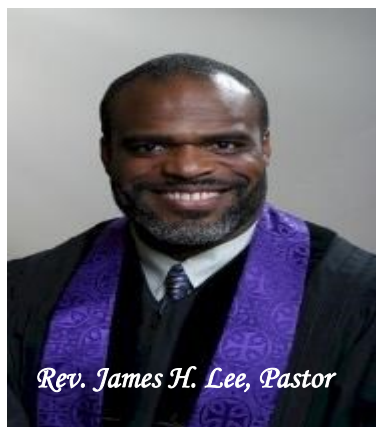
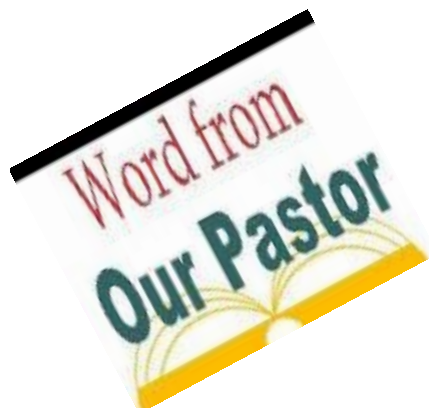


October 3, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor

Dear NCFA Family and Friends,

Several years ago while flying to a conference, I saw some thunderclouds outside of my window. The pilot told us, "Go to your seats and put on your seatbelts." When I am on the ground, I don't mind seeing clouds because I know that we need rain to nurture our land, crops, flowers, trees, livestock, and reservoirs; however, there are some clouds that bring storms with them. When those storm clouds come, we get on the alert because they bring a different level of challenges. There are a number of you who are facing storms in your lives. It seems like the challenges are coming from every direction.

I want to encourage you by letting you know that after going through several clouds and having the plane jolted by the turbulent winds, we rose above the clouds. And there above the clouds was the sun. It was there all of the time!

Please know that God's constant peace, power, and love are present with us even in the midst of our storms. We just can't see God for the storm clouds or the challenges right before us. I invite you to trust that God is present just like we can trust that the sun is present even when we can't see it because of storms or when we orbit around it.

I want to remind you that Sunday is World Communion Sunday. It will be a great day of worship as we join other churches throughout the world in celebrating the Lord's Supper.

As part of our continued partnership with St. James' Episcopal Church, through which the St. James' Wellness ministry operates, we will be hosting free CAREGIVER U – Powerful Tools for Caregivers (a project of St. David's Foundation and AGE of Central Texas) Classssss Thursdays, October 16-November 20, from 6:30 to 8:30pm, here at NCFA. To register or for more information, call Elizabeth Smith (512) 417-7166 or Caly Fernandez (512) 228-4712.

There are several things that will be coming your way as we plan for the fiscal viability of our ministry for 2014 and 2015. Please be prayerful in considering how you can steward God's resources to you through New Covenant Fellowship.

- * October 12, 2014 -- Rollout of our 2015 Stewardship Campaign.
- * November 2, 2014 -- We will dedicate our 2015 pledges to God.
- * Session encourages NCFA members and friends to fulfill their 2014 pledges if you are able to do so. It is important this year more than ever since we did not have a matching grant fundraiser this year.
- * However, please do not let pledges keep you from coming to church, calling on upon the church, or being the church.

On October 5, 2014 we will be collecting the nomination forms so the Nominations Committee can begin to pray and think about nominating new officers to serve as part of the leadership as deacons and elders for 2015. Extra forms will be available from the ushers. Then on November 2, 2014 we will have a congregational meeting to vote on the new slate of officers.

Lastly, I thank Rev. Bill Harris for preaching last Sunday and reminding us to be like-minded, to be unselfish, and to be like Christ.

Philippians 2:1-13 ¹*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,* ²*make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*

God bless and keep you,

Pastor James Lee

October 3, 2014



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

"You Can't Get There from Here"

Exodus 17:1-7; Philippians 2:1-12

Rev. Bill Harris

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

16th Sunday after Pentecost—September 28, 2014

Exodus 17:1-7 ¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Philippians 2:1-13 ¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

