

## Education Hour

### Children's Education:

**Pre-K - 2nd Grade** - We are studying stories from the Bible through creative activities and crafts using the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum. This class will meet in the Library (to the right of the Workroom.)

**3rd Grade - 5th Grade** - We are using the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum, music, and art projects to examine the stories of the Bible through the lectionary. This class will meet in the Classroom (to the left of the Workroom.)

**Youth Education:** We are continuing a study of Jesus using *Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals*. This book uses biblical scholarship and information from the Jesus Seminar to create portraits of Jesus. We will become more familiar with Jesus' context in history as well as his Jewish identity.

### Adult Education:

**Bible Discussion:** In the Meeks House (1st floor), Bible Discussion will be led by Margie Latham. All are welcome. Scripture: Luke 13:31-35.

**In The Sanctuary:** "Hospice Care—Information and Discussion" facilitated by Beverly Rodgers and Karen Thomas, based on their professional experience in hospice and geriatric care.

**Parents Forum** - Parents Forum meets every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House.

## Calendar

Sunday 2/28	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education
		Inquirers Class
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Book Group
Tuesday 3/2	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 3/3	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
Thursday 3/4	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 3/5 - Sat. 3/6		Covenant Camping Trip
Sunday 3/7	8:15 a.m.	Worship
		Professional Clothing Drive
		First Sunday Food Offering
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education
		Inquirers Class
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

## Inquirers Class Continues

A class for visitors and those considering membership in Covenant meets today at 9:30 a.m. during education hour. The eight weekly sessions will cover such topics as liberal Christianity, Baptist principles and history, and the history of Covenant as well as information about the structure and functioning of the church through the Church Council, the Diaconate, and the committees. Presenters include the ministers, committee chairs, and other members of the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about the church and its people, join Joe Milano in the Meeks House.

Covenant Church affirms the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe. We welcome persons of all racial and ethnic heritages, all sexual orientations, and all faith perspectives to our Christian community. We stand for each individual's right to worship God and to respond to God's call to ministry in her or his own understanding of God's all-encompassing love.

We value a holistic approach to faith and seek to worship in ways that are intellectually credible, emotionally stimulating, spiritually engaging and contemporarily relevant.

We value music and art and ritual to express what we cannot ever fully say.

We value participation so that we might hear many approaches to our shared faith.

Covenant Church  
an ecumenical liberal baptist  
congregation

Members of Covenant  
Ministers

Jeremy Rutledge  
Minister

Laura Mayo  
Associate Minister

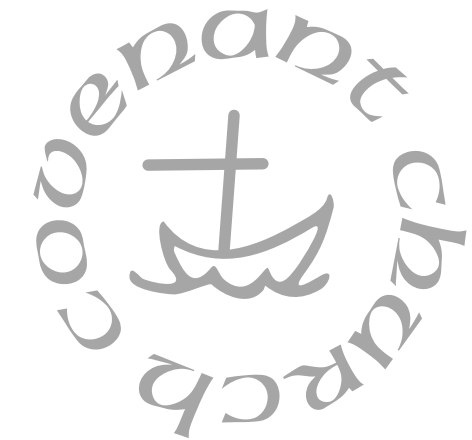
Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo  
Office Administrator

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830



## A Service of Worship for the Second Sunday in Lent 28 February 2010

*Evidence of God's being lies with that of our own;  
it is on our side of the total disparity that God lives.  
In the light we disown Him, embarrassedly;  
in the dark, He is our only guarantor,  
our only shield against death.  
The impalpable self cries out to Him  
and wonders if it detects an answer.*

John Updike

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude Antonio Vivaldi  
Largo e spiccato (Concerto in D Minor)

Choral Introit (11:00) In dich hab' ich gehoffet  
"In You, Lord, I Have Put My Trust"

Call to Worship

\*+ Processional Hymn 317: Geneva  
"Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness"

\*+ Opening Sentences

**We look with uncertainty  
Beyond the old choices for  
Clear-cut answers  
To a softer, more permeable aliveness  
Which is every moment  
At the brink of death;  
For something new is being born in us  
If we but let it.  
We stand at a new doorway,  
Awaiting that which comes . . .  
Daring to be human creatures.  
Vulnerable to the beauty of existence.  
Learning to love.**

Scripture Lesson John 3:1-17  
These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

\*+ Response: Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**In the solitude of each,  
which none can lose and none may share,  
as also in the fellowship that binds us together,  
O Holy Spirit, make Thy dwelling with us.**

\* *Ushers will seat latecomers*  
+ *Please stand if you are able*

Words of Assurance

Music (8:15) Robert Schumann  
"Three Romances" Movement III  
Nicht schnell

(11:00) William Byrd  
"Ave Verum"

*Jesus, Word of God Incarnate, you suffered on the cross for  
humankind. Let your broken body be nourishment for our souls.  
Kind Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen.*

Proclamation: Through a Glass Darkly

+ Hymn 340 Dickinson College  
"Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart"

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering  
Offertory: Charles Villiers Stanford  
Prelude in F Major, Opus 101, No. 4

+ Prayer of Dedication

**God, each new day is a gift from you  
filled with rich possibilities.  
Let us be fully alive today,  
with eyes open and ears attentive  
to all that you want to share with us.  
In this morning time, fill us with your love.  
Then, all the day through, let us live in your Spirit.  
Open our hearts to care for one another.  
Amen.**

+ Doxology Old Hundredth  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Sing praise all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Maker, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

+ Affirmation of Faith

+ *Please stand if you are able*

**May I be at peace, more patient with myself.**

**Let me live within the questions that promise no answers  
but only signal the mystery that gave them birth.**

**Let me turn from every pettiness of the heart,  
willing to see and accept that the world does not revolve around me.**

**Let the grief, the pain, and the nameless trouble that overcomes me  
also open me to feel what others have felt.**

+ Recessional Hymn 399 Dunlap's Creek  
"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00) In dich hab' ich gehoffet  
"With You, Lord, I Have Cast My Lot"

Postlude André Fleury  
Allegretto (from "Vingt Quatre Pièces")

## Worship

The Acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte for the second service is **Sarah Cravens**.

The Worship Leaders are **Ellen Schwaller** and **Wilson Miller**.

The Call to Worship is from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi.

The Opening Sentences are by Anne Hillman, reprinted in *Life Prayers from Around the World*, edited by Suzanne Roberts and Elias Amidon.

The Unison Confession is from *The Language of the Heart* by A. Powell Davies.

**Pam Vincent** plays the flute at the early service.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *The Corrymeela Worship Book* brought to Covenant by Harley Gambill after her stay with the Corrymeela community in Ireland.

The Affirmation of Faith is a prayer from George Kimmich Beach.