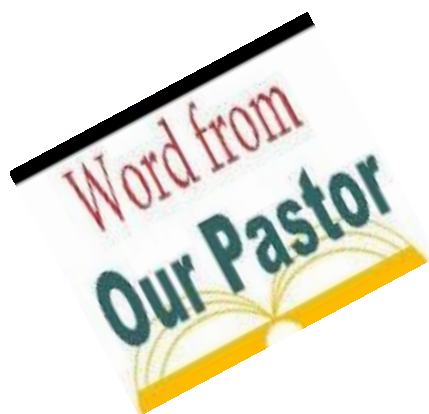


November 14, 2014



# NCFA CONNEXION!

***Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!***



*Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor*

During the holidays, we have opportunities to spend time with our family and friends. For some of us, the family reunion is great. We get to talk trash and tell tales about what we used to do and how great we were when we did it. If that isn't enough, we get to enjoy non-stop sports on our televisions with the smell of delicious food in the air. "Whew, take me Jesus, now!" I couldn't help it. It's like a taste of heaven on earth.

Unfortunately, the same things that bring some of us joy bring some of us sorrow and pain. Our loved ones may have joined the Church Triumphant or they are incarcerated; serving the country overseas; living in other states; or estranged through family dynamics or dysfunctions. As painful as it is to name these reasons for pain, it is important for us to identify why we or our friends might not experience the same level of joy as others of us.

As a pastor, I also hear the regret that people have in their hearts because of decisions they have made in the past that are affecting their present day circumstances. For some of us, it means that we may not have the money we want or need to buy gifts or provide the big meal. For others of us, it means that we will have to trust God to work with and through us to help reconcile broken relationships. I have a feeling that all of us might need God's help to "forgive ourselves." Can I get an Amen lights and pews or televisions and remote controls?

At the end of the day, where we are today can be changed by steps we take to receive forgiveness, to extend forgiveness, and to let God work with all of the stuff within and outside of us. By choosing to beat ourselves up prevents us from being in shape for the next step in our lives. Hopefully, we will all experience: regret, repentance, forgiveness, restoration, reconciliation, and rejoicing.

May the following quotes prove to be helpful to you. I am not as profound as the other speakers so I will start off with one I remember from my college days at UT: "If 'if and buts were candy and nuts,' we would all have a Merry Christmas."

- ◆ "Because his mercies are new every morning, you can find the courage to bring all of what you are to all of who he is." *Sheila Walsh*
- ◆ "Mistakes offer the possibility for redemption and a new start in God's kingdom. No matter what you're guilty of, God can restore your innocence." *Barbara Johnson*
- ◆ Mercy is an attribute of God, an infinite and inexhaustible energy within the divine nature which disposes God to be actively compassionate." *A. W. Tozer*

**Deuteronomy 4: 30-31:** <sup>30</sup> When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. <sup>31</sup> For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE 2015

If you have not turned in your pledge cards for 2015, please do so!

**Total pledges to date: 35**  
**Total amount to date: \$197,340.00**  
**Goal: \$223,200.00**

November 14, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

NCFA SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA Sunday Schedule

8:15am - Worship Service  
Waller Creek Chapel  
41st St. and Red River

10:15am - Worship Service  
1507 Wilshire Blvd.  
9am Adult Sunday School  
10am Fellowship

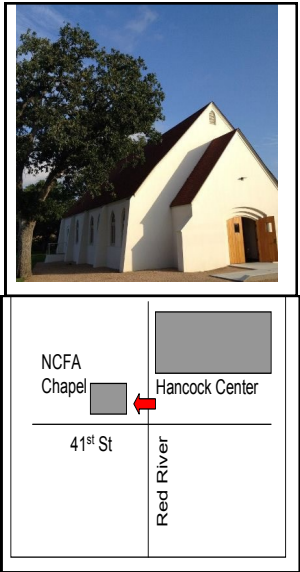
10:45am - Children's Church

**NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:15am --  
Waller Chapel**

Come rise and shine with us  
at our **8:15am** chapel service  
where we glorify God  
through the Word, Prayer, Hymns,  
and Communion.

41st and Red River, entrance gate on 41st.

