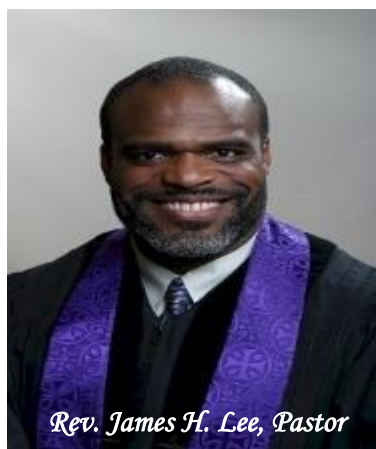
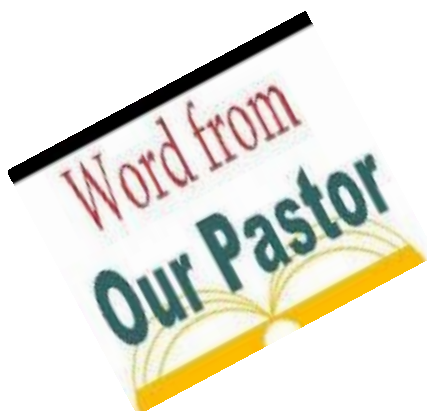


February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor

I am grateful for life and the outpouring of love received from so many for my birthday. Thank you. I pray that each of you knows that you are loved and that your life has meaning and value. Live each day to the fullest-----I'm not saying to live your whole life in one day. LoL!

On Sunday we will have a very full day. The 8:15 service will be at the Wilshire location because of the Marathon. Shane Blackshear will be preaching on "The Veil and the Unveiling" (2 Corinthians 4:1-6), and I will preach at the 10:15 service on "Qualified to Run" (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). After worship, we will celebrate our seminarians with pizza and fellowship; the Belhar Conversations with resume; and we will distribute door hangers and pray for the community.

As we prepare for Shrove Tuesday, February 17th, I want to remind us to come to the church for worship, food, fellowship, and fundraising for our Deacon's ministry fund. We welcome back our beloved brother Abraham Weaver, who will be providing live music throughout Tuesday's dinner and fundraiser. We continue to pray for his music ministry and leadership at the Redemption City Church.

On Wednesday, February 18th, we will have our Ash Wednesday service. As you may or may not know, Ash Wednesday begins Lent, which is a season when we identify with Christ Jesus in His suffering. No, we are not masochists. There's something powerful when you know that your Savior, Master, and Lord suffered for your sake. In doing so, he understands us in our suffering. The other side of the coin is moving our faith from beyond our heads to our hearts and identifying with Him as he suffered separation from God and the emptying of His divinity. Personally, I would rather eat brussels sprouts and raw turnips covered in Tabasco sauce than suffer; but this is the season to intentionally discern new understandings out of our suffering.

My texts of focus during this season are:

- Philippians 3:10-11 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- Isaiah 58:6-9 6 "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? 8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'

Church, I want us to experience healing, liberty, and breakthroughs on the other side of Lent. Most folks use the 40 days to fast or quit sweets, sodas, alcohol, etc. I would like to encourage us to do something rather than take something away. What happens if families commit to one more dinner at home around the table? What happens if every day you commit to speaking an affirming word in the life of our loved ones or those challenging persons? What happens if you lived within your means or according to your budget for 40 days? What would happen if you drank 64-125oz. of water and exercised 30 minutes a day? What would happen if you read 40 chapters by reading John (21), Romans (16), and Hebrews (13)? Please consider incorporating Seek the City 2015 in your devotion, or use the Austin Seminary devotional along with others who are joining the Lenten Offering led by seminarian Cliff Frederick and hosted by Genesis Presbyterian Church.

Last year I reexamined ethicist H. Richard Niebuhr's Christ and Culture, which addressed the following 5 themes: Christ against Culture, Christ of Culture, Christ above Culture, Christ and Culture in Paradox, and Christ Transforming Culture. This year, I plan to finish reading Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership: How to Become an Effective Leader by Confronting Potential Failures by Gary L. McIntosh and Samuel D. Rima.

God bless you all, and thanks be to God, who keeps us now and throughout eternity. James

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

CONVERSATIONS AROUND THE BELHAR CONFESSION

Sundays February 15, 22, and March 1
12:30 – 2:00pm

A lively study of the “Belhar Confession”

Deacon Ashley Phillips, Convener

Soup and sandwich lunch and childcare provided.

The “Belhar Confession” is the first confession from the Global South to be considered for inclusion in *The Book of Confessions* of the Presbyterian Church USA. For a copy, see pcusa.org/resources/belhar.