My wife and I love to travel, when we can, and God has blessed us by allowing us to travel to a lot of different places. And we have a little ritual we go through every time we travel. We will go to a city or a town, and we'll buy a bunch of maps, rent a car, start driving around, and get lost. It doesn't matter how many maps we have, or GPS, or what kind of directions we have, we are going to get lost. We are experts at getting lost. We have been lost in some of the most beautiful cities in the world. And it was always a frustrating and stressful experience. After awhile, we got better at it. Now, there is a terrible, sexist stereotype connected with men and women when it comes to getting lost. And that is, if you have a man and a woman in a car and they get lost, the man will refuse to stop the car and ask for directions, in spite of anything the woman might say. Because when a man gets lost, he will do almost anything to avoid admitting that he doesn't know where he is. But a woman will stop and ask 35 different people for directions, even if she already knows where she is. I, for one, do not completely agree with this stereotype. I prefer to believe that men are "navigationally challenged." But we must admit that inside every stereotype is an observation about the human condition.

My wife and I were driving in western Connecticut, beautiful country, and we were trying to find this outdoor sculpture garden – a place with these huge metal sculptures, twenty or thirty feet tall. And we got lost. And it was frustrating because we could see these sculptures in this field next to the road, but we couldn't figure out how to get into the place. After much discussion inside the car, we stopped at a gas station to ask for directions.

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I got out of the car, walked up to a guy in overalls, and I pointed to the sculptures on the other side of the road and asked him, "How do we get there?" And he looked at me and said some words that I never really thought I would hear anyone say. He said, "You can't get there from here." But of course, it didn't sound like that because, as you learn when you travel, everybody speaks with an accent, something that doesn't exist in Texas....So it was more like, "Yah cayant git dere from heyah." And I heard him, but those words didn't really penetrate into my brain. I think it's because, in my mind, I couldn't conceive of any place on the planet that I couldn't get to from where I was. That just seemed like an impossibility. So I reverted to logic. And I said, "Well, if I can't get there from here, is there someplace that I can get there from?" Which is also a ridiculous statement. He started pointing in several different directions, and it became obvious that he knew several different ways to get there, none of which he could explain to me. So I took a different approach, saying, "OK, this road that we're on right here, can I get there from this road?" And he paused for a moment, and said, "That road will take you anywhere you want to go." At that point, my wife got out of the car and rescued me from this man. We got in the car, where there was more discussion, and we drove away. We never did find out how to get where we wanted to go, but the fact that I am speaking to you now shows that eventually we found our way home.

"You can't get there from here." But, of course, you can. You can go to any place you want to go. What I'm saying is, a lot of the things that we think divide us really connect us. That same road that divides our neighborhoods actually connects us, and connects us with a whole lot of people, so that we can never be lost.

But being lost is not funny; it's frightening, it's stressful, and it's scary. Do you ever get that "lost" feeling? When you're stuck in the middle of a problem you can't solve. "Lost" at work, at home, in school? You get in a tough situation and you can't see how you're going to get out of it? You're in a strange place and there's no one there to help you? A little panic, a little frustration. And then you start hearing all those crazy, negative voices in your head. Voices that say, "You're never going to get out of this one. You're the one responsible for this mess. What are you going to do now? How did you get yourself here in the first place? You are never going to get out of here." You came in with a plan, but now you're not too sure what to do, which way to go. It makes you doubt your friends and even doubt yourself. Psychologists call it "negative self-talk." All that happened was, you got lost.

This panic, this "lost" feeling causes the same division, doubt, and fear in organizations as well as people. Even a church can get that "lost" feeling and suffer from the same kind of "negative self-talk" that people do: "We don't have enough money to do that. We're not big enough. We don't have enough members. No one is listening to us. We don't have a building. There aren't enough workers. We're just stuck here. We can't make it. We can't get there from here."

Getting lost is stressful, it's frustrating, and it's challenging. Our text shows us that Moses and the Hebrew multitude had that "lost" feeling. Moses was driving the car, and the Hebrews were in the back, complaining. Moses is leading the chosen people to the Promised Land, but they ran into some problems on the way. Even though God was directing them through the desert, as soon as they got in a place where there was no water, they rebelled against Moses and against God. The irony is that after everything they had seen, after everything they had been through—the plagues on Egypt, the pillar of fire by night, the parting of the Red Sea, the manna coming down from heaven to feed them each day—after all this they still thought their God got lost in the desert and couldn't provide for them. So they blamed Moses and God for all their troubles. Moses realized the importance of unity in the face of problems, and he was obedient to God, striking the rock as God commanded so that water could flow out of it and his people would be saved.

