

November 11, 2017



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

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*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*



**"We are currently in a season of transition as we discern who God is calling to serve as our next pastor.**

**Our elders, deacons, church staff, and members are stepping up to make sure our weekly worship and activities continue in a Spirit-led and joy-filled way.**

**As always, we remain committed to our mission to love our neighbors, grow in grace, and live by faith."**



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# 2017 Matching Grant Update

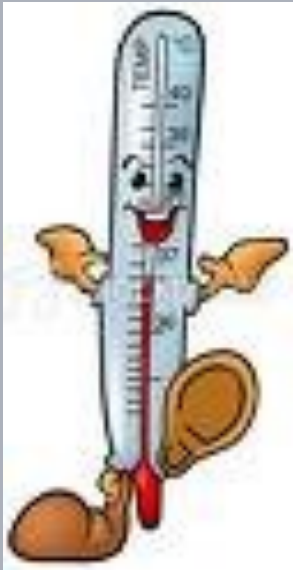


**WE HAVE MADE IT OVER THE HALFWAY MARK !!**

So there is only one thing left to do-keep it moving to the top.



## Current Amount



- \$15,000.00
- \$13,000.00
- \$9,000.00
- \$6,260.00-Current**
- \$5,000.00
- \$4,000.00
- \$2,000.00
- \$1,000.00

Matching Grant to Date:	\$ 7,423.00
Leadership Pledges	\$ 1,200.00
Balance Due to Meet \$15,000 Match	\$ 6,377.00

**GOAL \$30,000.00**

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# PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ⇒ Praise for Lamar's safe arrival in Austin for a visit with son Ellis's family. Traveling mercies as she travels back to Atlanta.
- ⇒ Praise God for Scott's return home from treatment and he is continuing in aftercare support. His mother is enjoying long conversations — and exercising constraint not dancing in the aisles!
- ⇒ Praise for today's sermon and prayer that Rebecca will be our Interim.
- ⇒ Praise for good report for Vi's health from her procedures last week.
- ⇒ Prayer for Dexter who was involved in an accident-hitting a brick wall on last week. While he has some residual pain, but thank God no broken bones—he left the scene of the accident and may be facing some legal problems as a result. Please pray the Lord intervene in that situation in a favorable way for him.
- ⇒ Prayer for Mary Ann, who is applying to return to school at TSU to study for a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. Please pray that she is admitted and can successfully find employment in that field.
- ⇒ Praise for wonderful friends and support groups for Curtis. Please keep his wife and family in your prayers.
- ⇒ Lift up Scott's nephew, sister and parents as they support him in his decision making.
- ⇒ Prayer for Kimberly's group in Ethiopia who have done new church plants. Pray for funding so that the good work they have started can continue as it is making a major impact.
- ⇒ Praise for Randy's youth sports group who have qualified to go to Colorado for a championship game. Pray that they enjoy the trip and it becomes a part of wonderful memories as they continue in life. Praise for the way it is bringing families together and for the opportunity to minister to so many people.
- ⇒ Praise God for Sofia, who is feeling better and able to be with us in church. We appreciate all the hard work and the many ways in which she serves here at NCFA.
- ⇒ Praise God for Carol's return to Austin; we are happy she is back. Thanks to Jeff for his support.
- ⇒ Bless those people who are traveling and keep them safe.





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# N C F A SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

*Rev. Rebecca Longino*

*Preaching*



**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 worshiping 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 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.**

**JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS**

Real Church...  
Real People...  
Real Simple...

Real Church...  
Real People...  
Real Simple...

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ALL SAINTS' DAY WORSHIP  
NOVEMBER 5TH 2017

# "PART OF OUR FABRIC"

MATTHEW 5:1-12

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

November 11, 2017



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

## ***“Part of Our Fabric”***

**Matthew 5:1-12**

***Rev. Rebecca Longino***

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin  
November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017: All Saints' Day**

Ugly crying....The act of ugly crying has become a part of my weekly rhythm. All thanks to the TV show “This is Us.” I know there are a few fellow fans of the show in this church, so some of you know what I’m talking about. “This is Us” is one of those shows that tugs at the heartstrings and sometimes rips them apart. There are very few shows out there that seem to accomplish what this show can do. It explores topics in an authentic way that is relatable and real. They dive into family systems, broken relationships, alcoholism, adoption, racism, divorce, death. Like I said, real topics.

