July 28, 2017

NCFA CONNEXION! WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Jesus Juan Gonzalez
"Jesse"

Greetings/Saludos, New Covenant Fellowship of Austin!

Family-Friendly Sunday and Youth-Led Worship Service

There are so many unique features that distinguish NCFA from other sister PCUSA congregations in the Greater Austin Area, and one of those is our fourth Sunday of the month *Family-Friendly and Youth-Led Worship Service.* The Session's *Children & Youth Committee* is formed and supported by committed parents who make all-out efforts to guide an enthusiastic group of youngsters--who in due time will become responsible *disciples* wherever the Holy Spirit guides them.

So join us this Sunday, July 30th, 2017; and rejoice in the living testimony of our young disciples every *fourth* Sunday.

Let me share a couple of verses that I remember from Sunday School in the late 1960's, and from the Youth Ministry in the mid 1970's:

"Teach a child how he should live,
and he will remember it all his life." (Proverbs 66:1 TEV)
"I am an old man now; I have lived a long time,
but I have never seen a good man abandoned by the Lord
or his children begging for food." (Psalm 61:69 TEV)

Your prayers and support for our *Youth Leaders* are appreciated!

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

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You're invited to help us pray for our community!

We need volunteers to pray, make signs, hold signs, pass out water, and direct traffic.

Contact Kimberly Hall if you're able to help with our Drive-Through Prayer event: khall@sc2000.net

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NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP

Announcements

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Immediately following our Morning Worship Service

Your attendance is extremely important!!

Please plan on joining us.

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- ⇒ **Continue to lift up healing for Oliver who is fighting a nasty infection.**
- ⇒ **Lift up travel mercies and protection for George, Alexandria, and Carver as they attend a family reunion on St. Louis.**
- ⇒ **Lift up Trish's granddaughter visiting and teaching in Japan for 10 days.**
- ⇒ **Praise for Caly's tiny niece-in-law delivering a huge baby boy, 10 lbs 4 oz, 23 inches long. Welcome Mateo Benjamin.**
- ⇒ **Lift up save travels for Dillon, Nikkie, and Lee as well as Dexter.**
- ⇒ **Praise for the Aldas family receiving a call. You will be missed.**
- ⇒ **Pastor Lee wisdom: "When you say yes to something, you say no to something else." Pray for the Holy Spirit's clear guidance of when to say yes or no.**
- ⇒ **Praise for the huge garage sale which helped a family of 8 stay in their home. Praise also to Randy and Mary for coordinating and carrying off the event.**
- ⇒ **Praise Robert is back from two weeks with his family in Canada. They will return in two weeks. Lift up travel mercies.**
- ⇒ **Praise that Angela is well enough to be in worship!**
- ⇒ **Thank you from the Aldas family for the time spent at NCF. Lift up the logistics of finding a home, moving, starting school, new jobs, etc.**
- ⇒ **Praise for a good post-op follow up for Pastor Jesse. Praise his Granddaughter Zoe is turning 2! Lift up a replacement for his old van which is suffering from age related degeneration and needs to be retired.**
- ⇒ **Happy Birthday, Danita!**
- ⇒ **Visitor impressed with NCF Mission Statement and Affirmation of Faith. Pray for all Christians to be motivated to carry out the Great Commission.**
- ⇒ **Lift up the grieving Trigo family which lost two members within hours of each other.**
- ⇒ **Praise that Doris was near home—not on the highway—when her car's radiator failed.**
- ⇒ **Lift up patience, understanding and peace for all families, students, teachers, and school staff getting ready to go back to school.**
- ⇒ **Praise for good results from medical tests for Vernon and Doris.**
- ⇒ **Praise for a productive meeting between Vernon and the medical school about his massage therapy techniques. There will be another meeting with the School of Pharmacy to discuss it further.**

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NCFA SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, July 30th

YOUTH-LED WORSHIP

"The Heavenly Express"

by Sharon Kay Chatwell

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.

