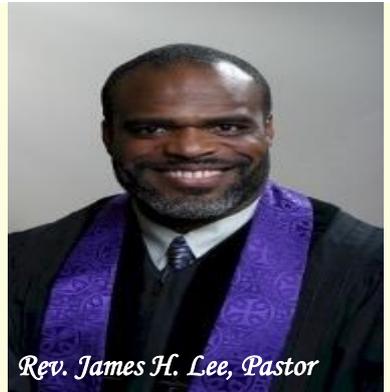
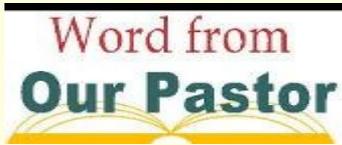


Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor

Dear NCFA Family and Friends:

I continue to pray for you and hope that you're able to see where God's blessings have been bestowed upon you throughout the summer.

While in college, I remember hearing the GMWA (Gospel Music Workshop of America) led by the Reverend James Cleveland singing, *"Every day is a day of thanksgiving. God's been so good to me, every day He's blessing me. Take the time to glorify the Lord today."* Even as I am trying to make sure that our ministry is relevant in 2015, I realize how much of the old-school traditions and teachings—Reformed and otherwise—are the foundations for my current focus and my future.

This understanding is realized whenever I get a chance to watch Nicole Curtis on HGTV. She renovates old houses and restores them in the present while maintaining the character of their past. Not only are the houses renovated, but the community begins to see new life which rejuvenates them and restores their hope in each other and their future.

I am a better theologian because of my conversations Shirley Guthrie (author of *Christian Doctrine*). My love for theology was nurtured by the Reverend Dr. Cindy Rigby, who allowed me to write scriptures on the board to coincide with each concept that she taught from particular theologians. The old Saints didn't know the theological particulars of Calvin, Barth, Tillich, and Luther; however, the saints would articulate their theology by saying, "God is our all and all: a heart fixer, mind regulator, lawyer in the court room, and doctor in the sick room." Our everything when we have nothing. Why is any of this important? We have to begin to recognize God at work in our lives and learn how to praise God for both the little and the big things. If not, we will say that God has deserted us and we will become bitter instead of better. If you are alive and in your right mind, take the time to glorify the Lord today.

As you continue to fulfill your 2015 pledges, please reach out to others and let them know about our ministry and matching grant. We have raised \$15,000 to raise an additional \$15,000 for our ministry.

We will have a number of activities in the next two months. We will have to coordinate with other ministries on the campus, and internally we may have to make adjustments as when regularly scheduled meetings are impacted by equally important events.

- ⇒ On August 9 we will receive all of the nominations for new church officers — Elder and Deacons.
- ⇒ We are ready to launch the small groups next week associated with our exciting and vital initiative called "New Beginnings." The dates are:
August 9, 16; September 13, 20, and 27
- ⇒ On August 17 we will have a team of individuals who will be going to Chiapas, Mexico. The visit will lead to a new partnership as well as the training of leadership with regard to theology and lifestyle changes for healthier living.
- ⇒ We're also planning to assist our families with school supplies and our homeless with "We Care Kits." If you desire to provide supplies, please do so by August 9. The school supply drive dates will be if finalized by tomorrow, August 2, and we plan to fill the We Care Kits by the 12th.