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Paul, the apostle, knew the importance of unity in the church. In our text he asks for unity; he begs for it. This text, taken from his letter to the church at Philippi, is often called the “Book of Joy” even though it’s written in a time of terrible oppression and conflict. We know that Paul himself was on death row, in chains, waiting for his execution, but he was still joyful because he was preaching the gospel to his jailers. He reminded his church that they should continue to have joy regardless of his situation. The church at Philippi faced oppression from within and without—on the one hand being a Christian minority in a Roman colony, and on the other facing division and disharmony in the church because some members thought they were more important than others.

If you don’t think that unity is important, let me ask you this: Can you imagine what would happen if every church in this city called its members together and went down to city hall, hundreds of thousands of Christians, and said we will no longer support a budget that does not support our moral priorities as Christians? You don’t think there would be some changes? If all the churches in this community spoke with one voice? It would cause shock waves in this city, this state, and in the whole country. They would call out the National Guard. “Those crazy Christians in Austin...What are they doing?” It would be worldwide news. But unity does have a price. In order for us to stand together, some things will have to be put aside.

Let’s consider three B’s:

Be like-minded.

Be unselfish.

Be like Christ.

Be like-minded:

In the first two verses, Paul says: ¹*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*

The word translated as “like-minded” literally means to “mind” the same thing. This doesn’t mean that everyone in the church is supposed to think the same way or have the same opinion on all matters. It is unity that Paul wants, and *unity* is not the same as *uniformity*. God did not create a race of Christian robots; God created men and women in God’s image. The church is a collection of people with different abilities, different skills, different gifts and different personalities. God does not expect us to give up our individual talents and abilities, but He wants us to have the same attitude towards one another, sharing the same love and the same spirit.

Paul is saying, “You need to keep the main thing *the main thing*. We are supposed to be part of a Christian community. I want you to be on the same page, working on the same project. Now that you’ve talked the talk, you have to walk the walk with each other, so you can keep the main thing *the main thing*.” And Paul asks us, “Have you received anything good from your relationship with Christ?” Because sometimes we act like we haven’t got anything to be thankful for. As though we’re just like anyone else. But if God has done something for you, don’t you think it’s at least worth talking about? The old preacher would say, “Has God done anything for you? Hasn’t He been good?”

Paul lists four things every believer should have already received from Christ: *Encouragement, Comfort, Fellowship, and Compassion*. Just one word of *encouragement* can go a long way. The reason for that is that people don’t get enough encouragement. These days, people expect to be criticized rather than encouraged. They even talk themselves into believing that more criticism is good because it will help them to find their weak spots. But criticism is not a substitute for encouragement.

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When was the last time someone encouraged you? And when was the last time you encouraged someone else? If you want to really help someone, don't just tell them where they've gone wrong; tell them where they did right. And even if they failed, tell them that they're going to have another chance. Every church and every Christian needs encouragement. Every minister, every deacon, every usher, every member needs encouragement. Constructive criticism is like castor oil, it's good for you, but it's hard to take. You may think you're doing someone a favor by giving them some constructive criticism, but if you really want to help somebody, use the honey of encouragement and not the castor oil of criticism.

Be unselfish:

³*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

If Christians cannot treat each other with love and respect in the church, and put other people ahead of themselves, how can they possibly expect the church to act that way in the community? The sad fact is that people find more fellowship outside the church than inside. They have sororities, fraternities, business organizations, clubs, service organizations, places where they feel more comfortable and more at home than with other Christians. This is not the fault of the Holy Spirit; it's the fault of the church. The problem in the church is not global warming but global cooling—people have become frozen with indifference and uncaring attitudes, being more concerned about themselves than about each other. H. Beecher Hicks calls these people the "frozen chosen," people who have become so holy that they are no longer any earthly good. Yet *Hebrews 10* says that we should "*stir up each other unto every good work,*" instead of retiring to the "rocking chair of lazy religion." When Paul says, "*Make my joy complete,*" he recognizes that we are in community with each other and that my joy can't be complete until your joy is complete. We are connected, and my joy is dependent on your joy. Sometimes you need to get over yourself—beyond yourself, above yourself. Get over your fear, get over your ego, get over your mess. And maybe then you can help someone else with theirs.

Be like Christ:

⁵*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.*

Walk into any bookstore and you will find that the "Self-Help" section is the largest. But for a Christian, you don't find yourself through self-actualization or maximizing your potential. You find yourself in other people. You find yourself by helping them, by working together with them, by serving them, by loving them. You will never know who you really are until you fill your life with the lives of other people.

