



## Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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### Sunday Morning Schedule

**9:00 am Sunday School for all ages**

**10:30 am Unity Worship**

### Celebration Sunday

**Retooling**



**Sunday, November 11  
Worship at 10:30 am**

**Issue: #162**

**November 1, 2018**

### New Faces in New Spaces

Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple said, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members"; this is a very different idea of the purpose of the church than many church members often have. Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commissioning and the Great Commandments; to go out to all people and form them in the way of Jesus. John Wesley the founder to the Methodist movement said to ""Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." The church is to be community that is going and doing for others.



The North Texas Annual Conference has a new initiative that is very exciting called "New Faces New Spaces". New Faces is a way of saying reach out to people in our community that are not members of the church. The New Spaces means that we must go out to the people and no longer expect them to come to our church building. "New Faces New Spaces" is meant to get laity reaching out to their communities to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Here is what "New Faces New Spaces" is all about:

1. **Gathers new faces:** designed to reach unchurched and de-churched people
2. **Meets regularly:** not a one-time event
3. **Relates to a UMC entity:** a supportive connection to the Body
4. **Forms disciples:** helps people follow in the Way of Jesus

These gatherings could be a Bible study where you work or hang out. It could be a cycling group, facilitated by a pair of faithful disciples who invite fellow cycling enthusiasts to share in their love for riding and, along the way, their devotion to Christ. It might even be a clothes closet, staffed by disciples

## Food Pantry Need:



**Communion Sunday,  
November 4,  
please bring pasta  
sauce, mashed  
potatoes, soups &  
canned meats.**

## Children's Formation



### Family Advent

There will be a family Advent event on Sunday, December 2 after worship. We will focus on the meaning of Advent and the Advent Wreath. There will be a family take home lesson available for parents and caregivers to do at home before the event available Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a family devotional practice to do following the event. There will be an online sign up starting November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Youth Formation



### Paintball

Youth will take break from

who not only give away clothes but also open themselves up to being in relationship with clients so that the Spirit can move, heal, and transform.

If you want to learn more about this new initiative, the church will be participating in a video conference call where you can learn more. Join us November 6<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary at 6:45pm, the conference call will begin at 7pm.

Pastor Bill

## Message from Pastor Carol



Jesus attended worship in his local community and read from the scrolls of the prophet Isaiah,

"God has asked me to do something to provide for the poor, care for those in prison, healing for the sick, equity to the oppressed, and hope for our children." (*Luke 4:18-19, paraphrased*)

Jesus was bringing hope for all Jews who believed God had abandoned them by declaring "God is here because I showed up!" In fact, God was not only bringing reassurance to them but also confidence in them by asking for the law of faith to be retooled, so all people could experience reassurance and hope.

Many believe God has abandoned us today.

**GOD HAS NOT!**

God has asked Christians to "show up" and be the voices of reassurance and the actions of hope. This will require retooling our law (practices of faith) and resources (money and discipleship) to actively bring God's presence into people's lives. Holy Covenant's elected leaders have worked together to discover to whom and where God trusts us to bring care, healing and equality. And so, our church will "join Christ in our local community to serve children and youth." Now, your work begins! What is the best first step to reassure children and youth that God is here because we showed up?

**Option One:** Entering into active relationship with the families and children of Sheffield Elementary.

**Option Two:** Entering into active relationship with the families, children and youth of Dawn Tree and Peters Colony Apartments

**Option Three:** Entering into active relationship with the families and youth of the LBGTQ of CFBISD and LISD.

During our Celebration Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, you will place

our fall series on forming our personal identity as Christians for a little fun and fellowship. On Nov 15<sup>th</sup> the youth will leave at about 12:30 pm to play paintball at DFW Adventure Park in Roanoke. The cost is \$35 a person, this comes with about 2,500 rounds but if you need more paintball, you will have to pay for them yourself. Bill will need an HCUMC waiver for everyone and an Adventure Park waiver (found at [www.dfwap.com](http://www.dfwap.com)). We will need adults to drive and supervise (can play or not). This can be parents, but it is great to have others in the church join the fun and fellowship. If you are interested please let Bill know. He will send out a sign up genius to sign up.



