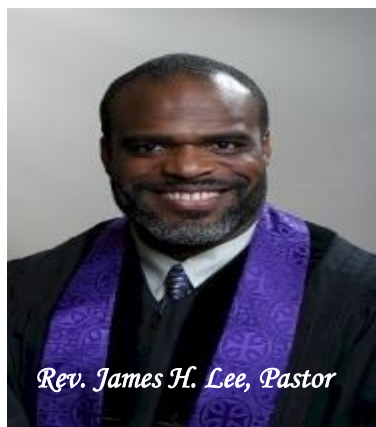
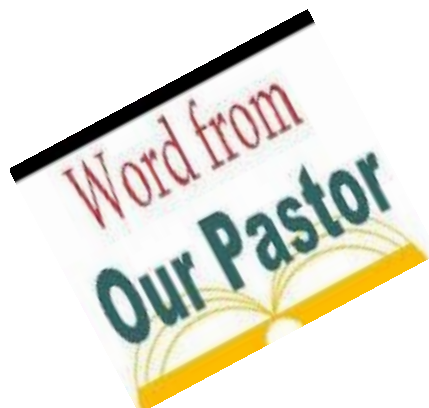


October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor

Dear NCFA Family and Friends,

I cannot believe how quickly this year has passed by us. Last Sunday, we celebrated World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world. I love the sacred meal which brings us all to the Lord's Table to be included not excluded, inspired not beat down, and reminds us that Christ invested His life into us and intercedes on our behalf.

October is also Clergy appreciation month. We are grateful for the clergy, who are serving God through NCFA without financial compensation!!!! Thank you: Trish Holland, Bill Harris, Lydia Hernandez, Ellis Oglesby, and Jeff Saddington.

Not only do we appreciate our clergy, we appreciate each of you who choose to share your lives, your vocations, your homes, your automobiles, your imaginations, and so much more so that our ministry can bless God people within and outside of NCFA.

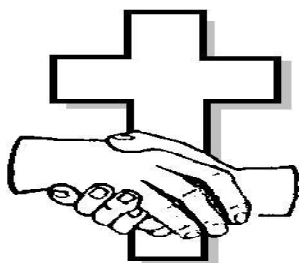
- Please remember to submit your nominations for church officers to lead our church on Sunday. We have a congregational meeting on November 2nd to elect new officers.
- Parents and children, please plan to join the Children and Youth ministry as they go to Elgin Christmas Tree Farm on Saturday, October 18th from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm. Please contact Elder Randy Mojica for more details.
- NCFA Children and Youth will be going to Covenant Presbyterian Church on October 29th to participate in Trunk or Treat. Please plan to attend.
- Please remember to sign up and attend the free CAREGIVER U – Powerful Tools for Caregivers (a project of St. David's Foundation and AGE of Central Texas) classes on starting next Thursday, October 16th and continuing until November 20th, from 6:30 to 8:30pm here at NCFA. To register or for more information, call Elizabeth Smith (512) 417-7166 or Caly Fernandez (512) 228-4712.
- Finally, please sign up for our All Church Retreat at Mo Ranch. It will take place November 14-16th. Please contact Elder Mary Mojica for more information. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the sanctuary.
- On December 14th, we will have our Christmas Dinner after worship, and on December 21st, the Presbyterian Players will present the play Mixed Up Roles: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

This Sunday, October 12th, we will be rolling out our 2015 Stewardship Campaign. On November 2nd, we will dedicate our pledges and recommit our lives, hopes, and dreams back to God. Below, please find a copy of the 2015 Stewardship Cards. Please note that our theme is "Partnering with God for the Sake of Others. It's consistent with our core values, where we are "blessed to be a blessing," and we are called to be "marketplace ministers." The four key areas that we will be focusing on October 12-November 2nd are Praying, Persistence, Partnering and Participating.

