

## 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** - Rebecca Spears will offer Poetry as Prayer. "Poetry is really the only history, the single history, we have of the human heart," says Billy Collins of *The Trouble with Poetry*. During Education Hour this Sunday, Rebecca Spears will present the notion of reading poetry as a soul-shaping, transformative act. Join her in this exploration of poetry as a source of awe and as a healing balm.

**Bible Discussion** - Bible study in Meeks House will be led by Jeff Nobles. Text: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16.

**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 8/8	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
Tuesday 8/10	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 8/11	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
	7:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Saturday 8/14	9:00 a.m.	Garden Work Day
Sunday 8/15	9:00 a.m.	Education Hour Inquirers Class Parents Forum
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Literary Book Group <i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett

## 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

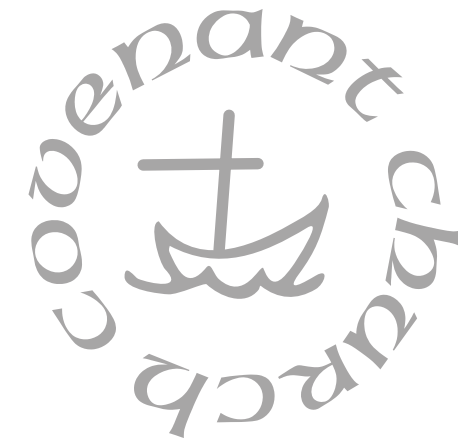
Pat Long

Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Baik

Office Administrator

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830



## *A Service of Worship for Sunday 8 August 2010*

*Once a story is told, it cannot be called back.  
Once told, it is loose in the world.*

Thomas King

*please enter for worship in silence*

* Prelude  “Festal Flourish”  Call to Worship	Gordon Jacobs	Unison Confession  <b>Remembering daily and in particular ways who I am and where I fit in the scheme of things is a central spiritual discipline. Coming to faith is not so much knowing who God is as knowing who I am. I am not the center of things; I do not live by my own merit or means; I am finite, mortal, and small. And yet...I am not on my own; I cannot account for my own existence, let alone its moments of flourishing, from myself. I belong to something outside of myself that is at the same time inside and all around me.</b>	+ Doxology  <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>
*+ Opening Hymn 464  “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”	Hymn to Joy		+ Affirmation of Faith  <b>My story is important not because it is mine, God knows, but because if I tell it anything like right, the chances are you will recognize that in many ways it is also yours. Maybe nothing is more important than that we keep track, you and I, of these stories of who we are and where we have come from and the people we have met along the way because it is precisely through these stories in all their particularity, as I have long believed and often said, that God is known to each of us most powerfully and personally.</b>
+ Opening Sentences  <b>We summon ourselves from the delights and demands of the daily round from the dirty dishes and unwaxed floors, from unmowed grass and untrimmed bushes, from all incompleteness and not-yet-startedness, from the unholy and the unresolved.</b>		Words of Assurance	
<b>We summon ourselves to attend our vision of peace and justice, of happiness and health, of delight and devotion, of the lovely and the holy, of who we are and what we can do.</b>		Music  “A Grace”  <i>Thanks we give to you, O God, for all the blessings you have given us through Jesus Christ. Amen.</i>	William Mathias
<b>We would open our eyes, our ears, our minds, our hearts, to the amplest dimensions of life.</b>		Proclamation: Four Years in Fifteen Minutes	+ Closing Hymn 353  Das neugeborne Kindelein “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”
<b>We rejoice in the manifold possibilities.</b>		+ Hymn 275  “God of Our Life”	Words of Dismissal
Scripture Lesson  These are our sacred stories. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	Matthew 5:2-10	Invitation	<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 leaders are <b>Vince Maggio</b> and <b>Alexa Daggett</b> . The Call to Worship is from <i>Your Word is Near</i> by Huub Oosterhuis.
A Time for Children		Pastoral Prayer	The Opening Sentences are adapted from Gordon McKeeman in <i>Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings</i> , edited by Helen Pickett.
*+ Response:  <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>	Personent Hodie	Offering  Offertory:  “Nun ruhen alle Wälder”	The Unison Confession is from <i>A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming</i> by Sallie McFague. The Prayer of Dedication is from Amarette Callaway in the 1997 Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Worship Materials Collection.
Call to Confession  Silent Confession		+ Prayer of Dedication  <b>Enter with me the sacred space. Bring with you what is yours— a burdened heart, a joyous song, a wearied spirit, a seeking mind. Bring the gift of yourself to the altar. It is an honorable gift.</b>	The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from <i>Telling Secrets</i> by Frederick Buechner.  <b>Inquirers Class In Session</b>  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.

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

+ *Please stand if you are able*