

November 12, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

From the Pastor's Desk



Thanks be to God / Gracias a Dios

Greetings/Saludos New Covenant Fellowship of Austin! ***Thanks be to God*** that after months of prayer and discernment you all and I are teaming up now. While we all are still mourning the passing of our beloved Pastor James Lee, this is a promising restart of the *mission and vision* of our community of faith.

Thank you for the warm welcome. You all have been very kind and generous, and I look forward to serving our Lord Jesus Christ being *a servant brother and colleague* to NCFA. I look forward to working with Genesis PC, Turning Point Ministry and Clearview Sudbury School. The doors of my heart and of the pastor's office will always be open to everyone. Don't hesitate to reach me by phone, e-mail or personal visit.

Let us all join in permanent prayer asking for God's provision to accomplish *the great commission* of our congregation.

Pastor Jesse

November 12, 2016



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Stewardship Dedication Sunday

November 13, 2016

*Weave Us Together
In Unity and Love"*



We are many textures,
we are many colors,
each one different from the other-
But we are entwined with one another
In one great tapestry.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.

*Please bring or mail your pledge
cards so that we may gather together
in unity to ask God's Blessings!*

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Challenge with a Purpose

2016 Matching Grant



GOAL \$30,000.00

Current Donor Gift

\$15,000.00

NCFA Challenge

\$15,000.00



NCFA Last Week's Gift \$4,600.00

NCFA Current Gift \$5,300.00

What are the ways I can give?

- ♦ Mail a donation to the church office
- ♦ Leave a donation during one of the services, or events
- ♦ Online <https://ncfaustin.cloverdonations.com/donation>

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ⇒ A big NCF WELCOME to Reverend Jesus Gonzalez our interim pastor. Praise for his safe arrival. Praise for celebrating 24 years of ordination. Lift up this week's meeting of the APTS Board of Trustees.
- ⇒ Praise for Caly's mother Altagracia celebrating her 81st Birthday.
- ⇒ Lift up travel mercies for Caly and the others going to Cuba.
- ⇒ Praise for Ashley's chance encounter with Katie. Lift up Katie as she continues her studies for EMT certification.
- ⇒ Praise for God's direction which brought Nikkie to the All Saints Service at APTS. Lift up a friend who is experiencing anxiety over a job offer after being unemployed for an extended period of time. Lift up Nikkie's interview for a new position.
- ⇒ Lift up all military personnel, their families, and support systems. Keep them all safe from harm at home and abroad.
- ⇒ Lift up God's provision for the ideal placement for a child in need of care.
- ⇒ Praise for another successful season of youth football and the many opportunities to witness to the children and their families.
- ⇒ Lift up Doris's sister Georgetta for continued recovery from knee surgery. Lift up her son who is finally receiving the help he needs for personal issues. Lift up co-workers who are struggling with health issues.
- ⇒ Lift up Mary and her family as they grieve the death of her mother.
- ⇒ Lift up Scott for healing and health.
- ⇒ Lift up all people who are in Hospice care. Lift up their caregivers and families as they watch events unfold. Lift up a friend in Hospice who dreams of a spring mission trip.
- ⇒ Lift up Danita and her grandson as they protect the home front awaiting his parents' return this week.
- ⇒ Lift up Rex for healing, resolution to health issues, and relief from pain as he and his medical team contemplate possible surgery.
- ⇒ Lift up Craig for healing from a broken collar bone.
- ⇒ Lift up Bill, Nancy and his mother Gloria.
- ⇒ Lift up the homeless people who are exposed to inclement weather.
- ⇒ Lift up seminary students.

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N C F A SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA Sunday Schedule

8:30am will resume soon!

10:15am - Worship Service

1507 Wilshire Blvd.

9am Adult Sunday School

10am Fellowship

10:45am - Children's Church



NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, November 13th

Pastor Jesse Gonzalez

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

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3rd Doug and Kathy Smith
8th George and Grace Washington
17th John and Doreette Ayensu
30th Jeff and Carol Saddington

3rd Sam Okyere Mireku
5th Ellis Oglesby
8th Francisco Ramirez
9th Krystal Parsons
15th Patricia Nemir
18th Vi Lee
Koryn Irene Aldas
19th Charlie Phillips
21st Comfort Agbahu
Dylan Shubitz
24th Vernon Bailey
25th Isabella Grace Sullivan
25th Carol Saddington
28th Matthew Cox
Tamara Smith
30th Stephanie Lenz Sullivan

Session Members

***Rev. Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez**
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
***Vacant**
Worship & Membership

Deacons

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

NOVEMBER

13th **26th Sunday after Pentecost**
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Rev. Jesse Gonzalez, preaching
School Ages & Nursery 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

15th 6:30pm Men's Ministry Dinner;
7pm Study

16th 6:30pm Fellowship dinner;
7:00pm Prayer and Praise Worship

20th **Christ the King/Reign of Christ**
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Rev. Jesse Gonzalez, preaching
School Ages & Nursery 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

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NCFA CONNEXION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

The God of the Living!

Luke 20:27-38

Pastor Jess Gonzalez

November 6, 2015

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

25th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Good morning my sisters and brothers, I stand humbly before you all in the presence of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am here to serve you and to work shoulder to shoulder with you all. I am here not as one who comes to you as an all knowing expert, but as one who is responding to God's call through the gracious invitation of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Mission Presbytery COM's approval and your support.