In the words of Phillips, Craig & Dean,  
“Come, just as you, to worship.”  
All are welcome to this traditional,  
intimate style of worshipping our Lord.



NCFA Waller Creek Chapel — Upcoming Preachers  
November 16- John Harrison  
November 23- Rev. Jeff Saddington  
November 30 - Danita Nelson

**NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT  
10:15am**

We would love to have you and your family  
come share in the CELEBRATION OF  
THE GOOD NEWS!

We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall of  
Genesis Presbyterian Church on the Wil-  
shire Campus starting at 10:15 a.m.



New Covenant Fellowship of Austin PC(U.S.A.)  
is a racially diverse community informed by the  
Bible, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and moti-  
vated to share God’s love with all. In response to  
God’s love, we are called to equip disciples to  
faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully  
commit, and to implore all to worship our Lord,  
as we love our neighbors, grow in grace, and live  
by faith.

November 14, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

# *"A Church Without Fear"*

*Joshua 1:1-9*

*Rev. Bill Harris*

*New Covenant Fellowship of Austin  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost—November 9, 2014*

## [God's Commission to Joshua](#)

<sup>1</sup>After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, <sup>2</sup>"My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. <sup>4</sup>From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. <sup>5</sup>No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. <sup>9</sup>I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

In the West wing of the White House, near the President's office, is a painting by Norman Rockwell. It shows a young African American girl, just 6 years old, on her way to school. She is wearing a white dress and white shoes, and in her hand is a school book and a ruler. She looks like almost any child on their way to the first day of class, except that she is surrounded by four Federal marshals, and on the wall behind her is scrawled a vicious racial epithet along with fragments of a rotten tomato that was thrown at her.

The painting is not a fiction but represents a real event in a real time and place. The little girl is named Ruby Bridges, the place is New Orleans, Louisiana, and the year is 1960. Ruby Bridges was the first African American child to integrate an all-white school in the South. What the painting does not show is the angry mob of people that was waiting for her at the school, shouting at her, threatening her. It does not show the empty classroom in which Ruby Bridges sat, because no other child in that school would go in the same room with her. It does not show that no teacher in the school would teach her; the school had to hire a teacher from another state. It does not show that Ruby Bridges made that same walk for a year and never missed a single day of school. What the painting does show is the courage of a six-year-old child in the face of an evil few people will ever experience. The painting is entitled, "The Problem We All Live With."

As Americans, we realize the racism depicted in the painting as the problem we all live with, and continue to live with. But as Christians, we realize "the problem we all live with" is the problem of evil and the fear it brings into our lives. I like the way John Buchanan puts it, "Fear is the enemy of life. It's hard to love when you're afraid. It's hard to love anything passionately when you're afraid. It's impossible to be joyful about anything when you're afraid."

Courage is necessary because evil is real. Evil causes suffering, and suffering challenges our Christian faith. Why do bad things happen to good people? The theologian James Cone wrote that "The Christian answer to suffering is both practical and spiritual. We solve the mystery of evil's existence by fighting it. And faith is real only to the degree that it endows us with the courage to fight." We need courage to fight against fear and evil. Christians are not courageous because we are stronger or meaner or richer or better or smarter than other people. We have courage because of our faith in God's justice and righteousness. If there is no justice, then there is no hope, and if there is no hope, then our suffering has no meaning and cannot be redeemed. And if suffering has no meaning, then courage is either vanity, suicidal, or just plain stupid.

No offence to our brothers and sisters who serve, but courage is not the exclusive domain of soldiers, or firefighters, or parachutists. Ordinary people need courage, too. Courage is for a battered spouse taking the first step in putting his or her life back together. Courage is for a young boy or girl who has to walk to school every day under the eyes of gang members, drug dealers, or bullies. Courage is for a terminally ill mother or father trying to keep the family together when it seems to be falling apart. Courage is just getting up in the morning knowing that there's no food in the house, no gas in the car, and no job to go to. Courage for when it's 2:00 in the morning and you don't know where your child is. There is such a thing as "everyday courage."

