

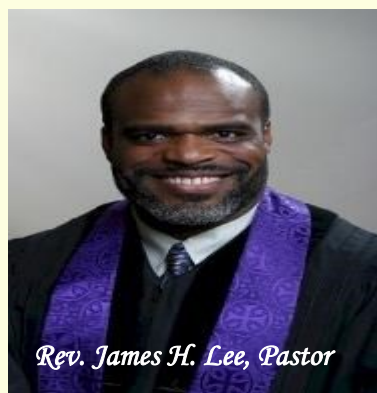
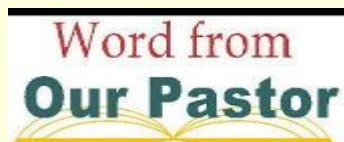
July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNECTION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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



*Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor*

**Dear NCFA Family and Friends:**

As we prepare for the weekend, there are several things that I would like to highlight:

After worship this Sunday I would encourage you to please attend the session with Sherry Kenney. Hopefully, you will find it to be an opportunity to provide directions for your loved ones after you've entered the Church Triumphant and to learn how to leave legacy gifts. With the generosity of so many of Jane Mack's family and friends, we were able to fund a memorial plaque and cross. It is my goal to educate and equip us, not to introduce emotional dialogue.

We are being blessed by our friends Nancy and David, who have invested in a program that we will start soon. The initial grant will allow us to purchase several sewing machines so that we may teach individuals how to sew, add embroidery, and make alterations. These were part of the skillset taught in Home Economics classes and at the side of my grandmother when I was little. Whoever attends the course will need to write a letter to David and Nancy to express ways that they believe they can utilize the course for personal and professional advancement.

Our participation in "New Beginnings" is picking up momentum as Elders Caly Fernandez and Benton Hooks along with seminarian Matthew Aldas have begun training at Holy Trinity. We will offer small groups in the coming months so that as a church we can better prepare for our immediate future and the wonderful things yet to come.

While serving as one of the keynote speakers at the Multicultural Youth Conference, I am more aware why it is important for us to exist and to stay the course. Our young people need to be affirmed and to have their aspirations heard so that they know they are obtainable, but more importantly, realized.

As my children are discerning their own vocations, I realize how blessed I have been to have been taught by and to have learned from great leaders in my family, my churches, and my communities. It is my prayer that as disciples of Jesus Christ, we will learn from and invest in others so we will not allow polarizing powers to preclude us from being the very best that God has called us to be in our present and future context for life and ministry.

On Sunday morning please join our regular worshipers and our guest from Central Presbyterian Church at our 8:15 chapel service. At 10:15 please welcome Sherry Kenney for the Minute for Mission and presentation after worship. In addition, please welcome The Reverend Dean Smith—who did not coach the North Carolina Tar Heels—but is responsible for recruiting volunteers for CASA, an organization helping abused and neglected children. As my friend, I have invited him to love on the church that loves me and, more importantly, the Lord.

Finally, I am grateful for Danita Nelson, who helped me find the print by Gilbert Young called "He Ain't Heavy" (*He's My Brother*), which hangs in my office. It is a reminder that you do not look down on people the less you are helping to raise them up. It is also my reminder that the wall is leverage and not a barrier. When I thought it was a barrier, I hopped the wall and found myself in the same condition as the folks I was trying to help. As leverage, other people helped me to help others so that everyone was blessed and not burdened.

***God Bless***

***Pastor James Lee***

**Rev. Dean Smith, our guest speaker for this Sundays 10:15am worship service.**



Dean Smith was born and raised in Detroit and has been the Senior Pastor at churches in Detroit, Chicago, San Antonio and Austin. He was also part of a church plant in Austin called "Immanuel Austin" with his son, Kester. He graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary (PCUSA) and led a church in Chicago through a complete integration process that is still flourishing today. Now, he is the Director of Volunteers for CASA of Travis County, an organization that is dedicated to providing over 600 volunteers to advocate for children in Travis County (over 1600 last year) who have been neglected or abused.