Philippians 4:8: ⁸*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

***2015 Annual Stewardship Campaign
October 12, 2014 - November 2, 2014***

Philippians 1:4-5 ⁴*I always pray with joy* ⁵*because of your partnership in the gospel.*



**Praying, Persistence,
Partnering, and Participating**

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

"Harvest Time: Producing Fruit"

*Philippians 3:4b-14;
Matthew 21:33-46*

Pastor James H. Lee

*New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
17th Sunday after Pentecost—October 5, 2014*

Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:33-46

³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.' ⁴²Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

I was reminded of the 80's (telling my age a little bit) when there was a guy by the name of Bobby Brown, and he was a part of New Edition, some great singers and dancers—modern-day Temptations. But then Bobby went out on his own, and one of his songs was "My Prerogative." Part of the vamp when he was singing this song was, "Everybody's talking all this stuff about me, now why don't they just let me live? Oh, I don't need permission. I make my own decisions. That's my prerogative." His prerogative. He could say it was his prerogative because he was making money. He could say it was his prerogative because he was successful and didn't have to answer to anyone. Later on, we come to find out that he was struggling with his success, and as a result of living by his own prerogative, there were some challenges that affected his marriage, his career, and even now his child as he was living by his own prerogative.

October 10, 2014



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"Harvest Time: Producing Fruit"

*Philippians 3:4b-14;
Matthew 21:33-46*

Pastor James H. Lee

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In the text we hear Jesus talking about stewardship to folks who were called to be representatives of him and to use their gifts for the glory of God. Every now and then we'll take a gift that God has given to us and think that because it's ours, it's mine, I can do what I want to do with it and live according to my own prerogative. And I'm hoping that there are some lessons we will learn from life, some lessons from the Word of God, from this parable, and hopefully a little something from this sermon. Our title is "[Harvest Time: Producing Fruits](#)," and I want to lift up [Stewards, Stumbling Blocks](#), and then [Strategies](#).

Stewards: ³³*"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country."*

Jesus was saying the parables to some church leaders, who understood it was their call to maintain the foundations of faith, the truth; and even in doing so, they had issues with Jesus because they questioned whether or not he was who he said he was, and whether or not this new thing that was going was in line with the Scriptures. And in the process of doing the work, they did a great job in seeing what was right and wrong with everyone else but themselves. Every now and then we can do that also, can't we? We can see the little speck in someone else's eye, but oh, we can't even begin to deal with that plank in ours. And Jesus was saying, "We need to have a little talk."

Stewardship. We look at the text, the landowner, the one who provides, and we're going to identify that landowner with God. You know how the landowner buys the property, gets all the plants for the vineyard, gets the wine presses set, puts a fence around it, and builds a watchtower. Everything is set, and then the landowner leases it to the tenants. The landowner will get some of the produce and get paid, and the tenants will get paid—sounds like a win-win, doesn't it?

But somewhere along the way, there was a change of heart. The blessing became a burden. Instead of worshiping or appreciating the one who provided, it became about works righteousness. That's why the Philippians text is important here. Our righteousness is not bound in what we do; it's in who Christ is. His righteousness becomes our righteousness, and when we get that, it helps us to do what we're supposed to do as God's stewards.

And so if we're not careful, we can start despising the gifts that God has given us, devaluing them. It hasn't changed. We have. I still remember, and I'm thankful for little emails that come through every now and then, about that couple that was in the truck, and as they were driving on down the road, the woman says, "Baby, what has happened to us? We used to drive and you'd hold my hand and cuddle up next to me. What happened to us?" And the man says, "Well, baby, I haven't changed positions. Still driving, still going down the road the way I've always gone...." We look at each other and say, "What have you...?" "Why have you...?" And we don't look at ourselves and say "Why have I...?" and "What have I have done?" And start despising the gift. In this case, they despised the one who gave. When it was harvest time, the landlord sends his tenants to go to the other tenants for the harvest. And what do they do? Beat him up, kill him. Well, maybe I'll send my son; they'll respect my son. And what did they do? They said, "Hey, if we take him, we can get his inheritance." Really? You think you'll kidnap the landlord and get the inheritance? By definition that's not possible!