November 14, 2014



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After 9/11 in the media there were stories of tremendous courage, hundreds of interviews with firefighters, police, emergency responders who rescued people and did incredible things at the risk of their own lives. And the media would ask them, "How were you able to do this? Where did you get the courage to do these things?" And they would always say the same thing. "We do this every day." We run into burning buildings every day. We rescue people every day. When we get up in the morning, we have no idea what kind of situation we'll be in." We need courage not just for the big things but for the little things. "Everyday courage."

The text comes at a critical moment in the history of Israel. At the very moment the Hebrew people were poised to enter the land promised to them by God, Moses, their great leader, had left them. Moses was the most dominant figure of the Old Testament. The great prophet, the great commander, and the great leader. The only man with the courage to climb Mt. Sinai and confront the living God. The man who stood as a mediator between God and God's people. But now, at the very moment they were to celebrate their triumphant entrance into the land of "milk and honey," Moses was dead. How could they go on? Why would God take Moses at this crucial time? Who could possibly step in and do what Moses had done?

But God had already prepared someone to take the place of Moses, a man called Joshua. The scripture treats Moses and Joshua very differently. Moses is referred to with the Hebrew word "ebed," meaning a slave or servant, and he is described as the "servant of the Lord." But Joshua is referred to by the word "sharath," meaning minister or aide, and refers to Joshua as Moses' assistant. Clearly, Joshua did not have the same kind of relationship with God as Moses.

While we know a great deal about the life of Moses, the scripture tells us almost nothing about Joshua. His name does not appear until the Hebrew people are already in the desert fighting other tribes for their survival. Joshua was with Moses at Mt. Sinai, and was more of a military leader than a spiritual one. The scripture tells us that Joshua was not Moses' choice for the job, he was God's. God told Moses to commission Joshua before Eleazar the Priest, in the presence of the Hebrew people. In spite of his ability and preparation, you had to wonder what was going through Joshua's mind. How would it feel to be the replacement for the most respected, honored and powerful leader in history?

Anytime there is a transfer of leadership in an organization, a family, or a church, there is always an element of doubt and fear. Joshua was an effective No. 2, but did he have what it took to be No. 1? Joshua was an effective follower, an effective general, but could he be an effective leader? He knew how to take orders, but could he give orders? And if he did, would the people follow him? Anybody can be a "backseat driver," but it's different when you're the one sitting in the driver's seat.

So God tells Joshua to get the people ready, that he is going to lead them across the Jordan. In the fifth verse He says, "As I was with Moses, so I shall be with you. I will never leave you or forsake you." Those are powerful, powerful words. That God is "with you." We are about to celebrate the season of Advent, the coming of the Christ. That's what the name Emmanuel means in Hebrew, "God is with us." That's a revolutionary idea. That the Creator, the Master Architect of the Universe, would be here, with us, and also for us. In seminary I knew a young man who was a gifted preacher, a real tiger in the pulpit. But he admitted that he was terrified of making hospital visits, which is one of the main things that a minister has to do. He said, "I'm terrified of going into a hospital room where I know someone is dying. Because I have no idea what I could possibly say to them that could make their situation any better." I thought it was funny that this man, who would have no problem about speaking to 15,000 people, would be afraid to visit one person in a hospital. And I said, "Look, there are at least two things you can tell them. First, tell them the God who made heaven and earth, the God who made you and me, the God who looks high and sees low, that God is with you in this place, in this room, in that hospital bed. And because he is with you and loves you, He is feeling the same pain that you are feeling right now. The second thing you can say is that "This same God has sent me to be with you in this time, in this place." We make a mistake if we think we have to say exactly the right thing, that if we have the magic words, we can make it all better. Sometimes there are no magic words. Sometimes all you can do is just "be there." Can you imagine what it would be like if, right in the middle of all your problems and all your mess, God himself came to you and said "I am with you, and I will not forsake you?" Do you think it would have an effect on your life? And is it possible that He has already done it? "Everyday courage."