We are providing our leaders opportunities to learn more about the Belhar Confession and to equip our two commissioners to vote their convictions during our next presbytery meeting: March 6-7th in Corpus Christi.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17

5:30-7:30 pm

Live entertainment 6:30-7:30pm

Abraham Weaver

Auction of goods and services.

No ticket price "donations accepted"

Deacons are asking the NCFA

Congregation to donate:

**pancake mix, butter, syrup,
orange juice, coffee, bacon, sausage**

**Invite your friends, neighbors,
and coworkers!**

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Reaching the Unreached: The TOPOSA of South Sudan

Kapoeta, South Sudan

The goal of this trip is to establish oral Bible Story Telling groups that become multiplying churches. The Toposa are 99% illiterate, less than 1/2 % reached with the Gospel. E3 Partners has been church planting among the Toposa since 2007 with oral strategies.

The team training uses Bible Stories for Discipleship. Camping near Kapoeta, we work closely with our translators to find new Persons of Peace and disciple them. Prayer is a strong component of this trip.

New Toposa leaders receive follow-up mentoring from established Toposa leaders and local Missionaries to help establish multiplying churches.

Security: Kapoeta is in southeast corner of S. Sudan far from disputed areas to the north. We work under the leadership of Local Missionaries & with the blessing of local authorities. God is our Protector.

Trip Information: Date of trip

Departure Date: April 7, 2015

April 8: Nairobi, Kenya after flying overnight

April 9: Depart on Charter to Kapoeta, South Sudan
Orientation/meet translators

April 10-16: Camp in nearby village sharing Bible
Stories/testimonies to new Persons of Peace

April 16: Return to Kapoeta. Free time with translators

April 17: Depart on Charter to Nairobi & flight to USA

April 18: Arrive USA

Trip Cost:

\$4,600*

\$100 Due with application

\$2,300 Due 3/1/2015

\$4,600 Due 4/1/2015

*Contingent on Airfare

Transportation: Round trip economy class airfare and all in country transportation.

Meals and Lodging: Meals are provided (except travel days) and all accommodations.

Follow-Up: A portion of your mission cost is used solely for the follow-up, leadership training, and discipleship of the new believers and churches.

Local leaders are trained prior to team arrival.



Highlights

Toposa Population:
500,000 (less than 1/2 %
reached with Gospel)

99% illiterate
Religion: Animism

Goals

• Establish multiplying churches

• Train local Toposa to lead Bible Story Telling fellowships that multiply

• Build Prayer teams to support spread of Gospel among the Toposa

LET'S GO!

More information:

patricia.caroom@e3partners.org

512 470 7553



e3 PARTNERS

Please continue to pray for the Chiapas Mission Team as we prepare for our trip March 18-25, 2015.



We are raising \$5,000.00 to offset the cost of the trip and the repair work in an educational building.

We will be solidifying a covenant relationship with Yobel Seminary, CODIPECH, the Tzeltal Synod, and the ministries associated with Pastor Gaspar and Principe de Paz.

Please see Elder Caly Fernandez and Rev. Lydia Hernandez for more information.

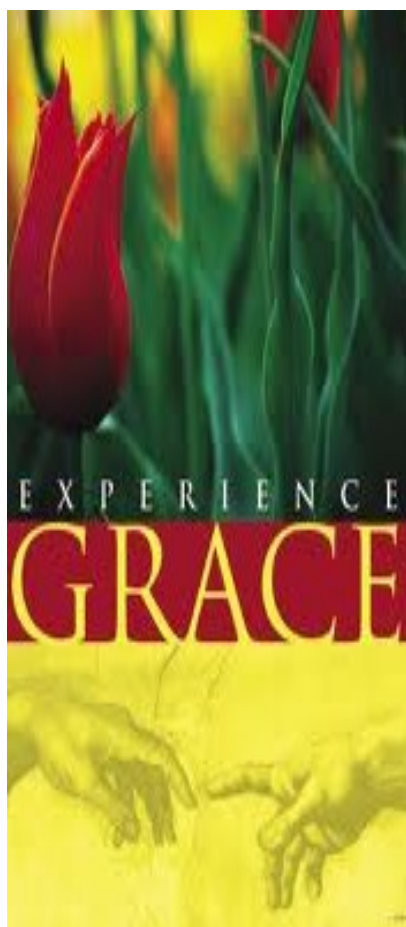
Make checks payable to NCFA and in the memo line write Chiapas Mission Project or CMP.

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNE**X**ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Please help us distribute door hangers this **Sunday, February 15, 2015** after we honor our seminarians with a **pizza lunch**.

We want to communicate our **Shrove Tuesday Dinner**, **Ash Wednesday service**, our **Lenten offerings**, the **Holy Week activities**, and **Easter Celebration**.

