

February 23, 2018



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

February 25th, 2018,

**following worship service to elect
Church Nominating Committee.**



February 23, 2018



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“Heart of the Matter”

2018 Stewardship Drive



Update on Pledges

Current pledges to date: 23

Current pledge amount: \$58,408.00

**Current NCFA Ministries amount:
\$8,848.00**

Total \$68,408.00

**If you have not
already turned
in your pledge
card, please do
so now!**



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NCFA SERMONS

Please visit our web site each week to
hear the weekly sermons.

www.ncfaustin.org

Last week's sermon:

"Lazarus, Come Out!"

John 11:1-44

February 18, 2018

Rev. Rebecca Weaver-Longino

SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, February 25th

Rev. Rebecca Weaver-Longino

Interim Session Moderator-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

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PRAYER AND PRAISE



“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

- ⇒ Lift up the residents of Doris’s hometown, McGregor, TX, who are experiencing an unusually high mortality rate and planning so many “homecoming celebrations” for folks who have gone on to glory just these past two months. Prayers for the Miller family who most recently lost a 45-year-old relative to cancer.
- ⇒ Prayers for all who are going through the flu and other illnesses, including Kimberly who is under the weather again so soon after having the flu. Prayers that flu medicines for this powerful strain may be developed soon.
- ⇒ Lift up our nation in prayer—fervently and daily.
- ⇒ In this season of Lent, praise God, and may God bless all who have chosen spiritual disciplines.
- ⇒ Praise God for the awesome hospitality our members showed a recent visitor, and prayers that we will continue to welcome guests in this way.
- ⇒ Praise God that Trish survived the flu. Praise the long-time friendship of Trish with today’s visitors Jim and Janelle Collier. Thanksgiving for the joy-filled memories ever since Trish and Jim attended college together.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for Ashley’s stepfather’s celebration of 30 years’ sobriety, and prayers that it may continue. Thanksgiving for communities of support, including recovery groups like AA and Al-Anon that do hard work.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for Jess’s hard-earned achievement of 6 months’ sobriety and for the important parts several folks in our congregation played in helping us guide her towards rehab and restored health. Prayers that as her parents we do not enable her but that we may be of healthy assistance in her months of hard work ahead.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for “yet another wonderful sermon” by Rebecca, a sermon that was as good as James’s sermons.
- ⇒ Prayers for caregivers in hospice and their patients as they wait for peace.
- ⇒ Praise for the 50th anniversary of Jeff and Carol’s first date (Feb. 23) and for the journey they’ve been on together ever since.

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

What Are You Drinking?

John 4: 1 – 42

Elder Danita Nelson

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

February 4, 2018

Please, pray with me-

Wellspring of eternal life, we come to you this day having drunk deeply the waters of anxiety and despair. Bring to us your living water. Quench our thirsting souls, for we offer this prayer in Your name. Amen.

Thank you, Caly, Vernon, young men and women, and members of our congregation for bringing the Word to life in our dramatic presentation of **John 4: 1 – 42.**

You all know I'm a fan of Sesame Street; and, that messages are sometimes presented by letters of the alphabet. This morning, we will discover highlights represented by "D," E," and "F," – but not necessarily in that order!

This story is familiar, although it will only be found in the Evangelist's gospel...Matthew, Mark, and Luke missed this peculiar conversation that only John shares with us. Although the discussion is fairly straightforward, there is metaphor, types/shadows, and a parable tossed in for good measure, within these 43 verses. It is peculiar for many reasons.

- Jesus is speaking one-on-one with a woman – a Samaritan woman!
- It's the longest dialogue Jesus has with ANYONE recorded in the New Testament
- What in the world was Jesus doing in Samaria, in the first place?