Grace and peace be with you,

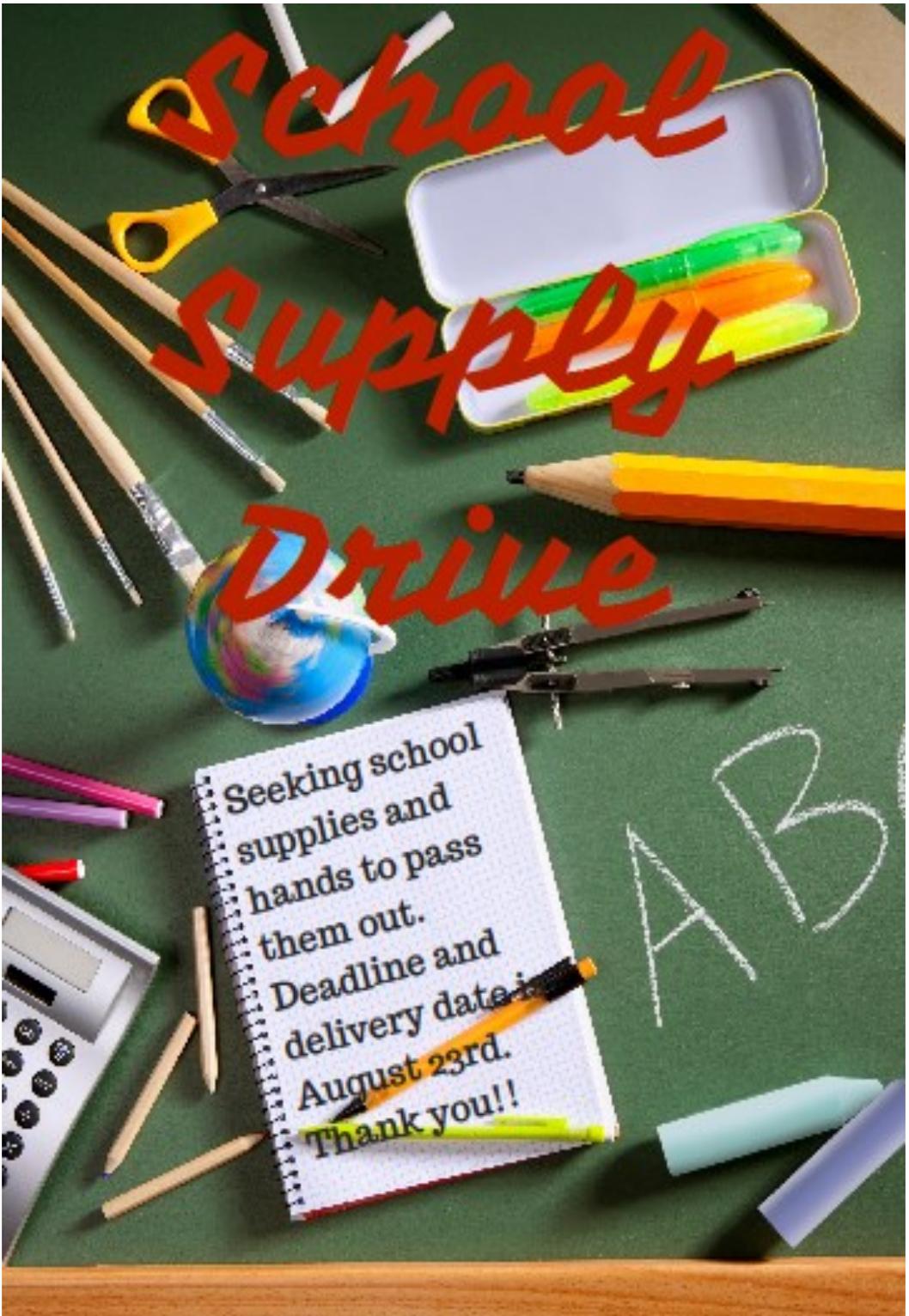
June 31, 2015



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ARE YOU A MUSICIAN??
A pianist? A guitarist? A soloist?

**Our 8:15 am service at the NCFA Chapel
on the Perry Estate 4100 Red River
is in need of a musician.**

**If you can help, or know someone who might be able
to, please contact Trish Holland, 512-461-6250 cell
or 512-892-0680 home.**

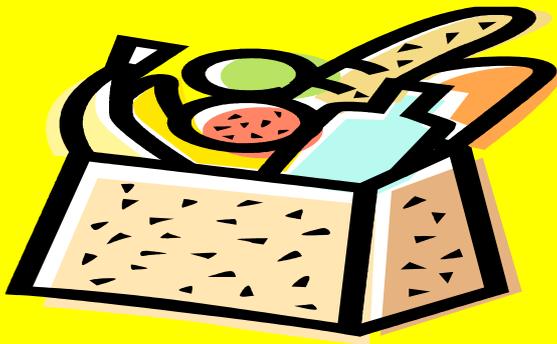
June 31, 2015



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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 or Trail mix
8 ounce size water bottles



Hygiene/Personal Items:

Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Travel size hand sanitizer
Quart size freezer bags

Please note this is a smaller kit with fewer items.