Paul says that Jesus "emptied himself," poured himself out so he could be filled up with all of our pain, all of our suffering and grief. He gave up what was best for him so that he could do what was best for others, and in doing so, found himself. This is the great paradox of Christian living, that in order to be more than we are, we must be less. We must pour out those things in us that prevent us from serving others. John the Baptist realized this when he said of Jesus, "He must increase, and I must decrease." Christ traded his crown for our chains; he put our pain and misery upon his back and carried them up Calvary's hill. He loved those who hated him and said that people would know we are his disciples if we love one another.

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"You can't get there from here." You see, Jesus had that "lost" feeling, too. Just for a second. That last night, after the supper in the upper room, Jesus and his disciples go out into the night, to the Mount of Olives. Jesus goes up alone to pray. Knowing what was going to happen, knowing the police were coming for him, knowing he would die the next day, knowing the kind of death it would be, knowing all the joy and all the pain he would leave behind. And just for a second knowing that "lost" feeling: *"Lord, if it's Your will, take this bitter cup from me."* But in the next instant, *"Yet not my will, but Thy will be done."* Even though he was in the form of God, he gave it up to die for us.

For those people who have a problem with this, I would ask what would happen if I gave you a piece of paper and said, "Write down all of the names of the people who you would die for." You'd probably start with your loved ones, spouse, significant other. And then after that, some members of your family. And then, maybe, a friend or two. And then you would stop writing. Because there comes a point at which you say, "I'm not going to die for that person." And then what would happen if you look over at the person sitting next to you—that wonderful, loving person whose name was on your list—and saw that your name was not on their list. Now you know how Jesus feels when he looks at your list. Because the list that Jesus made had the name of every person who has ever walked the face of this earth. Your name and my name. Jesus died for all, and for you. Jesus couldn't find one person he wouldn't die for.

The Godliness of Christ was borne out not in his deity but in his humanity. Christ did not raise up his humanity to meet his Godliness but lowered his Godliness to serve humanity. He never exalted himself, never compared himself to anybody, never pitied his condition, never envied what anybody else had. He was born in a stinking horse stall. He grew up on a dirt floor, he wasn't rich, didn't graduate at the top of his class, didn't have connections, grew up out in the sticks. His family was plain as dirt. He worked hard all day with his hands, trying to scratch out a living. And if you lived in his community and had to point to one thing in his entire life that made him different than anyone else, it would be his obedience to God. Paul says, *"He took on the form of a slave, and humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death and even death on the cross."*

Just before the great Civil War, the Congress of the United States commissioned a statue to sit atop the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Many of the workers who built the Capitol were slaves. They quarried the stone for the great buildings, brought it to the Capitol, cut it, shaped it, and hoisted it into place. And the crowning achievement was the statue that would sit atop the Capitol building which would be called the Statue of Freedom. The original statue was made of plaster, shipped from Italy in seven pieces, and assembled in the Capitol rotunda by an Italian craftsman. In order to cast the statue in bronze, a mold would have to be made of each piece. Then molten bronze would be poured into each mold. Once it cooled, the mold would be chipped away and the pieces put together. It would be 19 feet tall and weigh 15,000 pounds. Everything was going fine until the Italian craftsman demanded more money to finish the job. The work came to a standstill. The government decided to complete the state without the craftsman, but there was only one problem. No one could figure out how to get the plaster statue apart without destroying it except for one man, a slave named Phillip Reid. Reid was the property of a man who owned a large foundry, a place where metal was cast. Reid was a skilled craftsman who found a way to disassemble the plaster model. When they asked this slave if he could finish the statue, Phillip Reid said, "Yes," he could.

During the two years he was building the statue, President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The government of the United States had declared Phillip Reid a free man but could only do it by paying his owner for his freedom. Phillip Reid's freedom cost the government \$350.40.

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In 1863, at the height of the Civil War, this statue that symbolized freedom was lifted into place atop the Capitol dome with a great ceremony. The record does not show that Phillip Reid attended the celebration, and his name was not included on the program. It was not carved on the base of the statue. It was not lifted up on any banner. It was not mentioned by any of the illustrious speakers. But I'm sure he was there. He must have appreciated the irony that a statue dedicated to the idea of freedom was constructed by a slave. Every day as he walked by the Capitol with its mighty columns gleaming in the sun, Reid must have been reminded that the same hands born into slavery had crafted an entire country's symbol of freedom. I would like to ask Phillip Reid why he agreed to build it. Why would a slave want to build a statue dedicated to freedom in a country that had denied his freedom since he was born? Did he do it out of obedience to his master, or was it something greater?