Please contact **Elder Randy Mojica** or **Elder Caly Fernandez** for more information.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL STUDY

**Five-Week Study Hosted
by Genesis Presbyterian Church**

**Curriculum: Austin Seminary
Lenten Devotional**

Led by: Seminarian Cliff Frederick
cliff.frederick@student.austinseminary.edu

Where: GPC Library

When: Morning/Evening options

Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am

- Feb. 19, 26, Mar. 2, 12, 19

OR

Tuesdays, 7-8pm

• Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Please note: These events will not have child
care or meals provided.**

Please plan accordingly.

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



To ensure that we best support the Lenten Devotional hosted by Genesis and led by Cliff, the Rev. Jeff Saddington will offer the 6-class series on the Gospel of Mark after Easter and starting April 9th.

He will facilitate the class using the book Mark's Gospel from Scratch, by Griggs and Myers.

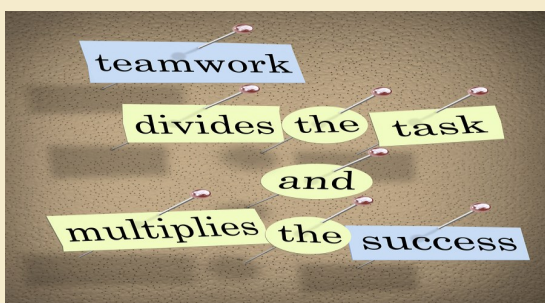
The study will take place on Thursday evenings April 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, May 7th and 14th.

Please express your interest so that we can coordinate space with Genesis. Please note, this event will not have child care or meals provided. Please plan accordingly.

"You can do
what I cannot
do. I can do
what you
cannot do.
Together we can
do great
things."
- Mother Teresa

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. Continuing to emphasize Marketplace Ministry and identify the various ministries within our church and community. Continue to reach out into the community like the Community Garden, where we donated \$100.00.



February 14, 2015

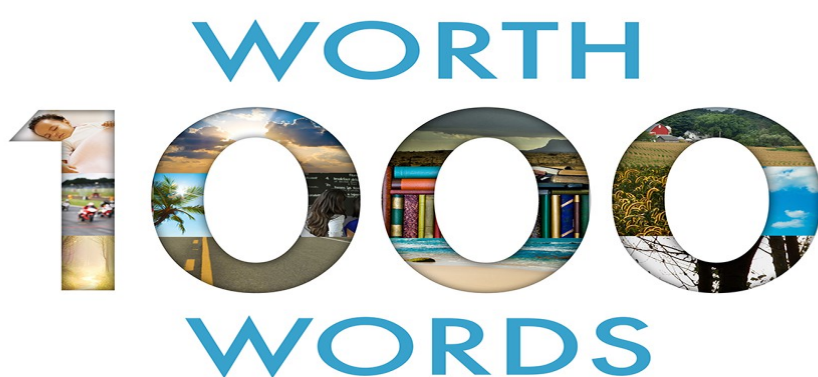


NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Leaders from 10 of the Austin area Presbyterian churches have been working on a sermon series for the Lenten Season. The theme is "Worth 1000 Words." As Pastor Lee and others preach sermons throughout the Lenten Season, please consider images that help you express your faith, illustrate your emotions, and draw you closer to God.

"Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Francis of Assisi



A VISUAL JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Pancake Dinner and Live Music

Presented by the Deacons of New Covenant Fellowship

**You are joyfully invited to our
Pancake Dinner & Live Music by Abraham Weaver,
as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday**

**Date and Time: Tuesday, February 17, 5:30-7:30pm
Pancakes served through 6:30, live music at 7**

**Place: New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
1507 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 6, Austin, TX 78722**

**No charge for the dinner
Donations invited to benefit the
New Covenant Fellowship of Austin Deacon's Fund,
which assists individuals and families with emergency needs.**

**Please let us know if you are coming!
RSVP: info@ncfaustin.org or call 512-334-3041
Directions: <http://www.ncfaustin.org/>**

**Please continue to pray for all of our
Mission and Evangelism efforts:**

**Austin Club House, Austin Presbyterian Seminary,
Cabo, Café Justo, Chiapas, Patterson Park Community
Gardens, Cuba, Mo-Ranch, NCFA Health Fair, Summer
Food Program, and Sudan**

**Souper Bowl of Caring — February 1st
Crop Walk — March 1st**

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

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

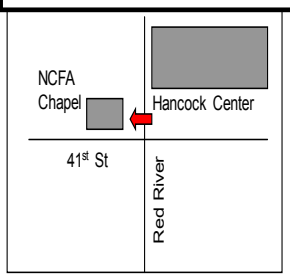
1507 Wilshire Blvd.
9am Adult Sunday School
10am Fellowship
10:45am - Children's Church

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

February 15 —Shane Blackshear

February 22 — Sam Okyere Mireku

March 1 — Sam Mancillas

March 8 — Rev. Lydia Hernandez

March 15 — Estela Sifuentes, CRE

March 22 —

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 Wil-
shire Campus starting at 10:15 a.m.



