

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

***To All Who Loved  
and Were Loved by Pastor James Lee:***

When we gathered to worship this past Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, I felt like singing, *“There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord.”* My husband George commented that he felt a certain “resolve” in the congregation to continue to live the vision that energized Pastor James to start New Covenant Fellowship as the first intentionally multicultural congregation in Mission Presbytery. Praise the Lord!

When I commissioned our Austin Seminary graduates Christine Wagner and Matthew Aldas and their spouses Jerry and Kathryn, I presented them with stoles woven in Ghana that were given to me by Sam Okyere-Mireku. I challenged them to remember the blessings we have enjoyed from the presence of Chris and Angela Unegbu, born in Nigeria; Aisha Adjei, Ghana; Safia Essien, South Africa; Sofia and Said Bohn, Ethiopia; Naomi Jones and Jacob Lew, China; Jessica Saddington, South Korea, among others, and urged them to seek out children and their parents from all nations and all walks of life, wherever the Lord leads them.

In the children’s book *Crow and Weasel*, Cecil Lopez writes:

*“Sometimes people need a story more than food to stay alive.”*

\* On May 8<sup>th</sup>, at the suggestion of Bill Poe from Mission Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry, 57 of us got together and told how James was significant in our lives.

\* Each of the coming two Sundays, May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Deacons invite you to arrive by 10am to 10:15 gather in the church kitchen for coffee, doughnuts, and to share your stories about Pastor James until worship begins.

\* On Saturday afternoons beginning June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, Kimberly Hall and Jimmy Bohn are graciously opening their home in Elgin to all who can come for an informal potluck, believing it is more healing to grieve together. They have an upstairs where the children can play. If you can come, please email both [jimmy\\_bohn@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmy_bohn@hotmail.com) and [khall@sc2000.net](mailto:khall@sc2000.net).

Vernon Bailey invited us at Cook-Walden on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, to sing Hezekiah Walker’s song together, *“I Need You to Survive.”* And it’s true!

*I need you; you need me. We’re all a part of God’s body.  
Stand with me; agree with me. We’re all a part of God’s body.  
It is His will that every need be supplied.  
You are important to me; I need you to survive.  
I pray for you; You pray for me. I love you. I need you to survive.  
I won’t harm you with words from my mouth. I love you.  
I need you to survive.*

Please join us to worship our Lord this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost at 10:15am (or earlier at 10am to share stories as desired). Deacon Lucy Oglesby will provide the message, and our Youth Choir will sing. Thanks to Deacon Connie Jones for rehearsing with our youth in the weeks leading up to Family-Friendly Sundays. The Session will meet after worship.

Comfort and Joy,  
***Trish Holland***  
Interim Session Moderator

March 26, 2016



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REGISTER TODAY!  
JUNE 17 - 19

Questions?

See Elder Randy Mojica or Elder Danita Nelson

Friends, Family, and Neighbors are Welcome

Ages 3 - 10

March 26, 2016



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## PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ⇒ Praise for the NCF commissioning of Christine and Matthew as they graduate from seminary and pursue new callings.
- ⇒ Praise for Rev. George Holland's reminder to consider the lilies. They have different "faces" yet are all on one plant. Just as NCF members have different faces yet are one in Christ. This is what Jesus prayed for—that we be one in him.
- ⇒ **Ephesians 4:25** Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.
- ⇒ Praise for Tuesday's service celebrating Pastor James Lee's Homegoing which reflected how many people loved and learned from him.
- ⇒ Lift up travel mercies for Caly as she goes to McAllen to visit her mother. Lift up strength and endurance for Caly when she teaches four diabetes classes in June. Lift up her daughters who are deeply grieving for Pastor Lee.
- ⇒ Inadequate but deeply felt thanks from Christine for the nurturing she received as a seminary intern at NCF. Lift up moving and job hunting mercies as she and Jerry return to Kansas.
- ⇒ Praise for the 55 students who graduated high school with the assistance of Breakthrough Austin. These students have overcome many obstacles to accomplish this milestone and will now be the first in their families to attend college.
- ⇒ Praise for Communion being a meal with the cloud of witnesses who have gone before. We just had a snack with Pastor Lee! Praise that we are Awesome Children of the Awesome God.
- ⇒ "Only grieving can heal grief." As hard as it is, grief cannot be avoided. Praise God we have the fellowship of NCF members to help us through.
- ⇒ Praise for Chuck's miraculous healing. Many thanks go out to all who prayed for and supported him. Chuck went from not being able to walk on Friday to walking into Pastor Lee's Memorial Service on Tuesday.
- ⇒ Lift up peace and tranquility for Roxann's home and family. Lift up son Alex and Cassie for blessings in their married life together.
- ⇒ Lift up Lucy's brother Michael who had another surgery for lung cancer during which another spot was seen on the other lung. Lift up Michael and his wife Marjann as they await the results of further testing and readjust plans.
- ⇒ Praise for NCF members continuing to love and support each other. Special thanks from Vernon for the compassion. This will take us all awhile to get through. Continue to lift each other up as we each wrestle with our grief.
- ⇒ A big welcome back to Craig!
- ⇒ Lift up travel mercies for Nancy and Richard as they attend a conference in New Mexico. Lift up Lara and her caregivers for an easy and fun week together.
- ⇒ Praise for birthdays: Robert, 50; Jimmy, 37; Luke, 12; Caly (29 and holding!); and Said, 9. Also celebrating this month are: Anayah, Placid, Mallorie, Kathryn, Fortune, Lillie, Alex, Cathy T., and several more NCF friends as found on our Birthday List.
- ⇒ Praise from George for Pastor Lee moving the Holy Spirit into his heart. Praise for NCF being a small alternative congregation which is often a stepping stone to new callings. People come here to be loved on, learn how to love, and then take that love out to new places and people. May God bless the spread of His love.

