

August 5, 2016

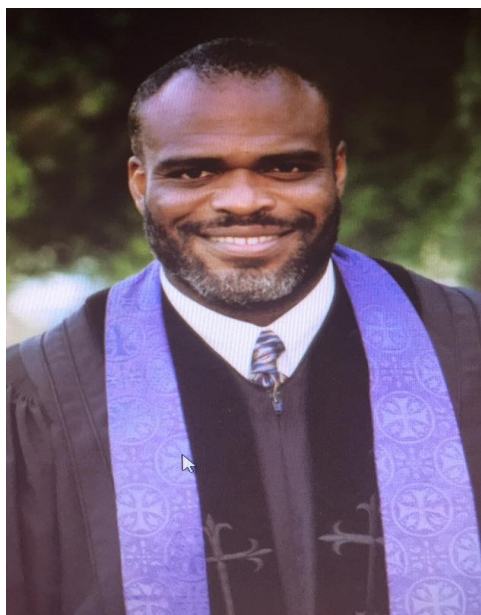


NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
James H. Lee Clean Air Project
[Formerly James Hickson Lee Memorial Fund₁]**



The family of the late TE James Hickson Lee and New Covenant Fellowship of Austin would like to express appreciation for contributions received to date to ensure that the shared space used by New Covenant Fellowship of Austin, and its dedicated space, will have clean air for breathing. This project recognizes Pastor Lee, the church's organizing pastor and its pastor from 2004 – May 6, 2016, as well as an issue that was challenging for him and of ultimate importance to him.

This fund was in response to the family's request for contributions to the James Hickson Lee Memorial Fund in lieu of flowers, and the church's desire to continue to carry on his vision here at NCFA and in the community. The name was changed to NCFA James H. Lee Clean Air Project to prevent use of the limited funds to set up the account as an individual Memorial Fund, with its own 501(c)3 and Tax Id.

This project is operating with its own board. Ruling Elders Viola "Vi" Lee and Nicole "Nikkie" Shubitz, his mom and sister, are co-chairs of the board. Joining them on the board are: Ruling Elders Cathy Angel, Tim Lenz, and Charles Robinson, and Deacon Ulysses Cox. This board will make decision on how the funds are used, and will have its own checking account and require two signatures, the church's treasurer and one of two members of the board. Statements will be issued on a regular basis to those making contributions. Initial donations currently total \$4,925.00.

Because of the challenge and expense of insuring that clean air exists and remains that way in an aging building, the projects reach is limited to this area. Thank you for loving Pastor Lee and participating with us in this endeavor.

Viola Lee

**Ruling Elder Viola Lee, Chair
NCFA James H. Hickson Clean Air Project
1507 Wilshire Boulevard
Austin, TX**

₁Authorized by the Session of NCFA May, 12, 2016.

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The Rev. James Hickson Lee Endowed Scholarship At Austin Community College

A scholarship has been created at Austin Community College to honor Pastor Lee and to continue his work and legacy in the community.

The Rev. James Hickson Lee endowed scholarship is part of a group of scholarships that students at ACC can apply for each spring semester. The stated purpose of the scholarship is, "to assist ACC students who have faced significant challenges in their lives." Those challenges could be health related, family related, work related, or just life related. ACC has a very diverse student body, in every sense of the word, and there are some amazing students who have overcome, or are still working on, difficult circumstances in their lives, and who have interesting and solid goals for the future.

Students who apply for ACC scholarships write an essay as part of the application process. For this scholarship, applicants will be asked to respond to this additional question - "Please tell about an individual in your life who has supported and encouraged you to reach your goals and how that person has made a difference in your life."

If you would like to contribute to the Rev. James Hickson Lee Endowed Scholarship fund, you may do so online or by sending a check to the Austin Community College Foundation Office. Here is the information from the Foundation Office -

To contribute online:

- ⇒ Go to www.austincc.edu/foundation
- ⇒ Click on the orange *Give Now* button
- ⇒ Select your method of payment
- ⇒ Complete the form (*Note: Your credit card information must match your card and the address associated with that card*)
- ⇒ Under "Donation Information," you may designate your gift to a particular scholarship program using the drop down menu next to the question, *How would you like for us to use your donation?*

You will find the "Rev. James Hickson Lee Endowed Scholarship" in the drop down menu. Please remember to select it.