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

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



2/1 Tim Lenz
2/6 Rey Mojica
2/7 Gina Cox
Tracey Lenz
2/8 Angel Hernandez
Yejae Shin
2/9 Mary Ann Akujor
2/11 Pastor James Lee
2/12 Destiny Edwards
2/14 Reece Listach
“ MaryAnn Ramirez
2/17 Ashley Phillips
2/20 Nikkie Shubitz
Eli Smith
2/26 Navy Dajae Shin
Oliver Smith

2/24 Mary and Randy Mojica

Session Members

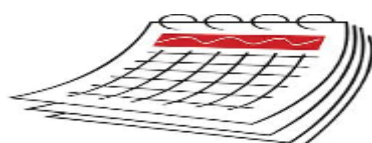
***Rev. James Lee**
Pastor/Moderator
***Elder Kathy Smith**
Clerk of Session
***Rev. Bill Harris**
Administration & Personnel
***Elder Tim Lenz**
Buildings & Grounds
***Elder Mary Jo Mojica**
Congregational Life
***Elder Randy Mojica**
Children and Youth
***Elder Cathy Angell**
Discipleship & Women's 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

New Covenant Fellowship

FEBRUARY



**Study of the
Belhar Confession
Sundays February 15, 22, and
March 1
12:30 – 2:00pm**

**February 15
Pizza and Potluck to
honor our seminarians.
All are invited.
12:30 pm. Door Hangers and
Prayer Walking the community.**

**February 17
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner; 5:30-7:30 pm.**

**February 18
Ash Wednesday Service
Dinner at 6:30pm
Worship at 7:00pm**

**February 22
Family Friendly Worship
NCFA Session Meeting**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

February 8, 2015

GALATIANS 6: 9-10: 9 LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP. 10 THEREFORE, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS.

- THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEAUTIFUL SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF SAM M.'S FAMILY FRIEND RICH.
- PRAISE FOR BILL'S RESTORED HEALTH.
- PRAISE FOR GINA MAKING THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION REAL BY CHANGING THE "WE" TO "I."
- WELCOME BACK, REX AND JEFFREY; AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY, REX.
- PRAISE FOR THE BIRTH OF ROXANN'S THIRD GRANDCHILD BORN TO ALEX AND CATHY.
-
- PRAISE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF 220 AUSTIN AND MANOR SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE MENTORED FOR THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS BY BREAKTHROUGH AUSTIN. HOPEFULLY THESE STUDENTS WILL BECOME THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILIES TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE.
- LIFT UP PEACE IN THE WORLD.



- LIFT UP JOYON FOR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL HEALING.
- BEFORE JESUS FORGIVENESS REQUIRED DEATH AND THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD. IN ORDER FOR FORGIVENESS TO OCCUR TODAY, WE HAVE TO LET SOMETHING "DIE." THE QUESTION, THEREFORE, IS "WHAT DO I HAVE TO LET 'DIE' IN ORDER FOR ME TO FORGIVE WRONGS DONE TO ME?" LIFT UP ALL WHO WRESTLE WITH FORGIVENESS.

**FAITH and PRAYER
both are invisible,
but they make
impossible things
possible.!!!**

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

PRAYER AND PRAISE

February 8, 2015



- PRAISE FOR PASTOR LEE'S ENCOURAGING SERMON WHICH FOLLOWED A ROUGH WEEK AT WORK.
- PRAISE FOR IVY COMING ALL THE WAY FROM WEST VIRGINIA TO BLESS GINA ON HER BIRTHDAY! LIFT UP SAFE TRAVEL BACK FOR IVY.
- LIFT UP ALVA TO HEAL COMPLETELY FROM THE VIOLENCE SHE ENDURED TO COME TO THE US. PRAISE THAT SHE HAS BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM.
- LIFT UP PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES BEING SERVED BY HOSPICE AUSTIN AND THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE RECENTLY LOST LOVED ONES. LIFT UP HOSPICE WORKERS.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GINA, TRACEY, AND PASTOR LEE, AS WELL AS ALL OF OUR FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS!
- LIFT UP STACIE FOR STRENGTH, ENDURANCE, AND ENCOURAGEMENT.
- LIFT UP VERNON AND HIS EXTENDED FAMILY FOR GOD'S ABOUNDING GRACE AND COMFORT AS THEY GATHER AROUND VERNON'S SISTER IN HOSPICE. LIFT UP PEACE AND A PAINLESS TRANSITION FROM THIS LIFE TO THE NEXT FOR HIS SISTER.



