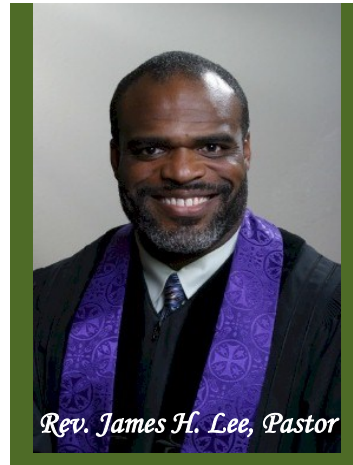


May 3, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor

Dear NCFA Family and Friends:

We will celebrate the 4th Sunday in Advent on Sunday. It is our opportunity to learn about Mary's encounter with an angel of the Lord. More importantly, we are reminded again that God knows who we are, where we are, and how we are. With that infinite knowledge, God chooses to invite us into a redemptive plan that goes way beyond power, money, sex, ethnicity, etc.

Two additional amazing things take place. One, Mary is given a choice. Like Mary, we get to choose how to interpret our encounters with God and whether or not we will involve ourselves in God's master plan. Secondly, Mary chooses to say, "Yes." In 2014, here yes is a 'no brainer,' but her faith and fortitude gave her the capacity to say yes in spite of the cost. What choices are you making?

The holidays are challenging times. We have the joy of being with family and friends as well as the sorry reality that many of our loved ones are at home with God and not present with us. Over the last two weeks I have had friends who have died and others who are dying. I have people I love and care for who are fighting for their lives. It hurts, and I grieve; I cry; I laugh; and I mourn. But I do so as a person who has hope according to **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Christ has come and we are waiting for Him to come again. Until then, we persevere through looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

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We give thanks to God for the families who have blessed various NCFA families. The generosity of God's people in the midst of difficult times is still overwhelming. To God be the glory because there's enough stuff out there that overwhelms us negatively.

On Sunday the Presbyterian Players will bless us during our worship. After worship we will have a Session meeting, where we will deliberate over tough decisions regarding our church. Pray for us as we test/affirm our new church officers, approve the 2015 Budget, approve my Terms of Call, and so much more. God is at work in this church. What role are you playing as God's ambassadors?

The church office will be closed December 24th-26th. Please communicate with your Deacon should you have a pastoral care issue, and we will all work to properly address your needs. We have a team of volunteers helping to cover Georgette's duties and responsibilities while she is on maternity leave. Following the Session meeting, I will communicate more concretely our plan of action.

Keep these dates at the forefront of your minds and in your prayers:

- December 21st: Presbyterian Players' Play during Worship; Session Meeting
- December 24th: Christmas Eve service, 6:30 - 7:30pm
- December 28th: Congregational Meeting to affirm new leaders, review the approved 2015 Budget, and approve my Terms of Call
- January 18th: Church's 6th Anniversary; Ordination/Installation of Church Officers
- January 18th: NCFA and University PC joint MLK Service at 3pm at NCFA

With gratitude for each of you and constant prayers as we endeavor to live out our faith enveloped in God's love..

James

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PRAYER AND PRAISE



Lord of our waking and sleeping, as our heavenly parent, we pray for heavenly patience in our lives.

- Praise God that Doug's dad (Hiram, 98) came through today's surgery for his fractured hip suffered soon after his and Juanita's arrival in Austin. Prayers for his recovery and strength for his wife (Juanita, 93). Safe travels for Doug's sister Joann and her husband Ray who will care for them during Doug and Patricia's family trip.
- Praise for Doug and Patricia, who truly live their lives as a "Psalm 1 family," praising God in all things.
- Praise the Lord for Jane's provision of our beautiful banners reflecting each liturgical season.
- Travel mercies for all families and friends during this month; watch over us and those around us in traffic
- Prayers for calm in Chiapas, Mexico, currently the center of political demonstrations, and other regions enduring chaos and violence.
- Lift up all who suffer from addictions and their consequences, that they may be given the strength and confidence to overcome so that their spirits may be liberated.
- Praise for God's blessings and prayers that God's will be done and not ours.
- Lift up Vernon as he seeks God's will and a firm foundation for his life's work. Lift up his coworker's daughter who lost her baby prematurely.
- Prayers for Tim's brother Ken, who has cancer-related surgery this Friday.
- Thanksgiving for our congregation and especially the encouragement of James, Lydia, and Esperanza in Estela's successful pursuit of her commissioned ruling elder/lay pastor goals. Thanksgiving also for her endurance and faithfulness in this pursuit and for the wonderful work she will do for congregations in our presbytery.
- Prayers for little Alex and her family that her sleep pattern may improve soon.
- Thanksgiving for Trish's sermon, "*Deeply Rooted*," and for hearing Juan Treviño's name in the sermon that reminded Jane of his special talents as a youth leader at Covenant Presbyterian many years ago.
- Thanksgiving for God's word delivered through Pastor Lee's sermon, "*Living with Intentionality*."
- Prayers for Ms. Greenwood.
- Thanksgiving for the blessing this week of James's daughter Jessica's graduation Magna Cum Laude from the Texas State University; prayers that God will guide her next steps. Jessica graduate from Texas State University, formerly known as Southwest Texas State University. She will continue an internship with Every Nations and serving as a campus minister on the TSU campus.
- Prayers for the health of several family members in James's family.
- Praise God for this church's response to last week's prayer request that Randy found on Facebook for a large family recovering from their home's destruction, resulting in many donations of supplies and clothing, including several bags of food from our new Food Pantry.
- Praise that Jenny's parents are visiting from Colorado and with us in worship. Thanksgiving that she has recovered from an illness and that the seminary granted her extensions to finish her exams. Lift up the daughters of her friend Heather from her home church, who entered the Church Triumphant two weeks ago.