If you spend any time with Professors Park, Cuellar or Johnson over at Austin Seminary you learn a bit about culture, history, the context of male/female interaction, and ethnic friction in the Ancient Near East. For Jewish men, to speak with women, especially in public, was considered a direct route to Gehenna – not Hades, not Sheol – but Gehenna, the eternal home of evil people! The Samaritans were hated by the Jews, despite being somewhat not-so-distant cousins. Generations before, the Northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians – the conquest resulted in ethnic and religious mixtures. Samaritans only used the Pentateuch – the first five books of the Bible, so they did not have access to poetry, prophecy, and history the Jews based in Jerusalem used at the time. They sometimes referred to Samaritans in the mean-spirited term of 'half-breed.' The conflict between Jews and Samaritans was violent; and, the destruction of the temple on Mt. Gerizim by Jews in the south is just one example.

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New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

February 4, 2018

So, Jesus is on the run, taking a short cut from Galilee to Jerusalem. There are followers – (oh, there's the "F" word, I warned you they would be out of order) some of them seeking to witness miracles and to hear messages of hope. Others, like the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes are getting nervous in the service, they are concerned that this new Rabi is upsetting the status quo; and, their lock on power and prosperity is at risk. The short cut through Samaria is typically avoided at all cost. Travelers would take a long route west, cross the Jordan river, go south, then cross the river again -- all in an effort to stay away from Samaria.

It's hot. Jesus is thirsty. And, the well has water. The New Living Translation cites verse 10 like this: "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

If only.... if only

Living water...and, at first, she doesn't 'get' it. She just wants to keep from having to come to this well, in the middle of the day, avoiding the whispers and chatters of mostly other women, gossiping about me and worried about whether I'm after their man, next. She's tired of getting "the look" – single ladies, you know that not-so-pleasant glance you suffer if you get too close; and married women you know how to give it when someone gets a little too familiar with your man.

She's (the woman at the well) physically bound in a relationship of obligation

She's emotionally bound by ostracization and isolation

She's spiritually bound by ethnic and religious strife and confusion

THEN SHE MEETS JESUS!!! She is sitting at that well LEARNING – A DISCIPLE (there it is, the letter "D.")!

Jesus, who offers her a gift...not just wanting to take something from her.

Jesus, who has a REAL conversation with her, offering relationship...not just responsibility

Jesus, who gives her hope for redemption, not condemnation for her very being.

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All of this, in a drink: living water, representing the Holy Spirit!

So, now I am asking, as reflected in the title of this message: “What are you drinking?”

WATER IS LIFE, AGUA ES VIDA...the liquid kind; and, the spiritual kind.

Jesus, the Messiah, the anointed one, came to bring Good News to the poor. He proclaims that the captives will be released, the blind will see, and that the oppressed will be set free.

And, I declare that if you drink from the well of living water that Jesus gives TODAY, you can bear the fruit of that spirit, listed in Galatians 5: 22 -23: love, joy, peace patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Not only that, that Spirit abides to guide you, comfort you, correct you. How can you not be excited about going all over, just like the Samaritan woman at the well (E – the first EVANGELIST), and tell EVERYBODY you know...that you’ve met man! Living water, it’s gift, take drink; and, share!

Closing Prayer:

Drink deeply of the waters of Salvation and quench your thirst for truth, for the Lord is with you. Go in God’s peace and bring the good news to all whom you meet. AMEN.