November 14, 2014



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As I read this text, I kept asking myself, why is God continually telling this big, bad warrior to be strong and very courageous? Didn't Joshua already have strength and courage? Wasn't he already good enough to lead the Hebrews in battle? Hadn't he won great victories? What was it that he still lacked? The answer comes at verse 7. The courage Joshua needed was not courage in war but courage of character. He needed courage to be obedient to God's word and God's will. Joshua did not need to be like Moses, Joshua needed to be like Joshua. Joshua did not have the same abilities as Moses, but Joshua was going to do something that Moses could not do. He was going to lead the Hebrew people into the "promised land." It had already been promised, and what Joshua needed was to be obedient. The courage that God is talking about is the courage that comes from having faith in God and being dependent on Him. We may not ever be in a situation like Ruby Bridges, a six-year-old facing a threatening mob. Courage is not always measured by violent actions. Sometimes it takes more courage not to fight than to throw the first blow. But it also takes courage to stand up for what you know is right even if it would be easier to say nothing and just go with the flow.

Churches need courage just like people do. Fear affects churches the same way it affects people. It intimidates us, limits us, it makes us neurotic. Churches are afraid of losing their members, afraid that people will stop giving, afraid of other people coming into the church. Afraid they'll get a reputation. Everybody wants their church to be big, to be powerful, to have influence. Not realizing that it's not the size of the church that matters, it's the size of Christ in the church.

"Everyday courage." What would it be like to have a life that was free from fear? No fear of failure, no fear of losing your job, of losing your family, no fear of death? Years ago there was a TV series about a man who was a very average fellow. But one day he went to the doctor's office, and the doctor told him that he only had six months to live. Now, he could have taken that news in a lot of different ways. He could have just been in denial and tried to go home, get up for work the next day, and forget about it. He could have become depressed and locked himself in a room and never come out. Or he could have gone on a bender, just get as drunk and stoned as he could for as long as he could. But that's not what happened. So during that time he did everything that he had always wanted to do but never dared to try. He went skydiving, he ran with the bulls in Spain, he did all sorts of things. And he treated people differently. He didn't lie to people anymore. He straightened out all his relationships. When he had strong feelings about something, he would speak out. He wasn't afraid of what anybody thought about him. And I always wondered what would have happened if, after about a year, they told him that there had been a mistake, that he wasn't going to die, that he was going to live? Would he be any the worse off for all of the things he had done? The knowledge that he was going to die, gave him a sense of freedom. But for a Christian, it's not the knowledge of our death that makes us free, it's the knowledge of our eternal life. Not knowing that our time is running out but that our time is coming. And that should change our attitude about what we do with what God has given us. Jesus liberates us from the burden of having to care about our life and our death. Not only what happens after we die but what happens while we're still living. Because of God's promise, a life without fear doesn't mean that we stop caring about people, it means that we can care more deeply. And our faith in that promise gives us the courage to fight against evil wherever we find it. If you're not living that way, then maybe the problem is not the promise.

What would a church without fear be like? A church that didn't worry about its budget, that was not afraid of "those kinds" of people, a church that would be willing to take on any kind of ministry. What would happen if someone told your church, "You only have six months to live"? Nobody knows. But a church without fear could be a great church.

What are you afraid of? What's holding you back? Don't tell me the problems of the world are too great. Sometimes all it takes is just one person to do the right thing. One person with "everyday courage." The author Erwin McManus tells a story about traveling with his family to a Christian Single's conference in Florida. He was scheduled to speak before the conference, and he was able to take his wife and his two children with him. If you've ever been Christian and single at the same time, you can imagine the scene at a Christian singles conference. These are young Christian men and women trying to look good and godly at the same time. So at the same time they're checking out the new Bibles, they're also checking out each other. So they get to the hotel and it's right on the beach, but there had just been a tropical storm so you couldn't swim in the water.

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But his little boy was determined to go out on the beach. So they walked out of the hotel onto the beach, and to their right were about a hundred people from the conference sunning themselves on the beach—talking, laughing. But in the middle of the crowd he saw a man on crutches. This man obviously was not attending the conference. He was a double amputee. And somehow he had made his way down to the water and was trying to get back to the hotel, but his crutches kept slipping on the sand and he fell over. It seemed that no one in the entire crowd was aware of him. He was struggling to get back on his crutches, and in that moment the father decided to turn to the left, away from the man. He didn't want to look at him and he didn't want his son to see him. It's not that he wasn't thinking, he was. He knew that if he turned to his right, he would have to do something about the man's situation.