The crazy thing for us is that God already made us co-heirs with his son. We already had the inheritance! And sometimes we're so busy fighting for what we already had that we missed sight of the gift that we had. We need to chill, receive the gift, appreciate the gift, and not get so caught up with life and so caught up with everything else where everyone else says, "You've gotta have this" and "You've gotta have that in order to be whole." No, I'm holding Jesus. And where I'm incomplete, the Lord is still working through me. I am the Lord's workmanship, and God is going to complete the work. Amen? *Stewardship of the things that we have, stewardship of the people who are part of our lives, and stewardships of these bodies. Don't despise it. Don't despise it. Rejoice in it. Rejoice in it.*

October 10, 2014



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There are times in life that we will suffer. I don't like to suffer; I run from it. It can easily become a stumbling block. I tell most folks when there's a challenge going up, my rump is like a 90-degree angle, in the corner, backed up, trying to avoid it. Saying, "Lord if I can avoid this, I'm going to." And then I get mad—"God, why would you allow this to happen? If you had the power to keep this and keep that, then why?" Then I went back to the Word of God and see that there are things that sometimes happen out of hardship and suffering. Sometimes out of hardship and suffering, we hear from **2 Corinthians 7:9-11**:

⁹Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

Instead of seeing suffering as a denial, we see God using it to help develop leaders. What are you stumbling blocks or those things keeping you from giving your All to the Lord?

Stumbling Blocks: ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?

See, we have a choice. When the storms of life come, when the moments of suffering come, when the moments of sorrow come, we could say, "I'm through with you, God, and I'm through with life!"—and turn our back to it. But in that **Corinthians** text, Paul says you went through, and it led to a change of heart, it led to a repentance; and in the end when all of that took place, you came out of it innocent; you came out of it better. In the **Philippians** text, Paul says, **"I want to identify with the Savior in his suffering and the resurrection"**...because when you think about what Jesus bore for us, leaving divinity for us, getting the beatdown for us, having folks talk about him for us, and then we think of what we're going through, we're like "Oh...He knows." But then you can say, "Okay, so am I supposed to just take the beatdown?" No, you're supposed to look for the resurrection because there is where the victory is.

He got up so we can get up. Because he lives, I can face tomorrow.

Stumbling blocks will always be before you. In the text, the leaders are struggling with Jesus' identity and are suspicious with regards to his intention. Jesus wants to let them know that they have created a stumbling block, which has kept them from recognizing him as Messiah and their stewardship of God's resources would call them to include rather than exclude others.

As we hear the people respond to Jesus, we hear their judgement and also the judgement they expect from the landowner. The result of the tenants beating the landowner's servants and son would be their destruction; however, Jesus says, **"Whoa, hold up, have you not read, have you not heard?"** He says that the stone that the builders rejected is the cornerstone.

Jesus is using Old Testament scriptures to help set up something....The Old Testament lets you know in **Daniel 2 that there were powerful nations on the earth, which impacted Israel.**

October 10, 2014



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"Harvest Time: Producing Fruit"

*Philippians 3:4b-14;
Matthew 21:33-46*

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All of these powers were represented in a statue from King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. At the end of the day, it was the stone, representing the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, hued out, would crush those powers. And what's important for us to know is that he would rule and reign over all things and that he indeed is the King of kings and Lord of lords. We need to know that, because there are sometimes when we are battling, and we think, "Lord, are we winning this fight?" And the Lord says, "Yeah, we are, just chill. You line up and let's go do this thing together."

Jesus also lifts up **Isaiah 8 : Isaiah 8:14-15:** ¹⁴ *He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.* ¹⁵ *Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured."*

The leaders needed to be reminded that the prophet told of the people either finding sanctuary and security in the Messiah or that he would be as stumbling block to them. Even as the darkness was prevalent in chapter 8, in chapter 9 there was more hope. The image of a stumbling block could be that of a stone.

