

January 7, 2017



NCFA CONNE**X**ION!

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

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



*Rev. Jesus Juan Gonzalez  
"Jesse"*

## Greetings/Saludos, New Covenant Fellowship of Austin!

As we start the New Year of 2017 and the Liturgical Year which are marked by the celebrations of the Epiphany on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> and the **Baptism of the Lord** on Sunday the 2<sup>th</sup>.

You all are invited to join us on Sunday, January the 8<sup>th</sup> after Worship Service to learn about the Hispanic Tradition of the **Three Kings** and to eat the **Rosca de Reyes**.



NCFA Family and Friends I am so very proud to announce that our ...

## 2016 Matching Grant Goal Was Met! PRAISE GOD! PRAISE GOD!



Total Donations Received:  
**\$15,000.00**



**NCFA  
TOTAL BLESSING  
\$30,000.00**

**Want God Do It,  
Right in the Nick  
of Time!**



Peace / Paz / Shalom:  
**Pastor Jesse**

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

**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](http://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](http://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 community.

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# PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ⇒ Happy New Year! Pray for God to rain down blessing after blessing upon NCF in the coming year.
- ⇒ Praise for the arrival of Connie Jones' granddaughter. Zaynah Jean was born one month early on December 23, by C-Section. Naomi is recovering from the surgery. Congratulations to the new family. (Where are the pictures, Connie?)
- ⇒ Praise for the beautiful music picked out for us by Jimmy and Kimberley even though they could not be in worship this weekend.
- ⇒ Lift up Vi's family for travel mercies. Praise for the joy she is sharing with Lee.
- ⇒ Praise for Natalie's successful surgery last Thursday. She is doing great! Her parents are still feeling worn out.
- ⇒ Lift up a friend named Becky who fell in her Assisted Living Center and broke her nose. She and her husband need prayers.
- ⇒ Praise that Susan's daughter was not seriously hurt when she wrecked Susan's car. Lift up Susan as she deals with the car replacement hassle.
- ⇒ Praise from Chris for having the family together for Christmas. Lift up Angela for relief from pain and a diagnosis to help.
- ⇒ Lift up save travel for Fortune as he returns to El Paso. Lift up a safe return to the NE for Placid.
- ⇒ Lift up Joan who has leukemia.
- ⇒ Lift up Carol as she and her sister continue to care for their mother.
- ⇒ Praise for Pastor Jesse's middle son Abner visiting for a couple weeks.
- ⇒ Lift up a friend named Marc who is receiving Hospice Services at home.
- ⇒ Lift up a cousin John and his family who are going through several transitions.
- ⇒ Lift up Daisay as she deals with several transitions.
- ⇒ Praise from Pastor Jesse for the week spent with his family in Arkansas. His youngest son Obed will finish his college course work in May, do his last semester of student teaching next fall, and graduate in December. He will then be certified to teach grades 1-12!
- ⇒ Praise for Rex feeling well enough to attend worship.
- ⇒ Happy Birthday to Randy.

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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, January 8<sup>th</sup>*

*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 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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1-5 Wonho and Charlie Shin  
1-15 George and Grace Washington  
1-20 George and Trish Holland  
1-21 Scott and Ashley Phillips  
1-31 Oliver and Elizabeth Smith

1<sup>st</sup> Kimberly Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Katie Keeler  
4<sup>th</sup> Doug Caroom  
6<sup>th</sup> Craig Dyer  
7<sup>th</sup> Josh Harris  
13<sup>th</sup> Patricia Caroom  
15<sup>th</sup> George Washington IV  
16<sup>th</sup> Stacy Robinson  
17<sup>th</sup> Nora Quinn  
17<sup>th</sup> Ashley Phillips  
25<sup>th</sup> Awudizi Vida-Torku  
29<sup>th</sup> Roman Duran  
Doug Smith  
Tiffany Williams

## Session Members

**\*Rev. Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez**  
Interim Moderator

**\*Vacant**  
Clerk of Session

**\*Elder Oliver Smith**  
Administration & Personnel

**\* Vacant**  
Buildings & Grounds

**\*Elder Randy Mojica**  
Children and Youth

**\*Vacant**  
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

# January

8<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord

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)  
Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

10<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Men's Ministry Dinner  
7 pm Study

11<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner

15<sup>th</sup> 2nd Sunday after Christmas

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)  
Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

Congregational Meeting  
immediately following worship.

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NCFA CONNEXION!

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*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

## Jesus Made In Our Likeness

Psalm 148 and Hebrews 2:10-18

**Pastor Jesse Gonzalez**

January 1, 2017

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin  
First Sunday after Christmas/  
New Year Day

### INTRODUCTION:

Scholars of Greek consider its writing to be more polished and eloquent than any other book of the New Testament. The book has earned the reputation of being a *masterpiece*. It has also been described as an intricate New Testament book. Scholars believe it was written for [Jewish Christians](#) who lived in [Jerusalem](#). Its purpose was *to exhort Christians to persevere in the face of persecution*. The theme of the epistle is the doctrine of the person of Christ and his role as *mediator between God and humanity*.

The epistle opens with an exaltation of Jesus as "*the radiance of God's glory, the express image of his being, and upholding all things by his powerful word*." The epistle presents Jesus with the titles "pioneer" or "forerunner", "Son" and "[Son of God](#)", "priest" and "[high priest](#)".

