



FRONTLINES

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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

OUR LIVING HOPE

BY CARTER SANGER

A few years ago my parents put their cabin on the lake in a living trust naming me and my two sisters. That simply means that we are all co-owners, while my parents maintain control as long as they are alive. In the meantime, we enjoy all of its benefits without worrying about the state taking over when my parents pass away.

The believer's inheritance with the Lord is something like that. We are co-heirs with Christ to the Kingdom of God. Now, we enjoy the benefits of the Kingdom (in the Church), though there is a far greater experience of

that kingdom coming. Like the living trust, at death no one can take it away. It endures even death. Peter talks about this in his first epistle. It's worth a read.

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

⁶ *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the*

tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3–9)

This living hope is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. That should give us a great deal of confidence when we face trials in life. He assures they will come, but he also as-

(Continued on page 4)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 14

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, February 14, to approve the Annual Report.

We will also vote to renew the calls to Tom Lott as an Elder and Jeremy Smith as a Deacon.

The Annual Report will contain a letter from Carter

and a breakdown of the expenses that Cornerstone will have in 2021.

It includes the missionaries that we support, as well as the daily expenses of running a church. It's important for each member to know how we spend our money, so please plan to

stay after worship for this important meeting.

Look for your copy of the Annual Report to be handed out on Sunday, January 31. Folks who get their newsletter by email will also get the Annual Report that way.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome to Haven church! They will be meeting Sunday evenings at 4:30 p.m. in our gym.
- Jonathan Shumate will be installed as our Assistant Pastor on Sunday, February 21. The installation will be held during worship.
- Tuesday evening Ladies' Bible Study is going on at 7:00 p.m. Thursday morning group will begin February 4 at 9:30 a.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS 2

PROVIDE A MEAL 3

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS 3

CREDIBLE WITNESSES 4

PRESBYTERY REPORT 5

HOW ARE YOU DOING? 6

BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS 8

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT

- At the meeting, Carter gave a devotional dealing with wisdom and humility from Proverbs 3: “Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.”



Elizabeth Seek was welcomed as a member of Cornerstone during the January 24 worship. She was been a big part of the Worship Team.

It is a valuable exercise to revisit the book of Proverbs in today’s climate in which, for example, there are pastors claiming to be experts on various issues when they’re not. Beware of those attempting to speak authoritative truth; this can easily take away credibility. Remember that it is perfectly acceptable to have diverse viewpoints on non-essentials.

- The Session elected delegates to attend the quarterly Gulf South Presbytery Meeting to be held in Brandon, MS.
- Nathan Cotton presented the Session with several questions regarding Haven’s recent transition to meeting at Cornerstone’s gym.
- The Session made a decision on percentage distribution of the Love Offering.
- Tom Lott was nominated for another term as Elder and Jeremy Smith as Deacon. These will be voted on at the congregational meeting called for Sunday, February 14.
- As always, the meeting concluded with Shepherding and Care Group concerns and prayer.
- The Elders and Deacons broke into groups of three and four and prayed for each other.
- Carol Kutzer posed the question of Vacation Bible School this summer. The Session believes that this is a good ministry opportunity after such a difficult period of time. We will consider this and also discuss the possibility of partnering with Haven Church.



The first meeting for *More Than Conquerors* will be Saturday, Feb. 6.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS: PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MEN

BY CARL PETERSON

It takes a church to build up and encourage godly Christian men. The primary role model for a boy should be his father. Fathers are to train up their sons in the way they should go, so that even when he is old he will not depart.

Cornerstone desires to assist and encourage fathers and their sons to follow Jesus with all their hearts.

Therefore, the *More Than Conquerors* ministry was created for boys, elementary to high school and their fathers.

The first meeting will be **Saturday, February 6,**

from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall at the church.

Contact Carl Peterson for more information.

PROVIDING MEALS IS SERVING THE BODY

BY BECKY YUVANCIC

A huge thank you to everyone who has provided meals for different families during the past few months. I really appreciate your willingness to use your time and talents to serve the Body at Cornerstone.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Cornerstone's meals ministry, let me tell you. When we learn of an individual or family who might benefit from having some meals brought to them,

whether due to illness or the birth of a baby or other situation, I contact the person to ask about setting up meals. If they are agreeable to that, I then set up a Meal Train sign up link. I send emails with that link to people in the church who have previously shown an interest in providing meals.

Please, if you do not receive these Meal Train emails and would like to participate, let me know by phone, text, or email.
beckyyuvancic@gmail.com)

Likewise, if you would prefer not to receive the emails, also let me know and I'll stop sending them. I know that not every person is in the circumstance to want to or be able to provide meals.

I also appreciate any comments or suggestions!

Thank you for serving the Body of Christ at Cornerstone!

Becky Yuvancic



Contact Becky if you would like to help provide meals for our families who need them.

SHOWER PLANNED

Please join the women of Cornerstone as we shower Kathleen Shumate on Saturday morning, February 6, at 2:00 p.m.

The shower will be held on the Cornerstone patio, and we hope that you will be there!

Kathleen is registered on Amazon.

Just email May Gourlay to let her know that you will be there.



A shower for Kathleen Shumate will be held Saturday, February 6.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

☺ **And the winner is:** The winner of January's Mars Candy Game is Luke! His guess of 42 was spot on. Congratulations, Mr. Luke – great counting! He will receive all the candy in the jar.

