

Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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

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Children's Sunday School
Sundays at 9:45 am

Issue: #111

August 1, 2014

Message from Pastor Carol



I was watching television the other day and I was playing my favorite game - remote control channel roulette. I was flipping back and forth through the guide trying to decide what program offering was going to capture my attention. And then, I was completely offended! Lifetime or Hallmark or some network that specializes in keeping old primetime sitcom actors employed making movies designed to reduce you to tears was celebrating Christmas in July! CHRISTMAS IN JULY!!!! No thanks!

I do not want to think Christmas when it is 100 degrees outside. I do not want hot cocoa, evergreens and sweaters. I do not want to think about Christmas movies, Santa Claus or Crèches filled with livestock, the holy family or wisemen. As I was just about to work myself up into a full episode of righteous indignation, I wondered what it would mean to me and the world if we truly did celebrate Christmas in July.

Christmas is about acknowledging that God loves us and all the earth. The God of all creation, put on skin to walk among us, teach us and empower us to love God above all else. We are called to set aside all other love as secondary. We are to put aside love of lifestyle, money, success, image, reputation, patriotism, power, fear, children's success, church's success and the list goes on. We are to focus totally and completely on loving God and being loved by God! We are to stand before the holy child and allow ourselves to be captivated by the power of love - unexpected, resilient, and compelling love!

K-2nd is in Room 202
3rd-5th is in Room 206
Preschool is in Room 105
Toddlers are in the
Nursery, Room 101

Back-to-School Sunday, August 24

3rd Grade Bible
Presentation and
Backpack Blessing at both
worship services.

Youth Ministry



7th- 12th Grade

Youth Week August 4-10

Monday- Foot Golf at
Lake Park in Lewisville

Tuesday- Dollar Movies
in Lewisville

Wednesday- Pool party
at the Bayard's

Thursday- A day of
service & study in Dallas

Friday- Themed Lock-in!
8 pm-7 am

Sunday August 10th

Parent and Youth Worker
Meeting
12:15 PM in the Youth
Room

Sunday August 24th

Back-to-School Lunch at
Babe's following 11:00
worship!

It may seem a little self-indulgent to stop your summer and absorb the love God is pouring out over you; but, is it really? What did most of us think in December when we experienced a kinder, more generous community? I, too, asked the question, "Why can't we act like this all year long?" A natural and divine response to feeling loved is to love another. Jesus knew this when he was gathered with his friends in the Upper Room for the last time.

³⁴ *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.* ³⁵ *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples..." - John 13:34-35a*

The world will be a more loving and kind place if we can stay captured by God's love. If we can allow our spirits to stay in love with God, then our hearts will be courageous enough to stay in love with the people God places before us - black or white, yellow or brown, rich or poor, young or old, gay or straight, citizen or sojourner. Perhaps we can all benefit from standing in the power of love this summer because all the earth needs to know love exists. Thanks be to God.

Life Line Screening

Thursday, August 7 in the Covenant Center

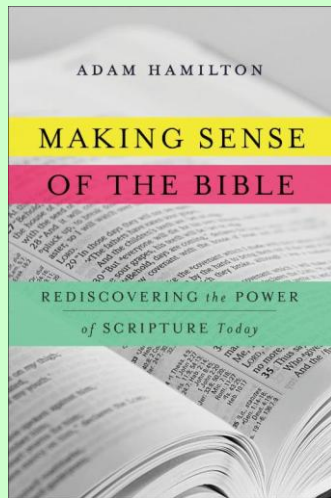
Life Line Screening, a
leading provider of
community-based

preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on Thursday, August 7, 2014. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; Atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$139 or register for all 5 screenings for \$149.



Pre-registration is required. Call 1-888-653-6450 or visit
www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

Adult Ministry



Digging Deeper
Sundays, August 3,
August 17 and
September 7 at 7:00
pm in Room 113

Holy Covenant has begun a church-wide study of Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*. If you would like to dig a little deeper than your Sunday School class or small group has time for, Rev. Jim Guest and Miles Olsen are offering opportunities for further study/discussion on 3 Sunday evenings.

Music Ministry

Music Ministry Begins Rehearsals for the 2014/2015 School Year

Our Music Ministry at Holy Covenant has opportunities for all ages. Dates to begin are listed with the groups below.

Children:

*Our **pre-school children** sing wonderful church songs during their nursery time and present music in worship for Christmas and in May.

August Jeans Drive



Jeans Sunday, August 24

Wear a pair and bring a pair!

Please bring new and gently used jeans to Holy Covenant this month. The Missions Committee will take all donations to the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Clothes Closet for students in our area.

Collection boxes are located under the stairs in the Education Building.

FREE Haircuts for Kids

Tuesday, August 19 and
Thursday, August 21

4 to 8 pm

in the Covenant Center

No appointments necessary. Parent/guardian permission slip required for children under 18. Special thanks to Paul Mitchell Cosmetology Career Center for providing the haircuts.