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- Praise that Rey's and Z's families could be present for Gianna's dedication this morning. Praise for the opportunity through this morning's dedication that we have as a congregation to love, support, and teach Gianna as she learns to love Jesus and become his disciple when she grows up.
- Thanksgiving for Pastor Rudy's opportunity to be here for granddaughter Gianna's celebration of her dedication, to feel our warm welcome, and to hear the word of God in word and song. Prayers of healing for his wife who had a fall this week.
- Lift up the mother of Rey's friend Charlie, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Thanksgiving for the strength and endurance God has provided Rey, Randy, and Mary's little nephew DJ through his chemo treatments. Thanksgiving for the prayers of this congregation on his behalf.
- Traveling mercies and prayers for Evangelism Committee's trip this Friday to Falfurrias to visit the Brooks County Detention Center, where they will offer the Good News, hope, love, and Spanish Bibles to 22 Central American women being held there.
- Lift up the lament that Rick's surgery has been postponed until January.
- Praise that the Deacons' Food Pantry is doing exactly what it's meant to do—providing mercy through groceries to folks in need, both in our congregation and in the community. Prayers that members and friends will continue to provide nonperishable food to the pantry each week.
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- Thanksgiving that Ausley will be coming home Friday; prayers for renewal.
- Lift up three difficult journeys for 3 longtime friends, that they may have healing, peace, acceptance of God's will, and comfort for them and their loved ones:
- For a father in palliative care;
- For a young daughter dealing with high blood pressure following an emergency C-Section and for her baby in critical care.
- For a vigorous battle against ovarian cancer these past 3 years and 8 months and the decision to pursue investigational care options.
- Thanksgiving for the opportunity for several parents to have an evening out on Friday night while Cathy T., Stacey R., and friend Rhonda provided childcare and entertainment for their children in Cathy's home.
- Praise and thanksgiving for all of the components donated to build the "We Care Kits" today.
- Praise the Lord that George will no longer have to work on Sundays after 14 years in the same company. Prayers for healthy time management and patience in a household that feels like a tornado at times!
- Thanksgiving for the support of our congregation and Mission Presbytery for mission work being done in Chiapas. Prayers that the region's turmoil will settle down in time for the spring trip that is planned. Lift up the opportunity to work among the 200,000 Presbyterian Mayans in the region.
- Praise God for today's assistance that Bonnie provided at the AV desk and for her skills.
- Lift up Chantel, a dear friend of Matthew and Kathryn, who was just diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.
- Prayers for a friend suffering a late-term miscarriage

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen!

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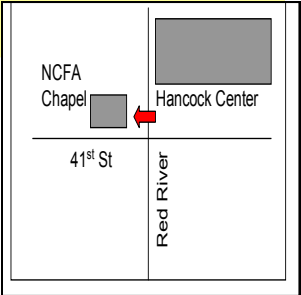
Need Help with IRS Tax Preparation?

Need help preparing your 2014 taxes? Call Jeff Saddington for information on the clinics offered by Foundation Communities. and how you can volunteer to be a helper.

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8am --
Waller Chapel

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

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



NCFA Waller Creek Chapel — Upcoming Preachers

- May 4 Dr. Don Davis, Commissioned Ruling Elder*
May 11 -Mother’s Day-Pastor James H. Lee
May 18 Rev. Trish Holland
May 25 Sam Okyere Mireku, APTS Student

May 3, 2014



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East Austin Wellness Center exercise classes

moving to a standard schedule.
2nd Saturdays 4th Saturdays
10:30 am Zumba 10:30 am Zumba

11:30 am Qigong & Yoga 11:30 am Pilates or Yoga

The EAWC at St. James' is located at: St. James' Episcopal Church
Founders Hall Building B 1941 Webberville Road Austin, TX 78721
512-926-6339 ext. 1
info@eastaustinwellnesscenter.org
www.EastAustinWellnessCenter.org
The EAWC is served by
Capital Metro bus routes 6, 18 & 323.

Suggestions for improving the Newsletter are welcome. Lower font?

Other ideas? Send your ideas [to geotriholland@yahoo.com](mailto:to_geotriholland@yahoo.com)

Thanks! Trish Holland

NCEA Sunday Schedule

8:00am - Worship Service
Waller Creek Chapel
41st St. and Red River
9am Adult Sunday School
10am Fellowship

10:15am - Worship Service
1507 Wilshire Blvd.



10:45am - Children's Church

Session Members

*Rev. James Lee
Pastor/Moderator
*Elder Nancy Tallman
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



Dec. 1 - Favour Unebugu
Sheila WilKins

Dec. 9 - William Moreno

Dec. 16 - Elizabeth Smith

Dec. 24 - Sherrenna Lee
Bill Parish



Dec. 15 NiKKie and Dylan Shubitz

1st wedding anniversary