The show follows the Pearson family and it jumps back and forth between timelines, from present day, when the three Pearson children are grown, all the way back to when their grandparents were young and everything in between. The writers weave these timelines together and show how generations affect one another.

One episode in particular hit me on a strong emotional level. If you haven’t seen the show, I’ll try not to give too many spoilers, but apologies if I reveal too much.

The episode that brought on perhaps the ugliest of ugly tears for me was the one where Randall, the adopted Pearson child, ventures back to Memphis with his birth father, William. Their relationship is complicated. William gave Randall up when he was a newborn because he was addicted to drugs and not able to raise a child. And so Randall didn’t meet his birth father until just a few months before this trip to Memphis. William was dying from cancer. And his time with Randall was cut short.

In the next episode, William’s wishes are carried out as his two granddaughters, Randall’s daughters, get to plan his funeral. They decide a sad and dreary service wouldn’t fit William, and so they plan a (fun)eral, complete with karaoke, good food and lots of laughs. They even wear old man hats as they stroll down the street where he used to walk each day.

Instead of a eulogy, they instruct their dad to give a toast. But, he realizes it would be more appropriate for his wife, Beth, to speak. Since she was the one who spent the most time with him and was perhaps the most impacted by his presence.



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November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017: All Saints' Day**

I can't do her toast justice, so we're going to watch a brief clip of it...



**\*\*Double click to play video\*\***

What I love about this toast, is that Beth names the unfairness that our time with each other is often too short. William entered their lives and brought with his brokenness and painful story. Randall had to sort through the emotions of his father abandoning him. William was recovering from his addiction, which added more tension. It was difficult to have him living in their house. But as they learned to be a family, Beth grew to love her father-in-law. She went from being angry at him and skeptical of him, to feeling thankful for the tremendous impact he made on their family in the short time he lived with them. She sees it as a blessing that he remains part of their fabric. Forever part of their story.

I would imagine we can all relate to Beth Pearson as she delivers this speech. We all understand what it is like to lose a loved one. And to lose that loved one before we are ready. It seems one of those cruel aspects of being human is that our time with one another is just too short. Whether they are lost to tragedy. Or whether they get to live to be 90 or even 100. As a hospice chaplain, I've learned never to assume that the family of elderly patients will cope better than those losing young loved ones. Even if our loved ones live good long lives, it can be so hard to say goodbye.

But one of the ways we can find comfort is by intentionally remembering those loved ones after they've gone. Holding on to the memory of them. And remembering the legacy they've left behind.

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## *“Part of Our Fabric”*

Matthew 5:1-12

***Rev. Rebecca Longino***

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin  
November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017: All Saints’ Day**

On All Saints’ Day we take the opportunity to honor those who remain part of our fabric, regardless of how much time we had with them. This day is a time to remember and reflect.

Way back in the early church, All Saints’ Day was a day to preserve the church’s memory of the martyrs who’s lives were given for the sake of the Gospel. There was no list of those martyrs written down anywhere. They didn’t have a Session log keeping track of baptisms and marriages and deaths. And so they had to say those names out loud to ensure the memory of them was not lost. The names of the saints were preserved through this practice.

Jumping forward more than a thousand years, the Reformation brought about many changes to the church, including the understanding of what it means to be a saint. The Reformers understood that anyone who is baptized in Christ has been declared righteous by grace. And therefore, all baptized believers are holy ones, as the apostle Paul says. Or, to put it another way all baptized believers are saints. In God’s eyes, each one of us is a saint.

As we look at our text for today, the Beatitudes, we see that ordinary people, now deemed saints through Christ, have been tasked with fulfilling God’s dream of love and justice in the world. Ordinary, even broken people, are called to do God’s work.

As Jesus preaches up on that Mountain, he reverses what the world holds to be true. The world would say that those who are special. Those who hold some unique talent. Those who are wealthy and famous. The world would say that those people are the ones who are blessed by God. It seems logical. They’ve got it made, right? Look at their fortune and comfortable lives! It must mean that God favors them. That God has a special blessing for them. That they have somehow earned their blessings on this earth.