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

July 28, 2017

NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

"Stairway to Heaven"

Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
July 23rd, 2017: 7th Sunday in Pentecost

Pastor Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez

INTRODUCTION:

Today's text in Genesis is in my heart because it's the biblical basis for my home church's name "Puerta del Cielo." In verse 17 Jacob says, ***"What a terrible place this is! It must be the house of God; it must be the gate that opens into heaven."*** (TEV)

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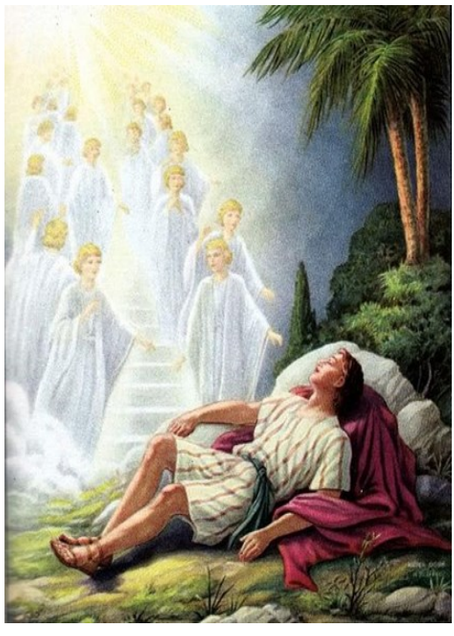
In this second pic during the 60th Anniversary of the Sanctuary Dedication in October 2015, you can observe above the altar the stained glass seal of the Southern Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church in the United States / PCUS) adopted by the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico in 1947 when its General Assembly was organized.

In a general sense, whatever the name of a Church or a Sanctuary, any space designated for Worship is a ***Beth-el***, it's a *House of God*, and in consequently it's also a *gate that opens into heaven.* Bethlehem, *Beth-lehem* means house of bread.



LESSON:

The Old Testament contains a lot more stories and references than the New Testament about Yahweh communicating with human beings through dreams and visions. Having been chosen by Yahweh over his twin brother Esau, Jacob is confirmed in his dream as the recipient of *the promise* of a *homeland* and *divine protection*. And the bonus of *the blessing* to all nations through his descendants, although not mentioned by name in the dream but later

"Stairway to Heaven"

Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
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The *open heaven* that Jacob dreamed about was to be seen again at Jesus' Baptism as it is mentioned by the Synoptic Evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke. For Jacob it was a stairway connecting heaven with earth with angels ascending and descending in confirmation of Yahweh's promise; and for Jesus it was the dove-shaped Holy Spirit descending over him in confirmation of his calling as *the Son of God*.

For Jacob that particular place was understood as sacred but although the Temple was built in Jerusalem, nevertheless Bethel became a holy site. For Jesus who predicted the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, in his resurrection provided the way for each believer to become *a temple of the Holy Spirit*. A dream coming true!

CONCLUSION

Some 40 years ago I heard a discussion about these two questions: 1) *Do you dream in color or in black and with?*
And, 2) *Do you dream with your eyes open or closed?*
We may agree that not all dreams are *sweet or pleasant*, and that we call bad dreams *nightmares*.

"Stairway to Heaven"

Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25

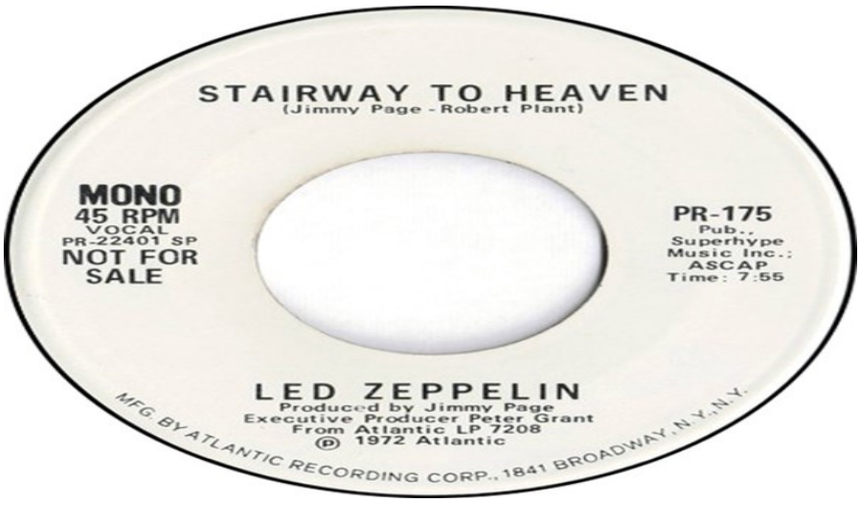
New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
July 23rd, 2017: 7th Sunday in Pentecost

Pastor Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez

I find it both interesting and awkward that Jacob is calling that site a *terrifying place*. For our Fellowship, this *hall* is ***Bethel*** as previous meeting spaces were before.

