

# FRONTLINES

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 12    DECEMBER 2018

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

## COMING TO THE TABLE

BY CARTER SANGER

*Who should take the Lord's Supper? Since October we have communion every week in worship. With the increased frequency, it is all the more important to understand who is to partake. Paul gives a warning when he writes about the practice of the Lord's Supper,*

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For*

*anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. (1 Corinthians 11:26-30)*

When we come to the table, we proclaim the Lord's death, his blood, as that which sealed the New Covenant. It is the sole basis on which we can enter God's fellowship without fear of condemnation. It reconciles enemies into family.

This is so important that Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves to ensure that we discern the body. This refers to the "body and blood" that were shed for you in

one sense. You ought to approach humbly, recognizing that it only by grace that you can come at all.

In another sense we are to discern the body of Christ which is the church. Paul's warning comes because some were eating much and leaving none to others. Some were drinking to the point of drunkenness and some did not get any. They failed to see the fellowship that Christ's sacrifice was to produce not only with God but with each other. This is why he continues as he does,

*So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat,*

*(Continued on page 6)*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24-25, and on December 31-January 1.*
- *Sunday School will take a holiday break on December 23 and 30, and January 6.. We will have worship only on those Sundays. Remember the Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24.*
- *January's newsletter will be a littler later than usual due to the Christmas holiday.*

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## OUR TOP TEN FOR 2018

BY CAROL KITZER

Top 10 Most Memorable Events in the life of Cornerstone in 2018 – not in any order:

1. 23 new members
2. Guatemala Mission Trip
3. 12<sup>th</sup> Feeding B4 Feasting – 1,191 pounds of food collected! All those boxes!!!!
4. 2 babies born: Regan Vaksdal and Christian Torregano
5. Harvey Remembrance Sunday
6. \$94,019 donated to missions/ missionaries (includes Haven support and seminary scholarship) and \$1,302.19 to the Pregnancy Help Center this year!
7. Church Security Training
8. We planted Haven EPC!
9. Summer of B.L.E.S.S.
10. Men Who Love Their Wives class started

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT

- Carter continued our devotional study by reviewing Chapter 9 of Rainer and Geiger's book, *Simple Church*. The title of this chapter was "Just Do It".

In addition to *Simple Church*, consider BLESSED:

Begin in prayer,  
Listen to people,  
Eat with them,  
Serve them,  
Share with them.

In general, it was concluded among the Elders and Deacons that our desire to be engaged in evangelism was pretty high, but our activity is too low. Over the next few weeks, we will assess our evangelism temperature, on a scale of 1-10, and attempt to raise it at least one point.

Further discussion at the November meeting indicated that we are becoming more aware of the opportunities around us, and we're starting to be more engaged with non-believers, but our activity level still isn't what it needs to be.

- In the Financial Report summary, John Barrett told us that giving for September was \$30,000. Monthly giving so far this year has averaged around \$23,000 per month with a total budget of \$360,000. Total income in October was nearly \$26,000; this is still somewhat short of our budgeted needs. Please continue to pray that God provides additional funds to make our budget by the end of the year.
- In the November meeting, next year's budget was discussed, especially in light of our shortfall so far in 2018. What is encouraging is that we were almost exactly in the same place last year financially, and God provided what we needed to make the budget. Please, continue to pray.
- Nathan updated us on activities and progress at Haven. They have begun a new members' class with 30 signed up, and will soon be conducting interviews. This will be a huge step for such a diverse congregation. Pray for Nathan and those who are attending Haven.
- As always, the Session concluded with prayers for the needs at Cornerstone.

## STEPPING STONES RESUMES IN JANUARY



Stepping Stones will return January 18 for girls ages 10+.

Stepping Stones, Cornerstone's ministry for girls ages 10 and up, will resume on January 18. Our focus this year will be taken from the book [Lies Young Women Believe \(And the Truth that Sets Them Free\)](#).

Our programs will be the third Friday each month, January through May, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will have refreshments, a fun activity, and a serious discussion on important

topics in the lives of our girls.

This is for all the girls from Cornerstone—and they are encouraged to invite their friends to come along, too.

Our presenters this year will include Alisa Cotton, Lores Glover, Evelyn Saugier, and Beverly Tucker.

We look forward to seeing some new girls this year, as well as those who have been

with us for the past three years.

If you have questions, just talk to one of the presenters or to Linda Cover.

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

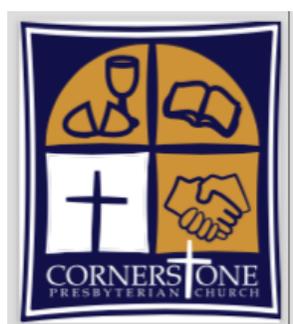
☺ **And the winner is...**  
The winner of November’s Werther’s Original Game is Daniella. She is a student of Liberty Classical which meets on our campus. Her guess of 188 was the closest to the exact number of candies in the jar (189) without going over. Congratulations, Miss Daniella! She will receive a Chick-fil-

A coupon and all the candy in the jar.