February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Friends, we need your help. We are our best when we serve together. Please consider ways you can help our ministry leaders and ministries.

- Buildings & Grounds is in need of persons to help one or more days a month with light cleaning and set up for Sunday worship. This would typically be done on a Friday or Saturday and require between one and two hours of your time. *For details see Tim Lenz, Chairperson Buildings & Grounds*
- Congregational Life is in need of folks with the gift of hospitality and/or planning events. Contact Mary Mojica at maryjomojica@yahoo.com

After worship: Enjoy fellowship. Put away the Bibles and Hymnals. Collect the brown baskets and attendance sheets. Throw away our trash. Empty waste baskets in the classrooms, restroom, and kitchen.

**Coming together is a
beginning;
keeping together is
progress;
working together is
success.**

Henry Ford



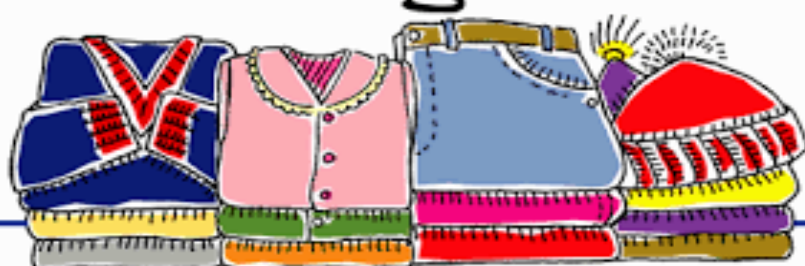
February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Clothing Drive



Greater Hope Center

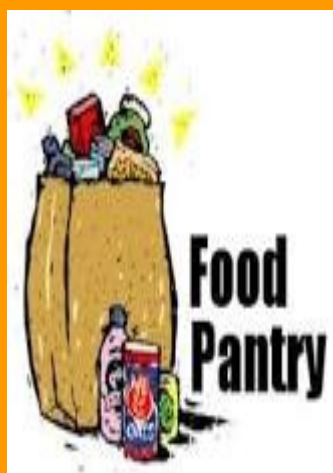
Clothing donations can be delivered to our boutique located at 4136 E. 12th, Austin, Texas 78723.

We accept all clothing donations during the hours we are open: Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

We will also make special arrangements for donations at other hours.

Free clothing for those who need it.

FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE TO ALL



The New Covenant Fellowship Deacons are now providing a free to all food pantry each Sunday. This is to help anyone who needs a little help in the obtaining of groceries. The table at the back of the church will have canned goods and other non-perishable food each Sunday. If you or anyone you know needs some help with groceries, please feel free to partake of the items available.

If you are able to donate food items to this table, please feel free to do so and bless you for your contribution. Paper bags with handles are also needed and if you have extra ones of these, please put them on this new food table.



February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think.

• Martin Luther King, Jr.



PS what is Fat Tuesday???

Lent, the forty days before Easter, begins on ASH WEDNESDAY.

Traditionally, the faithful abstained during Lent and used up

all their “fat” by making pancakes the day before Lent began.



**Did you know the most effective Christian education takes place in homes where the adults are growing in their faith?
Check out one of these opportunities for growing in 2015:**

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study - 6:30pm - Kitchen

Men are finishing up a study on the book of Judges by Tim Keller. The next topic will be selected by the Men's Ministry.

Thursday Noon Bible Study, 12 noon –1 pm at the home of Connie Jones – 5107 Edenborough Ln.

(north of 290 East, just past Springdale) A study of the writings of the Apostle Paul.
All welcome, bring a bag lunch as desired.

4th Saturday Adult Bible Study, 8:30 am

Chapter 3 of "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians"
by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty

Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School - 9:15am - Rm. 7

This class is studying a book by Bill Hybels and John Ortberg on the Sermon on the Mount, the Passion story, "The Lord's Prayer," and several parables. The scripture is read together and then questions in the guide are discussed, making it real to current life.

Dates for Presbyterian Women

March 1, Sunday CROP Walk, Camp Mabry

March 6, Friday Church Women United will meet at 9:30am at Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St. The program will center around World Day of Prayer.

March 8, Sunday Celebrate the Gifts of Women; NCFA women will take leadership roles in worship. Rev. Lydia Hernandez will preach at the Waller Creek Chapel Service at 8:15am, and CRE Estela Sifuentes will preach at 10:15 at 1507 Wilshire Blvd.

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

February 8, 2015 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

“Why Do You Do What You Do?”

