

THE COVENANT

October 2011

Volume 11, Issue 10

“What Does Revelation Reveal?” Class

Is the End Really Near? Join us beginning Monday night, October 24th at 7:00 p.m., as we study the book of Revelation using Warren Carter's "What Does Revelation Reveal?" This is a 5-week free class; students, however, are asked to buy their own books (Amazon has some good deals). As with all classes at Holy Covenant, it takes a minimum commitment of 4 people for a class to be held. You can sign-up for the class online at www.holycovenantmcc.org/Reveal.html or on the sign-up sheet on the Pastor's office window.

Carson's Coupon Booklets - Matching Donation

You can now help support your church by shopping (we all love to shop, don't we?!). We will be selling special coupon books for Carson Pirie Scott, for just \$5 a book.

These coupons are good to use at CPS for 2 days: Friday, November 11th and Saturday, November 12th with all proceeds going to the church. Just think how much you could save, while helping Holy Covenant at the same time. It would be a perfect time to buy your Christmas presents too!



COMMUNITY DAY 2011

Save The Date:
Friday & Saturday
November 11-12, 2011

Get your \$5 Shopping **NOW!!!**
Booklet for access to:

- 1 - \$10 off on a \$10 or more item.
- 1 - 20%* off shopping pass — use the pass over and over
- 1 - 30% Early bird coupon, valid Saturday only from 6am-10am
- 11 - Bonus buys
- 2 - Web Exclusive Offers

ENTER TO WIN A \$250 GIFT CARD!!!
Exclusive OFFER

Proceeds benefit charitable organizations

Included in the book is a \$10 dollar off coupon on a single sale or regular price single item of \$10.00 or more. This coupon is good either Friday or Saturday all day. There are also coupons that are good only on Saturday morning and there is also a 2 day shopping pass that can be used over and over again on both days.

Steve Sirianni will generously match the \$5 raised on the first 25 booklets sold at or through the church (to family, friends and work colleagues). For more information, please contact Steve at 708-598-6707 or via his email mrdesert59@hotmail.com.

Holy CROP Walkers 2011 - October 16th

The 2011 La Grange/Western Springs/Brookfield CROP Walk got off to a late start, but it's definitely on! And, yes there will be a team of Holy CROP Walkers! We already 7 people from Holy Covenant signed up to walk and help raise money for Church World Services. The walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 16th at 1:00 p.m. Step off is at First United Methodist Church at 4300 Howard Avenue, Western Springs.



This is the 28th year of the LG/WS/B CROP Walk. 25% of the funds we raise stay right here to support six local food pantries, including Saint Barbara's.

It's easy to join us. You can get a collection envelope from Richard Lofstrand (708 -255-5182) or Karen Baribeault (708-870-6870) and then sign-up your friends and neighbors to sponsor to your walk. You can also "Walk on The Web" by going to www.churchworldservice.org and navigating to the "La Grange/Western Springs CROP Walk," and then registering for the *Holy CROP Walkers* team, which allows you to send out emails requesting pledges.



Pastor's Corner - Rev. Danny Spears



What DO We Believe?

"Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend."--Mao Tse-Tung

As I write this article, we have just finished the second of five discussions about the book "Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshipping Christ and Start Following Jesus" by UCC pastor Rev. Dr. Robin Myers. There were 16 people at the class. Only three original registrants were missing, and they will try to attend the other sessions. As always, I expect some folks will not be able to attend all the sessions, and some may drop out. Still, this is the best (initially) attended class of any we have offered in my four-plus years at Holy Covenant.

The class is quite diverse, too: straight, gay, bi, theologically conservative, moderate, and liberal. We even have a few visitors from another area church! Looking over the first night's class I have to admit I was a little nervous. I was thrilled with the great response; still, I was a little nervous about how well we would handle the theological diversity in the room—especially since the main topic was Jesus.

There was no need to fear. People are expressing their various viewpoints with respect, agreeing to disagree, and giving everyone ample time and space to speak. You could even say we are embodying the quote of Mao Tse-Tung above.

So far this class has demonstrated what I believe is true for our community overall: we are simply not a "one size fits all" community of faith. For me, this realization is a both a joy and a challenge—especially when people me ask the question, "What do we believe at Holy Covenant?"

