

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: Study and discussion of one of Sunday's lectionary passages from the Bible. Focus scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

In The Sanctuary: "Labyrinth: Symbol and Spiritual Practice." Christians have sometimes been told to follow the "straight and narrow path." So how did a twisting, winding labyrinth ever become a Christian symbol? In this class, Bruce Yaeger will explain how Christian theology adapted and transformed an ancient non-Christian symbol into a meditative practice.

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

Calendar

Sunday 3/14	8:15 a.m.	Professional Clothing Drive
	9:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
		Education
		Inquirers Class
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	All Church Committee Meetings
Tuesday 3/16	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 3/17	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Thursday 3/18	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 3/20	12:15 p.m.	Vernal Equinox Labyrinth Walk
Sunday 3/21	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
	12:15 p.m.	Retreat Planning
	6:00 p.m.	Theology Book Group

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

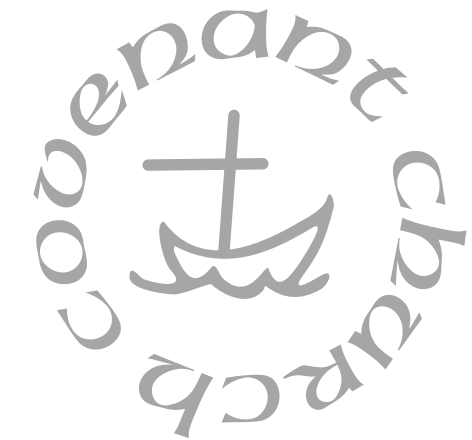
Organist

Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo

Office Administrator



A Service of Worship for the Fourth Sunday in Lent 14 March 2010

*The church is a unique kind of community.
Henri Nouwen explained that it creates a sense of estrangement
as much as a sense of belonging, because it's a community
waiting for the fullness of the kingdom of God
which has not yet come in all its glory.*

Scotty McClelland

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830

please enter for worship in silence

* Prelude O Christ, Thou Lamb of God	Sigfrid Karg-Elert	Music (8:15)	“Song of the Birds”	Pablo Casals + Affirmation of Faith
Choral Introit (11:00) “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”	O Quanta Qualia	(11:00)	“Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee”	Johannes Brahms
Call to Worship		Meditation: A Seat at the Table		
*+ Processional Hymn 353: “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”	Das neugeborne Kindelein	+ Hymn 298	“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”	In Babilone
*+ Opening Sentences For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation.		Pastoral Prayer		
Scripture Lesson These are our sacred stories. Thanks be to God.	Luke 15.11 - 32	Offering Offertory:	Fugue in D Minor, BWV 539	J. S. Bach
A Time for Children		+ Doxology	Old Hundredth	
*+ Response: <i>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.</i>	Jesus Loves Me		<i>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.</i>	+ Recessional Hymn #436 Whitfield “We Are Your People”
Call to Confession			THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION	Words of Dismissal
Silent Confession			Invitation to the Table	Choral Benediction (11:00)
Unison Confession We seek forgiveness for our wrong view that the lives we live are about ourselves alone.		Unison Prayer	Isn’t our faith in your presence in the breaking of bread meant to reach out beyond this small circle of sisters and brothers to the larger circle of humanity and to alleviate our suffering? If we can recognize you in this sacrament, we must also be able to recognize you in the world. We pray that our faith would be deepened that we might find ways to let this faith bear fruit in the lives of many.	O Quanta Qualia “When At Your Table” Postlude Johann Ludwig Krebs Prelude in F Minor
Words of Assurance			Sharing the Bread and the Cup	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 Virginia Wells . The Worship Leaders are Jay Hooker and Miller Kress . The Call to Worship and the Unison Confession are by Jeremy Rutledge . The Opening Sentences are from <i>Letters to a Young Poet</i> by Rainer Maria Rilke. The Time for Children is led by Jim Avera . Susan Wegner is the cellist at the 8:15 service. The Unison Prayer is adapted from a prayer of Henri Nouwen. The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from <i>Credo</i> by William Sloane Coffin.
* <i>Ushers will seat latecomers</i> + <i>Please stand if you are able</i>			+ <i>Please stand if you are able</i>	