Be sure to submit your guess for December’s Starbright Mints 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:**  
Question of the month: What’s the weirdest food you’ve ever eaten?  
*Ms. Ann Alcorn:*  
Frog legs  
*Ms. Carol Rutar:*  
Babaganush (not too weird, it’s like humus but the name is weird)  
*Ms. Kinsey Spain:* Sushi  
*Ms. Laura Garay:*  
Pigs feet

“Did you know your purchases can make a difference?  
AmazonSmile donates to Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church when you do your holiday shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2204545](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2204545).”



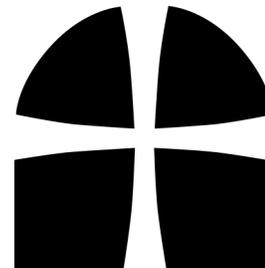
2005



2011



2014



2018

## DIFFERENT LOGOS PROCLAIM THE SAME MESSAGE

Can you see the cross at the center of each of these logos? That is our reminder that whatever we do, Jesus is the center and cornerstone of our faith and life.

Since 2005, Cornerstone has had several logos, but they all contain the same four elements. When we went through the church revitalization process called Fanning the Flame in 2011-2012, they were given names that spelled out the word WELL. These categories represent what we think a healthy church should include:

- WORSHIP
- EXTENDING GRACE
- LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS
- LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Each of these four categories became a team, headed by a member of the Session. So, what do they mean?

Here’s a simple overview:

**Worship**—everything that happens on Sunday morning during worship (including the advance work done by our pastor and Worship Team)

**Extending Grace**—evangelism, local & foreign

missions, outreach, mercy ministry (this responsibility is shared with the Deacons)

**Learning to Follow Jesus**—adult & children’s Sunday School, youth & children’s ministries, Bible studies, mentoring ministries

**Living in Community**—small groups, fellowship events, care groups, “meals & wheels”, men’s ministry, spiritual gifts, assimilation team

Want to be involved with one of these? Just speak to any member of the Session, and they will help you get plugged in.

“...JESUS IS THE CENTER AND CORNERSTONE OF OUR FAITH AND LIFE.”

### SOME FAVORITE HYMNS....



Take a humorous look at some familiar titles.

- The Dentists Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
- The Weatherman’s Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessing
- The Golfer’s Hymn.....There is a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician’s Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
- The IRS Agent’s Hymn.....I Surrender All
- The Gossip’s Hymn.....Pass It On
- The Architect’s Hymn.....How Firm a Foundation
- The Gardener’s Hymn.....Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
- The Waiter’s Hymn.....Fill My Cup, Lord
- The Criminal’s Hymn.....Search Me, O God
- The Travel Agent’s Hymn.....Anywhere With Jesus
- The Baker’s Hymn.....When the Roll is Called Up Yonder
- The Umpire’s Hymn.....I Need No Other Argument
- The Zookeeper’s Hymn.....All Creatures of Our God and King

**And for those who speed on the highway, a few hymns for you:**

- 45 mph.....God Will Take Care of You
- 55 mph.....Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
- 65 mph.....Nearer My God to Thee
- 75 mph.....Nearer Still Nearer
- 85 mph.....This World is Not My Home
- 95 mph.....Lord, I’m Coming Home
- Over 100 mph.....Precious Memories

## MEMORIAL PARKWAY SUBDIVISION TO CELEBRATE WITH A PARADE

BY CAROL KUTZER

Calling all Cornerstone friends and family. We have been invited to participate in the Memorial Parkway Subdivision’s Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 22, at noon. The parade route will be about 1.3 miles and end at

the clubhouse on Cimarron for a cookie exchange.

Carter is ordering red t-shirts for those who want to participate. Participants are encouraged to add Christmas hats, jingle bells, and other holiday accessories. As we march through the neighborhood we

will hand out candy canes and invitations to our Christmas Eve service. Grab your family and come be part of this event and let’s REACH OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS!!!!

Sign up here: <http://signup.com/go/rSqVZez>

## LADIES’ BIBLE STUDY PROVES CHALLENGING



Ladies’ Bible study will begin again on Thursday, January 17.

The Thursday morning ladies’ Bible study has wrapped up its fall session studying many different aspects of “hospitality”. The group leaned that hospitality is much more than setting a pretty table or welcoming folks into your home.

The study was subtitled, “God’s Call to Compassion”. Looking at examples in the Bible from Abraham, Ruth, Jesus, Peter’s encounter with the centurion Cornelius, and some negative examples, too, the ladies were challenged to

reach outside their comfort zones.

Bible study will resume on Thursday, January 17, at 9:15 a.m. with a look at Rosaria Butterfield’s book The Gospel Comes with a House Key.

## AN UPDATE FROM THE BOTROS FAMILY

### With Thanks

Let us start this update with thanks to all of you. We came home weary from the field and needing rest, and so many of you have supported us in taking time to refresh ourselves as a family. You have encouraged us to take a step back, slow down, and really use this time for restoration. And we have! I (Rebecca) have been diving in to community fellowship at our home church and the kids and I are soaking up all things "American!" Thanks be to God that he restores and refreshes our souls.

