



FRONTLINES

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

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

BY CARTER SANGER

In the book of Esther, we read about an Israelite girl who became queen of Persian at a time of great peril to her people. There were those in power who wanted to wipe them out. Could she make a difference if she stood up for them? She was afraid, for speaking to the King about it could mean death. Her uncle, however, challenged her to step up.

“Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13–14).

The same could be said for the church today. Who

knows that we are not called to such a time as this? There are so many ways Christians can stand out in times like today.

We can open our eyes to the needs for justice, all justice, that have come to the forefront of our television screens, and consider ways to be agents of change. Do black lives matter? Of course, they do. All lives matter to God, for all are made in God’s image. Does white privilege exist? There are certainly some that are privileged, white, black, brown, yellow, or red.

And it is incumbent upon those that have been so “privileged” to be active in looking after the poor. This was the Old Testament practice of leaving the gleanings for the poor among you. It wasn’t a redistribution of wealth.

There was still work involved, even for the poor. How you do that is really up to how God has gifted you, for we all have different gifts.

The question isn’t, “Are you doing this or are you doing that?” But, are you investing the talents (whether its money, leadership, discernment, service, etc.) God gave you in the glory of God? You are a steward (not owner) of them, after all.

We can show kindness to those who are isolated and alone.

We can go to places others are afraid to go for fear of Covid-19 or other things. Christians, bolstered by our belief in the resurrection, have a resource that others do not. It is our opportunity to shine the light on the

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Haven is moving toward being a “particular church”. Look for an update from the September Presbytery meeting next month.
- Members of our Officer Nominating Committee were elected in July. If you know someone who would be a good officer, please give that person’s name to Tock Blacklock, Ben Colston, Jason Corkran, or Don Russell.

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NEW SERVICE PLANNED FOR SUNDAY EVENINGS

The Session has added a Sunday evening service, to be held **outdoors** on the patio, beginning at 6:30 p.m. It would be similar to the morning worship ser-

vice. This would accommodate those who are not comfortable wearing a mask.

If you come to the evening service, you may want to bring a lawn chair. Child care will not be offered at this service.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT



Carl Peterson received Session approval to begin a program aimed at boys in our church and also a visitation program for Small/Care Groups.

- These highlights are from the September 8 Session meeting which was postponed from August, and the regular September 22 meeting.
- At the September 8th meeting, Carter gave a devotional on his Sabbatical. He discussed the pleasure of being able to spend time working with his hands, and fellowshiping with others during this time of COVID-19.

During the summer he became involved with what is called the Divine Hours, a method to help us pray without ceasing. This typi-

cally involves singing and chanting the Psalms. The Psalms were meant to be sung. They speak of real-life experiences and help us to look to God as our rescuer. "How long, O Lord," David asks? How long do I have to feel this way? From the Psalms, we understand that God does condescend to meet us in the midst of our frustration and suffering. At the September 22 meeting, Carter led the Session and the Deacons in a singing of the Hours.

- Carl Peterson was invited to present two ministries he has a heart for. The first will entail getting the boys of the church together sev-

eral times a year to meet with men and learn more of what it means to be a man.

Mark Williams has graciously offered the use of his soon-to-be-completed shop, and will teach them woodworking skills. There are various other areas of expertise that will be considered.

He also proposed a visitation ministry for shut-ins and those who are dealing with sickness and death. The Small Groups and Care Groups will be involved in the ministry, and several of our members who are gift-

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We were saddened to hear of Tonia Dove's daughter Ashley's death on September 14. Please pray for comfort and peace for them.

Dear Cornerstone family,

We thank you for your love and help for us during our quarantine with COVID, and now during the very difficult early stage of this pregnancy.

Your delicious meals and other sundry aid have been a balm to us in a time when I cannot physically do what I need to do. Even more so, your works have shown forth the love of Christ in Christian community, to us and before a darkened world.

*Love,
Kathleen, on behalf of all the Shumates*

BE SURE TO VOTE

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. Texas offers absentee ballots by mail to voters who will be unable to vote in person. All other voters are expected to vote in person.

Voters registered in Texas can look up where to vote

on Texas's site. For more information, just go to votetexas.gov.

Vote early

Texas voters can also vote before Election Day. The early voting period runs from Tuesday, October 13, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020,

but dates and hours may vary based on where you live.

Tock Blacklock works at the polls during this voting period. If you need more information, just talk to him.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

BY DONIECE RUSSELL

It's Fall Ya'll! It's the season of cooler temperatures, harvest, and thanksgiving. Let's celebrate this wonderful season of God's provision by getting together!

Please come to our 3rd annual Fall Patio Fellowship on

Thursday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m.

We will have the fire "blazing", time to chat and maybe play a game. Due to Covid we ask everyone to bring your own drink and snack.

We have been separated for such a long while, so it will be good to see everyone again! We do hope you can come! Call Doniece Russell at (281) 455-8519 or email doniecerussell@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions! Hope to see you there!