March 26, 2016



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# N C F A SUNDAY MORNINGS

## NCFA Sunday Schedule

*8:30am The Early Worship Service is expected to resume in the fall.*

### 10:15am - Worship Service

1507 Wilshire Blvd.

9am Adult Sunday School

10am Fellowship

10:45am - Children's Church



NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:30am -- Wilshire Blvd.

*The Early Worship Service is expected to resume in the fall.*

## 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.

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 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**



March 26, 2016



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4<sup>th</sup> Anayah Mojica  
5<sup>th</sup> Said Bohn-Hall  
10<sup>th</sup> Dexter Lee, Sr.  
11<sup>th</sup> Placid Unegbu  
Dana Williams  
13<sup>th</sup> Mallorie Muñoz  
16<sup>th</sup> Caly Fernandez  
Kathryn Aldas  
17<sup>th</sup> Luke Oglesby  
20<sup>th</sup> Fortune Unegbu  
21<sup>st</sup> Philippe (Jimmy) Bohn  
Robert Booth  
26<sup>th</sup> Lillie Daniels  
Dexter Lee, Jr. (DJ)  
Margaret Spinks  
28<sup>th</sup> Alex Hernandez  
31<sup>st</sup> Pam Nemir  
Cathy Trifiro  
Janet Masters

#### Session Members

\*Rev. Trish Holland  
Interim/Moderator  
\*Elder Kathy Smith  
Clerk of Session  
\*Elder Oliver Smith  
Administration & Personnel  
\*Rev. Bill Harris  
Buildings & Grounds  
\*Elder Randy Mojica  
Children and Youth  
\*Elder Ben Hooks  
Discipleship & Men's/  
Women's Ministry  
\*Elder Mary Jo Mojica  
Finance & Stewardship  
\*Elder Robert Booth  
Congregational Life/  
Lay Ministry  
\*Elder Vernon Bailey  
Missions/Evangelism  
\*Elder Matthew Aldas  
Worship & Membership

#### Deacons

Kathryn Aldas  
Ashley Phillips  
Scott Phillips  
Carol Saddington, Chair  
Cathy Trifiro  
Roxann Vallejo

May, June 2016

28<sup>th</sup> 8:45-10am Women's Bible Study,  
Kitchen

29<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday after Pentecost  
Family-Friendly Sunday  
9-10am Adult Sunday School  
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise  
Team Rehearsal  
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.  
*Deacon Lucy Oglesby, preaching*

31<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm Men's Ministry Dinner;  
7pm Study

1<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner:  
7:00pm First Wednesday Night  
Ministry Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Acts Bible Study-Fellowship Hall

5<sup>th</sup> Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
9-10am Adult Sunday School  
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise  
Team Rehearsal  
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.  
*Rev. Ellis Oglesby, preaching*

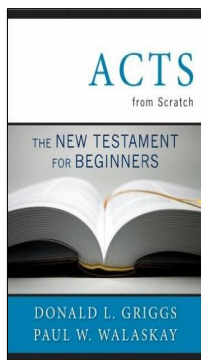
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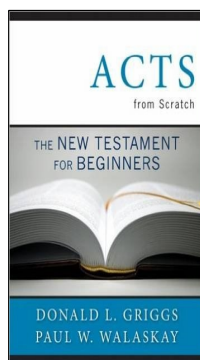
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## *The Acts of the Apostles*

Thursdays at 7pm:

*May 26 and  
June 2, 9, 16, and 23,*  
in the Fellowship Hall.