June 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

## NCFA CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED YOU ARE NEEDED**

**PLEASE CONSIDER WAYS YOU CAN HELP SOLIDIFY OUR MINISTRY:**

- ASSIST UTOPIA IN THE NURSERY
- ASSIST TEACHERS IN CHURCH SCHOOL
- BRING CREATIVE IDEAS
- SERVE WHEREVER YOU ARE NEEDED
- VOLUNTEER FOR OUR 2015 VACATION BIBLE
- SCHOOL (JUNE 14TH-17TH, 21ST)



Our very own Nikkie Shubitz is a volunteer at Green Gate Farms, which provides organic fruit and vegetables to our communities. As a result of her volunteering, the farm is offering a \$200.00 scholarship for Kids from NCF to attend their camp, which is usually \$400.00. Should you be interested in sending your child to camp, please contact Nikkie Shubitz or register directly at [www.greengatefarms.net](http://www.greengatefarms.net), using the code FARMFRIEND. The Children and Youth Committee are considering ways to work with families to ensure that interested children are able to attend the camp. Families and the committee will work together to address financial concerns, etc.

At Farm Camp, children ages 5-15 learn firsthand where their food comes from. **Every day, your campers will work with farm animals and eat freshly harvested organic food.** In addition, there are weekly themes with featured guest speakers and activities.



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

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

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

June 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE<sup>X</sup>ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*



If you would like to participate in any of these events or invite guests, please contact:

Holly Wissmann  
512.692.9444 x.35  
[holly@breakthroughaustin.org](mailto:holly@breakthroughaustin.org)

# EXPERIENCE BREAKTHROUGH

## SolarWinds Leadership Institute: Presentations of Learning

Friday, June 26, 11:30am-1:30pm, University of Texas at Austin and Applied Materials (60 volunteers needed)

The SolarWinds Leadership Institute helps 10th grade students develop life skills that are essential to their success in college and beyond. At the end of the program, students participate in one-on-one interviews with community members, a unique opportunity to interact with professionals and gain valuable feedback on their communication and leadership skills. Training and lunch are provided for volunteer interviewers.

## Middle School Summer Program: Visitors Days

Wednesday, July 8, 8:30am-10:00am, University of Texas at Austin

Thursday, July 16, 8:30am-10:00am, Decker Middle School

Tuesday, July 21, 8:30am-10:00am, St. Andrew's Middle School

The six-week, academically intensive summer program for middle school students is the cornerstone of Breakthrough's program. During Visitors Days, community members are invited to tour the program and meet Breakthrough students and teaching fellows.

## Breakthrough Branches Out: Presentations of Learning

Tuesday, July 28, 11:30am-1:30pm, St. Edward's University (25 volunteers needed)

11th grade students spend their summers "branching out" with activities like volunteer projects, internships and camps that will build their college resumes. At the end of the summer, students will present their experiences, what they learned, and how it will help them on their journey to college, to a panel that will provide feedback on their presentation skills. Training and lunch are provided for volunteer panelists.

## Middle School Summer Program: Presentations of Learning

Wednesday, July 29, 11:30am-1:30pm, St. Andrew's Middle School (24 volunteers needed)

Thursday, July 30, 11:30am-1:30pm, Decker Middle School (50 volunteers needed)

Friday, July 31, 11:30am-1:30pm, University of Texas at Austin (36 volunteers needed)

During the summer program, students in grades 6-9 work on in-depth academic projects, and prepare brief presentations for community members. This is a valuable opportunity for students to practice their communication skills and put their knowledge to the test. Training and lunch are provided for volunteers.

## Future Focus: Presentations of Learning

Wednesday, August 12, time and location TBD (15 volunteers needed)

Future focus is a collaborative internship program for Breakthrough and KIPP Collegiate high school graduates to gain invaluable professional experience through paid internships at businesses in the Austin area. At the conclusion of these internships, students will give presentations on what the experience taught them to a panel of volunteers. Training is provided for volunteer panelists.