There are different ways we can think about a stone. There's a stone that you can use to grind up some stuff so you can make a tortilla, something to eat. There's a way you can take a couple of stones like David and take down a giant. There's a way you can take a stone and hammer a nail. There's a stone as you go down a path that you can trip over. Or you can take a stone and build a foundation.

Jesus was supposed to be that foundation. Unfortunately, the ones who were called to maintain the the foundation were tripping over it the Messiah, who they were supposed to recognize as their hope. In Isaiah 9, our master and Messiah is recognized as **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and the Prince of Peace**. But they didn't get it. As a matter of fact, they realized, "Oh, he's talking about us!" And they had problems. I'm going to let you know, instead of them saying, "Oh, he's talking about us so I'd better get my life together"... "Oh, I'd better follow him"....they wanted to try to kill Jesus just like the tenants in the parable.

They felt judged, and they responded with violence. There are times when we feel judged, and in the west, we say, "You're not supposed to judge." Guess what? All of us judge.

Most of the time when we say don't judge, it's because we want to live by our own prerogative. We want to do what we want to do, and we want you to stay out of our business. I judged whether I was going to wear khakis or black this morning...a burnt orange shirt or red. And you know I struggled with wearing red with the big Texas OU game coming up next week, but I'm on fire for Jesus today, so I put on the liturgical Pentecost red. We all judge!

I tell you, there are people who speak into my life, and I judge them to be the right people to speak into my life, because they've judged me, and they've judged me for the best to get out of me so I can best steward this and this that God has called me to steward over. So yes, I need some folks to judge, to see some things, but don't let it be a stumbling block. Let it be a pathway to clear up so you can do great and mighty things for the Lord.

Strategy: ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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Finally, in the movie "Jeremy Maguire," Cuba Gooding, Jr. was talking to Tom Cruise and he said, "Show me the money." This old sophisticated sports agent wasn't going to say, "Show me the money." and he was going to have to come out of his shell and say it in order to keep his job. Cuba was making him come out of his shell to prove he really wanted the job. That was his strategy. And you're thinking, "Where's the strategy in this sermon?"

The strategy is, our God relentlessly pursues us. We think we came to the Lord....The Lord has been coming after us with loving arms, "Come on, baby!" for the long haul. The Lord has been making provisions for us, the Word of God says, since before the foundations of the world. The Lord's strategy is to prove to be faithful even when we are faithless. We are here today because of the faithfulness of God. We have overcome hardships because of our faith and God's faithfulness. It is as though God says, "I'm going to be faithful. Because I know one day they are going to get it, and when they get it, they're going to appreciate it, and we'll be in relationship."

That's the strategy of God. Even to the point that God said, "I will empty myself of my divinity and become like a babe. That's what our God does. That's the strategy of God. Not to use power and might to make right, but to let love, and mercy, and grace abide....not to back-stab, but to bring forth blessings. That's what our God does.

This world would say that strategy is not going to work. I'm going to let you know he started out with 12 disciples, and the number has grown and grown. You may say, "Look around, I see darkness." Okay, but I hope you'll start looking for the dawn. That's what happened in **Isaiah**. Look for the dawn. God is still at work. God is alive; God is not dead.

Trust the Strategist—the strategy of God to do something. Don't trust in yourself, in your position, in your power or your prestige. Paul said, "***I counted all my credentials as dung, as rubbish***"—Why? Because he knew our credential could get in the way of our commitment to God. He also could hear the words from Isaiah 64:6: All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

When we come before this holy and righteous God, we can't come on our own merit. God made provisions for us through Jesus. When we go before the throne of God, our righteousness is in Christ Jesus. He enables us to come before God with the right spirit, the right heart and mind, and to be in the right place to be used by God. What happens if I am still lacking? God will still use you and give you a testimony, which blesses others.

