

Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

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Issue: #81

February 22, 2013

From Pastor Rusty



Dear friends,

Last week we observed Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. The color for the season is purple and the emphasis should be on solemn preparation. It is a time for self-reflection and spiritual growth through, prayer, worship, fasting and reading the Bible. The events of Holy Week are so very extraordinary. From the tumultuous welcome given to Jesus as he entered

Jerusalem to the quiet solemnity and beauty of that last meal shared by those who had been through so much, on to the shock and grief an act of betrayal, a quick trial, the horror of a brutal execution and then finally to the incredible joy of Easter morning. The story moves at such a rapid pace that we can scarcely take it all in.

The reality is that we cannot really take in all that happened in that dramatic week unless we are truly prepared. That is what this season is all about. Lent is a time for preparing ourselves spiritually, mentally and emotionally for the astounding events that lie ahead. I encourage each of you to carve out some time for your own preparation and make a special effort to worship with us each Sunday between now and Easter.

The sermons during Lent will focus on fruitful living as outlined by Bishop Robert Schnase's book "The Five Practices of Fruitful Living." His book is available through the church or can be purchased on line. Bishop Schnase's book is well worth the time it will take you to read it.

For many a part of observing the season is giving up something during the forty weekdays of Lent. This can be a useful and meaningful spiritual discipline if taken seriously.

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



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 30 - 4 pm
 Kids ages Toddler thru 3rd Grade are invited to hunt eggs on the east lawn. Bring a basket and a kite!

Youth Ministry



For all youth in 7th - 12th Grade

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

Something given up for Lent should be something that represents a genuine sacrifice. It should be something that will be missed on a regular basis and so serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by Christ on our behalf.
 I'll look for you in worship on Sunday.

Grace and peace,
 Rusty

Taking Risks!

Sunday, February 24

The Advocates for Justice and Peace will sponsor two dynamic speakers on February 24 to speak about risk-taking mission and service. Please make plans to join us and invite others who will enjoy a rich and powerful morning!



Dr. Zan Holmes will be the guest preacher at both services. Dr. Holmes is Pastor Emeritus of St. Luke "Community" UMC in Dallas. In 2012 Dallas ISD opened the Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. Middle School as a tribute to his social justice work in Dallas. You may recognize Dr. Holmes as the narrator and host of the well known Disciple I Bible Study video series. He is both a spiritual leader and a civil rights activist who passionately advocates for social justice and equality.

Between the two services at 9:45 am, Dr. Holmes will be joined by Dr. Bill McElvaney. They will speak about their personal risk-taking experiences in ministry as they worked for social justice.



Dr. McElvaney is the author of *Becoming A Justice Seeking Congregation* and received the SMU Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1980 and in 2013 for his work in Peace and Justice. Dean William Lawrence from Perkins/SMU observes, "In his career, he has served as a professor, as a seminary president, and as a pastor. He is a model of integrity, with a passion for justice, who is always ready to labor for

peace. But, in every step along the way, he acts with decency and respect for all of God's children."

Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show



Finding the Light: A Small Group for Young Adults

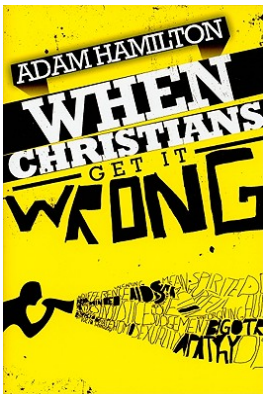
**Sunday mornings
9:45-10:45 am**

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

Current book study is *Come To Me* by Laura Davis.

Contact Jana Jones

jjones@hcumc.org if you would like to participate.



**Short-Term Small Group
Tuesday evenings,
beginning February 12-
6:30-8:00 pm (for 6
weeks)**

Study and discussion of Adam Hamilton's book "When Christians Get It Wrong"

Contact Jana Jones

jjones@hcumc.org if you would like to participate.

Music Ministry

**Sunday, February 24
6 pm**

Dinner in the Covenant Center followed by an awesome talent show in the Sanctuary. Join us for great fun, great laughs and great food!



Youth Choir Breakfast Fundraiser



**Sunday, March 3
7:45 - 10:30 am
in the Covenant Center**
Donations will benefit the youth choir summer tour.

Come to "The Well"

**Weekly service for this
Saturday night worshipping
community begins on
Saturday, March 16!
5:00-6:00 pm**

Join us in a casual, family-friendly atmosphere and experience contemporary worship led by a rockin' band! Childcare will be provided for young kids.



