



# FRONTLINES

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*Renewing our families, our communities, and our world by bringing faith and life together in Christ.*

## PRAYING AND PLANNING FOR GROWTH

BY CARTER SANGER

I got a text this week from one of our attenders asking why we had so many in worship the past two weeks. What could I say?

We've been praying as a session for God to increase our numbers that

“AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAY BY DAY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.” (ACTS 2:47)

we might have more influence in the city for the gospel, more volunteers to

minister to God's people, and the resources needed to send out Nathan, Alisa, and the Haven planting team.

Could it be God is answering prayer? Let us give

thanks, nonetheless. It is God who builds the house (Ps 127:1).

Even during the time of the Apostles it was God who added to their numbers. This is exciting! It also

creates the need for adjustments.

### What can you do?

- **Prayer.** Join us in praying for God to give increase, and pray for the visitors God is bringing through your invitation and your influence.
- **Parking.** The past couple of weeks our parking lot has been full at 10:30, including the street by the sanctuary. There are

*(Continued on page 6)*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Sunday School will not meet on March 11, due to Spring Break.*
- *Remember to set your clocks ahead when we “spring forward” on Sunday, March 11.*
- *New directories will be printed this month. Be sure to get yours!*
- *Help us spruce up the campus Saturdays in March. See Mark Williams for details.*

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING APPROVES BUDGET FOR 2018

The Cornerstone budget for 2018 was presented by Jonathan Tucker at a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, February 11. Each member family should have received an Annual Report detailing the proposed spending for this year.

The 2018 budget includes a slight increase, bringing it to \$360,000. Over half of that goes to cover facilities and salaries. Our policy of giving at least 10% of the

budgeted amount to missions is reflected in the designation of \$45,500 for this work—both in the Katy area and world-wide. We ended 2017 with a small surplus of \$6,741.

The budget is funded primarily by giving and by building use contributions from various home school groups and the Hispanic congregation using our facilities.

Besides the operating budget, Cornerstone maintains a

restricted Strategic Reserve Fund, in which contributions to the Katy Gospel Project (Haven) and Seminary Support are kept and distributed.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) raised funds for Hurricane Harvey relief which were channeled through Cornerstone. These funds were distributed to affected area EPC churches and to our own members who were displaced by the flood.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT



Your Deacons are thinking about security. Look for more details to come.



The January presbytery meeting received both Haven and Faith Vietnamese in Sugar Land as Mission Churches.

- Carter continued our devotional study by reviewing Chapter 4 of Rainer and Geiger's book, *Simple Church*. In this chapter the authors presented three case studies of different types of churches.

One example was Christ Fellowship which changed from a denominational name and made radical changes to worship times, focusing more on small groups. Here, the primary ministry tool became small groups. That being the case, how does a church get everyone to buy into this model? The goal is to use a

simple model to bring all of our people to maturity.

- Daniel Veiga presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Session and Deacons. He will be in charge of constructing a GaGa Ball Pit on the west side of the gym. If you want to know what GaGa Ball is, please find Daniel and ask him. The Session moved that he should go forth with his project.
- The Deacons continue to develop a campus security strategy.
- A significant amount of time was spent discussing Nathan Cotton's role at Haven Church. Nathan

wants to make sure that he is doing everything in line with the Session's guidance and expectations. The Session will continue to pray for Nathan and Haven and help the church plant in any way possible.

- Cornerstone continues to work on Ann Alcorn's trailer under the auspices of the Extending Grace Team.
- Several new families have been interviewed for membership. God is blessing Cornerstone abundantly with new members.
- As always, the Session concluded with prayers for the needs at Cornerstone.

## GULF SOUTH PRESBYTERY MEETS AT MOBILE

BY TOM LOTT

*Carter Sanger, Allen White, Nathan Cotton, Jonathan Tucker and Tom Lott traveled to Mobile for the January Gulf South Presbytery meeting. Also attending was our good friend Italo Furiere, who is looking forward to completing his seminary studies very*

*soon. Highlight for us was Nathan's report on their upcoming launch of our Haven church plant. Haven is now an official EPC Mission Church. Following is the report from our stated clerk, Michael Herrin:*

We had a great time at the 11th Stated Meeting of the Gulf South Presbytery. Covenant Church in Mobile did a wonderful job of hosting us, and we had a rich time of prayer, fellowship and learning about opportunities for mission.