What are we dreaming about? What is the Almighty God telling us through our visions?
In the Old Testament Hebrew the idea of a direct contact between Yahweh and a human being resulted in the individual's death but now by Jesus' merits such interaction means the assurance of life and forgiveness. Why could this worship space of ours be a terrifying place? Isn't it that something that our Sanctuary is a fellowship hall and that we worship in fellowship with each other?

In the 1972 Led Zeppelin Band's "Stairway to Heaven," *a lady wants to buy a stairway to heaven.*



In Christ there is no *corporate ladder* to climb to claim spiritual success. No one needs to buy a *stairway to heaven* because Jesus is the Way and the only way to God. Let us dream in color and with open eyes inspired by what Paul writes in Romans 8:15-16: ***"By the Spirit power we cry to God, 'Father! My Father!' God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children."***

Amen.

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NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP

2017 Matching Grant

GOAL $30,000.00

We have received $15,000.00 - donor donations. Need to raise $15,000.00 in matching funds in order to meet our goal of $30,000.00.

Please consider giving to help us meet our goal.

Partner with us to grow our ministry!

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

Designate: "Funds for the Matching Grant."

Noisy Offering

Please collect your change over the next couple weeks for our "noisy offering" that will take place at the end of the month.

At the youth-led worship service on July 30th, the youth will be collecting change in metal buckets.

All change collected will help fund NCF mission projects.

Your change can change lives.

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Café Justo

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

Orders will be arranged through NCFA's Evangelism Committee. Please see Caly Fernández to place an order. Coffee is available in 1 and 5 pound bags. The cost of a 1 pound bag is $10.00 and a 5 pound bag is $ 40.00. Dark roast, medium roast and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee will be delivered biweekly to NCFA.

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

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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.

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

Henry Ford

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.

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JULY

1st	Ausley Trifiro
	Grace Holland
3rd	Aisha Adjei
8th	Rev. Bill Harris
9th	Ireland F. Sullivan
11th	George Holland
	Genevieve Booth
13th	Jayvin Mojica
15th	Chris Unegbu
16th	Lara Tallman
	Rachel Draper-Marion
18th	Emily Smith
	Ericson Stumberg
20th	Naomi Jones
	Uly Cox, Sr.
23rd	Danita Nelson
	Colton Sullivan
	Ulysses Cox, Jr.

4th Colton and Stephanie Sullivan

11th Robert and Genevieve Booth

22nd Richard and Nancy Tallman

Session Members

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

***Elder Nikkie Shubitz**
Clerk of Session

*
Administration & Personnel

* **Elder Zaira Amado**
Buildings & Grounds

***Elder Randy Mojica**
Children and Youth

***Elder George Washington IV**
Discipleship & Men's/Women's Ministry

***Elder Mary Jo Mojica**
Finance & Stewardship

***Elder Robert Booth**
Congregational Life/
Lay Ministry

***Elder Kimberly Hall**
Missions/Evangelism

***Elder Viola Lee**
Worship & Membership

Deacons

Ulysses Cox
Rey Mojica
Ashley Phillips
Scott Phillips
Cathy Trifiro

JULY—AUGUST 2017

29th 8-11am Drive-Through Prayer

30th **8th Sunday after Pentecost**
Youth-Led Worship
with the "Noisy Offering"
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Praise Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor Jesse Gonzalez
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5 (Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7); and Junior/Senior High (Room 5)
Congregation Meeting after worship.

1st 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Prayer and Praise Worship

2nd 5:30pm Worship Committee Mtg.
6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting
Bible Study

6th **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Praise Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor Jesse Gonzalez
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5 (Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7); and Junior/Senior High (Room 5)