



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

In This Issue

Message from Pastor Carol

Advent Conspiracy

Create Chrismons

L.I.F.T.

Parents' Night Out

Christmas Eve Family
Nativity Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service

Christmas Eve Communion &
Candlelight Service

Blood Drive

Children's Ministry



Children's Sunday School

Sundays at 9:45 am

K-2nd is in Room 202

3rd-5th is in Room 206

Preschool is in the
Nursery, Room 101

Issue: #127

December 1, 2015

Message from Pastor Carol



Advent: A Season of Being Radical

When Jesus was born to a young unmarried girl in the humble shelter for animals, the people of the first century were unaware of God's reaching out to offer all the people of the world the gift of love.

For the misguided religious leaders as well as the tyrannical rulers, the appearance of the Almighty God was to be marked by fire, intimidation, force and control. God's earthly intervention would be to indict those of opposition and elevate those of divine favor clearly designated by the social, religious and political caste system. These leaders were not watching for God to quietly and subtly emerge into our world. It had to be the big show with all the bells and whistles.

Jesus' birth represented a redefining of greatness and authority that was and still is quite radical. God loved humanity so much that God took on vulnerability so all of humanity could witness what is real, eternal and powerful - LOVE. Security was not to be found in wealth, influence, dominance or force but rather peace was to be experienced through humility, servitude, and trust.

During this Advent season, we are being offered the opportunity to enter into the radical nature of God's presence. God does not appear in the fanfare moments or the viral Youtube videos. God's presence is experienced most fully during the quiet emergence of a person's soul finding value through an act of love. Christmas is not about the decorations, parties or gifts but rather about the quiet but pervasive awakening of love among all of God's people.

In our world today, it is difficult to believe that love is greater than hate and that hope is more resilient than fear but we cannot give into believing that God does not love humanity as much today as God did so long ago. God has plans for good in our world today but it is through those who believe that *God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son (John 3:16a).*



**Harvey's Kids
December 12th
3-8 pm**

Families with special needs children are invited for Christmas snacks and activities while parents have time away to shop, wrap, etc. *Extra volunteers are needed!* Please contact Stacy Phillips sphillips1202@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

6th- 12th Grade



Christmas Party

Sunday, December 13 from 6 to 8 pm at the Bayard's house. Bring a White Elephant gift and your favorite snack or dessert.

We are to be the presence of God in the world today. We are to be the agents of love and hope!

As a church, we are employing the concept of "conspiracy" to call our attention to how we look for God's presence in our world. Conspiracy is defined as a secret plan or agreement between two or more people to commit a subversive act. What would it mean if the Christian Church became a subversive movement of love? Was this not what Jesus had in mind when he sent his disciples to Jerusalem to await the presence of the Holy Spirit in order to form the first people of faith?

The church is to be a people on the move - a people uniquely equipped to love all of God's people because each has experienced the love of God. Holy Covenant United Methodist Church focuses on what it means to a body of love, grace, affirmation and justice every day of the year. When you give your Advent Conspiracy offering to the church, you participate by providing ministry that reaches out to many to offer hope, acceptance and peace. Through our Advent Conspiracy Campaign we hope to raise enough funds to underwrite our 2016 budget so we can continue to offer food for the hungry, sanctuary for young people, nurture for families, mentoring for youth, care for children and justice for the oppressed on a local, national and international scale.

This Advent and Christmas seasons have given us an opportunity to observe the radical nature of God's gentle and emergent love. When we come together with our tithes, hearts and passions, the world can experience the birth of God anew.

Blessings,
Pastor Carol

Advent Conspiracy

Catch Katie's Spirit!

We invite you to celebrate Jesus' birth by spending less and giving more this Advent Season. Each Sunday morning in December, the Missions Committee is offering gift cards designed by 10 year old Katie Damm indicating a gift has been given to Holy Covenant to support local and global missions. Katie's designs illustrate the many ways your contribution may be used.