As I close out, you may say, "Where's the producing of the harvest?" I'm glad you asked:

When we do the benediction, we say "May the love of God and the peace of Christ rest, rule, and abide." Abide. In **John 15** it lets us know that we are the branches, and we are connected to the vine; and as those who are connected to the vine, we abide in him, and he in us. When we are connected, there is an overflow. The overflow is that of the Holy Spirit, and do you know what the Holy Spirit does for us? The Holy Spirit produces fruit. In **Galatians 5:22** it lets us know that there are fruit; and the fruit is this: "***The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.***" Whew! I'm thankful for the Spirit because when I try to produce all of the fruit, I fail. And I'm the pastor.

When the Spirit is at work, something else happens: Love, joy, peace, forbearance, bearing up under, helping when I don't want to help.

As we leave, I want us to hear the last part of that **Philippians** text.

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

"Harvest Time: Producing Fruit"

***Philippians 3:4b-14;
Matthew 21:33-46***

Pastor James H. Lee

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
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There are some folks right now who didn't hear Paul. Paul said ***"I forget and then I strain."*** Forget what was done in the past and strain. Why would you strain if it was easy to do? You strain because it's hard. It's not easy, but you keep straining, keep struggling, keep working, keep pressing for the prize of the high calling. You might say "the calling" is just for the preacher, but no, you were called. You were claimed, and you were created for the purposes of God. My next question: Why would we experience everything on earth and then choose to quit and not get your prize? Does that make sense to you? Any of you going to work 40-60 hours a week and not get paid when you're expecting to be paid? So why run the race, quit and leave your crown of righteousness and glory waiting for you?

I have to remind us the race was not given to the swift nor to the strong but to the one who endures. There's a word called patience, and I have very little, but semblance of it is called **"hupomoné,"** and that is to bear up under the weight; and that's like squatting with a 45 pound bar on your shoulders, 45 pound weights on each side, and you taking it off of the safety rack. Immediately, you feel the impact of the weight bearing down on you. You gather yourself and start to go down. You can feel your knees shaking as you get to the point where you are supposed to start pressing up. It's a matter of mind and body. You make the decision and press up. Victory; however, immediately, you face the next battle when the next rep or challenge comes. You find yourself saying, "I can't do it, I won't do it, it's too heavy." But then you say, "No, yes I can," and you press up. I want you to keep pressing towards the high calling of God that is in you. Although I didn't have a bar when I presented this example to you, I paused because I knew internally what this example would do to my heart, lungs, and legs; however, eternally, I knew God would take this illustration and do something amazing with it in your lives.

God, to You be the glory, praise, and honor for all that You have done and for all that You are doing, and all that You will do. Thanks for calling us to be Your stewards. Help us to start removing the stumbling blocks, and help us to realize when we have major stumbling blocks, that it's a call for us to change our hearts so that the blessings don't become burdens and we don't despise the gift or You for giving them to us. Finally, Lord, thank You for relentlessly pursuing us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Scripture Passages for
19th Sunday after Pentecost***
(From the Revised Common Lectionary)

October 12, 2014

**Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6,19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14**

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ◆ Lift up Ricky, Brandi, and Aria Ella as they seek to resettle in Oklahoma City and find a fresh start.
- ◆ Lift up Geo's friend Erica as she recovers from a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery associated with breast cancer. Pray that the Lord gives her strength to endure the process while God heals her body and resolves all of the other complications she is facing.
- ◆ Lift up Mike and his family. We pray for healing on this side of glory and for the family to have the capacity to walk with each other through the process.
- ◆ Lift up the King family as they recover from the death of William King. Lift of Dexter, his college roommate and dear friend, and the rest of the Lee family and King's friends, as they celebrate King's life and receive consolation from the Holy Spirit. Prayers for Alex H. 's friend Rosa's 53-yr.-old mother who is at St. David's and not expected to live.
- ◆ Prayers for all marriages.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for the blessing of Jerry's presence in Austin and ongoing support while Christine is in seminary.
- ◆ Lift up Lydia and Jadzia for safe travels on Wednesday to Chiapas, where they will meet for discussions with the church and seminary folks on topics such as the crisis of children migrating. Praise that God is doing great things through them.
- ◆ Praise God that Ashley's Uncle Gary is symptom-free with his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in his bone marrow, so that no treatment is needed at this time. Although it is not curable, thanksgiving that if symptoms do appear, it is treatable.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for all prayers on behalf of Patricia and Doug's son Cyrus, who is slowly improving in a nationally-known rehab facility in Houston. Praise that he was able to speak with his parents by phone yesterday. Prayers this week for the regrowth of nerves for renewal of all mental, motor, and body system functions. Lift up his exhausted wife Jessica for strength as she cares for their two young sons.
- ◆ Praise for the opportunity of Cathy and Henny to serve communion together. Thanksgiving for the blessings of having Henny with us in worship and for all that she has done for both Covenant and New Covenant Fellowship over the years. Praise God for Ausley's nine months of sobriety!! Prayers for her continued challenges.
- ◆ Lift up UT QB Tyrone Swoopes for strength and courage in the face of criticism, that his young spirit may be encouraged.

NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ♦ Thanksgiving for the life and service of Jesse Penn, whose mentoring of Jeff decades ago in NJ steered the course of his career into amazing opportunities, and who is daughter Jess's namesake. Praise God for the opportunity to finally reconnect after so many years. Praise the Lord for all mentors who advocate for others. Prayers that we may all try to be good mentors for others, trusting God for future benefits that come from our efforts.
- ♦ Lift up Carver for safe passage of a swallowed nickel...thanksgiving for all medical opinions and comforting words, including "It happens all the time."
- ♦ Praise that the Rev. Joan Salmon-Campbell, first African-American pastor to be elected Moderator of the General Assembly, has returned to the PCUSA and is being called to serve as an interim in a conflicted congregation near Fayetteville, NC, where she is helping her widowed son Paul with his children.
- ♦ Lift up Caly's daughter Illiyana as she starts an internship and is struggling with anxiety over this big transition. Lift up eldest daughter Jae for reconciliation and thanksgiving for Jae's recent birthday and granddaughter Sophia's 5th birthday.
- ♦ Thanksgiving for the continuing recovery of Susan V.'s husband James from his stroke.
- ♦ Lift up John's friend Jeff who was jailed for relapsing but has now been released due to lung cancer, that he may know he is in God's hands and is loved, and that he may appreciate his freedom. "It's hard to know what's a beginning and what's an ending."
- ♦ Lift up John's friends Bob and Constanza who have been blessed by a deep and loving commitment to each other even through the death of their infant son from a terminal illness. Prayers for their marriage.
- ♦ Praise for the selfless giving of doctors, nurses, and caregivers who have been blessed by God with their skills. Prayers for treatment and cures of all diseases, and for God's blessings and control over the particular challenges of Ebola and the fear that is rampant.

* * * * *

*²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with
rejoicing, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever.
Amen.*

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNE^XION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

N C F A 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
Chapel

Hancock Center

41st St

Red River

NCFA Waller Creek Chapel — Upcoming Preachers

October 12 - *Rev. Jeff Saddington* October 19 -- *TBA* October 26 - *TBA*

November 2 - *Rev. Trish Holland* November 9 - *Roberta Parrillo*




November 16- *TBA* November 23- *Rev. Jeff Saddington*

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.



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

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.

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Caregiver U
www.caregiverUcentx.org presents

Powerful Tools *for* Caregivers

Feeling stressed in your
role as a caregiver?

Having trouble finding
time to take care of you?

Feel like no one
really understands?

We can help!



*Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a series of 6 classes for relatives
or friends providing unpaid care for a senior or an adult with chronic illness*

Dynamic small-group format led by trained facilitators

~ No charge to participate ~

THURSDAYS • 6:30-8:30 PM

Classes begin October 16 and conclude November 20

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

1507 Wilshire Blvd • Austin TX

Registration is required. Contact: parishnurse@stjamesaustin.org or 512-698-2550

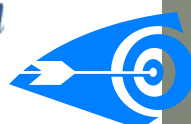
Powerful Tools for Caregivers is made possible by support from:



**StDavid's
FOUNDATION**



Are you a Caregiver? Take the quiz on the other side and find out.