FREE Immunizations for Kids



Wednesday, August 20
5 to 7 pm

in the Covenant Center

You **MUST** bring your child's immunization record. No appointment needed.

Child must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Must be

"Vaccine for Children" eligible. This means your child is eligible if he/she is an American Indian or Alaskan Native, has no insurance, has insurance that does not cover vaccine, or has CHIP or Medicaid.

If you have insurance that covers vaccines, you are not eligible for this service.

Immunization events are subject to change due to vaccine availability and/or weather conditions. For additional information, please visit www.carevan.org, 972-689-8285.

Rehearsals are year round.

*Melanie Luce directs our **elementary** age children. They sing monthly in church and do a major presentation/musical at Christmas and in May. Begins Sept. 3 at 6:30 pm

*We offer a handbell choir for **grades 3-5**. Begins Sept. 3 at 5:45 pm

Youth:

Debbie Chapman directs **grades 6-12** in handbells and singing. This group performs throughout the year and takes a summer mission tour. Begins Sept. 7, time TBA

Adults:

Debbie Chapman directs our Wesleyan Choir (7:30 pm) starting August 6 with music for our Variety Show. Sings weekly for worship at 8:30 and/or 11:00 am

Advanced Handbells:

Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm starting August 6 for Broadway show and worship!

Handbells:

Joy Lasley directs the Joyful Noise handbell choir on **Sundays at 1:30 pm**. Beginning August 17.

Instruments:

Instruments play in worship occasionally. Debbie is compiling a list of available players. Please contact Debbie if interested.

Band instruments:

If you play guitar or drums, you are needed! Contact Debbie

We have a wonderful variety of music

Parents' Night Out

**Saturday, August 23
6 to 9 pm**

Covenant Center

Bring your kids ages Infant-5th Grade and take a night off! Email Heather Hinton hhinton@hcumc.org to make a reservation. A snack will be provided. Cost is \$5/child.



Back-to-School/Back-to-Church Sunday



August 24

Be sure to join us Sunday, August 24 as we celebrate!

In worship:

- 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
- Backpack Blessing
- Baptism of Pastor Carol's

grandson, Rowan Ellis Sessums

In Sunday School:

- Promotion Sunday

Following worship:

- Youth go to *Babes* for Lunch

All day:

- Jeans Sunday - wear a pair & bring a pair to donate to the CFBISD Clothes Closet

Broadway Variety Show

**Save the Date: September 6, 2014
7:00 pm
in the Sanctuary**

The music ministry will present our annual variety show. This year we will be presenting selections from Broadway. If you'd like to participate, please contact Jennifer Baumgardner. This will be an exciting evening of music and fun, so please mark your calendars and plan to invite your friends.



throughout the year. YOU are needed. Contact Pastor Debbie at dchapman@hcumc.org No registration needed for singing choirs. Simply come to a rehearsal to join. Handbells or instruments need a conversation. Come be a part of this great ministry!

Missions

Help us brainstorm!

On **Sunday, August 17** following worship (both services), we will meet in the sanctuary to discuss possible ideas of service projects for *Don't Go to Church, Be the Church* Sunday in October. One Sunday each year, the plan is for all of us to serve our community and *Be the Church*.

We are looking for ideas of kid-friendly projects for families, senior-friendly projects that will happen within the air-conditioned confines of the church building, projects that require some handiwork skill, or projects that simply require a compassionate heart. Our vision is for everyone at Holy Covenant (and the many guests whom you invite to serve alongside you!) to be the Church out in our community on October 12.

Blood Drive



Sunday, September 7
9 am to 1 pm
in the Covenant Center
 Roll up your sleeves and give!

Citizen's Evening

*Together We Can
 Make a Difference*
Tuesday,
September 9, 2014
5:30 - 8:30 pm
**City Hall - 1945 E.
 Jackson Rd.**



The Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) and the City of Carrollton are excited to invite you to the 7th annual Citizens' Evening at City Hall. This year we are excited to announce our **Keynote speaker will be Mike Doocy of Fox 4 Sports**. He will address the group with a short talk "Making a Difference in Your Community".

The 7th annual Citizens' Evening is your chance to mingle with City officials, visit City department information booths and meet your Neighborhood Advisory Commission representatives. Learn about Carrollton's boards, commissions, volunteer opportunities, how to build stronger Neighborhood Associations, and find out what it takes to develop a successful neighborhood or community action partnership with the City.

This year's focus will be on making a difference together and celebrating our volunteer and leadership opportunities throughout the city. Featured speakers will be Mayor Matthew Marchant in addition to Mike Doocy of Channel 4 Fox Sports.

The event is free and open to the public, For more information and to RSVP www.cityofcarrollton.com/neighbors . Call 972-466-4299 or e-mail community.development@cityofcarrollton.com with questions or concerns.