All donated items should be placed in the donations box located on the back table by the AV equipment. If you have any questions please email :Caly calyflower2020@yahoo.com or call her at (512)228-4712.

NCFA CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED YOU ARE NEEDED



PLEASE CONSIDER WAYS YOU CAN HELP SOLIDIFY OUR MINISTRY:

- ASSIST UTOPIA IN THE NURSERY
- ASSIST TEACHERS IN CHURCH SCHOOL
- BRING CREATIVE IDEAS
- SERVE WHEREVER YOU ARE NEEDED

July 31, 2015



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NCFA FOOD PANTRY

All are welcome to participate in our *FOOD PANTRY*, a crisis ministry initiative of the *Deacons*.



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“Love Thy Neighbor”

This month’s special request is:
Peanut Butter and Crackers

If you or someone you know needs food, please take some.
If you can help replenish our supply,
UNEXPIRED NONPERISHABLES ARE WELCOME.

Presbyterian Women

August 15, Saturday Austin Cluster Gathering, San Gabriel Presbyterian Church, Georgetown. Details will follow in newsletter.

September 4, Friday Church Women United will celebrate with an Ecumenical Action Emphasis theme, meeting 9:30 AM-11:30 AM, New Covenant Fellowship of Austin, PCUSA, 1507 Wilshire Blvd.,
Saturday Austin Cluster Gathering, San Gabriel Presbyterian



Café Justo

IF YOU LIKE COFFEE OR
KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES



Consider supporting the NCFA Evangelism Committee and its partnership with Café Justo to bless this coffee grower’s cooperative.

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure organic coffee which is grown, harvested, and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

Orders will be arranged through NCFA’s Evangelism Committee. Please see Caly Fernández to place an order. Coffee is available in 1- and 5-lb. bags. The cost of a 1-lb. bag is \$9 and a 5-lb. bag is \$35. Dark roast, medium roast, and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee are delivered biweekly to NCFA

Contact Caly to make your purchase today! 512-228-4712

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Psalm 42:1-2

*¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.*

*² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.*

- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the blessing of Randy & Mary's marketplace ministry to young families through the growing football program they began, which has doubled from 50 to 100 participants—and now includes 3 cheer teams led by Mary. Prayers to remember why God gave them this endeavor and to be able to listen and meet the families where they are in life. Prayers also for their family's ability to balance their busy lives.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for Christian's and Angel's recent excellent competition results.
- ⇒ Lift up 5-yr.-old DJ who is suffering seizure-like aftereffects from his radiation treatments; prayers for healing.
- ⇒ Lift up Elizabeth's neighbor Jerry for healing after being struck on his bicycle by a hit-and-run driver and sustaining multiple injuries.
- ⇒ Praise that Workers2Work is hiring a new employee, and prayers that this is the person God wants in this position.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for Jimmy and Kimberly's music pieces this morning, including a piece reflecting the words of Psalm 42, "Satisfied in You" (by Brian Eichelberger and The Sing Team).
- ⇒ Lift up Rex's friend Melissa for grace and peace as she is going through a tough time and complications prevented her trip to Mississippi to visit her sick friend Dave. Lift up Dave for comfort and healing.
- ⇒ Praise that after this November, Rex's 5-year battle with cancer may be over, thanks to completing 12 rounds of radiation.
- ⇒ Lift up the family of Genesis's Pastor Jonathan Scanlon for comfort in their grief following his brother-in-law's death after a deer ran into his motorcycle.
- ⇒ Prayers for the continued recovery of both Nancy H. and Nancy T. from their surgeries.
- ⇒ Prayers of wisdom for Ben's mother's medical team as her hospitalization continues, and comfort for Ann.