We installed our new Presbytery Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Bubba O'Gwynn, and welcomed chairmen of new Presbytery committees:

- Teaching Elder (TE) Jon Tony will head our Candidates' Committee, which provides counsel and support for those preparing for the Gospel Ministry.
- TE Will Shurley will coordinate the work of our Church Health Committee, which seeks to connect congregations with resources for revitalization.
- TE Bryan Rhodes will facilitate the work of our Pastoral Care Committee, which will stay in touch with our pastors and provide support for them.

TE Gerrit Dawson reminded the presbytery of the Pastors'

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## HAVEN LAUNCH IS UNDERWAY

Cornerstone held a farewell reception for Nathan and Alisa Cotton on Sunday, January 28, as they are beginning Sunday services for their Katy church plant, Haven. They and their launch team had hands laid on them and were prayed for in the worship service also. It was a sweet time of fellowship with friends and family.

We are sad to see the Cottons leave but so excited about the

work they will be doing— primarily with unchurched or de-churched young adults in the Katy area.

Haven’s official launch date is Palm Sunday, March 25, at the BONA Fitness Center in old Katy, where they will be meeting for worship. You can also keep up with them by visiting the Haven website, [havenkaty.com](http://havenkaty.com).

Please continue to pray for the success of this venture. Cornerstone is a sponsor of Haven, and we will be staying in close contact with the Cottons and encouraging them as the plant grows. Haven was approved as a **Mission Church** at the January meeting of Gulf South Presbytery.



We celebrated the launch of Nathan and Alisa Cotton’s church plant, Haven, on Sunday, January 28.

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is...** The winner of February’s Candy Heart Game is Mischa. Her guess of 900 matched the approximate number of candies in the jar – according to the packaging – without going over. Congratulations, Mischa! She will receive a Chick-

fil-A coupon and all the candy hearts.

Be sure to submit your guess for March’s Candy Game... and be **sure to write clearly and include your FIRST & LAST names**. To encourage our kids to read the *Frontlines* newsletter, winners must ask Mrs. Kutzer for their prize.

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**

We have a new team member in the Nursery! Ms. Laura Garay was hired last month to help fill in some gaps here at Cornerstone. We might also share her with the new Haven church plant. Please give her a warm welcome.

### *Thank you!*

*We are so thankful for our Cornerstone family. You have blessed us greatly with your shower of gifts this past Christmas. I can't tell you how much that means to us.*

*This has been a difficult year navigating the hardships of Harvey, sending a 2nd child off to college, and praying through the preparation of planting a new church with the Cottons. I'm so glad to be part of a supportive church family. Thank you!*

*In Christ,  
the Sanger family*



We were happy to have two new families commit to membership at Cornerstone in February. Welcome to the Carrolls (Steven, Orgeny, Michael, and Angelina) and the Jedigs (Kent, Rikki, William, and Marcus).

## BRIDGES USES EASTER TO PROBE STUDENTS FOR UNDERSTANDING



Bridges uses a survey to measure international students' understanding of Jesus.

Dear family in Christ,  
Hope you will experience Christ's presence in a special way this Lent season.

Today as I was having lunch with three Turkish students and we had a lot of fun sharing about our cultures (Turkey and Kazakhstan) and how much we have in common and how our languages are so similar, it also quickly transitioned into a spiritual conversation as we saw few people walking with ash crosses on their foreheads for the Ash Wednesday, symbolizing the beginning of Lent. I was able to share the Gospel so easily, because they had so many questions.

Because we are in the Lent season, leading up to the Easter, including our Bridges Easter party on March

24th, it's a great opportunity for us to engage our students spiritually. We usually try to meet them one-on-one and have an Easter survey with them. The questions we ask are:

- 1) When someone mentions Easter, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?
- 2) Have you participated in an Easter celebrations? Describe the celebration.
- 3) Have you heard the original story behind Easter?
- 4) Easter celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ. According to your understanding and belief, why was Jesus crucified?
- 5) Do you think or believe He came back from the dead?

6) In your opinion, who is Jesus Christ?

Pray that the Lord will open doors for us. Pray that our students will be receptive and not harden their hearts. Pray for the fruit that will bring glory to our God.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

Blessings,

*Daka Dyussekov*

cell phone: (281) 217-6460

## UNNERSTALLS WELCOME A BABY BOY



Welcome to Everett James Unnerstall!

After much anticipation, Everett James Unnerstall was born on February 1 at 5:35 p.m., over 5 weeks early!