But Jesus turns that logic on its head. Jesus declares that those who are poor or marginalized or downtrodden. Those who have been treated unfairly. Those who have worked tirelessly to bring peace and mercy to others. Those are the ones for whom God holds particular favor. God sees them and God loves them. And God honors them.

Dr. Margaret Aymer, professor of New Testament over at Austin Seminary, wrote a wonderful study on the beatitudes for the Presbyterian Women’s Horizon’s Bible Study a few years ago. I have fond memories of studying it with the circle of women in this church while I served as a seminary intern. In Dr Aymer’s interpretation of the text, she uses the phrase “greatly honored” instead of blessed. In doing so, she broadens our understanding of what Jesus means. That’s God’s response transcends the here and now. That’s God’s response to us will resonate in the halls of the Kingdom of God.



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## ***"Part of Our Fabric"***

**Matthew 5:1-12**

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**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin  
November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017: All Saints' Day**

God holds a special honor for those who suffer. A special honor for those who are cast out by the world. A special honor for those who will not be remembered in the history books, or praised for their accomplishments on earth.

If you're like me, most of the people you are thinking about on this day aren't the ones who made headlines. They aren't the ones who were known throughout the world. They were the ones who lived ordinary lives and, perhaps, broken lives. As I think about the saints I met through the church, I recognize ways that they lived into the call that Jesus presents in the Beatitudes.

The saints who stand out in my mind are the ones who displayed humility and meekness. They are the ones who recognized the injustices of the world and worked to change the world. They are the ones who resisted and persisted when the powers that be tried to knock them down.

These saints emulated Jesus in his humility and work for justice and mercy. And these saints have given us an example for how to live. Those saints have presented us the challenge to live in a way that reflects the Beatitudes. Reminding us that we are called to do as Jesus does and live as Jesus lived.

On this All Saints' Day, we can give thanks for those saints who have gone before us. The ones who have been the people Jesus talks about in the Beatitudes. God honors those saints from every time and place. Especially those who suffered for being who they were or doing what they did for the sake of the Gospel.

We can give thanks that we have all been woven in to be part of God's fabric. Knit together by the Holy Spirit as the communion of saints. Thanks be to God. Will you pray with me:

Blessed are you, O God, for you are holy, gracious, and good, the hope of all the faithful. Empower the meek and encourage the poor. Comfort those who mourn and fill humble hearts with gladness. Give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, peace to the peacemakers, mercy to the merciful, and honor to the despised. Sustain your saints in ministry, until at last they see their reward: the joy of eternal life with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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<http://justiceunbound.org/journal/current-issue/confessing-the-beatitudes>  
All Saints' Day Prayer ([https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/prayers\\_for\\_all\\_saints\\_day.pdf](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/prayers_for_all_saints_day.pdf))

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# JOIN US

**November 16<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**We need HELP to clear the fellowship hall in preparation for a craft show on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**

**Then we will need help to set the fellowship hall back up on the 18<sup>th</sup> for Sunday morning worship. We will begin at 5pm.**

**JOIN US...PLEASE**

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## Williamson County Sheriff's Office

### Security Summit – Places of Worship



Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

RSVP with the number  
of people in your party  
to:

[bschaefer@wilco.org](mailto:bschaefer@wilco.org)

Hosted By:  
Celebration  
Church  
601 Westing-  
house Rd.  
Georgetown, TX  
78626