If you would prefer to send a check to the ACC Foundation Office, you can find the form to fill out and the Foundation's address on the same Web page, www.austincc.edu/foundation. Click on the link, "How to donate" on the left hand side. Donations of any amount are welcome.

**It is a great joy to continue Pastor Lee's
vision and voice in the**

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You have a Voice! Share it!

Who are the future leaders you see? Let us know!

The Nominating Committee is requesting **your recommendations for Elders and Deacons** in our next class. **"What do they do?", you ask??**

Deacons... persons who keep in touch with other members and offer care and support in times of sickness, death, or other needs.

They might do any of the following for their assigned members: **call or email** a member to follow-up on a prayer request, **coordinate food** for a new parent or mourner, mail an **anniversary or birthday card**, honor a member during worship or **present a Bible or gift from the church**, have **lunch with a member**, arrange **holiday gifts and food baskets** for families who need them.

In general, deacons are to be persons of spiritual character, honest repute, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.

You have a Voice! Share it!

Who are the future leaders you see? Let us know!

Elders... members of the church leadership who make decisions on behalf of the congregation, administer the church's finances and education, and lead the church in mission, evangelism and congregational life.

They might do any of the following *in accordance with their gifts*: **encourage others** in worship and service, **equip the people** for their tasks in the Church or their **mission** in the world, **visit and comfort** and care for the people (the sick, lonely, oppressed), cultivate the ability to **teach** the Bible, **exercise leadership**, and serve as commissioner to higher governing bodies when elected.

In general, elders are to be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment.

I have a Voice! How do I share it?

Three options...

(1) Fill out a nomination **form found on the back of the information table in the fellowship hall.**

(2) Tell a member of the **Nom Committee**:

Co-Chairs Elders Randy & Mary Mojica

Elders Randy and Mary Mojica

Elders Kathy Smith

Deacon Uly Cox

Member-at-Large: Vi Lee

Member-at-Large: Rey Mojica

Ex Officio Pastor Trish Holland

OR (3) **Email** info@ncfaustin.org

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Latin Dance Classes

Where: 1507 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 6

When: Each Saturday in August, Starting **8/6/2016**

Time : 4pm – 6pm

Who : Adult Singles and Couples

How : Register on-line @ www.ncfaustin.org

Come and learn the wonderful dances of Salsa/Mambo/Merengue/Bachata with former Jazzy Dance Company member Robert P. Booth

Contact: Robert Booth @ rpbooth66@gmail.com



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PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ⇒ Greetings to NCF from Executive Presbyter Dr. Sallie Watson.
- ⇒ Thank you to Rev. George Holland for his sermon on the Tares and Wheat. Sometimes we have to be patient with the Tares (evil) until the harvest (Judgment) when God will take care of everything.
- ⇒ Lift up 15 year old Ashton who has just begun treatment for his recently diagnosed leukemia. He was encouraged to learn that he has the most treatable kind of leukemia. Lift up his family and friends as they adjust to this sudden change in their lives.
- ⇒ Praise for Genevieve, Penelope, and Jade having a wonderful summer in Quebec. Lift up travel mercies for them as they return to Austin—and anxiously waiting Robert—on Wednesday.
- ⇒ Praise for Angel taking 1st Place at Nationals in trampoline. Way to show ‘em how!
- ⇒ Lift up Sallie’s friend and his wife Harold and Megan as he receives treatment for aggressive cancer. Lift up their young children.
- ⇒ Praise for Mary’s leadership with the children during this morning’s Time with Children and Young-At-Heart-Oliver.
- ⇒ Praise for Young-At-Heart-Oliver’s enthusiastic participation with the lively Children’s Choir.
- ⇒ Lift up Cathy as she practices Pastor Lee’s words to “Respond not React” with a co-worker causing a difficult situation.
- ⇒ Lift up the families of the victims of the Hot Air Balloon Disaster this weekend.
- ⇒ Lift up the people involved in Sunday morning’s shooting on 6th Street.
- ⇒ Lift up a JOB for Uly!
- ⇒ Welcome visitors Matt and Clair whose friend told them about NCF.
- ⇒ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! PRAISE the Lord! Safia is doing great in Houston. She has found a church and attends regularly. She is working at M.D. Anderson.
- ⇒ Lift up the Medrano family whose father died recently. Lift up his widow Maria.
- ⇒ Lift up Charlotte who has been diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. Lift up her daughter Linda who is caring for her.
- ⇒ Lift up comfort, peace, and healing for all families who have a loved one struggling with illness.
- ⇒ Lift up Mitch and Monique for humility and openness to God to be made new.
- ⇒ Happy August Birthdays!