**Breakthrough  
Austin**



July 10, 2015

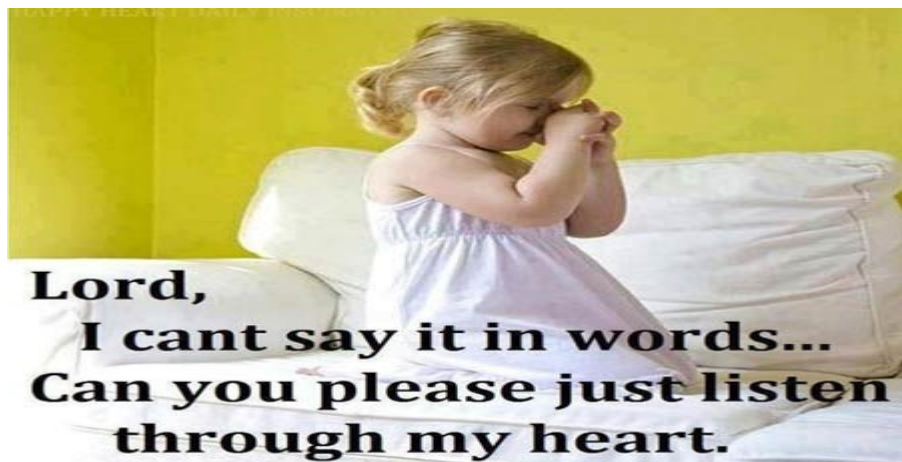


NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

## PRAYER AND PRAISE



**1 Peter 5: 6-11** *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.*

- ⇒ Praise for a safe trip to Florida for the Mojica Family. Praise for provision of needs and good family togetherness. Praise for—and congratulations to—Christian placing third at the National Gymnastics Competition. You make us all proud!
- ⇒ Lift up Nancy H for comfort in the hospital and healing for when she gets home.
- ⇒ Praise for VBS being a success. Praise for the celebration of Madisynn's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- ⇒ Praise for Pastor Lee being the keynote speaker at the Multicultural Youth Conference at Mo Ranch. Lift up travel mercies for him as he goes forth from there.
- ⇒ Lift up healing from bronchitis for Trish.
- ⇒ Praise for the enjoyable family time for the Washington family in Fredericksburg this weekend.
- ⇒ Praise for Matthew's sermon this morning.
- ⇒ Praise for Jane Mack's ministry with the women of the church. Lift up leaders to continue the work.
- ⇒ Lift up Ashley for relief from the sickness of early pregnancy. Praise for an expected daughter!
- ⇒ Praise the Lord! Thanks be to God for a safe trip to deliver Fortune to El Paso and get him established in his new apartment. Lift him up as he begins his medical school studies.
- ⇒ As we celebrate the birth of our nation let us remember the principles and values upon which it was founded.
- ⇒ Lift up the people of Greece for a resolution to their financial woes.
- ⇒ Praise for Sam M's impressive sermon at the chapel Sunday morning.
- ⇒ Lift up Lydia's sister Elizabeth as she undergoes surgery.

July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*



- 1<sup>st</sup> Ausley Trifiro  
Grace Holland-Washington  
3<sup>rd</sup> Aisha Adjei  
8<sup>th</sup> Rev. Bill Harris  
9<sup>th</sup> Ireland F. Sullivan  
11<sup>th</sup> George Holland  
Genevieve Booth  
13<sup>th</sup> Jayvin Mojica  
15<sup>th</sup> Chris Unegbu  
16<sup>th</sup> Lara Tallman  
Rachel Draper-Marion  
18<sup>th</sup> Emily Smith  
Ericson Stumberg  
20<sup>th</sup> Naomi Jones  
Uly Cox, Sr.  
23<sup>rd</sup> Danita Nelson  
Colton Sullivan  
Ulysses Cox, Jr.  
29<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Lew (Jacob's Mom)

### Session Members

\*Rev. James Lee  
Pastor/Moderator  
\*Elder Kathy Smith  
Clerk of Session  
\*Rev. Bill Harris  
Administration & Personnel  
\*Elder Tim Lenz  
Buildings & Grounds  
\*Elder Mary Jo Mojica  
Congregational Life  
\*Elder Randy Mojica  
Children and Youth  
\*Elder Cathy Angell  
Discipleship & Women's Ministry  
\*Elder Caly Fernandez  
Evangelism  
\*Elder Tracey Lenz  
Finance & Stewardship  
\*Elder Robert Booth  
Lay Ministry  
\*Elder Benton Hooks  
Men's Ministry  
\*Elder Vernon Bailey  
Missions  
\*Elder Charles Robinson  
Worship & Membership