****Come to the service,
then leave your kids from 6:00-9:00 for a Parents'
Night Out!** March PNO is on the 23rd, then the 3rd
Saturday of each month beginning in April.**

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!

Easter Lilies

Cost \$12

Purchase a lily in honor or memory of a loved one and help adorn our sanctuary this Easter. Sign up in the narthex.



Rehearsals:
Singing Choirs rehearse in the Choir Room (SE quadrant of the Sanctuary Bldg.):

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



Ringling Choirs rehearse in the Sanctuary

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

Covenant Carillons (adult/youth advanced)
 Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

NEW BELL CHOIR--Bell's Angels for Adults -
 Sundays at 3:30 pm

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



New ECDP Director Named

The Staff Parish Relations Committee of Holy Covenant in conjunction with the ECDP Day School Board is pleased to announce that Beth McClure will begin as Director on July 1. Beth is the mother of five children who attended ECDP. She began teaching here in 2006 as a Pre K teacher and currently teaches 2 1/2's.

She is a graduate of St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She has a BA in Interdisciplinary Reading. She has a Texas Teacher Certificate in Elementary Self-Contained and Elementary Reading. Beth taught first and second grades in San Antonio and Carrollton/Farmers Branch for six years. She has specialized training in Talented and Gifted, Literacy, Math, and Talents Unlimited.

Beth also worked in a Day Care Center where she was the lead teacher for Pre K and Kindergarten. She has taught Sunday School and first grade religious education.

We are delighted to have someone with her vast teaching background. Beth's love of children will show in all she does for ECDP.



Craft Fair April 20

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to Help with HCUMC's Second Annual Craft Fair!

Contact Ginger Rathbun
sewsomuch@sewsomuch.com or Sheli Erenberger
shelieren@verizon.net for more information.

A planning meeting will be held Sunday, March 3rd at 1:30 pm in Room 210.

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



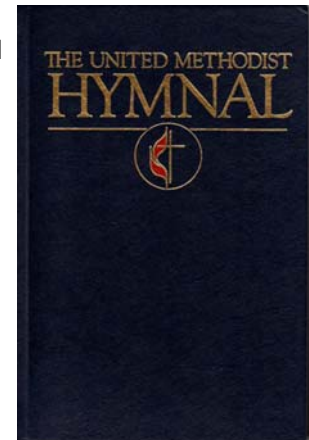
In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Hunt family; the Trimble family; Larry Rayes; Bill Jones; Donna McAnally; Elizabeth Krause; the Ruggles family; Caitlin Scarlett; Lexie Mitcham; Tina Ross; Korbin Crowder; Jenny Martin; Hugh Dixon; Dick Ellis; Linda & Marcus Oakley; Stephen Ministers; the Berks family; Christopher McAnally; Michael Prees; Michael McAnally; John Bator; Bobby McConnell; Carl Robertson; DoReen Burbidge; Sandra Sisk; Bonnie Feltner; Samuel Lee, Jr.; Melissa Anderson; Wyatt Atcheson; Peggy Tatum; Pam Krause; Norma McCormack; 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

Hymnal Dedications

Honor a Loved One

If you would like to purchase a hymnal for Holy Covenant, you may do so in honor or in memory of a loved one. Simply fill in the donation sheet in the narthex with the names for the name plate that will appear in the front of the hymnal. Cost is \$20 and you can place your payment in the collection plate with a notation that it is for a hymnal.



Early Childhood Development Program



2013-2014 Enrollment

Holy Covenant ECDP is now enrolling children 18 months through Kindergarten. Contact Director Sheryl Toney stoney@hcumc.org for more information.

Food Pantry Need:

Macaroni & Cheese

Please drop off boxes at the church office.

Sorrell; Sandy Serifin; Sandie & Mark Loudermilk; Ray Rivera; Donna Crawford; Floyd & Stephanie Talley; Martha & Hugo Taylor; John Francis; Kim Gobble; 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, 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.



Basketball Camp 2013

The gym was full of happy kids on Saturday morning February 16 for the basketball camp sponsored by the Mission Committee. Twenty-three kids participated and are now certificated hoopspers. The six coaches, led by Preston Hunt and John Prince, were worn out keeping everyone focused and safe while chasing errant basketballs. Pizza and juice were served as a snack at the conclusion of the morning. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped that morning - we needed everyone of them due to the very good turnout of neighborhood kids.

Rick Davis
Mission Committee



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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