But he turned to the left and walked away and started talking to his son to distract him from what was happening. But then his son stopped him and said, "I've got to go help that man." And in that moment, the father's heart was pierced by his own hypocrisy. He could only say, "Then go help him." The father missed his moment, but not his son. His compassion had moved him to action. And his son ran across the beach and tried to help the man get back on his crutches. But the boy was too small and the man was too big. And as he struggled to help him, the crowd finally noticed what was happening and almost instantly moved toward the small boy and the man. Someone picked up the crutches, and many other hands reached out and picked up the man, carrying him to the deck of the hotel. But after the crowd had helped the man, the son ran back to his father with tears in his eyes, and said, "I couldn't help him. I wasn't strong enough." And his father said, "Don't you see how your own compassion motivated the crowd to action, and that if it weren't for you, no one would have helped?" His father told him it was his strength that carried the man, not his physical strength, but his courage, his willingness to seize the moment of faith. The courage not to turn away from someone in need. The courage to put yourself at risk for someone else. The courage to be the first one because someone has to. Sometimes it only takes one person with some "everyday courage."

Two thousand years ago, it only took one person. One person who had no fear. He had no fear when they led Him up Calvary's mountain. No fear when they nailed Him to the cross. No fear when he said, "Father, forgive them." Where did the courage come from? Jesus knew exactly how and exactly when he would die. He knew that all the disciples would flee and leave him all alone. He knew he would end up on a cross between two thieves, and he did it anyway.

Courage is not the absence of fear but the transcendence of fear by something greater. The scriptures say that "perfect love drives out all fear." Where do you get "perfect love?" That perfect love is the love that God has for you and for me. Not because we're so great but because the love is great. Not because we deserve it, but because the price has already been paid. A perfect love that stretches us and makes us bigger than we were before. A love that is complete, absolute, and total. A love that has no limits and no end.

Fear is the problem we all have to live with. The "everyday courage" to face that fear comes from our faith in a loving God and the promise of eternal life of "perfect love." A life without fear is a life that's free. A church without fear is a church that is free to be what God wants it to be. The God who is with us wants us to be courageous and gives us a perfect love that casts out all fear. So let us "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

A church can never go farther than its vision. When you share in that great vision, that great sacrifice, you become part of a great church.

You get to decide what kind of church you want to be. Not how big your budget is, not what kind of music you sing. Jesus said, "They will know you are my disciples if you love one another." And that kind of love is not afraid.

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You get to decide what kind of church you want to be by the way you treat each other. Fred Craddock tells a great story about the first church he served as a pastor. It was a little church in eastern Tennessee near the town of Oak Ridge. The government was building a huge nuclear research laboratory there, and the town went from being a small country town to a booming city overnight. Every hill and every valley was full of recreational vehicles and trucks that popped up out of nowhere. People came in from everywhere and put up tents and lived in their trucks. Families and kids living in trailer parks in the mud and the mess. The church was not far away. It was a little white wood-frame building, 112 years old. It had an old organ in the corner that you had to pump for it to make any sound. And when it played, it played real slow songs. Inside, it had these decorated chimneys, and kerosene lamps mounted on the walls, and every pew in the church had been carved by hand from a single poplar tree.

People came in from everywhere and put up tents and lived in their trucks. Families and kids living in trailer parks in the mud and the mess. The church was not far away. It was a little white wood-frame building, 112 years old. It had an old organ in the corner that you had to pump for it to make any sound. And when it played, it played real slow songs. Inside, it had these decorated chimneys, and kerosene lamps mounted on the walls, and every pew in the church had been carved by hand from a single poplar tree.

One Sunday after church, the young preacher asked the leaders to stay, and he said, "We need to start a campaign in all those trailer parks to invite these new people to church." And one person said, "Well, you know, it probably wouldn't do much good. All those people are just temporary, just construction people. They'll be leaving pretty soon." And the preacher said, "Well, I think we ought to invite them and make them feel at home." And so they argued about it for a while, and time ran out, and they said, we'll vote on it next Sunday after service." Next Sunday, they all sat down after the service, and one of them said, "I move that in order to be a member of this church, you must own property in the county." Somebody seconded it. It passed. The preacher voted against it, but they reminded him that he was just a young preacher who didn't have a vote. It passed.