### Deacons

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

- 4<sup>th</sup> Colton and Stephanie Sullivan  
11<sup>th</sup> Robert and Genevieve Booth  
22<sup>nd</sup> Richard and Nancy Tallman

## JULY 2015

- 12<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15am Waller Creek Chapel  
*Central Presbyterian Interim*  
*Candidate, preaching*  
9-10am Adult Sunday School  
10:15am Worship at  
1507 Wilshire Blvd.  
*Rev. Dean Harris, preaching*  
Sunday School –  
K-5th during Worship  
14<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Men's Ministry  
Dinner, Study at 7pm  
15<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner;  
Prayer and Praise at 7pm.  
19<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:15am Waller Creek Chapel  
*Central Presbyterian Interim*  
*Candidate, preaching*  
9-10am Adult Sunday School  
10:15am Worship at  
1507 Wilshire Blvd.  
*Pastor James Lee, preaching*  
Sunday School –  
K-5th during Worship

July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

*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

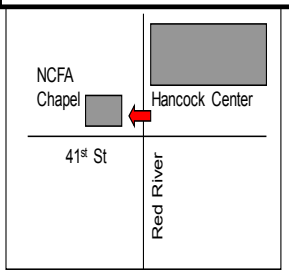
1507 Wilshire Blvd.  
9am Adult Sunday School  
10am Fellowship  
10:45am - Children's Church

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



## NCFA Waller Creek Chapel — Upcoming Preachers

*July 12 — Central Presbyterian Interim Candidate*

*July 18 — Central Presbyterian Interim Candidate*

*July 25 — Danita Nelson*

*August 2 — Matthew Aldas*

## NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am

We would love to have you and your family  
come share in the CELEBRATION OF  
THE GOOD NEWS!



We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall of  
Genesis Presbyterian Church on the  
Wilshire Campus starting at 10:15 a.m.

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 encour-  
age seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to  
worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors,  
grow in grace, and live by faith.

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

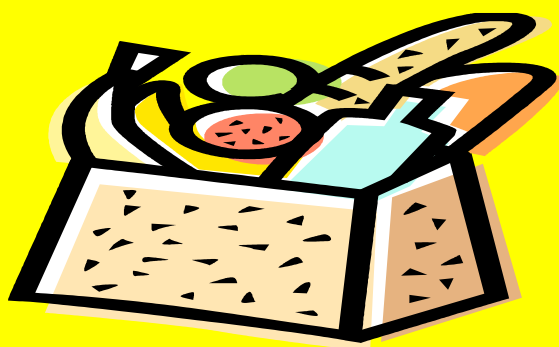
July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

*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 or Trail mix**  
**8 ounce size water bottles**



## **Hygiene/Personal Items:**

**Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste**  
**Travel size hand sanitizer**  
**Adult white ankle crew socks – size large**  
**Quart size freezer bags**

**Please note: this is a smaller kit with less 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.**

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

## MISSION STATEMENT

New Covenant Fellowship is a racially diverse community informed by the Bible and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are called to equip disciples to faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors, grow in grace and live by faith.

## VISION STATEMENT

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

## FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2015

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

## The Six Great Ends of the Church

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



July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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



**Café Justo**

**IF YOU LIKE COFFEE OR  
KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES**



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

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

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

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

## NCFA FOOD PANTRY

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



+



=

***“Love Thy Neighbor”***

**If you or someone you know needs food, please take some.**

**If you can help replenish our supply,  
*UNEXPIRED NONPERISHABLES ARE WELCOME.***

# Presbyterian Women

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

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

July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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

MANOS  
de CRISTO



## Back-To-School Program

**When: July 20 –24, 2015**

Monday, July 20 - Thursday, July 23: 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Friday, July 24: 8:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m. (or while supplies last)

***Doors open at 8 AM on a first come first served basis.***

**Where: Allan Elementary School**

**4900 Gonzales Street, Austin, TX 78702**

Bus options: #4-Montopolis or #350 Airport Blvd.

- Each child will receive a backpack, clothing and school supplies.
- Free dental screenings will be available for children participating in the Back-to-School program!