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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

Sunday, August 7th

Elder Danita Nelson will be preaching

Sunday, August 14th

Seminarian Jaciel Hernandez will be preaching

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am

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

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

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

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5th Jimmy Bohn and Kimberly Hall
25th Vernon and Doris Bailey
28th Bill and Nancy Harris
28th Bill and Edna Parish

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
*Vacant
Worship & Membership

Deacons

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

4th Alexandria Washington
Carver Washington
T'ahna Daniels
5th Safia Essien
7th Aaron Lee
Roxann Vallejo
9th Ben Hooks
Chris Cortez
Illiyan (Chica) Cortez
10th Gray Montgomery
11th Katasha Williams
15th D'Sean "De De" Johnson
17th Mary Mojica
Charles Nemir
Eddie Daniels III
24th Zachary Ryan Castilleja
Rachel Draper-Marion
25th Rick Oglesby
27th Abraham Weaver
Eddie Daniels, III
29th Tyler Weaver
30th Rev. Jeff Saddington
31st Henny Trifiro

August 2016

7th Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Family-Friendly Sunday
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Elder Danita Nelson, preaching
Sunday School Ages 3-5 (Rm.1);
Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

9th 6:30pm Men's Ministry Dinner;
7pm Study

10th 6:30pm Fellowship dinner.
7:00pm Prayer and Praise Worship

14th Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Seminarian Jaciel Hernandez, preaching
Sunday School Ages 3-5 (Rm.1);
Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

“Patience with the Weeds”

Matthew 13:24-30

Rev. George Holland

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
July 31, 2016**

I have had nightmares about sermons,
but this is the first time I’ve ever had a dream about a scripture.

In my dream the other night,

I am driving along a highway about dusk
when suddenly I came alongside a ripened field of grain.

I pulled over and stopped.

The hue of the field was dull gold,
highlighted by the setting sun.

The full heads of grain stood remarkably even.

Then I saw standing about fifteen feet into the field
a clump of tall green Johnson grass.

Without any hesitation, I got out of the car,
walked directly into the field,

with my eyes only on the tall clump of Johnson grass
which I promptly yanked up by its roots
and threw aside.

It was not until I stepped back to the roadside

to view the now “perfect” field,
that I saw the path of bent and broken wheat stalks
made by my heavy foot steps.

I tried to pull some of the stalks upright
but saw it would be of no use.

The last thing I remember was the feeling of sadness
that came over me
as I stood looking at the bent and marred field.

My dream missed several important details in Jesus’ parable,
but its main thrust was accurate.

Because we are likely to damage the good along with the bad
and because it is God, not human beings,
who will conduct the final harvest,
God calls us to be patient with the weeds in our lives.

Patience with the weeds!
That’s not easy, is it?

Most gardeners I know have a “weed mania!”

Particularly in the spring, when new plants are struggling toward maturity,
we quickly uproot any strange growth which steals into our cultivated plots.

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This “weed mania” carries over into other areas of our lives.

An almost necessary ploy for ambitious politicians
(see this morning’s newspaper)
is to suddenly announce the sighting
of new “weeds” in our community of goodness
and then promise prompt uprooting
if he or she is elected.

Others of us, make an avocation out of identifying what is wrong
in the lives of other persons around us
and recommending drastic surgery to correct it.

“If only she wasn’t married to him,”

“If only they weren’t members of our church,”

In all of us, there is the instinct to pull up the weeds
and fling them aside!

Our attitude: “All we need to do is get rid of these weeds!!”

Behind this attitude, Jesus is saying, is a spiritual question:
a spiritual impatience – “Why isn’t God doing something about it?
If God won’t, we will!!
And we’ll do it in God’s Name!”

It is not just any weed, that Jesus uses in this parable.
The weed is “tares!”

Tares are a weed called “bearded darnel.”

In their early stages, tares so nearly resemble the wheat,
that it was impossible
for even the most knowledgeable farmer to tell them apart.

Later when the darnel and wheat had “headed out,”
even a child could distinguish them.

