we sing about the twelve days of Christmas.

But the point is that Christmas has always been a combination of religious and secular celebrations. This emphasis on buying and selling is all about people making money and has essentially nothing to do with the birth of Jesus. I'm not against presents. In fact I enjoy giving and receiving presents if you can afford spending what you spend. Obviously, given the terrible poverty of many people in our midst, we should, and occasionally do, feel

### Children's Ministry



#### Kids' Sunday School

9:45-10:45 am every Sunday!

Preschool - Room 103  
PreK/Kindergarten -  
Room 105  
1st-5th Grade - Rooms  
202 & 206



### Family Advent Festival

Saturday, December 15  
4:00-7:00 pm - more  
details to come!

Join us for an evening of  
fun, fellowship, worship,  
and service!

Kids will make crafts and  
treasures to give away to  
others during the  
Christmas season.

Families are invited to  
worship together at The  
Well, then enjoy hot  
chocolate, cider, and  
cookies with the live  
nativity outside!  
Invite your friends!

### Youth Ministry



For all youth in 7th -  
12th Grade

**Sunday Nights** - UMYF  
6-8 pm. Snack supper  
followed by fun and  
fellowship!

a pang of guilt. The United Methodist Church has paid for billboards this year that simply advise "Spend less, give more." That strikes me as good advice.

But we need to try our best to keep the two celebrations separate. Enjoy the gift giving that defines the secular celebration. But hopefully, do that responsibly in ways that do not create problems for yourself and your family when the credit card bills arrive. And remember those who will struggle through the season.

But don't confuse that celebration with "Christ Mass," the celebration of the birth of Jesus. That is a religious celebration and it is about the gift humanity received quietly from God two thousand years ago. I always associate "Advent" with "adventure" because the coming of Christ invites us to embark on a great adventure. The birth of Jesus invites us to set our feet on a new path and point our lives in a different direction. Over the next few weeks at church we will be trying to help each other prepare to kick off the adventure as God comes to dwell in our midst. I hope you'll join us. We're expecting a baby. Everything else can wait.

Grace and peace,  
Rusty

### Sharing God's Love This Christmas

We invite you to celebrate Jesus' birth more meaningfully by giving relationally to family, friends, and the less fortunate this Advent Season. Once again, HC's Missions Committee will be selling gift cards with all proceeds going towards the purchase of Plumpy'nut®, a ready-to-use food given for severe malnutrition in developing countries. Each card will announce your gift to feed the hungry and include a colorful brochure about Plumpy'nut®. Gift cards will be sold on Sundays during Advent after each service.



HC has been blessed in a new affiliation with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization. We are so excited to announce that World Vision, through its grant program, will match any donation we make by five times.

Help make an impact on hunger! Remember. . .Your gift multiplies 5X.

### Advent Labyrinth Walks



Sundays at 4 pm  
December 2 through 23

Each week of Advent the Labyrinth Committee will sponsor a walk. For an experience in prayer and spirituality befitting the Advent season, join them each week at the

**Wednesday**

**Nights- Small Group**  
7:00-8:30. Wishing to go  
a little deeper with your  
faith? Come and join us!

**Adult Ministry****Advent Study**

**Sundays at 9:45 am**  
**beginning Dec. 9**

"When God Comes Down"

An Advent study for  
Adults through the eyes  
of Joseph, Mary and the  
Innkeeper.



**Finding the Light: A  
Small Group for Young  
Adults**

Every other Tuesday-7 pm

All are invited for study  
and fellowship at Café  
Brazil in Carrollton!

Current book study is  
UnChristian by David

Kinnaman & Gabe Lyons

Contact Jana Jones

[jjones@hcumc.org](mailto:jjones@hcumc.org) if you  
would like to participate.



**Finding Balance: A  
Small Group for Moms**  
**2nd Wednesday of each  
month, 9:30 - 11:30 am**

All women are invited for



Sanctuary.

Labyrinth on the east side of the

**Saints and Sinners**

**Christmas Luncheon**  
**Friday, December 7**  
**Room 113 at Noon**

Please contact Eileen  
(972-492-3715) if you plan to  
attend. Our meal will be  
furnished so we do need a head  
count.

Bring your singing voice and a bag of candy or packaged cookies  
for our food pantry!