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Pastor James H. Lee

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

1 Corinthians 9:16-23: ¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Mark 1:29-39: ²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸ He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

In thinking about this sermon, I want to first be sure you have received our Annual Report, which indicates a portion of the things that we did as a church—or God did through this church and us. Please note that even though it was the report for 2014, it is a way to introduce the theme for 2015: “*Achieving Our Goals and Our Dreams in 2015.*” In 2014 we were going to work as a team in collaboration, not in silos—you know, “I’m taking care of MY job”....But as a whole, we haven’t done all we’ve been called to do to work together. We need to remind ourselves that we are the body that works together. Anyone ever stub their toe and just thought, “It’s just a toe, the rest of my body is not affected”? No, when you stub that toe, the rest of the body says “Ouch!”

So our theme is “Achieving our Goals and Our Dreams in 2015.” When we were preparing for our Leadership Retreat, I asked each of you to consider your individual goals, your family goals, and your goals for the church goals. Please do it if you have not yet. It is important!

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

February 8, 2015 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

“Why Do You Do What You Do?”

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Pastor James H. Lee

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

Know what goals you have for yourself; know what goals and dreams you have for your family; and know the goals and dreams that we have for this church. *What is your audacious dream?* Resources don't matter—because it's a dream. Be willing to dream as if everything you needed were right here and right now.

You may ask, “Pastor, now why would we do that?” Why do you do what you do? Because I need to prepare us for 2105 so it's not the same as 2014. That's why we do what we do—a blended worship service. We do what we do because it has meaning. We do it as a way to set a vision. ***Habakkuk 2:2*** would tell us: ***“Write the vision, make it plain, make it simple, so those that see it may take it and run. Though it seems like it tarries, it will not tarry, for in its appointed time it will accomplish; it will come to pass.”*** But if we don't have the goals and the dreams, when we achieve it, do we know that we've achieved it? If folks don't know where we're going and what the goal is, can they help line up and say, “You know what? I have this skill set, and I can do this....I can do that.” And so we're wanting to be intentional about identifying where we're trying to go so that you would know where you're best called to serve to help us fulfill our goals and purpose as a church in 2015.

Do you remember the theme song from “*Mahogany*,” by the lady who sings the blues, Diana Ross? The lyrics go, “*Do you know where you're going to? Do you like the things that life is showing you? Where are you going to, do you know?*” And do you like what it is that life is showing you? And how is it that it can be adapted, changed, as you line it up closer to the things that God would have you to do? And then if you say, “Well, I'm doing what God would have me to do,” then good, because you know where you're going and you know why you're going through what you're going through. That's the other reason for setting the goals, so you know the context by which you're serving and living. You know that when circumstances get a certain way, you're trudging through because you've got a destiny to go to. “I know where I'm supposed to go.” And then in the end, when goals are accomplished, you can celebrate it because you know what God has done through you.

The other thing that's so important is in ***1 Peter*** where it will tell us that we need to be ready to give a reason why we have hope. Why did you come to church on Sunday at 10:15am when you have to go to work on Monday at 8am? I'm glad you asked! Why do you do what you do? It's important for us to know, and you set it apart before you get in it because if you have to determine it while you're in it, many would say, “I'm done.” But if you've determined it up front, then when you go through, you can say, “I can do this.”

And I still love “The Little Engine That Could,” the little choo-choo train that says, “*Whoo-whoo, I think I can, I think I can....*” I have to do that sometimes: “Whoo-whoooo!” There's some stuff goin' on around me, and I'm thinkin' “This hill is getting high; I'm getting tired; the load is getting too much... another hill, another curve....Is it worth it?!” I think I can, I think I can. Whoo, whoo! With God all things are possible.

February 14, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

February 8, 2015 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

“Why Do You Do What You Do?”

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Pastor James H. Lee

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

You may think “What does this have to do with the text?” Paul, as he’s writing in *Corinthians*, begins to tell us that he does what he does for the sake of the gospel. For the Kingdom of God. So why do you do what you do?

- Do you do what you do to please people?
- Do you do what you do to preserve your job?
- Do you do what you do to survive?
- Do you do what you do to obtain wealth?
- Do you do what you do to protect your wealth?
- Do you do what you do because you love someone else?
- Do you do what you do out of obligation?
- Do you do what you do because it makes you feel better?
- Do you do what you do because you were trained to do just that?
- Do you do what you do because it’s your mission?
- Do you do what you do because it’s your calling?
- Do you do what you do for the Kingdom of God?