The truth is, "we" believe a lot of things —yes, even at Holy Covenant. Some of us believe in the Holy Trinity of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit; and some of us are more Unitarian in our beliefs (there is only one God, and Jesus was an exceptional human being). Some of us believe in a literal heaven and hell, and some of us believe heaven and hell are more states of mind or conditions we experience in this life. Some of us believe in a literal second coming of Jesus Christ to sort out the world's troubles, and some of us believe Jesus returns every time we follow his teachings.

Some of us believe that Jesus is the only way to experience God and a happy afterlife, and some of us believe all religious

traditions contain valuable teachings and truths; and if there is an afterlife, we are all eventually reunited with our Source (a tenet of Universalism). Some of us see God as a separate Supreme Being who controls all or some facets of life; others of us see God more as Expanded Consciousness, Ultimate Good, or otherwise reflected in the processes of evolution. Some of us look around and even question God's existence from time to time.

Some folks believe God required the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as payment for the sins of humanity; and others of us believe Jesus was killed for his teachings and beliefs. Some of us believe the bible as literally the Word of God, while others of us see the bible more as metaphor and symbolic teachings. And I am sure other viewpoints exist in our community, as well.

So, us your head swimming yet? Are you wondering if we even have a common denominator of belief in our community of faith?

I think we do.

First, we call our community "Christian," and for me, following the teachings of Jesus as best as we are able is at the core of Christianity. I believe as we do that, healing, hope, and even salvation in the form of stronger relationships, a healthier planet and just societies is possible. The challenge is, following Jesus is harder than believing anything about him; for as it has been said, "We can believe all the right things and still be in bondage."

My prayer for all of us—whatever we may or may not believe—is that those beliefs lead us to follow the teachings of Jesus in positive and practical ways, bringing hope, healing, and salvation to our world.

So come as you are, believing as you do. You are welcome at Holy Covenant.

*Following With You,
Pastor Dan*

Community Scavenger Hunt - October 8th



Join us on Saturday, October 8th for our Community Scavenger Hunt. Registration is at 1:00 p.m. for a 2:00 p.m. start. Pre-registration is \$10 per person in advance and \$15 on the day – the winning team gets 50% of the money raised, with the other 50% going to the church.

You can bring a team (up to 5 team members) or join a team on the day - costumes are encouraged!

Next Pilsen Outreach - October 6th

After the summer hiatus, our Night Ministry Pilsen outreach is returning full swing on Thursday, October 6th! The menu is McCormick Chili, chips, buns and fruit.

We need people to volunteer to bring and cook chili (standard McCormick chili packets) and to donate hamburger buns, sour cream and shredded cheese. We also need people to serve the meal in Pilsen and set-up/ clean- up at the church.

We will meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. Please sign-up online at www.holy covenantmcc.org/Pilsen1006.html or telephone/ email Meg Lestina at 708-485-2485/meglestina@hotmail.com.

Eat for Your Health - October 18th

Are you over 60? If so, you can attend this free conference at the Grand Avenue Community Center, 4211 Grand Avenue, Western Springs on Tuesday, October 18th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. There will be speakers, exhibitors, free food samples, vendors, recipes, tips on healthier eating and lots more! Just bring a copy of your favorite recipe with you for free admittance.

For more information, please contact Mic Cagney at 708-246-3299 or via his email mcagney@wsprings.com.

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Worship 9:00/11:00 Sunday School 9:00 AA Meeting 6:00	31 AA Meeting 12:30 Revelation Class 7:00 <i>Sam Cook's birthday</i>					1 <i>Gaery Huffman's birthday</i>
2 Worship 9:00/11:00 Sunday School 9:00 AA Meeting 6:00	3 AA Meeting 12:30 Saving Jesus 7:00	4 AA Meeting 12:30 Yoga 7:00	5 AA Meeting 12:30	6 AA Meeting 12:30	7 AA Meeting 12:30	8 AA Meetings 12:30 & 8:00 Community Scavenger Hunt 1:00
9 Worship 9:00/11:00 Sunday School 9:00 AA Meeting 6:00	10 AA Meeting 12:30 Saving Jesus 7:00	11 AA Meeting 12:30 Yoga 7:00	12 AA Meeting 12:30	13 AA Meeting 12:30	14 AA Meeting 12:30	15 AA Meetings 12:30 & 8:00 Youth Group 4:00
16 Worship 9:00/11:00 Sunday School 9:00 CROP Walk 1:00 AA Meeting 6:00	17 AA Meeting 12:30	18 AA Meeting 12:30 Yoga 7:00	19 AA Meeting 12:30	20 AA Meeting 12:30 BOD Meeting 7:00	21 AA Meetings 12:30 & 8:00	22
23 Worship 9:00/11:00 Sunday School 9:00 AA Meeting 6:00	24 AA Meeting 12:30 Revelation Class 7:00	25 AA Meeting 12:30 Yoga 7:00	26 AA Meeting 12:30	27 AA Meeting 12:30	28 AA Meetings 12:30 & 8:00 Youth Group 4:00	29