### 2018 Confirmands

For those confirmed last spring, we will have "refresher" module of confirmation the beginning of spring. While you are confirmed, we want to continue to give you intentional times of formation and a chance to continually re-affirm your faith. Bill will be sending an email soon about this.

your "I Promise" card on the altar. On this card, you will make two promises. The first promise is the amount of money you will regularly and intentionally give to God, so Holy Covenant can "plan ahead" to pay the costs of being God's voice and action for others. And the second promise is to vote for your "first step" choice as well as committing to actively work for the majority selected option. Imagine how many people we can reassure and encourage if we all work together to pay for our ministries and actively care for the people God has entrusted to us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Carol

## Feeding the Homeless

Holy Covenant is providing Breakfast at the Austin Street Shelter at 6:00 am on **Sunday, November 4**. We will provide breakfast for 400 men, women and children at the homeless shelter.

We will provide:  
12 sandwiches (individually bagged)  
12 pieces fruit  
12 boiled eggs in shell in carton  
Cases of bottled water/ juice boxes  
Snack/granola bars



We will receive all donations on **Saturday, November 3** from 9am-noon in the HCUMC kitchen. All are welcome to travel with us to Austin Street Sunday morning at 5:15 am from the HCUMC kitchen. We will drive to Austin Street, set up and serve breakfast. We will also collect retail plastic bags for the residents to carry their food because all residents must leave the shelter at 7:00 am. For more information, contact Rick Davis 972-814-5325.

## L.I.F.T. (Ladies In Fellowship Together)



**Thursday, November 8**  
**6:30 pm**

We will have our monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting on Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 pm at the home of Cindy Baucom. Go to

[L.I.F.T.](#) 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 –

## Adult Formation



We have some wonderful opportunities for discipleship for adults. There a weekend mission trip being led by the NTC to the Texas coast to continue in the Hurricane Harvey recovery work. It is Nov 30<sup>th</sup>-Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at a cost of \$95 a person. Learn more at [laborsforneighbors.org](http://laborsforneighbors.org). HCUMC is hoping to lead a similar trip in February or March of 2019.



There are new educational opportunities coming in 2019. Rev. Carol Sparks is planning on leading a new Sunday school class in the Sanctuary beginning the first of the year. This class will have times that others rotate through and teach as well. This class is for the new and longer-tenured members, married or single, young children/older children/no children, this is a class for everyone. If you don't have a small group yet, come check it out. Rev Bill will start a once-a- month

we want you with us! Come join us for this time of fellowship!

## Parents' Night Out

**Friday, November 16  
6 to 9 pm  
in the Covenant Center**

Ages Infant - 5th Grade.  
Reservations are required by Wednesday, November 14!  
Reserve a place for your child at [hcumc.org](http://hcumc.org). You may drop off and pick up children anytime during the designated hours. \$10 per child; \$25 max per same family.



## Advent Worship



### Calm and Bright

Advent begins on December 2nd this year and our new series is: "Calm & Bright: 200 years of Silent Night". This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night".

## Promise Home

**Dear HCUMC Friends,**

Promise Home is the children's home in Honduras which I support and visit. It's located ½ hour east of San Pedro Sula near the north coast. It was started 10 years ago by an American from Frisco, Bill Hayden. Donations and mission teams from local churches have built 3 classrooms, 2 dormitories, kitchen/dining



book club and discussion group starting the first of the year as well. Since we have recently offered Disciple Bible Studies to teach basic Biblical literacy, now is a good time to offer a basic understanding of Christian theology. We will be using Daniel Migliore's *Faith Seeking Understanding* third ed. The book title reveals our agenda, to add greater understating to deepen our faith. More on both of these efforts to come.