We are thankful for his safe arrival and that Amanda is recovering well after experiencing high blood pressure and a pulmonary embolism before the birth and a seizure following it. Everett was immediately admitted to the NICU for respiratory distress.

The following is from the Unnerstall's letter:

"The NICU nurses were un-

believably amazing! They took care of Everett as if he were their own baby.

"We were able to share with the doctors and nurses, both for me and for Everett, that God was working through this situation and that so many people around the world were praying for us. I hope that this witness affected them in some way.

"Please pray specifically for one nurse, Fatima. She meant so much to me! She was there for all of the big days for Ev-

rett...when I got to hold him for the first time, when she unofficially took him off oxygen to see how he would do, because she believed he was strong enough, and again the day he was officially unhooked from all the machines and we found out he would come home the next day. I took a picture with her and got her phone number, and I hope to see her again."

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT GUATEMALA TRIP

BY CARTER SANGER

I am excited to announce that we have a total of 14 people signed-up for our Guatemala trip. Ten of those are from Cornerstone. A number of people who can't go have approached me and asked how they can support the trip. If God has laid it on your heart to give above and beyond your support of the church, there are a number of ways you can help.

### 1. Pray

- Pray for the team's **success** in spreading the gospel and encouraging the Church in Jalapa.
- Pray for the team's **safety** (there are dangers in Guatemala, from disease to kidnapping).
- Pray for Pastor Juan Monroy and the church he leads.

### 2. Give

- Sponsor a missionary. The cost is approximately \$1370/person. Many have stepped out in faith to go, not sure how they will pay for the trip.
- Rent-a-youth. There are three youth going on the trip (Joey Gourlay, Tucker Kutzer, and Fenton Sanger). They are looking to raise funds to cover their cost. You can rent them for a half-day and pay what you can.
 

Contact their families to arrange it (Carol Kutzer; May Gourlay; Rhonda Sanger).
- Give funds to help us buy hard-soled shoes for kids living in the city dump, and rice and beans for families in need.

Why are we going in Guatemala? We're going to support church planting in Jalapa, Guatemala. We helped launch a church there, quite unexpectedly, while on a vision trip in 2013. As we considered this church's needs, seminary training for the pastor, Juan Monroy, loomed large on the list.

Cornerstone sponsored Juan's training, and this May he's graduating. We will attend his graduation, lead evangelism visits to varying places in his city, and provide shoes and food to children and families in need.

For the Kingdom,  
*Pastor Carter*



You can help Cornerstone members going to Guatemala in May.

## WORSHIP TRAINING LEADERS TO PLAN TOGETHER

BY CAROL KUTZER

As Children's Director, part of my job is helping people understand the difference between Children's Church and the Worship Training we offer here at Cornerstone. Most often Children's Church is aimed at making worship more entertaining for children – leaving them bored and woefully unprepared when they do attend corporate worship. It is our desire that families worship all together on Sunday mornings...regardless of age.

However, we recognize that not all families are ready, or

are prepared, to have their younger children with them. This is where Worship Training comes in. We walk the children through each part of the church service and we discuss the "why" and "how" things. They also learn a few "big church" songs and they memorize the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. This helps them be ready to PARTICIPATE in corporate worship, not merely sit and stay quiet.

**Worship Training Meeting:** Because consistency between our leaders is a key component to the training, it

is necessary to meet occasionally and review our methods and practices.

I want to invite you to attend our next Worship Training meeting on **Monday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m.**

While the main focus of this meeting is for the leaders, this year we also hope to train leaders from the Haven church plant so they can implement Worship Training. I also want our parents and visitors to feel welcome to attend to learn more about Worship Training. I hope to see you there!



Worship Training seeks to prepare children to be participants in the regular worship service.



Join us at The Gallery apartments this spring to share the love of Jesus!

## KIDZ CLUB RESUMES MARCH 20

Kidz Club, Cornerstone's outreach ministry to children living at The Gallery apartments just north of the church, will begin its spring session on Tuesday, March 20.

We play games, sing songs, and include a Bible story and application each week for about six weeks. Meetings are from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. each Tuesday.

Come join the fun! Contact Evelyn Saugier to learn more.

## GROWTH: MAKING ROOM FOR MORE

*(Continued from page 1)*

some open spaces on the east side of the gym, however. If you are able and willing to park in that area and make the walk, you could help us free spaces in the parking lot for new people.