**Harvey's Kids**

**Saturday, December 8**  
**3:00 to 8:00pm**

A ministry for special needs children and their  
families.

Extra volunteers are needed!

Contact Mary Harris ([mharris81@gmail.com](mailto:mharris81@gmail.com)) to  
make a reservation or volunteer.

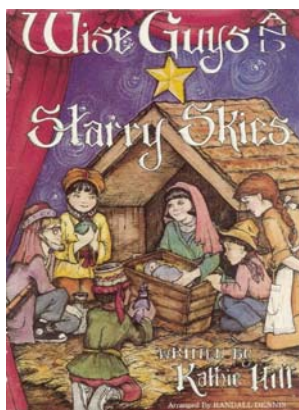
**Blood Drive**

**Sunday, December 9**  
**9 am to 1 pm**  
**in the Covenant Center**

Dedicated to Michael Prees,  
husband of Joanna Prees, HC  
member. All gifts of life will be  
credited to Michael's account to offset his transfusions.



Give blood. Often.  
Be a part of something great.

**Children's Musical****Wise Guys & Starry Skies**

**Sunday, December 9**  
**9:45 am in the sanctuary**

Presented by our Children's Choir during  
the Sunday School hour.

study and fellowship!

Contact Jana Jones  
[jjones@hcumc.org](mailto:jjones@hcumc.org) if you  
 would like to  
 participate.

### Music Ministry



New members always  
 welcome!

[dchapman@hcumc.org](mailto:dchapman@hcumc.org) for  
 more information.

### Christmas Eve:

We will sing "Peace,  
 Peace". Family choirs at  
 7:00 pm and Revelation  
 Singer reunion choir at  
 11:00 pm. Arrive 30  
 minutes prior to prepare.

### Singing choirs:

Children (grades 1-5) -  
 Wednesdays, 6:30 pm  
 Youth (grades 6-12) -  
 Sundays, 5:15 pm  
 Adults - Wednesdays,  
 7:30 pm

### Ringin' Choirs:

Children (grades 3-5) -  
 Wednesdays, 6:00 pm  
 Youth (grades 6-12) -  
 Sundays, 4:30 pm  
 Adults - Wednesdays,  
 6:30 pm

### Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 and 11:00 am  
 Worship Services

9:45 am  
 Sunday School for all  
 ages

### Staff



## Christmas Pops Concert

Sunday, December 9  
 6 pm

Featuring:

Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs  
 of Holy Covenant with the Opus IV  
 String Quartet, Piano, Organ, and  
 Handbells.

Groups and Soloists will be  
 performing a variety of sacred and secular holiday music  
 including a Carol sing-a-long.



## Come to "The Well"



Saturday, December 15  
 5:00-6:00 pm

A new Saturday night  
 worshipping community!  
 Monthly services are planned,  
 with a weekly service beginning  
 in March 2013. Join us in a  
 casual, family-friendly  
 atmosphere and experience  
 contemporary worship led by a  
 rockin' band! Childcare is  
 provided for young kids.

**\*\*Come to the service, then**

**leave your kids from 6:00-9:00 for a Parents' Night  
 Out!\*\* Email Jana Jones [jjones@hcumc.org](mailto:jjones@hcumc.org) 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!**

FINDING BALANCE IN AN IMBALANCED WORLD-A sermon series  
*that will uncover God's perspective on how to survive & thrive!*  
 December 15 - Whatever Happened To Comfort & Joy??  
 December 24 - A Stable Influence

## Christmas Pie Sale

Apple \$15  
 Pecan \$12  
 Pumpkin \$12

Place your Order by Sunday,  
 December 16th



Pies will be boxed and ready for  
 pickup on Sunday, December 23rd, in the Covenant Center.  
 Proceeds will benefit the Summer 2013 Youth Choir Tour.

Order your pies in the narthex.