### Music Ministries



#### **Comin' Is a Glorious Light Advent Readings and Songs**

**December 9 at 10:30 service. Featuring the Wesleyan Choir, Gretchen Church, String Quintet and soloists.**

Interested in singing in the choir just for Christmas? That is possible! We are looking to build our choir for the Christmas music and will practice Christmas music from 7:30-8 pm every Wednesday evening. We also have a Saturday morning rehearsal on November 10 from 9:30-11:30 am in the Sanctuary, as well as a final rehearsal with

building, director's home and offices, bridges and irrigation systems, and water tanks, as well as an extensive fish hatchery. Having planted date palm and mangosteen orchards 10 years ago, and built 44 tilapia ponds to date, Bill has always intended to make the home self-sustaining and is currently nearing that goal! A half million tilapia and 6 million fingerings are sold per year.

In the last two years, as many as 16 children, ages 1 month to 5 yrs, have been given to Promise Home by government agencies. The majority of them are not adoptable at present due to "parents' rights," but Bill's model has always been to raise them to age 18, providing education and vocational training in farming, fisheries and other careers at the home.

At present, there are 10 children 1 ½-2 ½ yrs old (think toilet training, bathing and meals!) and two 5 yr olds, one of whom lived with 4 families before age 4. Most have endured trauma of some sort in their young life - been left to die, raised by a prostitute, undernourished, etc. At Promise Home, they are being very lovingly cared for by 4 "tias" who work five days on and have families at home!

At this time, I am trying to gather several dozen padded 'training' pants (and M&Ms!) to make training easier for the tias. Also, if anyone has extra AA miles, I could use some for my projected trip in January. Fares double (from \$450 to \$900) in winter, which was not the case when I lived and taught there from '96-'99. I will go there to share my teaching and child-raising experience with the director and tias, as their educational upbringing is very different from ours. Finally, Honduras is a beautiful country with good people who do not deserve the horrible government and living conditions they must endure. Salaries are low, jobs hard to find, cost of living rising significantly, and government services poor or non-existent. Any help you offer will go directly to the children's home.

My thanks, Carolee Doty

### From Our Lay Leader



It's the month of November. This is the month when we focus on what we are thankful for. Here at HCUMC we have much to be thankful for. We continue to move in new and exciting directions. Our "worker bee" mentality congregation is always moving in many directions helping others every step of the way. I am proud to be a member at HCUMC. I am constantly inspired by our members who never seem to stop. Those members who balance their

instrumentalists on Saturday, December 8th. We present the Advent Readings & Songs on Sunday, December 9th. Please join us!

## ECDP



ECDP has so many blessings. We are grateful for this church that supports our children and our teachers. We are grateful for our community and our school parents who have joined talents to help our students work outdoors in a thriving garden. A local Boy Scout working toward his Eagle Scout, Anderson Abbott, cleared out the flowerbeds surrounding the annex building and built us a garden. One of the dads from our school, Justin Robinson, built a fence for the garden to protect our little sprouts from rabbits. We are so thrilled with the product. Our little garden is just precious, and we have 3 classes already planting vegetables out there. What a great experience for our children to work in the dirt and witness God's magical work as plants sprout from their seeds and grow food for us to eat. Please be sure to walk past the

faith/family/careers/HCUMC lives. I am thankful for those creative and ingenious members who come up with new ways for HCUMC to help others. I am thankful for those "worker bee" members who do the heavy lifting and get out and make a difference in the community. None of this would be possible without HCUMC's unselfish leadership teams who give their time, time away from their families, so that HCUMC has the leadership it needs to constantly keep moving this congregation forward.

I am thankful for SPRC for being the Human Resources division of HCUMC. They work with staff and keep things running as smooth as possible. Some of the work they do is not easy and can be stressful at times.

I am thankful for Trustees for keeping the lights on. Literally. This team takes care of anything you can "touch" here at HCUMC. They make sure the AC's keep us cool, computers are running, lightbulbs are working, leaks get fixed, etc. And they do all of this within a very tight budget!