**2 Books Remain for Purchase!**



See the Holy Spirit in Action!

COME, ALL ARE WELCOME!!

## TACO's with the DADs!!



Switchin' it up a bit! Join us Sunday Morning at 9:15 on  
June 19<sup>th</sup> and we'll "taco" 'bout great dads!!

## **Info: Caregiver-Responsible Party Support Group (CRPSG)**

This will be an open / on-going group for persons who are

- 1. The direct primary contact for adults who live in a nursing home, assisted living or skilled nursing facility or**
- 2. The primary caregiver for an elderly person or for an adult with a disability.**

Members (Participants) will be able to come and go with no obligations to attend regularly.

**The purpose of this group is to provide a place where Members can share concerns, helpful resources & ideas; or simply provide one another with moral support. Confidentiality will be stressed.**

Group Members will only be known by first names in group, for registration and on sign-in sheet.

Contact information requested will consist of information needed for Member contact or grants:

- First Name Only of Member
- Contact phone number of Member
- Dates of birth (Member and Care receiver)
- Genders (Member and Care receiver)
- Races (Member and Care receiver)
- Ethnicity or Heritage (Member and Care receiver)
- Zip code (Member and Care receiver)
- Income (Member and Care receiver) Optional

Group will meet once a month, with Elizabeth Smith facilitating, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7 pm. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 1941 Webberville Road, Austin, TX 78721. The meeting will be in the Orange Building - Room A.

Group size should ideally consist of 6 – 8 members.

**There will be no cost to group members.**

Please contact Elizabeth Smith at 512-417-7166 or [DElizabeth.Smith@yahoo.com](mailto:DElizabeth.Smith@yahoo.com) to register or for more information.

First meeting is to be held Thursday, June 23, 2016.

D Elizabeth Smith, M.S.E., LPC  
512-417-7166 (iPhone)  
PO Box 201118  
Austin, TX 78720-1118

March 26, 2016



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

***“That All May Be One”***

***John 17:20-26***

**Rev. George A. Holland**

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin**

**May 22, 2016— Trinity Sunday**

**John 17:20-26**

<sup>20</sup> “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,<sup>[J]</sup> so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

I want to congratulate you. The spirit that I have witnessed here this morning, the joy and the love for one another, cannot help but be a tribute to your pastor, James Lee, and his visionary, faithful, loving, dynamic leadership. What delight he must feel and know in seeing your joy, in seeing your wholeness, in seeing your maturity in the midst of grieving. And I, for one, as one of his friends, am just delighted for him.

For most of us these past two weeks have consisted of days (and wrestling of night) of subdued feelings of deeper sorrow; of impatient questions; of remembrances and stories of love for James; and of the vision that James, with you and so many others, has carried so far. Did you see how far that vision has carried you, when you remember the amazing oneness and diversity of all those people who gathered last Tuesday at Shoreline for James’ Service of Witness to the Resurrection? A living witness to James and the Holy Spirit’s leadership at New Covenant Fellowship. It’s amazing! (I’d like to write a letter to the editor to ask them why they didn’t write a story about it!)

So we sense this morning in his fresh absence the Faith and Love that he represented to us and taught us; we sense the ties that bind us to him through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and above all, we are thankful, are we not? We are also experiencing the *tugs* of the ties that bind all of us together—those present, absent, in the past, those surely to come, and those who were for a moment at least exposed to the Spirit and the Gospel for which this congregation has been marching.



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The “oneness” we experienced in James’ ministry – the remarkable differences in those whom James and this congregation have called together – is visible and palpable. We respond not only as to a death in the family, but, as Scripture reveals, with a movement or a call toward the oneness which God in Christ continues to call us: <sup>23</sup> *I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

You’ve heard a lot of words these last couple of weeks, and Trish tells me what a wonderful job Bill did preaching last Sunday (*See Newsletter, May 21, pg. 7*). So I would like to do something different with you today. I would like to invite you into my garden. Would you pick up the picture that I put in your bulletin this morning? My garden of Easter lilies. Timely, because only two of them are left. Whether you are a gardener or not, I would just like you to relax and stay with me in this garden for a few minutes.

