



FRONTLINES

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2018

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

YOU ARE VITAL TO THE BODY

BY CARTER SANGER

The Scripture is filled with images of the Church. It's a body (1 Corinthians 12), It's a battalion (Matthew 16:18). It's a temple for the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 2). Each of these images reveal the importance of every single member doing his part.

Think of an army. Every soldier has a place that serves the greater mission. If he goes AWOL he creates a problem for the rest of his company. He puts the others at risk. Think of a temple built of stones. What happens when a stone in the

side of a structure is knocked loose? The temple may stand, but its strength is weakened. Water gets in, which damages the items inside. Critters get in and wreak havoc. And it's only a matter of time before a storm threatens to topple it altogether.

"WE NEED EVERY-ONE SERVING TO BE THAT EFFECTIVE BATTALION THAT BREAKS DOWN THE GATES OF HELL..."

Think of the human body. This is the picture that Paul draws upon in 1 Corinthians 12. A body has eyes, ears, hands, feet, etc. Each part is different and works together. What happens when you're missing an eye? A hand? A foot? In every case the body is crip-

pled. Everything becomes difficult, and some things become impossible.

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is just like these pictures. We need everyone serving to be that effective battalion that breaks down the gates of hell; the strong and beautiful temple indwelt by the Holy Spirit; the healthy body unhindered in its mission to make disciples.

Just like any successful venture, there are many things to do—some big and some little. But all are important. As a member of the Cornerstone body, where are you serving? A healthy body has all parts contributing to the work.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Cornerstone will begin serving communion every Sunday beginning in October.*
- *We will be hosting the meeting of Central South Presbytery next September. Here's your chance to see our denomination at work.*
- *Have you joined a small group yet? There is still room....*

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NEW OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED AT OCTOBER 7 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Officer Nominating Committee has completed its work and will present its recommendations for Elder and Deacon at a Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, October 7.

Gene Cover and Sam Downing will be nominated for the Session, and Steve Bressler and Jeff Magee for Deacons.

Hopefully, you have given your suggestions for officers to the committee, since we

do not take additional nominations from the floor.

Please plan to stay following worship and be part of this important decision (and don't forget to pick up your children from the nursery first).

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT



HOW WOULD YOU
FILL IN THIS BLANK?

“DISCIPLES AT OUR
CHURCH ARE
-----”

- Carter continued our devotional study by reviewing The Postscript (or what we have learned) of Rainer and Geiger’s book, *Simple Church*. The Elders and Deacons met on the following Saturday, September 22, in order to begin designing a simple process.

Carter asked us to think about starting from scratch and consider the answer to this statement: Disciples at our church are _____. We were asked to think about it, pray about it, and write it down. Step 2 will be to describe Cornerstone in process terms. How do people become disciples at our church? The next step is to place key programs along this process.

- The Session interviewed several new people for membership at Cornerstone, and all were accepted. These were Jason and Kristin Corkran, TK and Chana Hanke, and Joyce and Susanna Westlake. Susanna is Joyce’s daughter. They will be officially introduced to the congregation in the coming weeks. Cornerstone began the year with 79 members. We have added 23 new members since February; this is a percentage growth of 29%. Thank You, Lord!
- In the Financial Report summary, John Barrett told us that we are behind on the budget and will need approximately \$40,000 more by December. Currently we aren’t in a position to take care of some needed maintenance issues. God has provided for us in the past; please pray that He will do so again.
- Cornerstone is hosting the GO1 Church Revitalization Seminar the weekend of October 12 and 13.
- The Session agreed that Cornerstone should host the September 2019 Gulf South Presbytery Meeting.
- The Session approved sending 50% of the Strategic Reserve Hurricane Funds to the EPC for Florence flood relief efforts. The total will be \$21,000.
- As always, the Session concluded with prayers for the needs at Cornerstone.

INCOME IS FALLING BEHIND EXPENSES

BY JOHN BARRETT

After the first eight months of 2018, Cornerstone’s financial health is good, but somewhat below expectations. Expenses have exceeded income and cash reserves have decreased \$14,536 since the beginning of the year.

Cornerstone still has a positive cash balance, but there are upcoming expenditures that will require more of those funds. For example, several of the air conditioning units are old and need to be replaced. We are using them as long as possible, but they are reaching a point where repair costs exceed replace-

ment. Funds are budgeted for major maintenance, including air conditioners, but similar to last year, those expenses are exceeding the budget.