Many years later, Craddock returned to the same area with his wife. And they went looking for the church because he had already told her the painful story of what happened. The roads had changed, the interstate cut through that part of the country, but they finally found it. Down a little gravel road, back among the pines was the little white building. But he noticed that the parking lot was full of trucks and motorcycles all packed in there. And out front was a big sign that said: Barbecue, all you can eat. It's a restaurant, so they went inside. The pews were all pushed up against a wall. They had big electric lights, the organ was over in the corner. They had these aluminum and plastic tables and people were sitting there eating barbecued pork and chicken and ribs – all kinds of people. Moabites and Canaanites and Parthians. All kinds of people. And Craddock told his wife, "It's a good thing this is not still a church, or these people couldn't be in here."

You get to decide what kind of church you want to be, but in the end, you have to be the kind of church that God wants you to be or you're no church at all. A life without fear is a life that's free. A church without fear is a church that is free to be what God wants it to be. The God who is with us wants us to be strong and courageous and gives us a perfect love that casts out all fear.

Psychologists tell us that people are not really afraid of risk; they're afraid of loss. Risk is an abstract mathematical concept that's easy for people to intellectualize. But loss is personal and emotional. When I get in my car, I understand there is a statistical possibility I will be in an accident. But that understanding does not make me afraid to drive. Peter Bernstein tells the story of a man who was a professor of statistics at a university in Moscow during the Second World War. The German air force was bombing the city. Every day, the air raid sirens would go off, and all the students at the university would go to the bomb shelter. Except for the professor, who would show everyone on a blackboard that it was a statistical impossibility that the classroom could be hit by a bomb. And he made fun of all the people who would run off to the bomb shelter while he stayed in the classroom. And he loved to go to the zoo, so when the air raid siren went off, he would go to the zoo.

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Until one day, the air raid siren went off, and who should appear at the door of the bomb shelter than the professor. And the students asked him, "What was it that made you change your mind? I thought you said it was statistically impossible for a bomb to hit the classroom?" And he said, "Look, Moscow has 7 million people in it. But in Moscow, there is only one zoo, with one elephant in it. Last night, the Germans got the elephant." People will accept risk in their minds, but they are afraid of a loss, because loss affects your heart.

Here at Covenant you don't have to worry about becoming a great church. You are already great. You are great because you were founded for a great purpose. You are great because you were the result of a great sacrifice. In this season of Christmas, as we remember Joseph and Mary traveling far from their homes, into an indifferent and sometimes hostile country, bringing in themselves a message of hope, healing and deliverance, in my mind's eye I can see Donald and Beryl, the first time they set foot on what was to become Covenant Love Ministry. Arriving not on a donkey but probably a Ford Taurus. Their eyes full of hope. Stepping out on their faith. Their hearts burning with a vision of what God could do in this place.

## Joshua 1:9

*<sup>9</sup>I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*



*Scripture Passages for  
23rd Sunday after Pentecost*  
(From the Revised Common Lectionary)

November 16 2014

**Joshua 4:1-7;**

**Psalms 123**

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

November 14, 2014



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## PRAYER AND PRAISE



*You are good, You love us, You made us, and You hold us.  
Let us come in trust to You in prayer:*