The statue that Phillip Reid built stands atop the Capitol to this day. Made by hands of low estate but placed at the highest point of the greatest building in this country. Conceived in slavery, but dedicated to freedom. A silent witness to the gift of God in the hands of a slave. Since that day, the Statue of Freedom has seen many things. It saw the Emancipation Proclamation bring freedom and the night riders take it away. It saw the human misery of segregation and discrimination. It saw thousands of people marching for the cause of freedom and a man talking about being "Free at last." It saw entire communities of people praying and crying out to be free. And now in this church, God has put us together as a community. But I cannot be truly free unless my community is free. And my community will never be truly free until it comes to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

As Christians, our freedom does not come from the top of the Capitol or from Washington, D.C. It comes from a loving, caring God who did not spare his only son so that all of his creation could be free. Free from fear, from anxiety, knowing we can never be lost. Our freedom cannot be bought or sold. It cannot be legislated away. No Congress can touch it and no President can remove it. It has been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

The Master Craftsman has shaped us and made us and put us together as a church with his own hands. The Scripture says that he went down to the very gates of hell to tell the old boy down there that the game was up. And when he came back, he had his own Emancipation Proclamation that said, *"All power in heaven and earth is in my hands."*

The same hands that worked the miracles of God worked a miracle in me. It was his hand that chipped away my rough exterior and revealed the image of God emblazoned on my soul. He reached out and found me when I was down. And he lifted me up and put me on the mountaintop. Not so I could be somebody, but so I could serve somebody. He taught me what it means to serve him by serving other people. And because I serve him, I have his name to call on. My name can't save you. It may not be written down in any history book, but my Lord has written it in the Book of Life. The work of my hands may not endure, and my name may not be remembered. But the One I serve has a name that is above every name. Some call him Wonderful, Counselor, King of Kings, and the Prince of Peace. David called him my Rock, my Sword, my Shield, my Strong Tower, my Rock of Ages. Some call him the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star, my Wheel in the Middle of a Wheel.

I want to encourage you today. Because there might be someone who's feeling "lost." Whatever your problem, whatever your situation, you *can* get there from here, but you can't get there *alone*. A lot of the things that we think divide us, really connect us. Christ is the great connector—connecting us with one another and humanity with God. Get over yourself; keep the main thing *the main thing*. Find yourself and God in others. A philosopher once said, "Hell is other people." But for a Christian, God is other people. Other people are how we know God, how we live with God. When we find God, we find ourselves. The next time you have that "lost" feeling, remember that it's God who is driving the car, not you and not me. If we will just put our faith in God, God will take us to our destination. You can get there from here, if you love one another. Amen.

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NCFA CONNECTION!

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PRAYER AND PRAISE



***¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
(Psalm 103:1)***

- ◆ Praise that Patricia and Doug's son Cyrus awakened from his coma midweek! Prayers that his respiratory system become strong, his brain cells regrow, and his medical staff be guided for the best course of treatment. Prayers for travel mercies, stamina, and comfort for the extended Caroom family as they surround him with their presence, love, support, and prayers.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for the presence of Trish's granddaughter Maggie in worship today.
- ◆ Continued prayers for Tracey's friend Laura, who is caring for her father apart from her family. Travel mercies as she returns for a brief respite to Austin to see son and husband. Prayers and provisions for her brother's care of their father while she is away.
- ◆ Lift up John's friends Bob and Constanza as they mourn Wednesday's death of their beloved 7-month-old son Bobby who was born with a terminal illness. Thanksgiving for the blessings of love and happiness that he brought to their family.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for Sam O.'s preaching in Victoria on Theological Education Sunday.
- ◆ Lift up Bill's longtime employee Don as he deals with an increasingly disabling chronic condition, that he may be receptive to his family's efforts to provide much-needed care. Prayers of encouragement and comfort for his family.
- ◆ Continued prayer for Ashley's Uncle Gary, recently diagnosed with a form of leukemia that is slow progressing and without cure. Provisions of comfort and peace as the family deals with the mixed news that his cancer must be continuously monitored and will be an ongoing part of his life.
- ◆ Lift up all seminarians and students for encouragement, strength, and discernment as they face challenges in their studies.
- ◆ Praise God for the beauty of the day.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for Vernon's gift of healing touch.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for John's word of love in today's sermon, "*A Leap of Love*," and for his beloved fiancée, Michelle.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for the life of Rev. Dr. John Donahue, who entered the Church Triumphant this past Wednesday (9/25) following a heart attack. Lift up his wife Consuelo, their family, and all who loved him. Praise for the many lives he touched as a professor at Trinity University and as a pastor, mentor, and friend.
- ◆ Lift up Susan's husband James and all of their family as he recovers from a stroke.
- ◆ Lift up a church recently vandalized in Texas.
- ◆ Lift up Darren whose parents are very ill. Provide comfort and peace.