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the blessing of 120 pairs of socks donated to our "We Care Kits" effort for our homeless friends, and praise for the organization teaming up to make this donation, "Team Miscoots."
- ⇒ Lift up the daily arrival of 50-100 families who continue cross the border as they flee violence in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Prayers for safe crossings from Mexico into McAllen. Prayers also for the provision of women's and children's clothing that Caly can deliver to a relief center in two weeks, and the provision of volunteers to work at the McAllen relief center.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for traveling mercies to El Paso for Chris's family and friends who attended Fortune's "White Coat Ceremony"—a rite of passage for med students during their education.
- ⇒ Praise for Gianna and Z arriving safely in Mexico, and prayers for their safe return at the end of this week.
- ⇒ Praise and prayers for Tiffany's brother and sister-in-law whose pregnancy was just announced.
- ⇒ Praise for Cheyenne's and Saul's safe arrival home and for their good time at camp.
- ⇒ Traveling mercies for Charles and Stacy during their coming two weeks of travel; thanksgiving for their continued prayers for our church.
- ⇒ Prayers that Luke is enjoying his month-long camp experience and forming important and meaningful relationships—while having lots of fun! Thanksgiving for the gift of laughter upon realizing his one letter home "didn't reveal much." :)
- ⇒ Praise for Danita's sermon on 2 Samuel 7, retitled "Decisions Ain't Discernment; Contracts Ain't Covenant."

Psalm 42:11

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

July 31, 2015



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- 4th Alexandria Washington
Carver Washington
T'ahna Daniels
- 5th Safia Essien
- 7th Aaron Lee
- 8th Roxann Vallejo
- 9th Ben Hooks
Chris Cortez
Illiyana (Chica) Cortez
- 10th Gray Montgomery
- 11th Katasha Williams
- 15th D'Sean "De De" Johnson
- 17th Mary Mojica
Charles Nemir
Eddie Daniels III
- 24th Zachary Ryan Castilleja
Rachel Draper-Marion
- 25th Rick Oglesby
- 27th Abraham Weaver
Eddie Daniels, III
- 29th Tyler Weaver
- 30th Rev. Jeff Saddington

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 & Women's Ministry
- *Elder Caly Fernandez
Evangelism
- *Elder Tracey Lenz
Finance & Stewardship
- *Elder Robert Booth
Lay Ministry
- *Elder Benton Hooks
Men's Ministry
- *Elder Vernon Bailey
Missions
- *Elder Charles Robinson
Worship & Membership

Deacons

- Connie Jones, Chair
- Kathryn Aldas
- Ulysses Cox
- Naomi Jones
- Samuel Okyere Mireku
- Lucy Oglesby
- Ashley Phillips
- Carol Saddington
- Cathy Trifiro
- Roxann Vallejo

- 5th Jimmy Bohn and Kimberly Hall
- 25th Vernon and Doris Bailey
- 28th Bill and Nancy Harris
- 28th Bill and Edna Parish

AUGUST 2015

- 2nd 18th Sunday in Ordinary Times
8:15am Waller Creek Chapel
Matthew Aldas, preaching
9-10am Adult Sunday School
10:15am Worship at
1507 Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor James Lee, preaching
Sunday School during worship;
Ages 3-5-Rm 1, Grades 1-5 -Rm 7
12:15pm Deacon Meeting
12:15pm Nominating Committee Meeting
- 4th 6:30pm Men's Ministry
Dinner, Study at 7pm
- 5th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner;
First Wednesday Night
Meeting, 7pm.
- 9th 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:15am Waller Creek Chapel
CLP Estela Sifuentes, preaching
9-10am Adult Sunday School
10:15am Worship at
1507 Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor James Lee, preaching
Sunday School during worship;
Ages 3-5-Rm 1, Grades 1-5 -Rm 7

July 31, 2015



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**N
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SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA Sunday Schedule

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

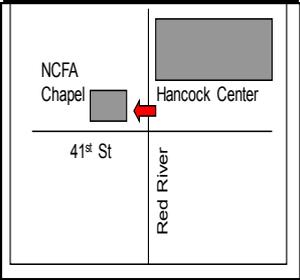
10:15am - Worship Service
1507 Wilshire Blvd.
9am Adult Sunday School
10am Fellowship
10:45am - Children's Church

**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 are, to worship."
All are welcome to this traditional,
intimate style of worshipping our Lord.