**Pre-K— 5th Grade ONLY**

The first 400 children are guaranteed to be served each day while supplies last.

Children **MUST** be present to receive their items. Parent must bring ID.

For more information call: **512-477-7454** or visit **[manosdecristo.org](http://manosdecristo.org)**



[www.facebook.com/ManosATX](http://www.facebook.com/ManosATX)



@ManosATX



July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE<sup>X</sup>ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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

MANOS  
de CRISTO



## Back-To-School Program

**Cuándo? 20 al 24 de julio, 2015**

lunes, 20 de julio al jueves, 23 de julio: 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

viernes, 24 de julio: 8:00 —10:30 a.m. (o mientras haya existencias)

***Servimos a los primeros que llegan empezando a las 8 AM.***

**Dónde? Allan Elementary School**

**4900 Gonzales Street, Austin, TX 78702**

Rutas del autobús: #4-Montopolis o #350 Airport Blvd.

- Cada niño recibirá ropa, una mochila y útiles escolares.
- Evaluaciones dentales sin costo para los niños que participan en el programa de Back-to-School!

**Para quiénes? Los niños de pre-kinder hasta 5to grado**

Garantizamos servicio para los primeros 400 niños cada día mientras haya existencias.

Los niños tienen que estar presentes. Los padres tienen que presentar una identificación.

Para más información, llame al: **512-477-7454** or visite:



[www.facebook.com/ManosATX](http://www.facebook.com/ManosATX)



[@ManosATX](https://twitter.com/ManosATX)



July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNECTION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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

*"David We Have Loved, but Jesus?"  
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13*

*New Covenant Fellowship of Austin*

*Matthew Aldas  
July 5, 2015*

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

*When all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh." <sup>2</sup> For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." <sup>3</sup> So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. <sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. <sup>9</sup> David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. <sup>10</sup> And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.*

Mark 6:1-13

*He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup> If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.*

Have you ever had a case of déjà vu? It seems that there are certain times that we feel we have experienced something more than once. I often experience this because I like to tell stories. The problem is that I often tell so many that I forget some of the stories that I have already told. One time within the last week I was telling a story to a friend of mine, and I was really passionate; but I noticed that he did not seem fazed at all about what I was saying. As I was coming to the end of my story, I realized that he was already anticipating where I was going, as if he already knew what I was going to say. So I stopped mid-sentence and asked him if I had already told him this before...to which he replied "Twice."



July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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

***"David We Have Loved, but Jesus?"***  
***2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

***Matthew Aldas***  
***July 5, 2015***

As I studied our lectionary text for this week, I felt like I was reading the same story twice. King David and Jesus of Nazareth appear to have much in common. Yet as we can see from our reading this morning, the way in which they are received by their own people is vastly different. Within the pages of **2 Samuel**, David is treated as if he is the fulfillment of God's plan all along. Jesus on the other hand did not receive the same warm reception from his kinsmen and women who were living in his hometown.

Looking first at our text from the Book of **Samuel**, our text this morning brings to completion a prophecy concerning David, foretold in **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, Chapter 16**. It is here that David is first introduced and proclaimed to be the future leader of God's people. Contextually, Samuel has just been informed by God that King Saul is to be rejected, and that God will establish his own king from the lineage of Jesse, a shepherd from the town of Bethlehem. Now without going too deep into the **Book of Samuel**, it is important to first highlight some important aspects that are at play here. To begin with, the book of **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel** starts essentially with the end of what is known as the Judges period in the formation of Israel's history. Prior to King Saul, who was the first king over Israel, the tribes of God's people were ruled by a series of Judges, which can be read about in the book of **Judges**. The main theme to take away from this period was that it did not work. The Judges were not always faithful to God's covenant, and the theme of the Judges period is that "everyone did what was right in their own eyes."

So we now move into a period where Samuel is anointed as a prophet over all of Israel. He believes that his sons will take responsibility over Israel's people once he is gone. However, we can read in the **8<sup>th</sup> chapter** that Samuel's sons were corrupt, and they did not follow in the ways of God, as did their father. So the people demand a king so that they may be like all the other nations. In his sorrow of the demands of the people, Samuel speaks with God, who informs him that they are not rejecting Samuel; rather they are rejecting God from acting as their true king. God relents and instructs Samuel to give the people a king after their own hearts.