- ⇒ Lift up Pastor Lee for continued healing after his shoulder surgery last week.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Pastor Lee and Elder Caly Fernandez in Cuba.
- ⇒ Lift up Lydia's friend Domitila and her nine sisters and one brother on the death of their mother in Mexico.
- ⇒ Lift up all who are grieving.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for Roberta P.'s opportunity to preach at the Waller Chapel this morning.
- ⇒ Prayers of healing for Betty, the elderly, active mother of Roberta's home church secretary Ruth.
- ⇒ Praise the Lord for a full house in chapel worship this morning.
- ⇒ Praise to God for the opportunity for Bonnie, Jacob, Doug, Jeff, and the make-ready team (meal preparers) to feed the homeless together on Friday evening through Mobile Loaves & Fishes.
- ⇒ Lift up Patricia's efforts to bring the Good News to Sudan. Thanksgiving for a delightful worship service in which a large number of the tribal population participated. Prayers for many who continue to adhere to witchcraft. Prayers for safe passage as a pastor travels through dangerous areas of Kenya.
- ⇒ Continued prayers for Cyrus's recovery.
- ⇒ Prayers for Christine's cousin's 18-month-old granddaughter Iris who has difficult health issues and is on oxygen. Lift up her family and her medical team as they await results of a CT scan for a new heart concern.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for Rev. Bill's sermon, "*A Church Without Fear.*"
- ⇒ Lift up Stephanie S.'s friend Heather in Colorado who has breast cancer at age 30; prayers that Stephanie may know how she can be of help.
- ⇒ Praise for Michelle's heart for the people of Ferguson and her attendance at a clergy training program for de-escalators as they prepare for a peaceful protest. Prayers for her safety if and when she is called to participate.
- ⇒ Lift up George's family and his own health as his aggravated herniated disc is giving him pain. Praise for Grace and George's 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the presence of Bill and Nancy's family members including grandchildren.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the 32<sup>nd</sup> birthdays of Carol & Jeff's adopted twins John & Peter.
- ⇒ Lift up Lanny's son Baron who is dealing with troubles in Tennessee; lift up the family and their custody issues.

*The Lord who made us and sustains us, who makes  
the sun shine and the rain fall and keeps the earth stable  
beneath our feet, knows what we will say before a word is on our  
tongues. May we be forever thankful!*

November 14, 2014



## NCFA CONNEXION!

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

Next Sunday – 11/23/14  
At Waller Creek *AND* Wilshire Campuses

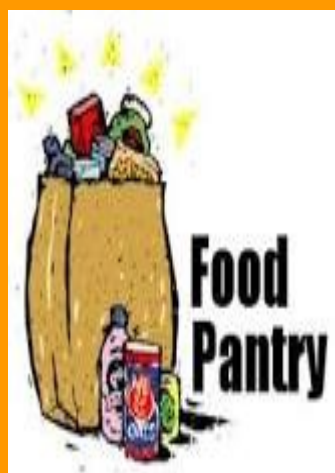
Come Worship God Before We Enter the Advent Season Together

The Scriptural text is *Matthew 25:35-46* –  
“Separating the Sheep from the Goats”



*Followed by our Thanksgiving Potluck  
at 12 Noon*

## FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE TO ALL



The New Covenant Fellowship Deacons are now providing a free to all food pantry each Sunday. This is to help anyone who needs a little help in the obtaining of groceries. The table at the back of the church will have canned goods and other non-perishable food each Sunday. If you or anyone you know needs some help with groceries, please feel free to partake of the items available.

If you are able to donate food items to this table, please feel free to do so and bless you for your contribution. Paper bags with handles are also needed and if you have extra ones of these, please put them on this new food table.



November 14, 2014



# NCFA CONNEXION!

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*



"Buildings & Grounds is in need of persons to help one or more days a month with light cleaning and set up for Sunday worship. This would typically be done on a Friday or Saturday and require between one and two hours of your time.

*For details see Tim Lenz, Chairperson Buildings & Grounds."*

## *Job Opportunities*

**DO YOU WANT A NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY?**  
***Check out this free job-finding service!***

Goodwill Industries provides Austin residents with a free job-finding service involving many companies in the Austin area.  
If you need work, please look into this opportunity.

Here is a link with more detailed info:  
<https://www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/education-job-training/find-a-job>

For more information contact the Goodwill intake number, [512-637-7580](tel:512-637-7580), to begin the process and learn what the next steps are.

## *NCFA Women's Ministry*

### *Important Dates and Opportunities*

**November 4-20** Synod of the Sun Global Exchange Trip, "One Heart, One Love, One Community—Visions of Hope in the Islands of the Sea." Synod of the Sun is blessed to have two participants going to the Caribbean.

**November 26, Wednesday** The 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study will meet in Room 7 at 7:00 PM. They will be using the *Horizons* study book, "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty.