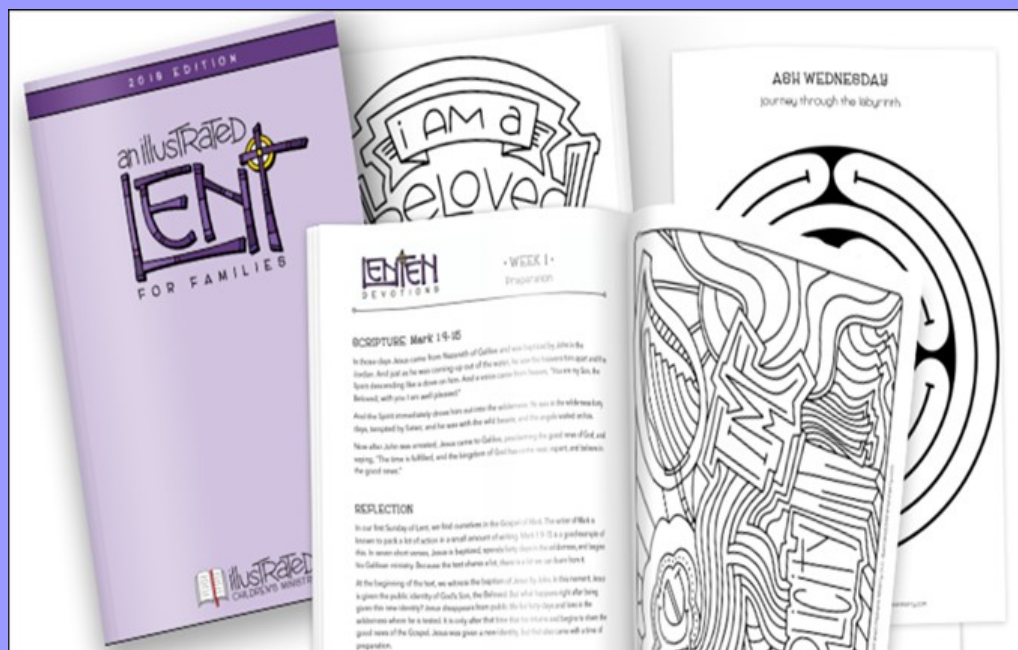
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Study the Psalms for Lent

Lessons taught by
Rev. Jeff Saddington
and Elder Danita Nelson
Sunday, February 18 –
Sunday, March 25

Immediately following Worship
Service

Intergenerational – All ages welcome

YES! WE WILL COLOR!!!

February 23, 2018



NCFA CONNECTION!

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Girl Day at UT



Explore opportunities in
Science, Technology,
Engineering and Math with
your daughter
Saturday, February 24
**IT'S FREE, ...BUT
YOU MUST REGISTER**

REGISTER TODAY!!!

<https://girlday.utexas.edu/registration>

February 23, 2018



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FEBRUARY

2/1 Tim Lenz
2/2 Ben Longino
2/5 Curtis Meyer
2/6 Rey Mojica
2/7 Gina Cox
Tracey Lenz
2/8 Angel Hernandez
Yejae Shin
2/9 Mary Ann Akujor
Rex Lafitte
2/17 Ashley Phillips
2/20 Nikkie Shubitz
2/26 Navy Dajae Shin
Oliver Smith

Session Members

*Rev. Rebecca Longino
Interim Session Moderator
*Elder Nikkie Shubitz
Clerk of Session
* Elder Zaira Amado
* Elder Cathy Angell
* Elder Kimberly Hall
* Elder Mary Jo Mojica
* Elder Randy Mojica
* Elder Danita Nelson

COMMITTEE ASSSIGNMENT 2018

FORMATION

Elder Nelson & Elder M. Mojica
(Worship, Children and Youth,
Men's/PW, Discipleship)

HOSPITALITY

Elder Hall & Elder R. Mojica
(Lay Ministry, Congregational
Life, Mission and Evangelism,
Membership)

LOGISTICS

Elder Amado & Elder Angell
(Administration and Personnel,
Building and Grounds,
Finance and Stewardship)

Deacons

Ulysses Cox
Jimmy Bohn
Bonnie Lew
Carol Saddington-Chair
Roxann Vallejo

2/24 Mary and Randy Mojica

FEBRUARY 2018

18th

2nd Sunday in Lent

9:30am Praise Team Rehearsal

10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.

Rev. Rebecca Longin, Preaching

Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5
(Room. 1A & 1B);

10:45am Children & Junior/Senior High

12:noon

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

25th

3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30am Praise Team Rehearsal

10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.

Rev. Jeffrey B. Saddington, preaching

Sunday School—Nursery & Ages
3-5 (Room. 1);

10:45am Elementary – Grades 1-5
(Room 8)

10:45am Junior/Senior High (Room 5)

12:30pm

Study the Psalms
□ for Lent