Have you ever touched an Easter lily? They’re tough, not fragile; these petals do not tear apart. And look at the grace of them, the sculpted beauty and length of the trumpet-shaped blossom. And they sit out in my backyard, but I thought they would never bloom! I kept talking to them every week: “Okay, guys, here’s more food, now let’s get with it!” But they only blossomed 10 days ago. Look at the picture. Remember Jesus’ words about admiring the lilies of the field, they’re not cared for except by God, the beauty of them...the wildness of them...the free-ness of them. What I like is the varied directions the blossoms face, while all belonging to a single plant, with one root. And that’s what our text this morning is about: Oneness. I’d like to tell you a story about what oneness is *not* about:

When I was returning from service in Japan and Korea in the late ’50’s (after the Korean War), my friend John and I chose to return the long way to the U.S. through Asia and Europe. One day as we crossed from Holland into Germany, we saw a sign that the previous village was obliterated by bombing during the war and invited travelers to the new village five miles down the road. Travelling the five miles in a tiny car as two six-foot-four young men, we found no community, but only a two-story hotel. As soon as we parked and extricated ourselves with difficulty out of the little car, the owner came out wearing a tuxedo, to carry in our luggage and lead us up to our second-floor room. Minutes later, he returned to invite us down to the basement bar/restaurant.

Suddenly the sliding glass doors opened, and in came a German men’s volleyball team, together since the war ended 11 years before, and all were amputees – each person missing at least a leg or an arm. They were in good spirits, and within a few minutes our tuxedoed host asked them if they would enjoy having two Americans join them and invited us to do so.

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Within a few minutes, after warm introductions, they began to sing joyfully as they drank their strong German beer. Then one said it was time to dance. Dance? John and I looked incredulous but were soon on our feet. Have you ever danced with someone missing a leg?

A few minutes later one of the German soldiers said to me, “George, you fought the communists and we fought the communists; therefore, we are friends!” A common enemy tends to unite us again and again. No, we weren’t friends, but to confirm this new friendship of the moment, we shook hands.

You hear the echo of this in today’s newspapers, in today’s politics. It’s not a love, it’s not a friendship of those who are for one another, but rather of those who are against one another, in a way frankly I’ve never seen. You fight you, you fight for me, and then we’ll be friends....

The Scripture in the eloquent voice of John calls for all of us to be one and sends Jesus among us, nurturing, helping, dying for all of us. The onemanship, this reconciliation. The one thing I admired from the beginning about James, and Trish quickly joining him, and all of you, is always the diversity that’s been in this group, it’s the oneness. It’s not the togetherness because of being against someone; but it’s the call of God to become one and to project and reach out in that oneness to everyone else.

Last week at James’ service we witnessed the oneness...just the oneness, not separation, but oneness. You don’t have to go in the Army. I never met a Jew until I went in the Army. I’d never met anybody who’d never brushed their teeth until I met a dozen boys from Chicago slums. I’d never met anybody from different countries. Some people think we need the draft again so we can have a more diverse community. No, that may be one result, but it’s the Gospel, the way that you and I are so blessed and equipped to reach out in unity and in reconciliation and in oneness.

*The oneness to which Christ calls us  
and the oneness of the vision energizing James Lee  
and this congregation  
is not just the oneness of being for or against someone else,  
not just friendship or seeking out relationships with people we like,  
but a oneness to which God in Christ has called us  
and which this congregation has demonstrated.*

I think the diversity, the beauty, and yet the oneness of the plant that spawns this kind of Easter lily is something to lift up to our Lord, a cause for celebration...and next year I look forward to planting more of them to share with you.

Amen.

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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, Trail mix, or peanut butter and crackers

Vienna sausage – 5 ounce size cans

Water bottles – 8 ounce size

**Hygiene/Personal Items:**

Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Travel size hand sanitizer or hotel size bar soap

Men's size small crew ankle length white or black socks

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 me: [calyflower2020@yahoo.com](mailto:calyflower2020@yahoo.com) or call me at (512) 228-4712.

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## Café Justo

**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 pound bags. The cost of a 1 pound bag is **\$10.00** and a 5 pound bag is **\$ 40.00**. Dark roast, medium roast and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee will be delivered biweekly to NCFA.

**Contact Caly to make your  
purchase to- day!  
(512)228-4712**