October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!



To Sing

To Play a
Musical
Instrument

To Usher

To Prepare
Communion

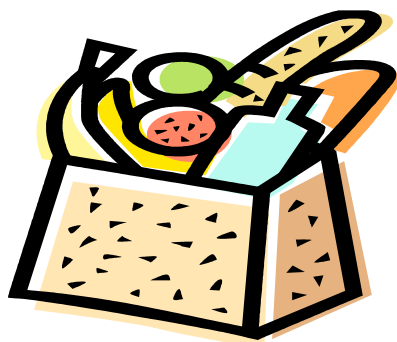
To Clean
the
Fellowship
Hall

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

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 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.

Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: A Family Systems Perspective, October 15

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center seminar on Leadership and Anxiety in the Church looks at the challenge presented by the rising levels of anxiety being experienced in churches today, as well as the role that self-differentiated leadership can play in calming such anxiety. The seminar will be held at First United Methodist Church in Georgetown, TX (410 E University Ave).

To register or for more in formation click this link
[Information](#) | [Registration](#)

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Elgin CHRISTmas Tree Farm for Pumpkin Feast!

On the 18th of October, join the children and youth of NCF out at the Elgin CHRISTmas Tree Farm for Pumpkin Fest! That morning you can either carpool from church at 10am or meet at the farm at 10:30. Bring a bag lunch or you can buy baked goods or Elgin sausage out there. I will have a cooler with ice.

Admission \$6 Kids (2 – 12 years of age), \$8 Adults and Older Kids (13 & Older).

Live Bluegrass Music, Mazes, Pumpkin Painting, Rubber Duck Races, Pumpkin Photo Ops, Kiddy Train Ride, Scenic Hayride, Hay Jumps, Play Grounds, Face Painting, Animals to Visit, and Picnic Areas.

And look ahead to:

Oct 29 Trunk or Treat, @ Covenant Pres
Nov Manna Bag Service opportunity, Date TBD
Nov 14-16 All Church Retreat, Mo Ranch
Dec 14 Christmas Dinner after worship
Dec Trip to the Zoo, Date TBD (12/6?)

Friends-Enemies: Who Are We To One Another & To Ourselves?

Black Men and Black Women Today

African American Quality of Life Collaborative “Free of Cost” Steps We Have To Take

9 Steps For Building Bridges With One Another & Others In the Travis County/Austin Area Embracing The Steps: Remember-Anger-Hurt-Pain-Truth-Forgive-Heal-Reconciliation-Restoration

Date: To Be Determined

Time: To Be Determined Charge: Free

Location: To Be Determined

Hosts-Sponsors: To Be Determined

What's Our Monthly Rating As Peacemakers & How Do We See Ourselves As A Black Community?

From Before-During-Beyond Slavery-Racism-Jim Crow-Racist Codes-Laws-Policies-Practices, to:

How's Our Inside The Home To Inside The Home Pipeline: Acceptable or Unacceptable?

How's Our Outside The Home To Outside The Home Pipeline: Acceptable or Unacceptable?

How Together Are We Spiritually-Mentally-Physically-Emotionally:
Acceptable or Unacceptable?

How Are We Being At Focusing & Building On Our Strengths: Acceptable or Unacceptable?

How Are We Being & Prospering With What We Have Collectively:
Acceptable or Unacceptable?

How Are We Being & Prospering With What We Have Individually:
Acceptable or Unacceptable?

How Are We Being & Prospering With Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, Native American Indian/First Nation, White (Anglo/Caucasian) Races and Cultures

Togetherness Helps Everyone Brothers And Sisters In Cooperative Sharing (THE BASICS)
Featured DVD & Reflections-All

Part II. Think Tank Circles:

The Strengths of Being Black Today in The United States-Texas-Travis County-Austin Area
Red, Black and Green Breakout Sessions & Toolkits

Part III. Lessons Learned Toolkit:

Do No Harm In The Home-Outside The Home-To Self-To Ourselves-To Others
Note: For counseling, call 211; emergencies, call 911.