This week as we gather with family to celebrate Thanksgiving in Baton Rouge we remember you and thank God for this sweet larger family that is the body of Christ we have the joy of knowing and being a part of as we partner for God's work among Syrians together.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Nour, Rebecca,  
Julia, and Joseph*

### Nour Graduated!

I am so proud to share that Nour graduated with a diploma a few weekends ago in Beirut and was ordained as a pastor the next day. Did you know in Syria, where he grew up, you don't get to pick your college major. The government decides for you based on your test scores.

I share that to give context to what an accomplishment this is for him studying the last four years off and on to get this diploma. He has such a heart and vision for his people and I know God will continue to use him among Syrians for God-sized dreams and His glory.

### Changes Ahead

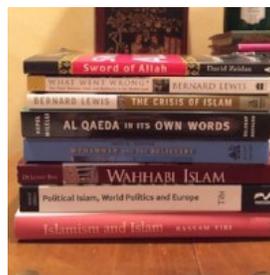
We are in the midst of a season of change as well. Joseph just turned 1 and is walking now! It was so much fun to celebrate with my mom, dad, sister, and brother-in-law in Georgia. One of the things I miss on the field is being able to celebrate "milestone" events with family, so this was extra sweet.

Another change is that Nour and I asked to step down from Engage 2025 team leadership while we are on home assignment.

Since we will be stateside for a while it makes sense for our teammates to take over so they can welcome and help settle new teammates that will arrive to Beirut the first of the year. We have put any decision making on the back burner for now while we are in this season of rest, but we are hopeful and excited to see what doors God opens for us in our next term on the field.

The stack of books [pictured at right] I'm making my way through this semester as part of my course on Radical Islam

and Christian responses. It's so good! I'm so thankful to First Presbyterian Baton Rouge for the continued opportunity to pursue my MAR in Islamic Studies through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



Rebecca has a little "light reading" as she works on an advanced degree.

## COMING TO THE TABLE: ARE YOU READY?

*(Continued from page 1)*

*wait for one another—if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. (1 Corinthians 11:33–34)*

The implication that if there is something hindering your fellowship with other believers, you ought to forgive and seek to be forgiven as part of your self-examination.

This warning gives us the framework for who should come to the table. It isn't for those who have been good. It is for those who know they are sinners in need of Christ's sacrifice. AND it is for those who seek to live the life of love toward others that Christ exemplified for us.

*Should children come to the table?*

This is an important question. The simple answer is yes, if they can heed the above

warning and properly examine themselves. Parents are in the best position to make that judgment. If a child has yet to understand the gospel or yet to understand the elements at the table, then he or she should wait and not partake.

**If a child is ready, we simply ask that you contact an elder so that we can interview your child to recognize them as ready.**

We will ask the child simple questions about the gospel and the table.

*Why both wine and grape juice?*

We do not serve both so people can simply take what they prefer. The Lord's Supper is not a smorgasbord. It is not a buffet meant to provide multiple choice.

Fermented wine was served at the Lord's Supper. This is why Paul exhorts the Corinthians not to get drunk on it when they come to the table. Wine is the norm of what we take. We serve grape juice for those *with a conscientious objection* to wine. We recognize

there are many in our culture who come from a Baptist tradition have difficulty with alcohol of any kind and we recognize that some have struggled

with alcohol in the past. For them, we serve grape juice. Because grape juice is fruit of the same vine as wine (just not yet "matured"), it can fit the description, though it does so poorly.

IT IS FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THEY ARE SINNERS IN NEED OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE.



Grape juice is served for those who have a conscientious objection to wine.

“...IF THERE IS SOMETHING HINDERING YOUR FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS, YOU OUGHT TO FORGIVE AND SEEK TO BE FORGIVEN AS PART OF YOUR SELF-EXAMINATION.”

## 2018 FEEDING B4 FEASTING RECAP

BY CAROL KUTZER

Praise God for His abundant provision. Through your generous giving we were able to provide 16 complete meals for the families served by Katy Christian Ministries.

Money and gift cards helped us purchase an additional 16 turkeys for a total of 32 turkeys (591 lbs towards are total)! **In total, we donated 1,191 lbs of food!** That is amazing!!!



Cornerstone provided enough food for 16 meals for families served by Katy Christian Ministries. The boxes were decorated by families during Sunday School.

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

BY DONIECE RUSSELL

Tis the season for Christmas carols, decking the halls, sending Christmas cards, **AND** our annual Christmas Cookie Exchange! Above, beyond, and more importantly, it's the season to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

One of our favorite ways to enjoy this time of year, as well as share the real reason

for the season, is the Ladies' Christmas Cookie Exchange!

Please join us at Doniece Russell's at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, for a time of fellowship, remembrance, and of course, cookies!!

Rhonda Sanger will provide some thoughts for remembering the true reason for Christmas, and **YOU** will provide all the delicious cookies!

If you would like to participate in the exchange, bring homemade cookies. The cookie exchange is 1 for 1, so bring cookies to share and cookies to exchange and take home.

Even if you don't want to bring cookies, bring yourself and enjoy an evening with your sisters from Cornerstone...bring a neighbor, too.



Our annual Cookie Exchange will be held at Doniece Russell's home on Thursday evening, December 13.



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