*In Partnership With:*

Cedar Park Police  
Department

Florence Police Department

Georgetown Police  
Department

Granger Police Department

Hutto Police Department

Jarrell Police Department

Leander Police Department

Liberty Hill Police  
Department

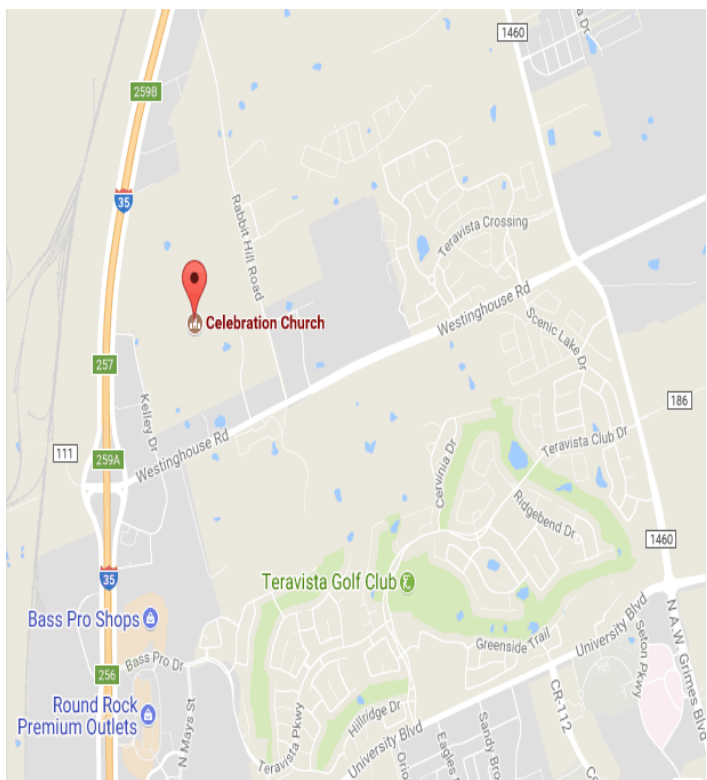
Round Rock Police  
Department

Taylor Police Department

Thorndale Police  
Department



The Williamson County Sheriff's Office, joined by local agencies and organizations, is hosting a security summit to address the needs of places of worship in and around the Williamson County area. The summit will present attendees with free training designed to educate citizens on "Active Shooter Events" as well as recommended response options prior to and during an event.





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# BALFOUR: 100 YEARS LATER THE DECLARATION AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS

## A Photo Exhibition Covering a Historical Perspective

This event will feature a photo exhibition and presentation showing the Balfour Declaration's effect on the indigenous Palestinian people. This exhibition re-examines the history and politics of the Balfour Declaration after 100 years and the reality for 1917, 1948 and present-day Palestine. Viewing of the exhibition will be followed by a short presentation. The audience will then be invited to again view the exhibition and share reflections. Refreshments will be served

Presented on **Thur. Nov. 16 at 7 pm** at the  
Westminster Presbyterian Church (Fellowship Hall)



**Myth #1:**  
Palestinians  
did not exist  
in Palestine  
prior to 1917

**Myth #2:**  
Zionists  
made the  
“Desert  
Bloom”

**Myth #3:**  
Muslims and  
Jews were  
always  
enemies

**Westminster  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**3208  
Exposition  
Blvd., Austin,  
Texas 78703**

Sponsored by the Interfaith Community for Palestinian Rights - ICPR

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3<sup>rd</sup> Doug and Kathy Smith

30<sup>th</sup> Jeff and Carol Saddington

## NOVEMBER

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

## Session Members

**\*Rev. Rebecca Longino**  
Interim Session Moderator

**\*Elder Nikkie Shubitz**  
Clerk of Session

**\* Elder Cathy Angell**  
Administration & Personnel

**\* Elder Zaira Amado**  
Buildings & Grounds

**\*Elder Randy Mojica**  
Children and Youth

**\*Elder George Washington IV**  
Discipleship & Men's/Women's Ministry

**\*Elder Mary Jo Mojica**  
Finance & Stewardship

**\*Elder Robert Booth**  
Congregational Life/  
Lay Ministry

**\*Elder Kimberly Hall**  
Missions/Evangelism

**\*Elder Viola Lee**  
Worship & Membership

## Deacons

Ulysses Cox  
Rey Mojica  
Ashley Phillips  
Scott Phillips  
Roxann Vallejo

## NOVEMBER 2017

12<sup>th</sup>  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30am Praise Team Rehearsal  
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.  
**Rev. Rebecca Longino, Preaching**  
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5  
(Room. 1);  
10:45am Elementary – Grades 1-5  
(Room 8)  
10:45am Junior/Senior High  
(Room 5)  
12:15pm Elders and Deacons will be meeting  
1:00-4:00pm Listening Team Meetings  
14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm Men's Bible Study - Dinner  
7:00pm Bible Study  
15<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm Fellowship Dinner  
7:00pm Bible Study  
16<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm Clear Fellowship Hall for Craft Show  
18<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm Set up Fellowship Hall for Worship Service