The answer can be “Yes” to all and “No” to some. But it’s knowing why you do what you do that can help us as we continue to go through life and walk out our faith. As we work our way through the sermon, we will focus on ***“Authenticate, Adaption, and Appeal.”***

Authenticate: ¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the ^{gospel!}¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. (1 Corinthians 9:16-17)

In the text Paul begins to say that ***“I must preach this word, and in doing so, for the sake of the gospel, to authenticate this message, it must be out of freedom, not that you have to pay for me to preach.”*** I have a job, I love my job, and I need to pay some bills. But I can tell you there are some places out of this church where I go and preach and no one pays me, because it’s for the sake of the kingdom of God. And for the blessing of people. There’s an authenticating, letting people know “Is it really real? Do you believe it? And how can I get to that place?” People need that to happen because they’ve seen enough that’s happened in life to say, “I don’t know if I can trust or believe this.” And we’re called to be those witnesses who authenticate the truth that we have found in the good news, in the gospel, and to share that.

In the text Jesus is at Simon’s and Andrew’s house, and the mother-in-law is sick. What does he do? He lifts her up; and when he lifts her up, he heals her. And when he heals her, you know what she did? She started to serve and care for people. In 2015 we may think, “I can’t believe that.” But I can tell you if you have the gift of hospitality like she did, you can relate to her acknowledging that “The fever’s gone; I feel better; I’ve got people in my house; I can put this up; I can prepare the food.” She’s happy because she has authenticated all of her gifts, and she gets to share her gifts, and people get to be in her house and experience the best. I want to flip that script because people can make that out to be a bad thing.

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What are you gifted to do? And why are you waiting for someone to say, “We need what you have”? And not allowing somebody else to define what you do and make you feel bad about it and make you hide it. No. Whatever your gift is, God knows you have it; this church needs it; the Kingdom of God needs it. And don’t allow anybody else to keep you from sharing your gift for the sake of the Kingdom of God! The only way to authenticate it is for you to say “Yes” and for you to do it. Don’t hide it. Don’t let anyone else keep you from expressing it.

The house was just a house, wasn’t it? But did you notice in the text that he heals her from the fever, she serves, it’s nighttime....and all of a sudden everybody’s coming to the house. You see what happened? A regular house became a clinic; it became a hospital. It became a place for people who needed to be healed and be heard and to be touched and ministered to were able to go to that house. It was loaded up. And did Jesus say, “I’m tired. I came here for respite”? No, he ministered. Why? Because it authenticated the ministry that he was going to have right there and that he was going to continue to do in Galilee. It’s in the text, to share the good news, and to heal, and to deliver.

Adaption: ¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.

I’m the kind of person who enjoyed and still enjoys remembering cartoons and stories like the little train, “Whoo-who!” Another program I used to watch was the “Wonder Twins” with the alien brother and sister Zan and Jayna, who used to get together and shapeshift into something amazing. Zan could turn into liquid things, and Jayna into amazing animals. But the only way they could do it was to adapt and be of one accord—to touch, adapt, and do something special. God is wanting to partner with us. God is wanting us to adapt to the situations and circumstances around us. And we need to be in one accord with God and adapt!

Then I watched “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine,” and there was a guy named Odo who was a shapeshifter and would become something else. As Christians in 2015, what is God calling you to adapt to, to “shift” to, or become? In the text Paul said, ***“I became weak to those who are weak...to those under the law, I came under the law...to the Jew I became a Jew...to the Gentile I became a Gentile.”*** He became all things to all people so he might win some to himself? No, win some to Christ for the Kingdom. For the sake of the Kingdom.

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For our church we call this “marketplace ministries.” You’re called to be where you are to tell the story, share the good news. Be ready to adapt to a crazy world and say there is still hope and there is still life. We can make a difference. We can do it, and participate in the very blessings of God. Isn’t that good news?

Appeal: I brought this cane, which is a part of my therapy. I’ve had the surgery to repair the shoulder tear, but I still don’t have the range of motion I need or the strength; so I have to do the rehab. And it isn’t fun or easy. And it isn’t a lot of heavy weight, but it is necessary. And I’m gonna tell you, when my body starts to tingle—and not in a good way—when I do the exercises, and the muscles that had begun to atrophy let me know they don’t like it, it’s uncomfortable. But there I go to stretch muscles and tendons in places they used to be but they haven’t been since the tear, and they’re getting there now with the repair. When there’s a pop and a cringe, I’ll say “Ouch, I don’t want to do it.” But if I don’t, guess what, I’ll stick and remain stuck. Next thing I know that shoulder will freeze up and require another surgery and I’ll remain in pain. How many of us keep staying stuck where we used to be? I want us to help unstick ourselves and unstick others. Let your healing allow your tests be testimonies. This is my appeal to you.