I am thankful for Finance for handling the financial side of the church. Like SPRC, this team often makes tough decisions. Decisions regarding budget cuts or what to do with a surprise donation to HCUMC.

I am thankful for Nominations for having their eyes and ears always open and looking for new leadership within HCUMC. Things change and evolve in our lives. Team members move away. Team members term out. Nominations has their hands full by getting the right leadership in place.

Being a member of any of these teams is hard work. But, it's rewarding work. Without their dedication, HCUMC would not be out there in the community making as big of a difference in other people's lives. If you've ever wanted to be part of any of the HCUMC leadership teams, please reach out to Carol or I. And please join me in giving thanks to the leadership teams here at HCUMC and continue to pray that the work we do here at HCUMC is the work that God wants us to do.

-Aaron Hunsaker

*All things work together for good to those who love God, who have been called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28*

annex building and playground to see the garden that we have been given. How good God is to place such talented and generous people in our lives. Happy Thanksgiving from ECDP!

### Staff

**Rev. Carol Sparks**

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Senior Pastor

**Rev. Bill Mauldin**

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Bookkeeper

**Elise Webb Odell**

[ewebb@hcumc.org](mailto:ewebb@hcumc.org)  
Administrative Assistant

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Knibbs family; Donna McAnally; Mary Harrison; Melanie Luce; Maliq Davis; Aiden Gamez; Brenda Anderson; Carlos Ponce; Susie Ponce; Viktor

### From Our Ad Council Chair

Brothers and Sisters say "welcome" to November. Holy Covenant's Administrative Council Team is closing in on ending the calendar and fiscal year. There have been enormous victories in 2018 as a direct result of the commitment, effort and faith of the members of your Ad Council. I personally thank each one of them, their families for sharing their valuable time and Holy Covenant for allowing us to serve. I would ask that you thank those Ad Council members you know of, for it is truly a sacrifice of time, passion and energy.



If you wonder if you are being called to serve, the answer is definitively yes. It may not be on a formal committee, but we all are asked to serve one another. The ultimate leap of faith is to commit yourself to serving, in whatever role, and seeing it through.

Give thanks this November for all those who serve.

Peace,  
Scott Boren

"Catch on fire with enthusiasm, and people will come for miles to watch you burn." -John Wesley

### 2018 Metrocrest CROP Hunger Walk Recap

The Walk was cancelled due to expected heavy rain for that morning - Saturday October 13. One church coordinator offered a very pertinent comment reminding us why we participate in the



Hunger Walk - *"Let us remember how privileged we are that we can just cancel this walk and not have to endure the rain, wind and discomfort whereas so many others must continue through such conditions just to receive their water or food."*

Notwithstanding the weather, the donation collection carried on and the total raised by the 11 churches was \$9590. Holy Covenant's part in that was \$1850. 25% of the above total is returned to Metrocrest Food Pantry and the balance is used by Church World Services in their worldwide projects. Thank you to all donors who supported our walkers. Your generous donations will support hunger fighting programs for children and families locally and around the world.

-Rick Davis

Parker; Barbara Burns;  
 Dick Renfro; Hans Becker;  
 Jan Reynolds; Jerry &  
 Elizabeth Hunsaker;  
 Randy Sutherland; Kayla  
 Soto-Nava; Linesha  
 Maicera; Tom Yull;  
 Stephanie Flangin;  
 Semyon & Ilana Narosov;  
 Trevor Tilton; Sara Price;  
 the family of Mildred  
 Beard; and Michael  
 Schroeder.

### Our loved ones in the military

Levi Bayard, Hunter Blue,  
 Kate Blue, KeNi Gaines,  
 Zach Glass, Jake Oliver,  
 Antonio Ramirez, Ashton  
 Rudolf and Diana Rudolf.



**meeting Christ in our local community  
 to serve our children and youth**



We are welcoming and open to all people;  
 black or white 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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