Our financial situation this year is very much like last year, and God provided everything we needed in 2017. We continue to pray for His provision and guidance to use His resources in the best way possible. If anyone has questions about Cornerstone’s finances, please contact John Barrett or Jonathan Tucker.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is...**
The winner of September's Cotton Ball Game is Tasanee. Her guess of 100 was the closest to the exact number of cotton balls in the jar (117) without going over. Congratulations, Tasanee! She will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and a load of candy.

Be sure to submit your guess for October's Candy Corn 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.

☺ **Recycle Old Markers:**
Crayola has a recycling pro-

gram for old markers. They use them to turn used markers into energy. Look for the blue box in the Copy Room and let's fill it up!

☺ **Parents' Night Out:**
On Friday, October 19, at 6:00 p.m. parents may drop off their children in their PJs at Cornerstone and then spend a few hours together.

Please send a dinner with them, a blanket and a pillow. We will provide a dessert, a craft or two, and popcorn while they watch a movie. Children should be picked up at or before 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 for the first child; \$5 each additional child.

Please contact the Carol Kutzer by October 8 to regis-

ter your kiddos. If you would like to reserve a space or sponsor a family, please contact Carol at (281) 579-1080 or info@CornerstoneKaty.org.

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**
Question of the month: As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn:
Teacher
- Ms. Carol Rutar:
I don't remember, I think it used to change weekly/daily
- Ms. Kinsey Spain:
Primatologist
- Ms. Laura Garay:
Nurse



Old dried-up markers can be recycled! Bring them to help fill up our box.

BOTROS FAMILY WILL BE HOME THIS YEAR

Nour and Rebecca Botros will be coming home from Lebanon for some R&R this year. They will take some time off from mission work to relax and catch up with friends and

family from mid-September till mid-April.

Starting in January, they will visit churches to give an update on what they are doing, and we hope to schedule a

time for them to visit Cornerstone. Stay tuned for dates on this.

NEW BIBLE STORYBOOKS ARE AVAILABLE

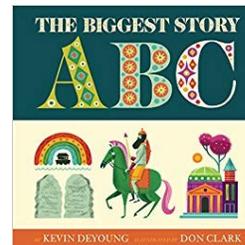
BY CAROL KUTZER

We have a new book for sale in the foyer of the Sanctuary. *The Biggest Story* is a new children's book by Kevin DeYoung and illustrated by Don Clark. It is not a children's Bible, but it does tell the Bible story from Genesis to Revelation. We have one copy available to borrow

from the children's library. And we have put a toddler version in each of the nursery rooms.

Rev. DeYoung writes, "This book began as a Christmas sermon for my church. I wanted to tell the familiar advent story in a way that was fresh and faithful to the biblical text. I tried to deliver the message like I was

reading a book - a book for children sitting by the fire on Christmas morning. Alas, I had no fireplace in the pulpit that Sunday and no children gathered at my feet! But I hoped someday to carry the story past the Christmas narrative and find a gifted illustrator who could make the sweet gospel story sparkle as it should."



Bold illustrations make these two new Bible storybooks outstanding.

BEING MENTALLY PREPARED IS KEY IN “ACTIVE ATTACKER” SITUATIONS



Officers from the Harris County Constable’s office gave Cornerstone members some good tips on what to do/not do in a stressful situation.

“THERE ARE MAPS WITH EXITS MARKED ON THEM IN EVERY CLASSROOM.”

Cornerstone members and visitors had the opportunity on Sunday, Sept. 16, to get valuable information on being ready for an “active attacker event”, when Sgt. Ellis and Capt. Hubbard from the Harris County Constable’s office spoke following worship.

They reiterated several times that the three most important steps to take are:

- Avoid
- Deny
- Defend

We can *avoid* an attacker by being aware of our surroundings, note the actions of others, listen for unusual noises (bangs), use of cover and concealment. Above all, the officers said, “Do not hesitate.”

Our best protection is often to *deny* access to the attacker. If possible, close and lock the door where you are; second best is to barricade or secure the door (a belt through a door closer will keep it from opening). Then try to be invisible: lights off, silence

phones, keep out of sight. If possible, line up on the same wall as the door.

