



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

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Issue: #76

December 14, 2012

From Pastor Rusty



Dear friends,

I am both amused and amazed to realize that some of us are still wondering if the Mayans actually predicted that the world will end on December 21, 2012 and if there is any chance that they might actually be right. I shared a link on facebook a couple of days ago that quoted an interview from an official at NASA. They monitor things like asteroids and planets that wander off course and he said there is absolutely no sign of anything out of the ordinary on the sun or in the sky

that suggests impending doom. I have a friend who is an anthropology professor at SMU and who specializes in all things Mayan. She says emphatically that some Mayan calendars, of which there are many, do not indicate anything other than the end of one counting period and the beginning of another. I have several calendars that end on December 31st, 2012 but I have no reason to think I won't wake up on the morning of January 1st, 2013.

We seem to do this periodically. I remember a conversation with a very earnest lady from the church I was serving at the time who insisted that the church should be stockpiling blankets and bottled water in preparation for the collapse of civilization as December 31st, 1999 moved into January 1st, 2000.

I think that some people get a kind of satisfaction from imagining the worst. It's the same feeling you get approaching the top of a roller coaster. You think for a moment as you pass the crest and the car begins to plummet that the car isn't going to stop and everyone is about to be smashed to bits. You maybe scream a little and then laugh as the "danger" passes. I think scary movies work pretty much the same way. You sit in a dark theater watching scary things happen and jump when it gets

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 live nativity animals outside! Cost is \$15 per family, payable when you arrive.

Invite your friends!



Confirmation 2013

This is an exciting opportunity for all 6th Graders!

Ice Cream Social & Orientation - Friday, January 4 at 6:30 pm
 Class begins - Sunday, January 6 at 9:45 am

suddenly intense. But you really know that soon the movie will end, the lights will come up and nothing terrible will have happened. Then we can laugh at the things that frighten us.

Laughing at the things that frightened us, even if just for a little while, may be a good emotional tonic. The truth is that there really are some scary things in the world although not as many as we probably believe. For example, the truth is that the vast majority of Americans will never personally be the victim of a violent crime but you would never guess that from watching television.

The future is largely beyond our control. I believe that this is God's world and that God holds the future of the world and of each of us in God's hands. It is my firm belief that God does not bring disaster upon us and that our faith cannot shield from misfortune. But I am equally convinced that God is with us and makes this journey through life at our side. In fellowship with God we can face whatever circumstances, good or bad, that life presents to us.

We spend a great deal of time seeking security and yet our lives can be turned upside down in an instant. Preparing for the future is a good thing and we should do what we can to avoid situations that endanger ourselves or our loved ones. But, ultimately, genuine security resides not in the things of this world but in our relationship with God.

I'll be in church on Sunday, December 23rd, with or without the blessing of the Mayan calendar. I hope you'll join me.

Grace and peace,
 Rusty

New Member



Contact Jana Jones (jjones@hcumc.org) if your child would like to participate.

Youth Ministry



For all youth in 7th - 12th Grade

Dec 16 is the youth Christmas party at 6pm,

including caroling, white elephant (gently used) gift exchange, and we're collecting cash donations for food for the hungry.

Meet at the church at 6pm to begin our celebration of Jesus' birth. You are welcome to bring a friend, or come by if you've been away.

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

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

Adult Ministry

Kimberly Hamilton, left, pictured with daughter Gracie joined November 25

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 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.

The Youth Choir THANKS YOU for your Support!

Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 16
8:30 and 11:00 am Worship**

Our Wesleyan Choir and Covenant Carillons will lead a service of scripture and song that will help us experience the excitement and promise of Christ's birth.



**Advent Study
Sundays at 9:45 am
Room 215**

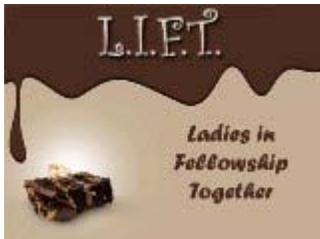
"When God Comes Down"
An Advent study for Adults through the eyes of Joseph, Mary and the Innkeeper.