Let's get together on Thursday, October 29, to catch up!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **Resuming Children's Ministry:** As the threat of Covid-19 continues to decrease, it is our desire to resume ministering to our Cornerstone kids. It will take time for Children's Ministries to resume full activity and it will require a staggered return.

- o **Childcare: Phase 1** is already in place, thanks to Ms. Ann and Ms.

Kinsey. We were able to resume childcare for our infants and toddlers back on September 13. For now, this childcare is being offered in the Education Building in the Shepherds' Inn room.

- Precautions: Children will not be asked to wear face masks, but the workers will be masked up, for now.

We will be taking the temperature of each child using a touchless thermometer as they are being dropped off.

- Spacing: Because we only have 2 workers, we must limit the number of kids in the room to 8 kids.
- Snacks: We will continue to offer

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Cornerstone's child care will be phased in this month.

CORNERSTONE'S *FEEDING B4 FEASTING 2020*

BY CAROL KUTZER

The purpose of Feeding B4 Feasting is to provide Thanksgiving meals for the hungry before we enjoy our own feasts. And this is Cornerstone's 14th year to host this food drive.

We will accept donations through Sunday, November 15. Our goal is to put together 25 boxed Thanksgiving meals. Please consider helping in the following ways:

- Sign up to bring menu items by visiting: <https://signup.com/go/GCzZqnE> and clicking on "Feeding B4 Feasting 2020"

- You may leave your donations in the red barrel in Carol's office.
- In lieu of providing food, consider donating money a gift card from Kroger.
- Write a letter or prayer to the family who will receive the meal.
- Include a favorite recipe with all the ingredients with a special note as to why it's a family tradition.
- Pray for the families receiving the meals.
- Help sort, pack, shop and deliver food on Monday, November 16 at 9:00 a.m.
- Help wrap the boxes on Tuesday, November 10, at 1:00 p.m.

The CSCK families will spend the morning of Sunday, November 15, decorating boxes and writing letters and prayers to the families receiving the boxed meals.

Last year our Feeding B4 Feasting ministry began supporting families at Memorial Parkway Elementary, Memorial Parkway Junior High and Taylor High School. We plan to do so again this year...and maybe for Christmas as well.

What a great way to serve our neighbors!



Decorating boxes is part of the fun of assembling meals. You can include a favorite recipe or prayer to personalize the box.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: RESUMPTION OF PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

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snacks of Goldfish, Cheerios, animal crackers or Chex cereal and water.

But feel free to send your own snack and drink with your child.

- o Sunday Morning Classes: **Phase 2** is happening on Sunday, October 4, when we return to Sunday morning classes, or Sunday School.

I know our teachers are eager to see their

students' faces and resume teaching them about the wonders of our Lord. For more information, see the separate article inviting families to Sunday school.

- o Worship Training: **Phase 3** will be resuming Worship Training. I hope we will be able to do this soon. Be on the lookout for future announcements.
- o Full Volunteer Rotation: **Phase 4** will

be the return to our full rotation of volunteers serving on Sunday morning. This will happen when our attendance returns to normal and we have enough volunteers ready to serve.



Get to know our Childcare Workers:

You have to sing karaoke, what song do you pick?

Ms. Ann Alcorn: Hold On by Wilson Phillips

Ms. Kinsey Spain: Any song from The Beatles

"IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES TO RESUME FULL ACTIVITY, AND IT WILL REQUIRE A STAGGERED RETURN."

AN INVITATION FOR YOU....

Dear Cornerstone families:

I want to personally invite you and your family to join us in Sunday School this fall. Our kids will continue with the Gospel Story Curriculum from New Growth Press. We love this curriculum because it reveals Jesus to our kids throughout the entire Bible and helps them understand the Bible is one big story and we are part of it! Such a wonderful thing to observe as our kids come to understand this.

If you haven't done so already, you should purchase a copy of The Gospel Story Bible: Discovering Jesus in the Old and New Testaments by Marty Machowski. This is the children's Bible which the curriculum uses. Copies are available in the foyer of the sanctuary or on Amazon.

This curriculum also has wonderful family devotionals that are short and help reinforce what the kids are learning on Sundays. You can find these

devotionals in the book, Old Story New: Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God by Marty Machowski.

This is our 5th year of the 6-year curriculum, and we will continue our study of the New Testament this year. Lord willing, we will begin with Jesus Walks on Water on October 4 and finish with Saul is Knocked to the Ground on June 13.

Sunday mornings for families of elementary children (and younger) begin with us all together at 9:00 a.m. for a time of prayer, song, and scripture memory. Then at 9:15 we divide into separate groups for Bible study and object lessons. Parents are then free to attend the adult class in the Fellowship Hall.

Our children's classes are:

- PK (age 4) & Kindergarteners – Teachers: Kristen Corkran and May Gourlay

- 1st thru 3rd Graders – Teachers: Linda Lott and Rhonda Sanger

- 4th thru 5th Graders – Teachers: Carl Peterson and Adika Colston

We offer childcare for children aged 3 and younger; however, you may include them during the 9:00 a.m. opening time if you wish.