Facilitator: Mike Manor, LCSW, ACSW

For information, call Mike Manor at 512/854-9172 or by e-mail: mike.manor@traviscountytexas.gov

October 10, 2014



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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

NCFA Women's Ministry

Important Dates and Opportunities

October 16, Thursday The Thursday Noon Women's Bible Study will be using the 2014-2015 *Horizons* study book, "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. They meet at Connie Jones' home, 5107 Edenborough Lane. The group will also meet October 23th, and 30th.

October 22, Wednesday The 4th Wednesday Evening 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.

October 23, Thursday NCF women are invited to attend Covenant PC's annual "Girls Night Out Fellowship", meal included, \$10 donation asked at the door, 6:30-9:00 PM, Covenant Presbyterian Church, FEB 200, 3003 Northland Drive.

Job Opportunities-Goodwill Industries

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.

Free Exercise Classes

Saturday October 11th, 2014

ZUMBA with Lydia Lopez at 1:30pm
QIGONG with Nathan Peterson at 2:30pm

St. James Episcopal Church
Founders Hall (Bldg B)
1941 Webberville Road
Austin, TX 78721

October 10, 2014



Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

A Westminster Tradition
\$74,000 for a PC(USA)
High School Senior to attend
Westminster College

Nominating deserving students for a Young Presbyterian Scholarship has become a Westminster tradition.

Your PC(USA) congregation can join in the annual tradition and submit a nomination for two Senior High School students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Nomination packets have been mailed or you can [click here](#) to place your nomination online. Nominations are due by December 1.

Here's what one member of the Class of 2016 had to say regarding their nomination.

"Thank you for nominating me for the Young Presbyterian Scholarship. Westminster is a wonderful school. All of my classes are going extremely well and I am being challenged in new and exciting ways. I am proud to be a student and future alumnus of this college."

Make a difference in the life of a student and submit your nomination.

For assistance, please contact

Rev. Jim Mohr
College Chaplain

mohrj@westminster.edu
(724) 946-7116

Bradley P. Tokar '91
Director of Admissions
tokarbp@westminster.edu
(724) 946-7109

Young Presbyterian Scholarship recipients may select from any of Westminster's 40 majors. Here are the top 15 majors of current recipients.

1. Biology
2. Business Administration
3. English
4. PreK-4 ECE/PreK-8 Special Ed
5. Psychology
6. Exploratory
7. Accounting
8. Music Education
9. History
10. Biochemistry
11. Mathematics
12. Political Science
13. Chemistry
14. Sociology
15. Public Relations



Westminster College
319 South Market Street
New Wilmington, Pennsylvania
16172

October 10, 2014



NCFA CONNE^XION!

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- 4th Cathy Trautman
- 7th Brandi Palacios
- 7th Doris Bailey
- 9th Larry Mack
- 16th Misti Herrington
- 17th Tom Coffman
- 18th Kyrie Grace Aldas
- 23rd Tiffany Cox
- 24th Angela Unegbu
- 29th Sam Mancillas
- 30th Lileisha Daniels

27th Charles and Stacy Robinson



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

OCTOBER



- 12th 18th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15-9am Worship at NCFA Chapel at Waller
Rev. Jeff Saddington, preaching
9-10am Adult Sunday School
10:15am Worship—1507 Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor James Lee, preaching
Sunday School—K–5th during Worship
- 14th Men's Bible Study: Dinner at 6:30 and Study at 7pm.
- 15th Prayer and Praise Service : Dinner at 6:30pm; Worship at 7pm
- 16th Noon Bible Study at Connie Jones's home; all welcome

NOVEMBER

- 2nd Dedication of 2015 Pledge Cards
Congregational Meeting to elect new Elders and Deacons.