The epistle casts Jesus as both exalted Son and high priest, a unique dual [Christology](#).

[Wikipedia]

### TEXT:

#### Structure

This chapter can be grouped (with cross references to other parts of the Bible):

[2:1-4](#) = Do Not Neglect Salvation

[2:5-9](#) = The Son Made Lower than Angels

[2:10-18](#) = **Bringing Many Sons to Glory**

#### Cross references

[2:8](#): [Psalm 8:4-6](#)

[2:12](#): [Psalm 22:22](#)

[2:13](#): [2 Samuel 22:3](#); [Isaiah 8:17](#); [Isaiah 8:18](#)

#### Verses 14-15

**14:** *Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death (θανάτου = [thanatou](#)) he might destroy the Devil, who has the power (κράτος = [kratos](#)) over death, 15: and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear (φόβῳ = [phobō](#)) of death.*

[Bible Hub Interlinear]

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## *Jesus Made In Our Likeness*

Psalm 148 and Hebrews 2:10-18

*Pastor Jesse Gonzalez*

January 1, 2017

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

First Sunday after Christmas/

New Year Day

### LESSON:

I still have problems to entirely understand how I am made at God's image, particularly since I learned that God is spirit and not tangible organic matter or substance. Most probably for the same reasons our grammatical limitation to understand God only as masculine addressing God as he and him. When Satan disguised as a snake tempted Eve at Eden with eating the forbidden fruit, said: *you will be like God, and know what is good and what is bad* (Genesis 3:4b). And from then on humans became mortals.

Today's text in Hebrews makes an interesting and miraculous reversal of the creation story in Genesis. Now God is giving us Jesus in our human likeness with our human feelings in a new creation capable to defeat the death that came through the so called *original sin of disobedience*.

In being subject to the pain and the trauma of death, the divine nature of Jesus destroyed the power of death over our biological bodies in order to be transformed into immortal spiritual souls.

We all share the pain and sorrow of losing our Pastor James last year. Is it fair to our Christian faith to be afraid thinking that the ministry of NCFA has no future?

### CONCLUSION



*"If nothing saves us from death,  
may love at least save us from life."*

*"Si nada nos salva de la muerte,  
al menos que el amor nos salve de la vida."*

Pablo Neruda



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## ***Jesus Made In Our Likeness***

**Psalm 148 and Hebrews 2:10-18**

***Pastor Jesse Gonzalez***

**January 1, 2017**

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin**

**First Sunday after Christmas /**

**New Year Day**



*Try again and again, till fear will be afraid of you.*

Let's face it; we all are going to experience a biological death.

But Jesus having being made in our likeness went through death to overcome it in his divine resurrection, and in doing so liberating us from that permanent agony of being fearful of our mortality.

By God's mercy and grace, here we are in the first day of 2017. Let us not be stressed thinking personally if 2017 is my last year of life, but allow yourself to be happily motivated to give whatever is the rest of your lifetime to prepare Jesus Christ second coming.

**¡Feliz Año Nuevo! / Happy New Year!**

***Amen.***



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**Congregational Meeting!!!**

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**

**Immediately following our Morning Worship Service**

**We will approve the budget for 2017  
and elect new officers.**

**Your attendance is extremely important!!**

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**

**12:30-2pm at Central Presbyterian Church**

**Dr. Asante Todd, Austin Seminary professor is leading a**

**Lunch and Learn**

**Racism "A Common Narrative Amidst Cultural Conflict."**

**Dr. Todd did his Internship with Pastor James Lee at NCFA.**

## GIRL DAY AT UT ENGINEERING

Know a kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl (or boy) who loves science?

**Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day and the Girl Day STEM Festival** will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 12 – 4 p.m. on the UT Austin campus** with a Science in the Movies demonstration show from 4 – 5 p.m. Over 8,000 elementary and middle school students are expected to participate with over 1,300 volunteers and over 150 student organizations, community organizations and companies volunteering. Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is presented by **Halliburton** & the Girl Day STEM Festival is presented by **Texas Instruments**.

Students and their parents or educators are invited to Girl Day at UT to:

- explore engineering through Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day grade-specific, hands-on engineering activities and explore engaging demonstrations hosted by volunteers, student organizations, corporate partners and community organizations.
- have fun exploring math, science, computer science and all of STEM through hands-on STEM activities and engaging demonstrations hosted by volunteers, student organizations, corporate partners and community organizations in the Girl Day STEM Festival.
- interact with over 150 organizations and over 1,300 students, faculty and engineers from industry.

**Register your participants today!**

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# Hygiene Kits



**We are currently accepting the following donations for Hygiene Kits for Sacred Heart Catholic Church Respite Center in McAllen, Texas**

**Hygiene/Personal Items:**

- Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Hotel size bar soap or Travel size body wash
- Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- Quart size bags

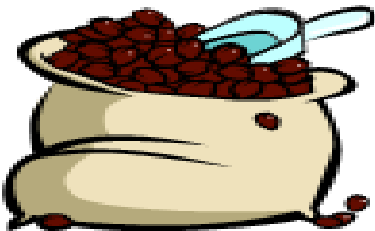
All donated items should be placed in the donations box located on the back table by the AV equipment. If you have any questions please email me: [calyflower2020@yahoo.com](mailto:calyflower2020@yahoo.com) or call me at (512)228-4712.

*“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*

## 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**