Saul, it appears, was a natural choice to rule over Israel. The book of **Samuel** tells us that Saul was beautiful in appearance, wealthy, and stood "head and shoulders above the rest of Israel." Yet we soon learn that Saul is not a man after God's own heart; rather he is a person who resembles the heart of the people. Therefore, we see in the book that Saul is never really blessed by God because he is not the type of king that God has in mind. The people thought that because Saul was a mighty man from the people of Benjamin, people known for their superior skill in hand-to-hand combat and military campaigns, they had found their true messiah, the anointed one. But we see that God often looks at the inward appearance of people and sees their true character.

Before coming to seminary I worked at a bank in Dallas. I was a successful retail banker working in a new location in the heart of Downtown. Expectations were high for our branch because we were the furthest branch South, which meant that we would be servicing accounts for our corporate banking office and we would be responsible for any retail accounts in the surrounding residential areas. Primarily, I and one other banker were responsible for hitting the sales goals for the entire branch. Tommy and I had to hit the pavement a lot, and we had to try and make connections with people as often as we could. It is what we affectionately referred to as "hustlin'."

July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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

***"David We Have Loved, but Jesus?"***  
***2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

***Matthew Aldas***  
***July 5, 2015***

The two of us were brought there because of our track record of success in the retail establishment. We both had a way of connecting with people and seemed to be able to get new business. However, this branch was much harder for us, and we were really struggling. I remember coming into the office one day and Tommy's desk was empty, and there was a tech guy doing something on his computer. My boss called me into his office and let me know that Tommy was let go. It turns out that he was hurting so bad financially that he was stealing money from the company. I never would have thought that he would have resorted to that sort of behavior.

Now David, on the other hand, was much different from King Saul. He was a short, stocky, ruddy shepherd's boy who was so insignificant that he was out in the field tending the sheep when Samuel arrived to offer the sacrifice to the Lord in Bethlehem. When Samuel asked Jesse to see his sons, he was not even an afterthought. Surely Samuel would not want to concern himself with someone as minor as young David. And this is exactly the point of the text. God does not look at the outward appearance; rather, God examines the heart. And if you go and read **Chapter 16**, you will see that God chose David to be King.

Now getting back to **2 Samuel 5**. This is the culmination for Israel. God has brought David safely to this moment, and God has engineered events in such a way that David is the only rightful person to lead God's people, and to stand as King for both the people of Israel and God. David is the one in who God delights, and David is the one who will unify both the Northern Tribes of Israel and the Southern Tribes of Judah under one monarchy. We see that God takes a humble shepherd boy and uses him to lead God's people into their future. It is through the ministry of King David that God would choose to reveal Godself to the nations of the world. We can see and understand from the text that God was with David, and the people of Israel soon realized also that God was with David. And they chose to follow David because they understood that he was their anointed king. The one whom God chose.

Moving into our New Testament text, we see a similar picture with Jesus of Nazareth. He has come onto the scene proclaiming the kingdom of God and preaching a message of repentance. In the **5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Mark** we can read that Jesus displays his divine powers through three different miracles. First, he is able to heal the demoniac in the tombs who was possessed by a multitude of minions. Second, he is able to heal the woman who suffered hemorrhages of blood. Lastly, he showed his power even over death by bringing the daughter of Jairus back to life. All of this sounds pretty amazing. Can you imagine the scene? What if you were there? Would not seeing a demon-possessed man set free from his oppression, or seeing a woman cease her suffering from never-ending blood flow, or even a dead person brought back to life cause you a moment of pause?

In our modern context we take for granted that we do not see the types of miracles that occur in the ministry of Jesus as normal events. But the reality of the matter is that neither did your average resident of the ancient Near East. Miracles in 1<sup>st</sup> century, 2<sup>nd</sup> temple Judaism did not occur with any sense of regularity. So when a wandering itinerant preacher showed up and started attacking the principalities and spiritual powers of darkness, people would have been amazed. The point is that the text has argued in favor of Jesus as God's anointed one. From the earliest portions of **Mark's Gospel**, John's proclamation of Jesus' superiority to his own ministry, to the Voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism, to the powers of the Kingdom that are so evident in Jesus' ministry. Had any of us been eyewitnesses to any or all of these occurrences, we would have been forced to conclude that there was something unique about Jesus, and perhaps God was with him.