**HOLY
COVENANT MCC
CHURCH
BROOKFIELD, IL**

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**We Accept
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Use email address
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*We celebrate Christ's call to:
Care for one another
Reach out to others
Explore our faith
Worship God*

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Ross Lee

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Ian Tiele

October Prayer

Creator, open our hearts
to peace and healing between all people.
Creator, open our hearts
to provide and protect for all children of the earth.
Creator, open our hearts
to respect for the earth, and all the gifts of the earth.
Creator, open our hearts
to end exclusion, violence, and fear among all.
Thank-you for the gifts of this day and every day.
[native american - micmac - alycia longriver - 1995]

Stewardship Team News

You should now have received the letters from the Stewardship Team regarding making your pledge to the church, so that we may continue to be a beacon of hope, love and acceptance in the community. As noted in the letter, you can mail in your pledge or make your pledge online at the church website, using the link www.holycovenantmcc.org/pledge.html.

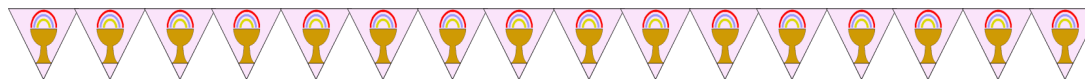
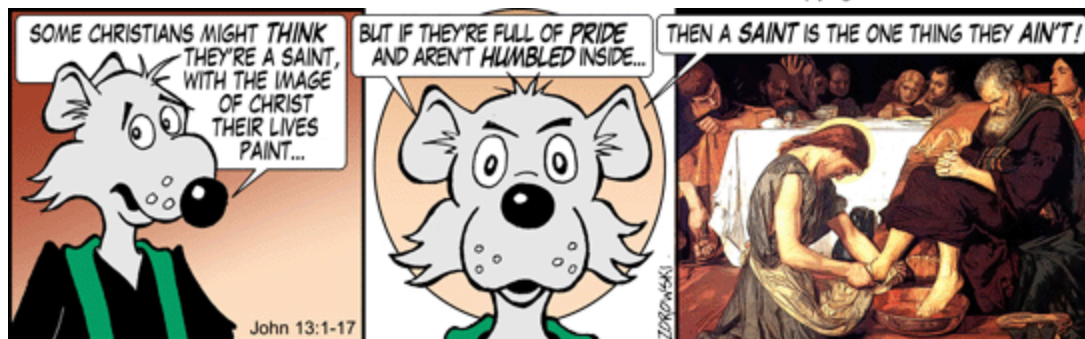
You may also drop your pledge form in the offering basket on Sunday or even hand it to one of the team members; Barbara Adams, Brad Carlson or Jill Walls.

If you have any questions, please see one of the above people. We ask that you please be prayerful with your pledges, as we "Grow Together and Seek God Together.

Thanks to all of you who have already made your pledge!

Church Mice

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Covenant Publications

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors, unless otherwise indicated, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Holy Covenant MCC. The publication of the name of any person, business, or organization should not be construed as an indication of sexual orientation or political affiliation.

The Covenant welcomes new items, articles, poetry, and of course suggestions. Written contributions may be submitted to the Editor of the Covenant at the address herein or by email to ian@holycovenantmcc.org Contributions will be published at the discretion of the editor and may be subject to revision and space limitations.

The November 2011 COVENANT DEADLINE for any articles is NO LATER THAN Wednesday, October 26th, 2011. Late submissions will be made on an "available space basis."