If confrontation can’t be avoided, *defend* yourself. You have the right to defend yourself, and you don’t have to fight fair. Be aggressive.

When the police do arrive, comply with all their commands. Show your hands (palms out) and don’t have anything (ex.: cell phone) in your hand. Don’t move until directed to.

In cases where evacuation is necessary, there are three stages of disaster response:

- Denial
- Deliberation
- Decisive moment

In moments of stress, we naturally revert to what the officers called “lizard brain”. That means our body only responds to what it’s trained to do – the eyes and hearing close in. Calm yourself by taking deep breaths in through the nose and breathing out the mouth. And re-

member that you don’t have to **go out** the same way that you **came in**. Another door or even a window can be a good means of escape.

Every building on our campus has a “back entrance”. Almost every classroom in the Education Building has a door leading outside as well as one off the central hall. Be sure to familiarize yourself with those exits. There are maps with exits marked on them in every classroom. Cornerstone always has “greeters” stationed around our campus on Sundays to intercept someone who may be there to cause mischief.

Got a small flashlight? Even your cell phone can be used as one if you are in the dark.

To learn more or to watch the videos shown at the training, just go to www.avoiddenydefend.org or download the mobile app “AvoidDenyDefend”.



Are you doing your part to keep our “body” working properly?

THE BODY: EVERYONE HAS A PART

(Continued from page 1)
So, accept with grace that assignment to work in the nursery, or children’s Worship Training, or security, or as an usher or greeter. We need every member to be on one of these teams. This is how we serve one another.

Serving in the nursery enables others to worship. Teaching the children’s Worship Training lays the foundation for discipleship. Greeting people as they enter sets the tone for their worship. Will they feel welcome or self-conscious? Ushering helps us ensure eve-

ryone has a place and knows what to expect. Every part is needed. And in the end, Christ is glorified.

S'MORES AND MORE

BY DONIECE RUSSELL

Ladies, do you like chocolate? How about a fire on a cool autumn evening? If you answered "yes" to either of those questions please join us for "S'mores and More" on the church patio Thursday evening, November 1 at 6:30. We will provide the s'mores fixings and coffee! You bring a shareable snack and a beverage if you would like something other than coffee.

This will be our first "official" women's fellowship for this year. Why do we have "official" fellowships? The

simplest answer is that life is busy and most of us find it hard to slow down and take time to get to know other women. It's hard enough to even have a conversation with your close friends sometimes much less someone you don't know well. We hope this is that opportunity to get to know other women in the church. After all we are sisters for all eternity!

Another reason is that "The God of heaven and earth is a personal God who enters into an intimate relationship with us. Our relationships with each other are to mirror God's relationship with us."

As we know each other better our prayer would be that we as women would collectively bring a "deeper sense of community and compassion to our church family." (Susan Hunt in The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood).

Women need fellowship. One thing I do know is that I need help with this. It does not come naturally to me! Come on November 1 and let's get to know one another better. Let's eat chocolate and chat by the fire. Let's "help a sister out"!



Join us for a ladies' fellowship evening on November 1 and get to know some of the new folks at Cornerstone.

HAVEN IS UP AND RUNNING HARD

Here is some of Nathan Cotton's recent news:

Can you believe we have reached the 6th month mark already. Some days I feel like I have a grasp on where we are going, other days, I have no idea what I am doing. Yet, God is still faithful!

- Meeting in the gym on Sundays has been great. Keith is very generous with his facilities and they have met all of our needs.

- Our new average Sunday morning is 50-70 people. This has been incredibly encouraging.

- We have 3 small groups (Woman, Men, and Coed) The coed group is new for us, it will be meeting on Sunday morning. (Very much like a

Sunday School) We are going to study Keller's Reason for God.

- We have been having great turn outs for our No Label nights. This is our main outreach activity.

Leadership Development:

- Our Core team started implementing the BLESS strategy around the same time as Cornerstone.

- We have bi-monthly meetings with the Core team checking in, and voting on some of the day-to-day operations.

- All of our Core team lead certain ministries either on Sundays or during the week. I am coaching them in their various spheres.

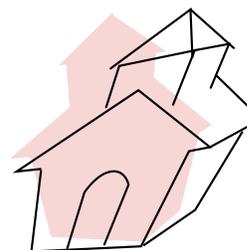
- I have begun meeting with individuals from our team and gaining 6th month feedback.

