



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 Ministry



Kids' Sunday School

Classes for Toddlers
through 5th Grade at 9:45
am!

Sunday School will BEE fun
with Buzz!

Issue: #54

February 10, 2012

From Pastor Andy



Nic at Night

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born anew." John 3:3

Are United Methodists "born again" Christians? The term, "born again," derives from a wonderful story in the Gospel of John. In the story (John 3:1-10), there was a well-respected Pharisee named Nicodemus who was impressed with and curious about Jesus. So, this Nicodemus came to talk with Jesus under the cover of darkness, hoping that none of his peers would find out.

In their conversation, Jesus wastes no time by beating around the bush; he immediately says to his new friend Nic, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born anew (ie. again)." Nic is confused. How can someone be born a second time? After several more questions from Nic and cryptic answers from Jesus, at least this much is clear: being born again has something to do with a Spirit-led renewal.

Based on my formative years here in Texas, the working definition of "born again" that I picked up as a young adult involved a dramatic change in course toward Jesus. The moment of turning or returning to Jesus usually occurred in the context of an emotionally charged worship experience, was sealed with a special prayer, and was followed up with an expectation to read the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. To be clear, I support people's lives taking dramatic turns toward Jesus. J Still, there was always something about this understanding of what it meant to be born again that failed to resonate with me. I resisted the label and some of the connotations that went with it.

And yet, there it is in the Gospel of John: no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born again.

I recently came across a different definition of "born again" in Brian McLaren's writings that has been incredibly helpful to me. It is a definition that is in harmony with some of Jesus'

Learn to know Jesus, feel his love, and have a friendship with him!



Maximizing Every Moment Workshop

Friday, February 24

at Holy Covenant

A team from the Brent Woodall Foundation will lead a full-day parent training conference.

This is for families of children with autism and other developmental disabilities. More information will be forthcoming.

If you would like to attend, please e-mail Carley Waltenburg at carley@woodallkids.org.



Vacation Bible School 2012

SKY VBS is coming to Holy Covenant July 9-13! Leadership Team planning meetings will begin soon.

If you would like to be involved, contact Jana Jones jjones@hcumc.org, Tatum Curry tatumtoney@hotmail.com, or Donna Roberts gaonmymindtx2001@yahoo.com.

other teachings about the kingdom of God - that the kingdom belongs to children and that we must be like a child to enter it. To be born again is to forget everything that we thought we knew about ourselves and God and the world we live in and replace all of our assumptions with what Jesus' taught and modeled. To be born again, is to unlearn everything and then to slowly piece together a kingdom of God worldview, like a child going to school. This understanding does not mean that everything will change all at once, but it does mean that one is open to the possibility that everything may change in time. This is a Spirit-led process that requires us to follow Jesus with thinking minds, great faith, and diligent action. It is like starting over from square one with Jesus as our guide - thus, being born again.

With that definition, I think United Methodists are born again Christians. At least, I think we all should be!

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Baptism and New Member



**Sadie Grace Brubaker baptized February 5, 2012
pictured with Andrea and new member Josh Brubaker**

Youth

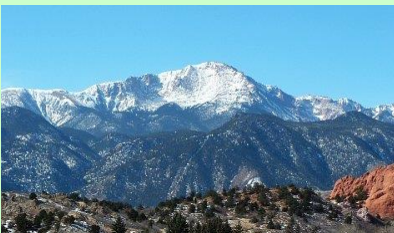


**Save the dates:
Junior High Mission trip:
June 5-10, 2012**
C2K (Connect to the Kingdom), Dallas, TX
Your Cost: \$100 (after Mission Shares)



**Senior High Mission trip:
July 22-28, 2012**
Camp Hope (Katrina Hurricane Relief), Gulfport, MS
Your Cost: \$150 (after Mission Shares)

Music Ministry



**Journey to the Mountain
Youth Choir Tour 2012**
June 21-27
\$50 deposit due NOW!

Essential Jesus



Sermon Series

2/12 **Seeing More Clearly Now**
2/19 **This Is Bigger Than Me**

Finding Balance: A Small Group for Moms



1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
All women are invited for study and fellowship!
Contact Jana Jones jjones@hcumc.org if you would like to participate.

Saturday Night Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday, February 11
5:00-6:00 pm

We are excited about the development of this new service on Saturdays! Monthly "preview" services are planned, with hopes of a weekly service beginning in 2012.

Join us in a casual, family-friendly atmosphere for worship led by a praise band!

Childcare is provided for young kids.

Contact Jana Jones jjones@hcumc.org or Andy Lewis alewis@hcumc.org if you would like more information.

****Come to the service, then leave your kids from 6:00-9:00 for a Parents' Night Out!****

If possible, e-mail Jana 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!



Valentine Bake Sale



Sunday, February 12

8 am to 12:30 pm
in the Covenant Center

Proceeds benefit the 2012 *Journey to the Mountain* youth choir tour to Colorado this summer.