July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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

***"David We Have Loved, but Jesus? "***  
***2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

***Matthew Aldas***  
***July 5, 2015***

However, as we see in this text, Jesus is not treated in the same manner as David was. His kinsmen and women do not welcome him with open arms or validate him or his ministry. They do not praise God that one of their own has been chosen to liberate his people from oppression and injustice. There is no party or great homecoming during this reprieve. Rather, Jesus is essentially mocked and ridiculed. ***"Who is this one who is spouting all of this nonsense? He teaches as one who has authority and he keeps talking about God as if they are related!"*** The people were amazed at his teachings but not for the right reasons. They were amazed because they found his teachings to be scandalous. ***"Aren't you the bastard child of Mary? And don't we know all of your siblings?"*** This is not only a critique of his claim to be God's son but it was also an indictment against his mother. They were saying, "We know who you really are, and we don't buy your story. There is no way that God could be on the side of someone like you."

As I was putting this sermon together, I started thinking about a high-profile attorney from Dallas who was disbarred a few years ago. It turned out that he had represented hundreds if not thousand of clients in civil courts, until someone ran a background check and determined that he did not have a valid license to practice law because he never went to law school. He had lied about his credentials, and no one ever called him out on it. He had played the game so well that he was able to slide by. Sometimes your true identity has a way of casting a shadow over other people's claims. Your greatness is overshadowed by your past.

Unlike David, whom Israel loved, Jesus was mocked. Only a few people from Israel followed him, and he did not die in a manner worthy of any honorable person, let alone a king. We see from the way the gospel accounts end that God was with Jesus in spite of the people's unbelief. And unlike David, and even though all of the signs were there, the people from his town did not honor Jesus. It appears that the humility of his life and upbringing did not coincide with their vision of a coming messiah or the "Son of Man" from ***Daniel 7*** who would overthrow the Roman oppressors.

### **What is your "So what?"**

If we do not know our history as recorded in both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, we might conclude that David was greater than Jesus of Nazareth. However, we know that this is not the case because we are aware of how the story of Jesus of Nazareth ends—being crowned the Lord of Glory and shown to be the Messiah of Israel and the entire world through the power of his resurrection from the dead. The point here is something that God said to Samuel concerning David. God looks at the heart and not the outward appearance. Jesus Christ who was lowly and rejected by his own people was exalted to the right hand of God our Father, and he rules in the cosmos until the consummation of all things takes place. David, on the other hand, started a chain reaction that led to the eventual exile of the Jewish people.

July 10, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

[WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG](http://WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG)

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

***"David We Have Loved, but Jesus?"***  
***2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

***Matthew Aldas***  
***July 5, 2015***

Now when I think about how our text is applicable for us in the here and now, I think about our little church. I think about how we are a small and quirky bunch of people who often do not agree about anything. I think about the fact that financial constraints are a reality that we often have to face. But I also think about the fact that we love Jesus, and we love each other. And even though we are small, we are on the side of God, and that means that God is for us in Jesus Christ. It means that we are not "less than" another because we are not as big, flashy, or successful according to the world's standards. I think about the fact that Jesus Christ, the Lord over all of creation, was despised and rejected by his own people for not having the right background or look. I think about the fact that even when we may feel like we are too insignificant to make a difference for the sake of the Kingdom of God, Jesus said that faith the size of a mustard seed would move mountains.

I want us to walk away today recognizing a little bit more fully that we are worthy of the work of God in the world. While we may not be the biggest church in this city, God is on the side of the humble. And when you are in the world at work or at play, be aware of the fact that God is on your side. Recognize when you feel powerless to effect change due to your own limited resources or abilities that God moves and works through the humble. When you feel anxious or defeated by your limited knowledge or whatever may hinder you from making a difference for God's kingdom, remember that God is with the humble. Exalt in your own limited stature, for in doing so you show yourself to be in solidarity with Jesus Christ. May we look not at the outward appearance but always at the heart.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit. Amen.