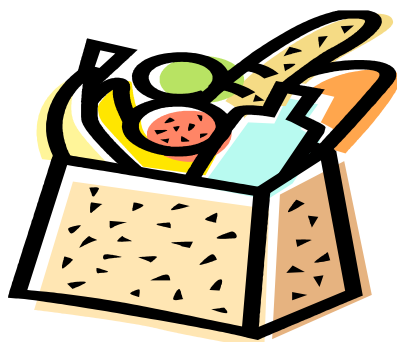
November 14, 2014



**NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!**

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***Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!***



# We Care Kits

***“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15***

**We are currently accepting the following donations**

**Food/Drink Items:**

**Granola Bars  
Peanut Butter Crackers  
Trail Mix  
8 ounce size water bottles**

**Hygiene/Personal Items:**

**Travel Size Toothbrush  
Travel Size Toothpaste  
Travel size soap or bodywash  
Travel size shampoo  
Pocket size Kleenex  
Pocket size comb (no pointed handle)  
Chapstick  
Adult white ankle crew socks – size large**

**All donated items should be placed in the donations box located in classroom 7. If you have any questions please email me:**

**[calyflower2020@yahoo.com](mailto:calyflower2020@yahoo.com) or call me at (512)228-4712.**

**NCFA Evangelism Committee and the Children and Youth Committee will schedule a date in November to put the kits together and kits will be dispersed after Sunday services in November.**

November 14, 2014



NCFA CONNE**X**ION!

***Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!***



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Doug and Kathy Smith
- 8<sup>th</sup> George and Grace Washington
- 17<sup>th</sup> John and Doreette Ayensu
- 30<sup>th</sup> Jeff and Carol Saddington

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Okyere Mireku
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ellis Oglesby
- 8<sup>th</sup> Francisco Ramirez
- 9<sup>th</sup> Krystal Parsons
- 15<sup>th</sup> Patricia Nemir
- 18<sup>th</sup> Vi Lee
- Koryn Irene Aldas
- 19<sup>th</sup> Charlie Phillips
- 21<sup>st</sup> Comfort Agbahu
- Dylan Shubitz
- 24<sup>th</sup> Vernon Bailey
- 25<sup>th</sup> Isabella Grace Sullivan
- 25<sup>th</sup> Carol Saddington
- 28<sup>th</sup> Matthew Cox
- Tamara Smith
- 30<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Lenz Sullivan

New Covenant Fellowship

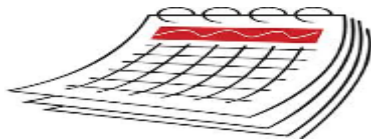
**Session Members**

- \*Rev. James Lee  
Pastor/Moderator
- \*Elder Kathy Smith  
Clerk of Session
- \*Rev. Bill Harris  
Administration & Personnel
- \*Elder Tim Lenz  
Buildings & Grounds
- \*Elder Mary Jo Mojica  
Congregational Life
- \*Elder Randy Mojica  
Children and Youth
- \*Elder Cathy Angell  
Discipleship
- \*Elder Caly Fernandez  
Evangelism
- \*Elder Tracey Lenz  
Finance & Stewardship
- \*Elder Robert Booth  
Lay Ministry
- \*Elder George Washington IV  
Men’s Ministry
- \*Elder Vernon Bailey  
Missions
- \*Elder Jane Mack  
Women’s Ministry
- \*Elder Charles Robinson  
Worship & Membership

**Deacons**

- Connie Jones, Chair
- Jimmy Bohn
- Ulysses Cox
- Katie Harris
- Naomi Jones
- Samuel Okyere Mireku
- Lucy Oglesby
- Kathy Smith
- Carol Saddington

**NOVEMBER**



- 16<sup>th</sup> 23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15-9am Worship at NCFA Chapel  
at Waller  
Seminarian John Harrison,  
*preaching*  
9-10am Adult Sunday School  
10:15am Worship—1507 Wilshire  
Blvd.  
*Seminarian John Harrison,*  
*preaching*  
Sunday School—K–5th  
during Worship  
12:15pm Youth Choir Rehearsal;  
ages 3-20 welcome.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Men’s Bible Study: Dinner at  
6:30 and Study at 7pm.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Prayer and Praise: Dinner at  
6:30pm; Worship at 7pm.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Noon Bible Study at Connie Jones’s  
home; all welcome.

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Thanksgiving Dinner following worship.**  
**Please sign up to bring**  
**your favorite dish !**