- We plan to start recruiting more volunteers this fall for various operations, and hosting a vision night / upward and upward meeting night.

Personal Leadership Development:

- I have been meeting with the Houston Church Planting Network (HCPN) cohort this month. This is a year-long residency cohort I was accepted into last March. Although it has been a huge time investment, it has been worth every second. I have hit a ceiling in my ability to train leaders, and empower our volunteers. HCPN is helping me break

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Haven's unconventional approach is reaching those not drawn to conventional services.

"IT'S A STRUGGLE, BUT PERSONALLY MY FAVORITE STRUGGLE."



UPDATE FROM DAKA

Here are some excerpts from the latest Bridges newsletter:

“WE WANT THEM TO EXPERIENCE JESUS FROM THE BODY OF CHRIST IN AMERICA.”



Prayer requests and praises:

- ◇ Praise God for bringing over 250 new international students to our Welcome Party. Pray for us as we are following up with those who are interested in Bible studies at UH, Rice and HCC.
- ◇ Pray for Mo and many other spiritually open young people in Egypt to find the Truth in Christ alone.
- ◇ Pray for our volunteers as they follow up with their international friends to have open doors for the Gospel.

Dear friends,
Can you imagine living in another country for a year or more, and nobody from that country seeks to befriend you? Unfortunately, that is true for many international students. About 80% never get invited into an American home.

This summer Daka had the opportunity to take a trip to Egypt with fellow staff. This group of 20 staff had been taking a course taught by Daka and another staff. The course equipped them to understand the religion and culture of people predominately from Muslim countries and how to engage them with the gospel.

The trip to Egypt was the capstone of the course, by getting to go to a predominately Muslim country and experience the religion and culture. While in Egypt they would engage local students in the malls and other public places of gathering.

Daka “randomly” met a young Egyptian doctor, name Mo who had spent the past year studying at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. The doctor told Daka that he had really wanted to befriend an American while he was in the U.S., but the friends he made were other international students. He was very excited to meet an “American”; they had a great spiritual conversation

together. He longs to come back to Houston, and Daka told him, “When you come, email me and I will pick you up from the airport.”

If you know us, you know that we are passionate about making students feel welcomed here in the US. Not just because we want them to have a positive experience in the US, but we believe that God is bringing many of these students to the US to meet followers of Jesus that they cannot meet back in their home countries. We want them to experience Jesus from the body of Christ in America. This is why we love serving with Bridges, that as an organization has the same vision.

...For us, the Welcome Party is an important opportunity to live out the vision of engaging Christian members of the Houston community with the opportunity to befriend international students.... As I, Heather, looked around the Welcome Party this year it seemed that students were really enjoying their time with their table hosts.... they seemed to want to linger and chat with their hosts.

After lunch time, Caron walked up to me, Heather, to say hello. Caron has been a long time ministry partner and volunteer at many of our Bridges Events. I love having her come, because I know she will be faithful to the friends she meets.... The love of Jesus truly shines through her. She is very faithful to talk

with them about Jesus. Many of her international friends join her to study the Bible on Friday nights, after Caron has worked a full-time job at Exxon throughout the week. While Caron and I were chit chatting at the Welcome Party, a young women wearing a hijab walked up and stood beside Caron. Caron introduced me to this young Egyptian she had just befriended. The girl said to me, “Yes, and Caron and I are going to go shopping together.” I could tell by the Egyptian girl’s body language and facial expression that she was excited by this new American friend and already had a sense she could trust her....

My heart was thrilled as I left the Welcome Party, knowing this Egyptian woman had just made a friend with a true follower of Jesus. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the over one million international students in the US could have a friend just like Caron?

We thank you again for your faithful prayers and partnership.

Note: They are expecting a new baby. Please also pray for Heather as she is in the third trimester, that the pregnancy will continue to develop smoothly and for a safe delivery. Her due date is November 7. They are grateful that Daka’s mom is coming from Kazakhstan November 1.

HAVEN: REACHING OUTSIDERS

(Continued from page 5)

through that ceiling.

- Richard Harris is still coaching me, helping me with my preaching as well.

Personal Evangelism:

- I continue to make new friends at the gym and am having several gospel conversations a week.

- We are sharing the gospel every Sunday and going to lunch/margaritas with visitors.

- I also am getting involved in Laine's (my oldest child) elementary school.