- **Pews.** Our seating, too, is limited. There are open spots, but they are spread out and make it difficult for visitors coming at 10:30 to

find. You can help by moving up in the front sections and not leaving empty seats. Please reserve the back for late comers, as no one wants to walk in front of a room to find a seat.

The Session and Deacons are also preparing. We want to be good shepherds of God's people and have a more clearly defined plan for helping mature God's people. As a Session we are working on clarifying our vision and further

defining our movement in terms of maturing God's people. We're reading through a book called *Simple Church* to help us in that.

We're also starting two new small groups, one on Thursday nights and one on Sunday nights. Lastly, we're looking into the what it would take to transition to two services if/when the need arises.

Excited by the Gospel,  
*Pastor Carter*



Help us make room for visitors by parking near the gym.

## PRESBYTERY DEALS WITH SOME SERIOUS ISSUES

*(Continued from page 2)*

Retreat which will take place in Baton Rouge starting on April 26, and urged sessions to make it possible for their pastors to attend.

Among the highlights of our meeting were welcoming two new Mission Churches: Haven church in Katy, Texas, led by TE Nathan Cotton, and Faith Vietnamese in Sugar Land, Texas, led by TE Daniel Nguyen. TE Ben Cunningham also spoke about the Presbytery's church plant in New Orleans, Louisiana: Church of the Resurrection. Please keep all of these mission churches in your prayers.

We were pleased to hear from one of the missionaries who will soon be working with our Engage 2025 group. Please contact TE Whitney Alexander for further information, as we have to be careful sharing too much over the internet.

Our special presentation concerned church security issues.

There was also discussion about the "Pastoral Letter on Human Sexuality" which will be considered by the upcoming General Assembly in Memphis, and which should be studied by our Teaching Elders and sessions before that time.

Gulf South Treasurer Jonathan Tucker helped us under-

stand how our Presbytery uses the Per Member Asking funds it receives as he explained our 2018 budget. PMA for the Presbytery is \$16. We also learned a lot about Per Member Asking for General Assembly from a video presentation from GA Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah.

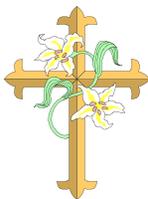
Finally, Dan Tidwell told about the new schedule for reviewing Presbytery minutes. We are moving to a calendar year review, so all the minutes from your session for the year 2017 are due to the committee by March 1.

The next Presbytery meeting will be hosted by First Baton Rouge on April 27 and 28.



A "Pastoral Letter on Human Sexuality" will be considered by the next General Assembly.

## EASTER CELEBRATIONS ARE PLANNED



We will scale back our Easter events this year, but are no less joyful as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

### Maundy Thursday

**Maundy Thursday** is a solemn and reflective service, when we remember our Lord's last evening with his disciples and participate in communion.

This year we will join our brothers and sisters from the other area EPC churches—Christ EPC, City of Refuge, and Haven—in a joint service at Christ EPC, 8300 Katy Freeway. The service will

begin at 7:00 p.m.

### Palm Sunday

A special feature of our Palm Sunday service will be the **children's choir**, led by Lauren Torregano. Please contact her at 832-741-5785 for details on practice times.

### Easter Sunday

An **Egg Hunt** is planned to follow worship on Easter Sunday, April 1. We know that the kids are excited to learn who will find the special eggs! We will not have Sunday School that morning.

## HARVEY RELIEF PROJECT AT ANN'S HOUSE

BY GENE COVER

The home of Ann Alcorn, one of our long-time child care workers, was damaged by Hurricane Harvey, and Cornerstone offered to help her repair her home off of Morton Road.

Allen White, Jim Yuvancic, and Jack Kutzer and their crews have been working on the inside over the past several weeks to fix the walls, floors, and ceilings in several rooms, and to get the roof over the main part of the house redone. The inside work is coming along nicely with carpet, flooring, and some plumbing left to do.

The last major work is to repair the front porch and the roof over it. We will work on this project during the KISD Spring Break March 19-23. We'll need to demolish the old porch roof, replace it, and fix some rotten boards in the porch floor and steps. Then the Cornerstone youth can power wash the porch and paint it.

If you can help with any of this, please contact Gene Cover.



**1351 S. Mason Rd.  
Katy, Texas 77450**

**(281) 579-1080  
info@cornerstonekaty.org**

**On the Web @  
www.cornerstonekaty.org**

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