Save the Date!
CROP Hunger Walk -
Saturday, October 4th
at 8am

Location: Mill Valley Fellowship, 13545 Webb Chapel, Farmers Branch

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 and 11:00 am
Worship Services

9:45 am
Sunday School for all ages

Staff

Rev. Carol Sparks
 Senior Pastor

Rev. Debbie Chapman
 Associate Pastor, Music Ministries

Jason Redick
 Youth & Young Adult Minister

Heather Hinton
 Children's Minister

Beth McClure
 ECDP Director

Carol Jones
 Bookkeeper

Elise Webb Odell
 Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Sparks family;
 Suzanne Conrad; Sarah

Letter From a Davis Elementary Teacher

Dear Rev Sparks,

I have been a teacher at Davis for 8 years. Many of the members of your church have given countless hours to our school. They have fed us and spent countless hours working with the students at our campus. It takes a community to raise the future of this wonderful place we live. The volunteers from your church prove that each time they come to school over the years.



The members of your church who come to the school are so devoted. I pray that God will always watch over them and



bleed them for their hard, devoted work. I have been very lucky to have some of the people help my students. Some read to the students, others listen to struggling readers as they practice to become better readers and still other help in many other ways.

I am leaving Davis this year. My new assignment is on another campus. As I prepare to start a new chapter of my life, I had to send a note of thanks to the people of your church. God will lead us to where we are needed and you are needed in this community. The children may not always show it, but they look forward to the people who come. They are disappointed when they are not able to come. I hope they will continue their work at Davis. I have been both a kinder and first grade teacher at Davis. I have appreciated every time they have helped a student. Some of our students face many challenges in their lives. An adult spending time with them can be the most positive experience of their day.

I am also an ambassador for our school district and cannot express the importance of the community involvement. It is in the support and help of people like your members that make a DIFFERENCE in the life of many children.

Please thank your members for their devotion to Davis. I will miss seeing them in my work life. I have truly been affected by the time they give our kids. It made many days just that much better for me too.

God bless you all,
 Daria Murphy

Jones; Rhonda King; Eileen Ritter; Sue Moser; Tina Ross; Brenda Jo Anderson; Nancy Cardenas; Valerie Roberts; Bill Henly; Linda Oakley; Rachel Millaway; Linda Cook; Jenny Martin; Stephen Ministers; Dorlis Glass; Delia Rivera; Doris Olene Arapis; Betty Chapman; Barbara Krueger; Susan Kiker; Michael Prees; John Bator; Carl Robertson; Bonnie Feltner; Pam Krause; Norma McCormack; Elizabeth Rudolf; Joshua Prendergast; JoAnn Wiggins; Kristin Nelson; Joey Crumpley; Jessica and Philip Stallings; Geraine Allen; Nita Sharp; Virgil Ronning; John Michael; Sheila Anderson; Katherine Rosselot; Stephanie Flangin; the Walters family; Joseph Millioto; Donna Crawford; Leta Mae Parrish; the Rainey family; Tamara Carsin; Dorinda Hendricks; Sherri Livingston; LaDonna Yausey; Karen Bennett Lawler; Dr. Fe Cabrera; Gusty Pritchard; Eddie Mae Washington; Joe Bedsole and Gordon Frey.

Our loved ones in the military

Hunter Blue, Max Blue, Chad Davidson, C.J. Davidson, Zach Glass, David Hunt, Jake Oliver, Ashton Rudolf, Logan Vidrine, and Ashley Wert.

QR Code

What is this QR Code and why use it?

When you scan this barcode-like QR code image with a Smartphone's QR decoder, it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of your web page. Try it yourself! To individuals who are familiar with QR codes, it will provide a quick and easy way to access your web page without having to type out a long web address and locate your link.



For those who aren't familiar with this, from your iTunes account you will download a free application called a QR Scanner. Once this application is downloaded you hold your phone up to the QR Code for Holy Covenant and it takes you directly to our secure donation page.

1. Pay on your tithe or pledge.
2. Pay on your Top Tithe pledge.
3. Donate money for various ministries (Youth, Children's, Music, etc)



4. Make a donation for a communion offering or other special offerings.
5. Make a donation to the various mission projects. One the page is totaled you can choose to take it from your checking or savings, or your Credit/Debit card. Set a start date. Choose the frequency: One time, Weekly, Monthly.

Giving online is easy. Login to www.hcumc.org.

Now you have the option to make a donation to the church for various ministries as well as your tithe. You can set up your frequency to be a one time, weekly or monthly. Stay on track with your pledge by setting the frequency. While you travel this summer the church will receive your gifts.



Carrollton West Pet Hospital

www.CarrolltonWestPet.com

Lynda VanAntwerp, DVM

Leigh-Anne Morris, DVM

Anna Osofsky, DVM

Diplomate, ABVP, certified in Avian Practice

Ashley Braniff Champagne, DVM

Jon Paa, DVM

3729 Old Denton Rd.
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-1828

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.