**Dr. Rusty Hedges,**

Senior Pastor

**Rev. Debbie Chapman,**Associate Pastor, Music  
Ministries**Jana Jones,**Children's and Young  
Adult Minister**Brian Hardesty-Crouch,**

Youth Minister

**Cassie Wade,**Spiritual Formation  
Minister**Sheryl Toney,**

ECDP Director

**Carol Jones,**

Bookkeeper

**Elise Webb Odell,**

Administrative Assistant

*In Our Thoughts and  
Prayers*

The Kasten family; the  
Glaze family; Greg  
Rardin; Korbin Crowder;  
Caitlin Scarlett; Debbie  
Michael; Nancy Cardenas;  
Tina Ross; John  
Heathington; Andy &  
Arlene Lane; Hugh Dixon;  
Stephen Ministers;  
Rosemary Stierhoff; Cris  
Hinkley; Dot Molencupp;  
Dick Ellis; Linda & Marcus  
Oakley; Betty Oesch;  
Michael Prees; Michael  
McAnally; John Bator;  
Bobby McConnell; Larry  
Blassingame; Carl  
Robertson; DoReen  
Burbidge; Sandra Sisk;  
Jeffrey Oostenbrug;  
Bonnie Feltner; Samuel  
Lee, Jr.; Melissa  
Anderson; Krystle Wert;  
Wyatt Atcheson; Peggy  
Tatum; Pam Krause;  
Norma McCormack; Julie  
Bowes; JoAnn Wiggins;  
Bernard Hardy; Mitchell &  
Ashley Wert; Kristin  
Nelson; Joey Crumpley;  
Jessica and Philip  
Stallings; Geraine Allen;  
Nita Sharp; Joe

The Youth Choir THANKS YOU for your Support!

## Metrocrest Angel Tree



## Through December 23

Please take an angel from the tree in the  
narthex and return the requested new,  
unwrapped items back under the tree by Sunday  
morning, December 23.

## Family Nativity, December 24th



## Contemporary Worship, December 24th

*The Well* on Christmas Eve

Worthington; Virgil Ronning; John & Elizabeth Rudolf; John Michael; Sheila Anderson; James Ross; Stephanie Flangin; Bill Anderson; DoReen Burbidge; Jak Kinder; Philip Sorrell; Sandy Serifin; Sandie & Mark Loudermilk; Ray Rivera; Donna Crawford; Floyd & Stephanie Talley; the Baskin family; Katy Cook; the Ready family; Erin Beavers & family; Kyla Walls; the Pillai family; the Wearden family; Isaac & Karissa Gonzales; Darla and Jonathan Sherry; Brooks Williams; Joyce Shipman; Mattie Lannerd; Grant Russum and family; John Cloninger & family; Nathan Berry; Jim Hartley; Rachel Herrera; Brooke Johnston; Diane Bullock; Dale Bryan & family; Noel Tardy; Jeannie Deringer; Arthur Alaniz and family; Bill Hill; Jay & Kathy Cash; Rosie Alexander; Kate Bushmann; Jess Beltran; Rick Clement; Lisa Tenore; Vic Anderson; Jon Broom; Barbara Boothe; Chase Gattis; Rob & Jaycinta Kambach; the Rainey family; the Hickman family; the Dooley family; Jackie Franklin and family; Anna Hixon; Huffman family; the Pifer family; the Bailey family; and the Witcher family.

### Our loved ones in the military

Gabriel Bridges, Jeff Christie, Sean Connelly, Tim Connelly, Chad Davidson, C.J. Davidson, Zach Glass, David Hunt,

## Communion Services, December 24th



### ONE Worship Service

## Sunday, December 30 Worship at 10:30 am

No Sunday School.



### Now Hiring

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church has two part-time positions open. We are seeking a Director of Children's Ministries and a Director of Youth Ministries. Each position would be for an average of 15-20 hours per week with additional time required in the summer. The responsibilities of the Director of Children's Ministry would include planning and leadership of Sunday morning children's ministry plus VBS and special events for children at Easter, Advent and other times of the year. This person would also be responsible for coordinating child care and leading confirmation. The responsibilities of the Director of Youth Ministries would include planning and oversight of Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening programming. It would also require additional time in the summer for a youth mission trip and other summer activities.

Please submit resume to Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, 1901 E. Peters Colony, Carrollton, Texas, 75007, Attn. Rev. Rusty Hedges or email at [rhedges@hcumc.org](mailto:rhedges@hcumc.org) by January 15, 2013.



Oscar Jasso, Marco Mastrogiovanni, Brand Oakley, Jake Oliver, Ashton Rudolf, Logan Vidrine, Ashley Wert, C.J. Westmoreland, Brad Wethington, & Jeremy Whiteside.



## 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

### 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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