

## 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 Hebrew Bible and to have a lot of fun.

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

**In the Sanctuary** - Ann Christiansen will offer a crash course in Renaissance sonnets. Ann will discuss some of the formal and thematic conventions and innovations in English sonnets. We will read some sonnets together.

**Bible Discussion** - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Jeff Nobles. Text: Luke 12:13-21.

**Parents Forum** - Parents Forum meets every third Sunday of the month during education hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. The next meeting will take place on August 15.

## Calendar

Sunday 8/1	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship First Sunday Food Offering
Tuesday 8/3	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 8/4	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Saturday 8/7	7:45 a.m.	Back to School Sort & Set-Up with CCSC
Sunday 8/8	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour Inquirers Class
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	All Church Committee Meetings

## 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 order of worship 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

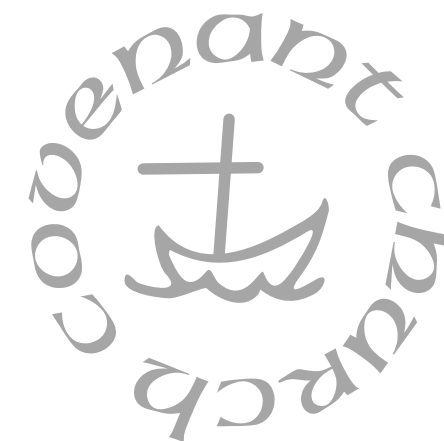
Laura Mayo  
Associate Minister

Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Baik  
Office Administrator



## A Service of Worship for Sunday 1 August 2010

*I used to say I was an atheist.  
Now I say, it's all according  
to your definition of God.  
According to my definition of God,  
I'm not an atheist.  
Because I think God is everything.  
Whenever I open my eyes  
I'm looking at God.  
Whenever I'm listening to something  
I'm listening to God.*

Pete Seeger

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude Marcel Dupré  
Antiphon, Opus 18, No. 5 (How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou)

Call to Worship

\*+ Opening Hymn 553 East Acklam  
“For the Fruit of All Creation”

+ Opening Sentences

**Beyond the beliefs of any religion,  
there is the truth of the human spirit.**

**Beyond the power of nations,  
there is the power of the human heart.**

**Beyond the ordinary mind,  
the power of wisdom, love, and  
healing energy is at work in the universe.**

**When we can find peace within our hearts,  
we contact these universal powers.**

Scripture Lesson Psalm 146

These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

\*+ Response: Personent Hodie

*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.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are  
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.  
Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision,  
increase our trust in you.  
Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,  
show us the more excellent way that your love requires.  
Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming,  
restore our hope.  
Whenever we forget those who have gone before us  
or act as if we were the first to follow in the way of peace,  
allow us to recognize our arrogance.  
May the resources of our faith  
encourage us to dream again.  
Amen.**

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

Words of Assurance

Music Southern Baptist Hymn arr. John Allen

Proclamation: Songs in Our Hearts, Hearts on Our Sleeves

Time of Reflection

+ Hymn Argentina  
“Song of Hope”

*May the God of hope go with us everyday, filling all our lives with love and  
joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every  
land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that’s new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ’s call.*

*(Spanish text sung by small group)*

*May the God of hope go with us everyday, filling all our lives with love and  
joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every  
land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that’s new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ’s call.*

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Offertory: Southern Baptist Hymn arr. John Allen

First Sunday Food Offering

+ Prayer of Dedication

**For the good in us which calls us to a better life,  
we give thanks;  
For the strength to improve the world with our hearts and hands,  
we give praise;  
For the peace in us which lead us to work for peace,  
we are grateful.  
For all these we give thanks to the Creator of life  
and all nature.**

+ 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.*

+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ Affirmation of Faith

**Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape;  
who can renounce smugness and be shaken in conscience;  
who are not afraid to grow in spirit.**

**Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community;  
who regularly join in celebration and learning;  
who come to church to minister as much as to be ministered unto.**

**Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is  
the transformation of society;  
who have a vision of the Beloved Community  
transcending the present,  
and who do not shrink from controversy,  
sacrifice or change.**

**Blessed are those who speak their minds,  
who can take and give criticism;  
who keep alive their sense of humor.**

**Blessed are they indeed.**

+ Closing Hymn 563 Lift Every Voice  
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Words of Dismissal

Postlude Gordon Young

### Worship

The acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte is **Ruben Milano**.

The worship leaders are **Vince Maggio** and **Alexa Daggett**.

The Call to Worship is “Life is Always Unfinished Business” by Richard Gilbert.

The Opening Sentences are from Tibetan lama Tarthang Tulku.

**Beverly Rodgers** leads the Time for Children and offers the Pastoral Prayer.

The Unison Confession is adapted from a prayer of J. Bennett Guess.

**Rex Spencer**, cellist, and **John Allen**, pianist, offer the arrangements of two Southern Baptist hymns. Rex is the owner of the grand piano on loan in our sanctuary. John Allen, who did the arrangements of the hymns, is a Spanish teacher and leads instrumental and vocal groups at MCC church.

**Reagan Miller** provides the music during the Time of Reflection.

The Prayer of Dedication is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book* from the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from “Expectations” in *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* by John Buehrens and Forrest Church.

### Inquirers Class In Session

A session of classes for visitors and those considering membership in Covenant takes place during the education hour. The seven 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 Meeks House at 9 a.m. on Sundays through August 29.