It was Paul’s appeal so that others could share in the Kingdom and enjoy its blessing. He said ***“Woe to me if I don’t preach the gospel!”*** Francis of Assisi is quoted as saying, *“Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use the words.”* It’s not always in what we say, it’s in what we do. That really shows who we are and what God is doing in and through us. Atrophied muscle, thought it was dead, starting to come alive; and that pain is a good pain. I don’t like it, but it’s saying “I’m alive! This crazy man finally remembered me....I’m alive! I’m alive!”

And so for the appeal, the disciples come hunting after Jesus because he has stolen away to be in the presence of God. That’s why today I wanted us to talk about the Majesty going before the throne, the Agnus Dei, the Hallelujah! There’s time in worship for praise, there’s a time for hollering in celebration, and time of just waiting before the Lord. That’s what Jesus did, and they went to chase him. “Where are you, man? See all those people? Come on, we can have this great thing with all these people come.” And Jesus says ***“No, it’s time for us to go, got to go to the next place.”*** “Why, we can make this megafest boom thing here.” ***“No, I came out to go and share the good news. So we’ve got to go to the next town.”***

I need us to know the Lord will allow miracles to take place, but life is more than just a miracle. The miracles are to remind us of the mighty power of God, but our life is not to be lived from miracle to miracle to miracle. But rather it is for us to say, if this miracle happened, I thank God for it, and now it gives me hope to keep living. If another miracle never happens, the miracle of life happened, the miracle of forgiveness happened, the miracle of being made righteous happened. We have already received miracles. There are still more to come, but life is more than a miracle.

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And so the appeal. I want to invite you, and you. I need some of you to be Rahabs in Jericho—and I don't mean go with her profession—to be that woman who says, “I know that you're a spy and you're about to bring forth some deliverance. Come on in; I'm gonna protect you so we can bring about something new in the Kingdom of God.” I need some of you all to be a Joseph, to be ready to be amongst Pharaoh and to give him some guidance, so when the famine comes, preparations are already made, reconciliation can take place. I need some of you to be a Deborah to say this is what will happen in order for the Kingdom of God to be fulfilled. I need some of you to be the woman at the well who says, “Come see about a man who knew all of my junk and didn't knock me down. You all come so you can have rivers of living water flow out of you.” And I need there to be some Nicodemuses in the house, folks who will come and have a conversation with Jesus at night, but later on when it's time, to decide what are we are going to do with his body....He said, “Why don't we do it this way so his body might have a place to stay for a couple of days, and then when he resurrects, we can share the story and experience the blessings. Amen?”

Why do you do what you do? God's gifted you; the Kingdom of God needs you; and you're a blessing. Don't let anyone determine who you are outside of God's divine plan. You are a mighty child of God!

In his book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey said to “*Begin with the end in mind.*” That's why I wanted to know, “Do you know where you're going? Do you know why you do what you do?” He says, “If you were to fault yourself in one of three areas, which would it be: The inability to prioritize, the inability or the desire to organize around those priorities, or the lack of discipline to execute around them?Most people say their main fault is a lack of discipline. On deeper thought,” he says, “I believe that that is not the case. **The basic problem is that their priorities have not become deeply planted in their hearts and minds. They haven't really internalized it.**”

**Identify it, internalize it, and watch
our incredible encompassing God make it happen through you.**

Thank you for your word and thank you for the privilege of being able to pastor your people as an undershepherd. Thank you for Jesus being the Good Shepherd. It's in him that we live, move, and have our being. Help us stretch to where you call us to be and go to where you call us to go. Thank you for loving us, and being patient with us, and not allowing us to remain the way that we are. It's in Christ's holy name that we pray. Amen.



February 14, 2015



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Café Justo

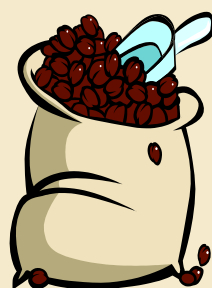
IF YOU LIKE COFFEE OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES

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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.

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February 14, 2015



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Friends, we need your help. Please look on the back of your bulletins and identify ministries that best fit your gifts or passions. Identify the elders over the ministries and communicate your interest to serve. I am trying to ease the burden of current leaders and to crosstrain new leaders.

Thank you, Pastor Lee

NCFA Women's Ministry

Important Dates and Opportunities

March 8, 2015

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday:

We honor women who contribute their gifts to the church and community and lift up the bond between young and senior women in God's household. Resources available.

June 18-21, 2015

Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Minneapolis, MN

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

—1 Corinthians 12:12-27

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER NOTICES

During Georgette Kleinpeter's

FMLA Dec. 15 – Feb. 15

the deadline for putting information in the
"NCFA Newsletter" is Wednesday at 9pm.

Please send to Trish Holland

at geotriholland@yahoo.com. Thank you!