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

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

Staff

Rev. Andy Lewis,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Debbie Chapman,
Associate Pastor, Music
Ministries

Jana Jones,
Children's and Young Adult
Minister

Rev. Georgia Harrison,
Youth and Missions Minister

Cassie Wade,
Ministry Intern

Sheryl Toney,
ECDP Director

Carol Jones,
Bookkeeper

Elise Webb Odell,
Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The McAnally family; Bishop Bledsoe & family; the Ditty family; the Engles family; Jim Murphy; Anita Pepper; Byrne Underhill; Jan Barnes; Jane Hargrave; Carlos Castro; Pearl Lopez; Ruth Cayler; Brenda Jo Anderson; Paul Chapman; Nancy Cardenas; Dale Payne; Hugh Dixon; Linda & Michael Miller; Mary Gates; Stephen Ministry leaders; Rosemary Stierhoff; Cris Hinkley; Dick Ellis; Dwayne & Nikeria Holmes; Jeff Oostenbrug; Peggy Tatum; Pam Krause; Anita & Odell Heathington;

Ash Wednesday

**February 22
Dinner at 6:15 pm
Worship at 7 pm**

Join us in the Covenant Center for a Cajun dinner followed by worship in the sanctuary as we begin the holy season of Lent.



Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show



**Sunday, February 26
6-9 pm**

Everyone is invited.

Brought to you by the youth of Holy Covenant!

Free dinner and show!

Donations accepted for youth mission trips.

Anti-Racism Training

March 15-17

The Advocates for Justice and Peace in conjunction with the North Texas Area Anti-Racism Team are providing Anti-Racism training. During this training you will be exposed to an in-depth analysis of racism; develop a deeper understanding of the realities of racism for all people regardless of color; and begin to build partnerships to organize for anti-racist churches and secular organizations.



This training will further our understanding of the inclusiveness that Holy Covenant is pursuing. The training is 2 ½ days (March 15 - March 17) at the Prothro Center (at Lake Texoma). The cost of the training is \$350 covering training, materials, hotel-style accommodations and all meals. The Advocates are covering \$250 of the cost so the person who attends would have an expense of \$100. The number of scholarships are limited so please submit your name quickly to Rob Evans at revans9409@hotmail.com.

Craft Fair April 28



Volunteers Needed

Sign Up Now to Help with HCUMC's First Annual Craft Fair! Contact Ginger Rathbun sewsomuch@sewsomuch.com or Sheli Erenberger shelieren@verizon.net for more information.

The vendor application can be found at www.hcumc.org.

Jim Crosley; Norma McCormack; Robyn Goss & family; James Ross; Julie Bowes; JoAnn Wiggins; Bernard Hardy; Marcus Oakley; Mitchell & Ashley Wert; Kristin Nelson; Joey Crumpley; Jessica and Philip Stallings; Brenda McMurtrey; Geraine Allen; Sara Ray's father; Linda Hoovler; Nita Sharp; Joe Worthington; Virgil Ronning; Josephine Anderson; Claudia Buntyn; John & Elizabeth Rudolf; John Michael; Sheila Anderson; Stephanie Flangin; Bill Anderson; DoReen Burbidge; Azlynn and John Hooper; Jak Kinder; Philip Sorrell; Susan and Jay Graham; Nicki & Don Luce & family; Sandy Serifin; Verne & Dorlis Glass; Sandie & Mark Loudermilk; Jeff Jones; Ray Rivera; Donna Crawford; Mattie Lannerd; Bob Horton; Phillip Pitts; Grant Russum and family; John Cloninger & family; Nathan Berry; Jim Hartley; Rachel Herrera; Brooke Johnston; Diane Bullock; Joy & Scott Leiding & family; Dale Bryan & family; David Zepf; Kim Gobble; Noel Tardy; Jeannie Deringer; Arthur Alaniz and family; Bill Hill; Jay & Kathy Cash; Rosie Alexander; Kate Bushmann; Jess Beltran; Annabella Chan; Rick Clement; Lisa Tenore; Vic Anderson; Jon Broom; Barbara Boothe; David Fettke; Chase Gattis; the Koeth family; Rob & Jaycinta Kambach; the Valencia family; the Hickman family; the Dooley family; Jackie Franklin and family; Anna Hixon; Ann Michelle King; Huffman family; the Pifer family; the Bailey family; and the Witcher family.

Chili Cook-off and Concert



Our loved ones in the military

Precious Blackman, Gabriel Bridges; Jeff Christie, Sean Connelly, Tim Connelly, Chad Davidson, C.J. Davidson, Zach Glass, David Hunt, Oscar Jasso, Marco Mastrogiovanni, Kevin Merritt, Brand Oakley, Jake Oliver, Ashton Rudolf, Logan Vidrine, Ashley Wert, C.J. Westmoreland, Brad Wethington, & Jeremy Whiteside.



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

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Mike & Rose Lovell

1630 Valwood Parkway at Luna Rd., Carrollton, TX

e-mail: metrocrest@embroidme.com web: www.embroidme-metrocrest.com

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 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.

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church | 1901 E. Peters Colony Road | Carrollton | TX | 75007