Music



Community Nativity

The Wesleyan Choir will sing at the Community Nativity Celebration at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 4000 Nazarene Dr. in Carrollton on **Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:00 pm**. They have hundreds of nativity sets to see while listening to sacred Christmas music. Come support our choir and get into the spirit of Christmas!

Our own Gary Feltner will also be playing and singing **Friday, December 4 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm** and always appreciates seeing friendly HCUMC faces.



Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 6
9:45 am**

Mark your calendar! Our Children's Choir is working hard on their presentation. You won't want to miss it.



Create Chrismons

**Sunday, December 6
in the Covenant Center**

Take a packet home with you from church. There are two sheets with hidden Chrismons.



There will be two times of decorating on December 6th. The first at 11am for those who have been to early worship and watched the children's program during the Sunday school hour. The other will follow the conclusion of the second worship about noon.

L.I.F.T.



**Thursday, December 10
at 6:30 pm**

We will have our monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting on Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Joyce McCoy's home. Go to www.hcumc.org for more

information.

Bring a snack or covered dish to share. We will enjoy food, fellowship and a short devotional. If you do not have time to prepare a dish, please join us anyway - we want you with us! Come join us for this time of fellowship!

Parents' Night Out

**Saturday, December 19
from 4:00 to 9:00 pm
Covenant Center**

Ages Infant - 5th Grade.
Reservations are required by noon on Thursday, December 17th!



Decorating the Church



**Friday, December 4
10 am to Noon**

Everyone is invited to join us as we decorate the church for Advent. We will meet in the sanctuary to put up the Christmas tree and hang wreaths and banners.

Food Pantry Need



Macaroni & Cheese

Please drop off donations in the church office.

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

Reserve a place for your child at www.hcumc.org. You may drop off and pick up children anytime during the designated hours.
\$10 per child; \$25 max per same family

Christmas Eve Family Nativity Service



5:00 pm

A brief kid-friendly worship service with children gathering around the holy family - Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, as we hear the Christmas story and sing favorite Christmas hymns. The service will end with candle and glow stick light.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



7:00 pm

Childcare provided.

Rev. Debbie Chapman

Associate Pastor
of Music and Worship

Bill Mauldin

Director of Family
Ministries

Jason Redick

Community Justice
Minister

Beth McClure

ECDP Director

Christine Perry

Bookkeeper

Elise Webb Odell

Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Underhill family; the Bragg family; Pam Porter; the Roberts family; the Rivera family; Tim Tacy and family; the Richards family; Sylvia Jones; Julie Feltner; Dan Kasten; Debbie Michael; Cyndi Dermody; Kay Dowell; Rex McAnally; Mary Jane Van Horne; Valerie Roberts; Paul Hatter; Michele Perkins; Randy Sutherland; Kelly Ellis; James and Rosa Gunn; Delores Cress; Marie Webb; Joshua Richardson; Jem Ellis; Kathleen Dermody; Derek Harrell; Carmelita Robinson; Betty Oesch; LaVonja Pritchard; Wayne Pritchard; Floyd Miller; Beverly Cook; Peggy Yull; Tom Yull; Valentina Fevrier; Bonnie Feltner; Jeff McCreight; Lola Herndon; Vanessa Salvato McKown; Linda Oakley; John Bator; Pam Krause; Janis Collins;

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service



11:00 pm

Blood Drive



Sunday, January 3

9 am to 1 pm

in the Covenant Center

Make a difference. Save a life!



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

Stephanie Flangin; Cara Woods Hinton; Ira Schoonhoven; Hans Becker; Tommy Day; Barbara Rankin; Cherie Arruda; David & Sherry Smoot; and Austin Oaks.

Our loved ones in the military

Hunter Blue, Max Blue, C.J. Davidson, Zach Glass, David Hunt, Jake Oliver, and Ashton Rudolf.

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.