**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 if you would like to participate.



**L.I.F.T.
Ladies in Fellowship
Together**
Thursday, Dec. 20
at 6:30 pm
Cassie Wade's home
Contact Cassie
cwade@hcumc.org for
more information.



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.



Advent Labyrinth Walks



**Sundays at 4 pm
Through December 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 Labyrinth on the east side of the Sanctuary.

Family Nativity, December 24th



Contemporary Worship, December 24th

***The Well* on Christmas Eve**

Music Ministry



New members always welcome!

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

Ringling Choirs:

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



Communion Services, December 24th



Sunday Worship Schedule

**8:30 and 11:00 am
 Worship Services**

**9:45 am
 Sunday School for all ages**

Staff

Dr. Rusty Hedges,
 Senior Pastor
Rev. Debbie Chapman,
 Associate Pastor, Music Ministries
Jana Jones,

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

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

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.

ONE Worship Service

Sunday, December 30 Worship at 10:30 am

No Sunday School.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Kasten family; the family of Damon Downing; the Glaze family; Greg Rardin; Korbin Crowder; Caitlin Scarlett; Debbie Michael; Nancy Cardenas; Tina Ross; Jenny Martin; 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; Carl Robertson; DoReen Burbidge; Sandra Sisk; Jeffrey Oostenbrug; Bonnie Feltner; Samuel Lee, Jr.; Melissa Anderson; 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 Worthington; Virgil Ronning; John & Elizabeth Rudolf; John Michael; Sheila Anderson; James Ross; Stephanie Flangin; Bill Anderson; DoReen Burbidge; Jak Kinder; Philip Sorrell; Sandy

What Will Another Month of Giving Provide?

December Update

Your finance committee has reviewed the funds needed for the remainder of 2012. As of the end of November 2012 the church needed to raise approximately \$81,000 in the twelfth month if we are to pay our expected bills and end the year in a positive cash balance. Thanks to a favorable first Sunday you gave \$11,500 towards this needed amount. This leaves us needing a little less than \$70,000 for the remainder of the month.

There are a couple of ways that you can assist your church in meeting our financial goal.

(1) There are several outstanding 2012 pledged amounts toward financial obligations for 2012. If you are current on your pledge we appreciate your giving. If you are not current on your pledge and are able to meet the promise that you made over a year ago, the church will greatly appreciate you completing your pledge payments.

(2) Some of you have given a thirteenth month payment and that is appreciated and very helpful. If each of us could give a 13th month payment, Holy Covenant UMC would end the year a positive cash position. The finance committee understands that some of us are not financially able to make this increase in your 2012 giving, but if you can contribute more than your pledge it will be appreciated.

(3) The annual Walk to the Manager will be used to meet the financial obligations for 2012 and this giving is vital to our financial health.

Your finance committee wants you to prayerfully consider the additional amount you are able to give for 2012 and continue to give what your personal finances allow you to give in 2012 for support of Holy Covenant UMC.

At of this date it appears that our expenses for 2012 will be about \$30,000 less than budget. I want to commend our staff and volunteers in keeping our cost below budget in many ways.

You should also know that people have given over \$100,000 (\$50,000 of this amount was for debt retirement) in designated giving to support the church's work outside of the budget.

Serifin; Sandie & Mark Loudermilk; Ray Rivera; Donna Crawford; Floyd & Stephanie Talley; Katy Cook; 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, Oscar Jasso, Marco Mastrogiovanni, Jake Oliver, Ashton Rudolf, Logan Vidrine, Ashley Wert, C.J. Westmoreland, Brad Wethington, & Jeremy Whiteside.

Thanks for all that you have given and for your continued support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Johnny Swaim
Finance Chairperson

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 by January 15, 2013.



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

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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