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PRAYER AND PRAISE



- ◆ Lift up Lucy for peace with her anxiety about an upcoming doctor's appointment.
- ◆ Lift up all marriages for guidance, healing, comfort, and peace through difficult times.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for the wonderful brunch hosted by NCF for the women of Lydia Circle from Covenant Presbyterian Church. Praise God for Jane's gifts of hospitality and leadership, and for her hard work, entertaining stories, and warm-hearted efforts that were integral to its success.
- ◆ Thanksgiving for Caly's surprise raise to her salary!
- ◆ Travel mercies for Gina and family as they return to visit their home church in Amish country.
- ◆ Traveling mercies for Pastor Lee, the Saddingtons, and all.
- ◆ Lift up Uly who has applied for a new job position and is one of four being considered. Bring peace and comfort in whatever the outcome, knowing God is in charge.
- ◆ Praise for Youth Choir singing "Kum Ba Yah" and for Connie's leadership.
- ◆ Praise God for Ben's amazing experience at the Presbyterian Pilgrimage spiritual retreat, where friends gathered together with the common link of faith in our One Resurrected Lord. Thanksgiving for a special letter written to him by a longtime friend that read, "Ben, sit back and relax, be still, let us serve you."
- ◆ Thanksgiving for Reverend Bill's sermon today, "You Can't Get There from Here," and praise for the title's connection with Austin Community College's motto, "Start here. Get there."
- ◆ Thanksgiving for God's surprising and timely provision of multiple offers of help for Cathy at work just when she was feeling overwhelmed. Prayers for her involvement in a huge restructuring project.
- ◆ Lift up the homeless men and women we see throughout the city. Open our hearts to love them and their hearts to feel God's love. Prayers for their protection, provision, and peace.
- ◆ Lift up Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish New Testament professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School, whose recent article on the parables was well done and challenging, and yet she received hundreds of negative reactions from Christians who emailed her with curses. Pray to soften the hearts of Christians who are unable to deal with ideas outside of their own perspectives.

May Your strength be perfected in our weaknesses.

October 3, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

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, to worship."

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



NCFA
Chapel

Hancock Center

41st St

Red River

NCFA Waller Creek Chapel — Upcoming Preachers

October 5 - Pastor James H. Lee




October 12 - Rev. Jeff Saddington

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.



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 moti-
vated 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.

September 18, 2014



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Caregiver U
www.caregiverUcentx.org presents

Powerful Tools *for* Caregivers

Feeling stressed in your
role as a caregiver?

Having trouble finding
time to take care of you?

Feel like no one
really understands?

We can help!



*Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a series of 6 classes for relatives
or friends providing unpaid care for a senior or an adult with chronic illness*

Dynamic small-group format led by trained facilitators

~ No charge to participate ~

THURSDAYS • 6:30-8:30 PM

Classes begin October 16 and conclude November 20

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin

1507 Wilshire Blvd • Austin TX

Registration is required. Contact: parishnurse@stjamesaustin.org or 512-698-2550

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is made possible by support from:



**StDavid's
FOUNDATION**



Are you a Caregiver? Take the quiz on the other side and find out.



October 3, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!