We know this has been a crazy year due to all the changes the Covid pandemic has brought. We hope your family will join us. While children will not need to wear face masks, we will make every attempt to provide safe distancing. Because of this, we really need to know how many children to plan for so we can make proper room assignments and such. So drop me an email or call me and let me know that you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Carol
info@CornerstoneKaty.org



Be sure to let Carol Kutzer know if your children will be there for Sunday School.

FOR SUCH A TIME...: WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

(Continued from page 1)
tangible power of God that has set us free from our slavery to the fear of death. Like the Christians in the early centuries who cared for the pagan poor and dying when their own would not, Christians can care for the needs of those in places like Lake Charles and the Gulf coast when others will not.

s Paul explained,
¹⁰ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*
¹¹ *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* ¹² *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

(Ephesians 6:10-12)

We should not mistake our current climate (turmoil, fear, Covid-19, political unrest, race riots) as simply a result of natural forces. We are engaged in a spiritual battle. So let us stand firm, "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

(2 Timothy 1:7).

"CHRISTIANS,
BOLSTERED BY
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AN UPDATE FROM HAVEN

BY NATHAN COTTON

Where we have been

The kids are back in school, the traffic is picking up, and it is starting to feel like fall again here in Katy. Although, you and I both know it won't really be fall until those snare drums start echoing through Legacy stadium on Friday nights. COVID-19 has impacted our world in ways few of us thought was possible, yet God has proved to remain faithful in the midst of the pandemic.

Our leaders made the decision back in March to take our services online for the safety of our church and greater Katy area. To be honest, I was worried about what that would do to our small, young church. I saw it

as the beginning of the end. God had very different plans.

Immediately when we started streaming, God graciously began to expose our church to a brand new wave of people that didn't have as easy access to us in the past. Our online reach and viewership began to grow much larger than ever before.

Haven is not unique in this regard, all churches that went online saw this growth, so why do I mention it? Because at Haven we are passionately chasing unchurched people and encouraging Christians to chase unchurched people where they live, work, and play. These were the people that were showing up to gather with us online, and they continue to do so.

What's coming up

We are resuming in-person worship Sunday September 13, at 10:30 a.m., at BONA Fitness. Our community and friends are expecting a family style worship, with CDC social distancing regulations in place. In addition to our in-person worship gathering, our Neighborhood Groups ministry is resuming at the end of September....

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, our sending church, has graciously offered their facility which is centrally located for our current and future Neighborhood Group participants. We are very thankful for their hospitality and desire to see God's kingdom grow and expand in the Katy area.

“GOD GRACIOUSLY BEGAN TO EXPOSE OUR CHURCH TO A BRAND NEW WAVE OF PEOPLE THAT DIDN'T HAVE AS EASY ACCESS TO US IN THE PAST.”

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

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ed in this area will be encouraged to participate.

- The Session, and Deacons, entered into an extensive discussion about the Safety Protocols regarding COVID-19 which are currently in place at Cornerstone. This matter was addressed at the first meeting, but the Session decided to forgo a motion in order to give ample time for prayer.

At the meeting on the 22nd, there was a motion made that the wearing of masks be made optional at the morning service, but that use of them would be

strongly recommended. The motion passed.

Please let your conscience be your guide regarding wearing, or not wearing, a mask, and remember to be a good neighbor to those around you. The Sunday evening mask-optional service at 6:30 p.m. on the patio will continue to be held for the time being.

- John Barrett reported that Cornerstone's finances are looking very good through the end of the year. He anticipates that we will have a surplus of around \$50,000 at the end of 2020 which will probably be add-

ed to the Strategic Reserve Fund. The Deacons' fund has been supplemented by the SRF and has been used to help several families who have recently been in need.

- The quarterly meeting of the Gulf South Presbytery will be held on Friday, September 25, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Please pray for the traveling mercies of those attending, and for God to be glorified in the meeting.
- As always, the meeting concluded with Shepherding and Care Group concerns and prayer.



“...A MOTION [WAS] MADE THAT THE WEARING OF MASKS BE MADE OPTIONAL AT THE MORNING SERVICE....”



If you can't make it to church, remember that our services are broadcast. You can watch it Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. or whenever it is convenient for you. (The Covers listened in the car while traveling home from Indiana.)

GULF SOUTH PRESBYTERY WILL MEET IN BATON ROUGE

Hurricane Beta has made the meeting of our Gulf South Presbytery a little uncertain, but plans are still underway for the presbytery to meet on Friday, September 25.

There are four candidates for the ministry who will preach and be examined at this meeting.

Also, at this meeting the delegates will consider bringing a new congregation into our presbytery. Diamondhead Presbyterian Church, located in Diamondhead, Mississippi, has gone through all the steps needed to become a member of our presbytery and will be presented then.



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