

## Education Hour

### ***Children & Youth Education:***

Our children and youth will meet together for Summer Sunday School. We will gather in the Library of the church building each week to learn about the people of the Old Testament and to have a lot of fun.

### ***Adult Education:***

**In the Sanctuary** - "What is the role of prayer and religion in the civil life of the U.S.?" Although we commonly talk of our "separation of church and state," our U. S. Constitution actually lays out a paradox: that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion....[but that] neither shall it prohibit 'the free exercise' of religion. In this class, Bruce Yaeger will lead discussion of a public-television DVD that takes a respectful but honest look at how prayer and religion make our nation different from other countries.

**Bible Discussion** - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Margie Latham on July 4. Text: 2 Kings 5:1-14.

**Parents Forum** - Parents Forum meets every third Sunday of the month during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House.

## Calendar

Sunday 7/4	9:00 a.m.	Education
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
		First Sunday Food Offering
Tuesday 7/6	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 7/7	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Saturday 7/10	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Sunday 7/11	9:00 a.m.	Children & Youth Education
		Quarterly Business Meeting
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

## Helpful Information

**Childcare** Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 10:15 a.m.

**Communication Cards** If you're a visitor with us, please fill out a blue communication card and drop it in the offering basket.

**Covenant Membership** Membership in Covenant Church is open to all persons who affirm the loving presence of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the revealed Spirit throughout the ages. Those interested in learning more about Covenant are encouraged to express that interest to one of the ministers or the worship leader. Any person desiring membership first becomes an inquirer and is asked to attend an orientation class designed to acquaint inquirers with the church and its beliefs. After a period of eight weeks, the inquirer may indicate a desire to become a member.

**Celebrations and Concerns** If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please post it on the announcements board in the narthex or e-mail it to [prayer@covenanthouston.org](mailto:prayer@covenanthouston.org).

**Covenant Newsletter** To subscribe to the monthly newsletter, please send an e-mail request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto:office@covenanthouston.org). The newsletter is also available online at [www.covenanthouston.org](http://www.covenanthouston.org).

**Covenant Recycles** If you do not wish to keep your bulletin this Sunday, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex on your way out.

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

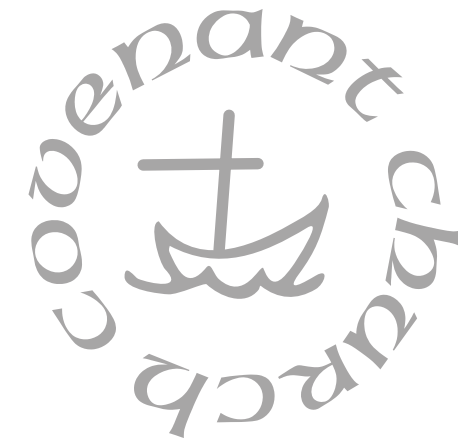
Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Baik

Office Administrator

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830



## *A Service of Worship for Sunday 4 July 2010*

*Range after range of mountains  
Year after year after year.  
I am still in love.*

Gary Snyder

*please enter for worship in silence*

* Prelude	Festive Trumpet Tune	David German	Unison Confession	+ Affirmation of Faith
Call to Worship			<p><b>The purpose of life is to discover the joy or well-being that simultaneously pleases us and blesses our neighbor. Every act we commit is a contribution to the world; the question is whether our actions will be a blessing or a curse. The basic question of life is not, “What do I want?” but rather, “What do I want to give?”</b></p>	<p><b>Each of us humans can meditate regularly upon what it means to be a creature of nature, bone of its bone and flesh of its flesh. Strolling, hiking, camping, swimming, and other kinds of outdoor activity can greatly aid this process of meditation. The slanting rays of the sun through the trees seen while walking in a crisp autumn late afternoon, or the sight of a squadron of pelicans winging its way just above the waves of the blue-green Gulf of Mexico while one is bobbing in those same waves, can inspire and rejuvenate the soul... There are dangers about, to be sure, but there are also feelings of restfulness and peace, and of sharing with other creatures the glories of nature... By these and similar means we can deepen our sense of being at home in nature, of being sustained and renewed by its wonders, and of having profound responsibility to contribute to and not detract from its integrity and well-being.</b></p>
*+ Opening Hymn 455	“All Creatures of Our God and King” (Verses 1-4)	Lasst uns erfreuen	Words of Assurance	
+ Opening Sentences	<p><b>As humans we are born of the Earth, nourished by the Earth, healed by the Earth. The natural world tells us: I will feed you, I will clothe you, I will shelter you, I will heal you... For I offer you a communion with the divine, I offer you gifts that you can exchange with each other, I offer you flowers whereby you may express your reverence for the divine and your love for each other.</b></p>		<p>Music “The God Who Gave Us Life” Randall Thompson</p>	
			Meditation: The Gift of the Land	
			<p>+ Hymn 271 “Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Things” Lacquiparle</p>	
			Invitation	
			Pastoral Prayer	<p>+ Closing Hymn 554 “Let All Things Now Living” Ash Grove</p>
Scripture Lesson	Psalm 104:1-24			
<p>These are our sacred stories. <b>Thanks be to God.</b></p>			Offering	Words of Dismissal
			<p>Offertory: Fugue in G Major, BWV 577 J. S. Bach</p>	<p>Postlude Postlude in D Major Healey Willan</p>
A Time for Children			First Sunday Food Offering	
*+ Response:	Personent Hodie		+ Prayer of Dedication	
	<p><i>Down to earth, as a dove, Came to light holy love: Jesus Christ from above bringing great salvation Meant for every nation. Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring. Christ is here, ever near! Gloria in excelsis.</i></p>		<p><b>...Give us the strength to understand, and the eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live.</b></p>	<p><b>Worship</b> The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte is <b>Ruben Milano</b>. The worship leader is <b>Jack Camino</b>. The Call to Worship is from Sallie McFague in <i>Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril</i>. The Opening Sentences are from <i>Evening Thoughts: Reflecting on Earth as Sacred Community</i> by Thomas Berry. The Time for Children is led by <b>Eric Avera</b>. The Unison Confession is from “Choose to Bless the World” by Rebecca Parker. The singers are <b>Jim Avera, Eric Avera, Josh Cowan, and Jay Hooker</b>. The Prayer of Dedication is from a Sioux prayer in <i>The Greening Congregations Handbook: Stories, Ideas, and Resources for Cultivating Creation Awareness and Care in Your Congregation</i>, edited by Tanya Barnett. The Affirmation of Faith is from <i>Living with Ambiguity: Religious Naturalism and the Menace of Evil</i> by Donald Crosby.</p>
Call to Confession			+ Doxology Old Hundredth	
Silent Confession			<p><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></p>	

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

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