By then, however, the roots of the two were so intertwined
it was impossible to separate them
without destroying both.

The only choice was to let them grow together until the time of harvest.

So it often is with people.

Human beings, like bearded darnel in its early stages,
are difficult to “read.”

Once we get inside our stereotype images and snap judgments,
learn something about their backgrounds
and the forces that have influenced their lives,
hear their dreams and frustrations,
it becomes impossible to label them either weed or grain,
much less to condemn them
and abandon them,
to yank them out of life in the community.

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This does not mean we are not tempted to do it.

Evil strategy is to say: “Go ahead! Stop being so wishy washy!
Take the knowledge of good and evil in your own hands
and do something about it!!”

But Jesus is saying since God is the final judge,
we don’t have to constantly put on the black robe of a judge
and rush in to right every evil we see.

WE CAN BE PATIENT AND LEAVE THE FINAL HARVEST TO
GOD!

It is said that no one treated Abraham Lincoln with more contempt than Stanton.

He called Lincoln a “cunning clown.”

He nicknamed him “the original gorilla,”
and said that a prominent explorer was a fool
to wander around Africa trying to capture a gorilla,
when he could have found one so easily in Springfield, Illinois.

Lincoln said nothing.

He made Stanton his war minister
because Stanton was the best man for the job.

He treated Stanton with every courtesy.

The years wore on.

The night came when the assassin’s bullet
murdered Lincoln in the theatre.

In the little room to which the President’s body was taken,
there stood that same Stanton,

and, looking down on the silent face of Lincoln
in all its ruggedness,

Stanton said through his tears,
“There lies the greatest ruler of men
the world has ever seen!”

The patience of love had conquered in the end.

You and I may not be as passive or as long suffering as Lincoln in our patience,
but what counts is this:

GIVING ANOTHER PERSON ROOM FOR REPENTANCE;
ALLOWING HIM/HER TIME TO TURN -- TO CHANGE.

Such patience is not a permissive smile or shrug in the face of evil,
but it does not condemn or abandon either.

Rather, through the power of love,
it keeps the relationship intact . . . and growing.

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July 31, 2016**

Jesus himself is the best example of this.

Oh how patient he was with his stumbling disciples and followers!

How patient he was with the crowds who gathered
around him!

At first with glowing praise –

at the end with despair in their hearts.

How patient he was with the sick and the poor!

How patient he was even with Pilate!

And how patient with those who crucified him:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!”

And so he has been

and continues to be with us.

Christian patience is the awareness

that we are often more likely to do more harm than good

by acting impulsively

and self-righteously

to correct one another’s faults.

Let us also remember that the wheat and the darnel
have finally to be separated.

The darnel is slightly poisonous and causes sickness and dizziness.

So, too, Jesus says: Judgment comes in the end!

Judgment is not hasty, but it comes!

Patience with the weeds ends;

the good and the bad are separated.

But this is the good news for the faithful;

let us remember that the judgment is called a “harvest” –
the gathering of the faithful!

Meanwhile God is patient and loving.

“Give thanks to the Lord!

His steadfast love endures forever!”

And we are to exercise the same patience.

Remember, too, we have weeds in our own garden.

The best way to be patient with others

is to live close to our own need for mercy

and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

Most of all, because of Christ’s death and resurrection,

we have been given new space to turn and change,

and been made free to lay aside our own weed manias

and devote ourselves to extending

Christ’s patience with the weeds of the world.

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**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
July 31, 2016**

I invite you now to revisit with me
the field of ripening grain with its golden hue.
Together we spot a large bushy green weed
marring the field's perfection.
What are we going to do?
Wade through the stalks and
triumphantly yank up the weed for all to see?
Or patiently and lovingly
let God be God . . . the patient harvester!

May God the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
grant each of us the power of patience!
Amen

When you're
tempted to lose
patience with
someone, think
how patient God
has been with
you all the time.



**NEW COVENANT
FELLOWSHIP**

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
Is partnering to help
First Presbyterian Church of McAllen

Please donate New or Gently Used
Children's Books



A Collection Box will be placed at the Back Table

You at UT

Your Opportunities are Unlimited at UT

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

ENGINEERING DAY CAMP

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2016

Women in Engineering Program Equal Opportunity in Engineering Program

The University of Texas at Austin
Cockrell School of Engineering
(512) 471-5650

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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 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 today!
(512)228-4712