To Sing

To Clean
the
Fellowship
Hall

To Play a
Musical
Instrument

To Prepare
Communion

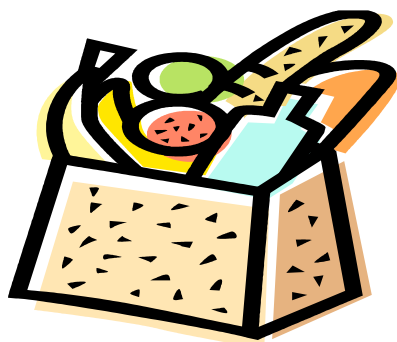
To Usher

October 3, 2014



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



We Care Kits

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

We are currently accepting the following donations

Food/Drink Items:

Granola Bars
Peanut Butter Crackers
Trail Mix
8 ounce size water bottles

Hygiene/Personal Items:

Travel Size Toothbrush
Travel Size Toothpaste
Travel size soap or bodywash
Travel size shampoo
Pocket size Kleenex
Pocket size comb (no pointed handle)
Chapstick
Adult white ankle crew socks – size large

All donated items should be placed in the donations box located in classroom 7. If you have any questions please email me:

calyflower2020@yahoo.com or call me at (512)228-4712.

NCFA Evangelism Committee and the Children and Youth Committee will schedule a date in November to put the kits together and kits will be disbursed after Sunday services in November.

Code Chica (Austin, TX)

October 25 from 9am-4:30pm

Austin Community College Eastview Campus

3401 Webberville Road, Austin, TX 78702, USA

Do you know a chica you can barely tear away from the computer? Sign her up for Code Chica, an all day conference for any girl or teen ages 9 to 18 interested in everything that needs to be coded online – games to kitten videos. Girls and teens will receive lessons in code languages, will brainstorm a project to apply such skills and then will carry out the project implementation in a hackathon style with the help of experienced coders. At lunch girls will be visited by Latina and other women in technology. Register today!

October 3, 2014



NCFA CONNEXION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

NCFA Women's Ministry

Important Dates and Opportunities

October 8, Wednesday The 4th Wednesday Evening Bible Study will meet in Room 7 at 7:00 PM. They will be using the *Horizons* study book. "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty.

October 9, Thursday The Thursday Noon Women's Bible Study will be using the 2014-2015 *Horizons* study book, "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty. The group will meet at Connie Jones' home, 5107 Edinburgh Lane, on a weekly basis.

October 23, Thursday Girls Night Out Fellowship, 6:30-9:00 PM, Covenant PC, 3003 Northland Dr., FEB 200. Covenant PW invite NCF women to attend.

Job Opportunities-Goodwill Industries

We want to remind people of the opportunities to gain skills for employment and to find jobs are available at Goodwill Industries. For more information please contact the Goodwill intake number, 512-637-7580, to begin the process and learn what the next steps are.

Also, go to link below for more detailed information.

<https://www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/education-job-training/find-a-job>

Free Exercise Classes

Saturday October 11th, 2014

ZUMBA with Lydia Lopez at 1:30pm
QIGONG with Nathan Peterson at 2:30pm

St. James Episcopal Church
Founders Hall (Bldg B)
1941 Webberville Road
Austin, TX 78721

October 3, 2014



NCFA CONNE^XION!

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



- 4th Cathy Trautman
- 7th Brandi Palacios
- 7th Doris Bailey
- 9th Larry Mack
- 16th Misti Herrington
- 17th Tom Coffman
- 18th Kyrie Grace Aldas
- 23rd Tiffany Cox
- 24th Angela Unegbu
- 29th Sam Mancillas
- 30th Lileisha Daniels



27th Charles and Stacy Robinson



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
- *Elder Caly Fernandez
Evangelism
- *Elder Tracey Lenz
Finance & Stewardship
- *Elder Robert Booth
Lay Ministry
- *Elder George Washington IV
Men's Ministry
- *Elder Vernon Bailey
Missions
- *Elder Jane Mack
Women's Ministry
- *Elder Charles Robinson
Worship & Membership

Deacons

- Connie Jones, Chair
- Jimmy Bohn
- Ulysses Cox
- Katie Harris
- Naomi Jones
- Samuel Okyere Mireku
- Lucy Oglesby
- Kathy Smith
- Carol Saddington

OCTOBER



- 5th 17th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15-9am Worship at NCFA Chapel
at Waller
Deacon Pastor *James H. Lee*,
preaching
9-10am Adult Sunday School
10:15am Worship—1507 Wilshire
Blvd.
Pastor James Lee, preaching
Sunday School—K–5th
during Worship
- 7th Men's Bible Study: Dinner at 6:30
and Study at 7pm.
- 8th Churchwide Fellowship Dinner at
6:30pm;
Deacons meeting at 7pm
- 9th Noon Bible Study at Connie Jones's
home; all welcome