Things that are going well:

- With all the messiness that is church planting, this is still the greatest job I have ever had in my life. I love it.

- We are still maintaining a strong 10-20% unchurched/non-Christian population for Sunday worship.

- Our internet traffic is growing steadily.

- The burn out rate is low on our volunteers.

- Our leaders really develop their spiritual gifts. The center of influence is shifting off of me, and moving to the community that we are developing.

Areas that need Improvement:

- I am struggling with developing leaders. Specifically in the area of mobilization.

- Small group structuring. We have taken to the TWC style of small groups, but we have yet to see our people really connect interpersonally.

- I continue to struggle with my preaching. I am finding my groove, but I am still wanting to improve the "stickiness" of my content. I am always wrestling with, how do I preach with my deep reformed convictions to an audience that
 1) has little to no church background,
 2) has been hurt by the church, or
 3) never been to church.

It's a struggle, but personally my favorite struggle :)

Prayer Request:

- I think we are getting close to a place where I feel we can start serving communion on Sunday mornings. Further preparation is still needed, and I plan to do several sermons about the sacraments leading up to serving the elements.

- Our goal is to raise \$150,000 for our expenses and expansions for 2019. We are looking to bring on additional staff, begin the process of our next church plant, and engage in global missions. Pray for how God would have you partner with us in this endeavor.

- Pray for the Cotton family. By God's grace my children still love me and their mother. Church planting hasn't

changed that, but it certainly has challenged it.

- Alisa and I are experiencing the best marriage we ever have. The tumultuous chaos around us, has forced us to cling to Jesus and one another more than any other time. It has been a sweet reward having Alisa by my side in this process. Continue to pray for us.

I love you all so much, this is not just my church plant, this is our church plant. And God is using Haven to reach many for the gospel, and bring many home to the church they thought they had lost hope in.

Blessings,
Nathan Cotton

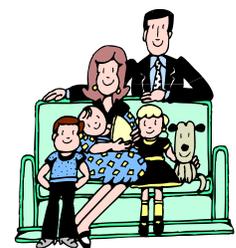


Haven has been laying the groundwork to begin serving communion.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We were happy to have several new folks join our church family recently!

Please welcome . . .
 TK and Chana Hanke,
 Joyce and Susannah Westlake,
 Jason and Kristin Corkran
 and their 2 children,
 Jonathan and Kathleen Shumate
 and their 6 children.



The Shumate's twin girls, Evangeline and Salomeya were baptized in September.



HEART-TO-HEART HAS A NEW FORMAT

Heart-to-Heart, Cornerstone's Mentoring Ministry for women, will kick off with a coffee at Lauren Torregano's home, 10003 St. Romain Drive, Katy, on Sunday afternoon, October 14 (*note date change from last month's newsletter*), at 3:00 p.m.

We hope our younger women will initiate a relationship with an older woman for the time period that works best for them—it won't be a set six-months as in the past.

For our newer members, who may not know a potential mentor to ask, there's

help available. We will have a list of women who are willing to be mentors available at the coffee, along with their contact information.

Please come and hear more about this new approach! We hope the more flexible ministry plan will encourage more of our women to participate. You will be sure to make a friend for life.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Cover or Evelyn Saugier .



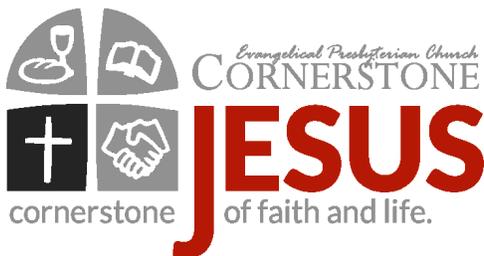
KIDZ CLUB RESUMES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

An outreach effort for Cornerstone the past several years has been the once-weekly afternoon program Kidz Club, which brings a Bible story, games, songs, and refreshments to children at The Gallery apartments just down the road from us.

With cooler air on the way, we will begin our fall session on Tuesday, October 9,

from 4:00 till 5:15 in the afternoon. We will end with a Christmas program on December 4.

It's a fun time with the kids, and there is always a need for "substitutes". If you are available to help, or just want to know more, contact Evelyn Saugier.



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

*Seeking to renew our families,
our communities, and our world
by bringing faith and life
together in Christ.*