My transitional ministry with NCFA is manifold: 1) to continue the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in our *neck of the woods*; 2) to continue the vision that you and our late beloved pastor James Lee shared and cherished; and 3) to keep our fellowship to move forward and to reaffirm our identity as a committed community of faith. **So help me God!**

TEXT

Psalm 98 comes to us in time of a confrontational and controversial national election as a reminder of who really is in charge regardless the outcome. There are imperfect candidates with open/hidden agendas for all elected positions and controversial issues to vote for. Verse 2: ***The Lord announced his victory; he made his saving power know to the nations.*** This is not a political victory speech; it is *victory over death* affirmation. Although still active in the human realm, death has conceded defeat since resurrection morning. The question is not if you are *with her or with him* in this presidential election but, are we with God? Are we with the God of the living? Are we with the God that has saved our souls in Christ?

From the original in Greek of *Luke 20:27-38*, verse 36b caught my attention: ***They are the sons of God, because they have risen*** (ἀναστάσεως = ***anastaseōs*** = ***resurrection***) ***from death.***

In the Russian and Hispanic cultures ***Anastasio(a)*** is a first name for males and females. Though there are a lot of Anastasias, we might be more familiar with the story of Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia who was finally confirmed dead in 2007 after DNA tests of remains of her entire family were found in 1991. On the opposite the Greek root for the first name ***Atanasio*** = immortal.

In medical science ***Anesthesia*** comes from Greek root ἀναισθησία (anaisthēsia) = insensibility.

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LESSON

The Sadducees rejected the **Oral Law** as proposed by the Pharisees. Rather, they saw the **Torah** as the sole source of divine authority. The written law, in its depiction of the priesthood, corroborated the power and enforced the hegemony of the Sadducees in Judean society.

According to Josephus, the Sadducees believed that:

There is no fate.

God does not commit evil.

Man has free will; “man has the free choice of good or evil.”

The soul is not immortal; there is no *afterlife*, and

There are no rewards or penalties after death.

The Sadducees did not believe in *resurrection of the dead*, but believed in the traditional Jewish concept of Sheol for those who had died.

The religious responsibilities of the Sadducees included the maintenance of the Temple in Jerusalem.

[Wikipedia]

As we all heard from the text reading, the *Sadducees* came to Jesus with a Scriptural reference on ***Deuteronomy 25:5*** about rising children of a deceased male from another male relative marrying the widow. The Book of Ruth is about a foreigner widow returning with her mother-in-law Naomi (a widow herself too) to Israel and Naomi securing a male relative Boaz to marry Ruth and eventually giving birth to Obed. The book ends with the women of the neighborhood telling everyone: ***A son has been born to Naomi!*** And Obed became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of King David. This time the Sadducees present a no-happy ending tale of a woman marrying seven brothers that eventually died consecutively and the woman herself died childless. Their big question: In the resurrection, whose wife will she be?

We all must be glad in having the answer of an insider, someone that knows about it first hand, and someone that has the instructions manual: ***the men and women who are worthy to rise from death and live in the age to come will not then marry.*** I remember when I first got this notion in Seminary came to our family apartment in campus and said to my wife: *aren't you happy that in heaven you and I will no longer be husband and wife?* If for whatever reason you have married more than once, relax.

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CONCLUSION

In Christ we all are *Athanasios* (*immortals spiritually*) but the risk is that one or more of us would be **Anesthasios** (spiritually insensible). We are called to come to life from our mortality, we are called to feel our spiritual immortality while we are still walking on this earth; we are called to sense the hope on the God who rules the world. Every time we get together here we praise the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of all Saints, the God of James Lee, the God of Genesis PC, the God of NCFA, because for God all are alive.

Amen.

The God of the Living!

The God of the Living!



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**HELP US
HELP OTHERS
BY DONATING TO OUR**

THANKSGIVING BASKETS



Let's make it great for eight pre-selected families

Menu

Turkey > Cranberry Sauce > Mashed Potatoes > Gravy > Dressing > Green bean casserole > Dessert

Here is your part in this “labor of love”!

Individually, or with another person or couple in the congregation, purchase the following items and

return them to the church on or before

November 20th.

Cranberry Sauce > Instant Mashed Potatoes > Gravy Mix or in a jar > Seasoned bread crumbs for the dressing > Chicken broth for the dressing (2 Cans) > Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken Soup (2 cans) > French-fried onions (1 Can) > French-style Green beans (2 cans)

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November 20 Thanksgiving Luncheon

“We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing....”

Sign up to bring a favorite dish!

**Turkey - Ham - Stuffing - Taters -
Veggies - Salad - Fruit - Beverage - Dessert**



Announcements



November Food Pantry Needs **Can Soups (Veggie & Meats)**



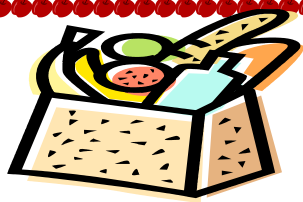
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We Care Kits

"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."

We are currently accepting the following donations

Food/Drink Items:

Granola Bars, Trail mix, or peanut butter and crackers
Water bottles – 8 ounce size

Hygiene/Personal Items:

Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Travel size hand sanitizer or hotel size bar soap
Pocket size Kleenex
Men's size small crew ankle length white or black socks
Quart size freezer bags

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 or call me at

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 bi-weekly to NCFA

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