NCFA Waller Creek Chapel — Upcoming Preachers

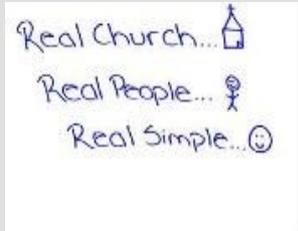
- August 2 — Matthew Aldas*
- August 9 — CLP Estela Sifuentes*
- August 16 — CLP Estela Sifuentes*
- August 23 — Shane Blackshear*
- August 30 — Lucy Oglesby*

**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
Wilshire 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 motivated to share
God's love with all. In response to God's love, we are
called to equip disciples to faithfully serve, to encour-
age seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to
worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors,
grow in grace, and live by faith.

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

MISSION STATEMENT

New Covenant Fellowship is a racially diverse community informed by the Bible and empowered by the Holy Spirit. 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.

VISION STATEMENT

NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP IMPLEMENTS OUR MISSION BY EQUIPPING INDIVIDUALS TO LIVE FOR CHRIST AND MINISTER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2015

1. **Retain and minister to visitors and members through personal contacts, strengthening families, ministry-driven events, and identifying and utilizing the numerous gifts of our members.**
2. **Better utilize social media and other modes of communication to celebrate our ministry, share resources, and organize ourselves.**
3. **Enhance our Children and Youth ministries through mentoring, attending their extracurricular activities, utilizing their gifts in worship, and assisting in the Nursery and Church School.**
4. **Continue emphasizing Marketplace Ministry, celebrating the various ministries within our church and community, and reaching out into the community like the Community Garden and our Health Fair in November.**

The Six Great Ends of the Church

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. (Book of Order G-1.0200)

July 31, 2015



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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

*"Discernment Is Not a Decision;
Covenants Are Not Contracts"*

Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; 2 Samuel 7:1-16

Danita Nelson

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

July 27, 2015

Psalm 14

¹Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. ²The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God. ³They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one. ⁴Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord? ⁵There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous. ⁶You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge. ⁷O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

2 Samuel 7:1-16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

July 31, 2015



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***"Discernment Is Not a Decision;
Covenants Are Not Contracts"***
Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; 2 Samuel 7:1-16

Danita Nelson

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
July 27, 2015***

It is good to see so many familiar faces, and especially good to see new faces. I can guarantee that this home for me: I have the name tag, a t-shirt, and a cap to prove it! Thank you for having me; there is no place like home.

We are familiar with David's backstory: from shepherd boy to king; a man after God's own heart! However, David, like many of us, has a tendency to mess up—especially when he's not busy doing something: tending sheep, slaying Philistine giants, or battling all the 'ites. David gets a break from his busyness, a sort of 'staycation' during this passage of scripture. This is our introduction to Nathan the prophet, but not David's first go-round with prophets. Samuel anointed him, and he visited Samuel again when running for his life. His future wife Abigail is also considered a prophetess when she attempts to find favor for her then-husband and shares wisdom about David's future. All of these incidents involve receiving guidance and 'inside information' from God, but this experience is a little different.

We are able to eavesdrop on a couple of conversations, one between David and Nathan and the other between God and Nathan. Nathan's conclusion that all is good between God and David is not far-fetched, because David is the recipient of abundant blessings. Sometimes we too seek the advice of modern-day prophets—people we trust to counsel, comfort, and consult. In a similarly situated circumstance, if I were to win the lottery with millions to share, I'd want to do what the Bible says—give my first fruits. Before I buy the big house, the new Mercedes, and pay off all my debts, I'd want to give to the church. I also think my 'prophet' would be Tim Lenz.

It seems to be a good thing that we, New Covenant Fellowship, a motley crew of faith-filled believers, ought to make good use of this incredible blessing. We could build a huge facility over in the Mueller development with all kinds of amenities. Imagine the wonder of worship in a beautiful sanctuary, instead of our beautifully appointed fellowship hall? We could build a community center to serve our mission programs! We have gymnasts in the house, how about a fully functioning gymnasium?! And Connie, a proscenium theater to produce performances. There's so much we could do....But Tim and I have made a strategic error. Just like David and Nathan, Danita and Tim have not sought God first.

We made "decisions"...a word with several synonyms: commitment, settlement, determination, and verdict, among others. We did not utilize "discernment"...a word that has no synonym. We did not seek the will of God first!

Anymore than God required a house of cedar from David, I am not certain that God requires a tall steeple built from the riches gained through my imaginary lottery winnings. In response to David's grand plans, God does not respond in an angry, punitive, or dismissive tone. Instead, he makes promises to build David a different kind of house. In fact, the Hebrew word for "house," בַּיִת, "bayith," can mean a physical structure or a family structure—lineage. Today we celebrate fashion 'houses,' among others. Our 'house'—our family of faith—can dedicate our lives to show the love of Christ: We can be the church with our hearts, our hands, and our feet in service.

God's promises are covenant, not contract. God is faithful to do everything God will (or will not) do, in spite of our behavior, attitudes, or decisions. Each of those "I will" statements made to David lasts for eternity.

July 31, 2015



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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

***"Discernment Is Not a Decision;
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Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; 2 Samuel 7:1-16

Danita Nelson

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

July 27, 2015

Contracts, on the other hand, are meant to be broken. Any contract we enter into, whether to borrow money, buy a house, purchase a car, or enter into a relationship, has consequences when some clause, agreement, or understanding changes.

Just like David, today we can stand on God's promises. God loves us unconditionally; God will never leave or forsake us. Even at our loneliest, abandoned by friends and family, we are never, ever alone. God always provides and protects. God's grace, mercy, and kindness never end. We can stand on those promises because they are made through covenant. They are shared with us through the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

So, before we make decisions about whatever house we plan to build—whether the house of 'career,' the house of 'education,' the house of 'relationship,' or a fabulously creative house of 'fashion'—we should seek God in discernment first! We can boldly ask God what God wants for our lives, which way God wants us to go, and how God wishes us to do things. Our discernment involves trust, prayer, patience (sometimes the answer is not immediate, and delay is not denial), and obedience.

By the way, this message is brought to you by the letter "E" because there are (at least) three reasons why we can depend on God's promises:

EXAMPLES - Biblical, historical, and contemporary that demonstrate God's ability, love, and faithfulness.

EXPERIENCES - Our own up-close-and-personal interactions with God. I was attending a meeting downtown and needed to park my car near the old City Council chambers. Back in those days, laptop computers were the size of a briefcase (and twice as heavy), and I did not want to lug it into the meeting. I leaned over the bench seat of the car to place it on the passenger side floorboard, out of plain sight. The car jolted forward, and when I looked behind me, the door was not there anymore! The car had been hit by a bus. My feet were inches away from being mangled in the accident. When I traded the totaled car for a computer, the guy buying the vehicle for its engine asked if anyone had been fatally injured in the car, it looked so bad. Thanks be to God, I was not hurt badly, just shaken up.

We experience joy, peace, healing, deliverance, protection, provision, and love that we cannot create for ourselves!

EXTRAORDINARY - We know God to be omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent! God cares for us corporately and individually. If that is not enough, we can remember this: If God has done for us before, God can do for us again!

In conclusion, David wanted to do a good thing; it just was not the right thing. Both he and Nathan learned important lessons about putting God first. God did not punish David for jumping the gun; instead, he refocused his meaning of "house."