Be sure to submit your guess for February's Candy Game (Brach's Heart Conversation Hearts candy) 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.

☺ **Worship Training:** Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, Worship Training will resume in February. Worship Training is for preschoolers (aged 3 & 4) and kindergarteners. WT is not children's church but rather an opportunity for children to learn about all the different liturgy elements in a worship service. This is to prepare them to participate in "big" church as soon as possible. If you would like more information, please ask for one of our WT pamphlets.

Continued on page 8

CREDIBLE WITNESSES

BY KENT SAUGIER

Healthy Skepticism

What is true, what is not true? What is opinion, what is hearsay? What is an extreme example, what is a representative example? Healthy skepticism is reserving judgement on what is claimed; it is seeking context and verification.



We need to be sure things are true before we pass them on.

“We can all benefit from a bit of healthy skepticism to prevent ourselves from being fooled or deceived.”

We all know this but it seems we’ve forgotten it. Skepticism is so deeply entrenched in our culture that it is embedded in sayings such as “look before you leap” and “don’t believe everything you hear” and “all that glitters is not gold” and “fools rush in where wise men fear to tread”. All these phrases are saying “wait, it may not be true, check it out first”.

We can all benefit from a bit of healthy skepticism to prevent ourselves from being fooled or deceived.

We are people who seek truth. Healthy skepticism is a strong foundation for truth seekers. Let’s exercise healthy skepticism in what we believe.

An Ounce of Prevention

Have you ever discredited yourself by passing on false

information? Have you ever asserted, endorsed or supported as “fact” something that upon investigation turns out to be false or grossly misrepresented? It is hard to unwind, retract, repair and restore trust when our credibility has been forfeited by passing on and endorsing falsehoods as truth.

A remedy for the disease of believing and retelling falsehoods and passing on lies is restraint and responsible verification. I, like many, hold opinions and have strong views on certain things and while we may feel strongly about these things we should restrain ourselves from the error of making false statements or passing on lies or falsehoods in support of our views.

Before asserting something as fact or as true we should restrain ourselves until we have applied an ounce of prevention by verifying the facts or truths we are stating. Twitter and Facebook are not responsible verification in most cases. It may take a few minutes to assess whether something is true, false or misrepresented but it will

save us from the disease of believing and retelling falsehoods and passing on lies and thereby wasting our credibility.

Keep your Powder Dry

Jesus is the Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth. If we forfeit the right to communicate the Truth by passing on, supporting or endorsing earthly falsehoods, we forfeit our credibility to pass on the truth concerning Jesus and His mission to the world.

In a worse case analysis, when we pass on lies and falsehoods we’re joining with Satan, the great deceiver, the Father of Lies in his never ceasing effort to discredit those who have been rescued from death resulting from the original lies Satan told in the Garden of Eden.

I include myself when I say let’s keep our powder dry for when it matters, and not let it be dampened by deceit and wetted by damaged credibility due to laziness, and a lack of healthy skepticism and self-restraint regarding earthly truth.

OUR LIVING HOPE CONT’D

(Continued from page 1)
sures us that they have an important role to play in our Kingdom journey. The “tested genuineness” of our faith results in praise and glory and honor for Christ. It deepens our love

for him, which is why Peter writes such emotive language as we find in verse 8,

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and

rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

So, remember you have a living hope because Christ has overcome the world.

Carter

REPORT FROM THE PRESBYTERY MEETING

BY GENE COVER

This was our second meeting where attendance was allowed via Zoom, as well as in-person. At one point, there were 27 commissioners in the sanctuary and 53 signed in via Zoom.

There were two notable events at this meeting: one was we decided to punish (just kidding) Jonathan Tucker for moderating at only one meeting in 2020, so he was asked to stay on another year as Presbytery Moderator. He accepted his punishment with grace. Hector Reynosa, who pastors a church in the Valley, will succeed him in 2022.

The other event was Jonathan Shumate's examination for the transfer of his ordination from the PCA to the EPC. As expected, he passed his examination with flying colors. He will be installed as Assistant Pastor at Cornerstone on February 21.

This summary of the Presbytery meeting comes from Michael Herrin, our stated clerk:

The people of Lakeside Presbyterian Church were truly gracious hosts to our 20th stated meeting, held January 22 and 23 in Brandon, MS. Aside from uplifting worship and a delicious supper, here are just a few highlights of the meeting:

- We accepted invitations for our April 23-24, 2021, meeting at Westminster

Gulfport and our September 24-25, 2021, meeting at Hope San Antonio

- We were reminded that Per Member Asking is a voluntary contribution, and that Presbytery funds are available to help congregations that are struggling financially. Contact your Facilitator or the Stated Clerk for more information concerning this opportunity.
- We re-elected RE Jonathan Tucker for another year, and TE Hector Reynoso to serve as Moderator-Elect, due to COVID-related travel difficulties.
- We offered prayer for the family of TE Gene Huntzinger, who passed from this life on December 26.
- We received a report from our Engage 2025 field team.
- We were reminded that the Church Health Committee is available to consult with sessions who are experiencing conflict or who are interested in ideas for church revitalization.
- We were reminded that electronic copies of sessions' 2020 minutes need to be emailed to the Session Minutes Review Committee, along with the checklist that was sent out last week. For more information, contact Chairman George King at kinggn47@att.net.

- We examined and approved two of the Presbytery's Candidates for ordination: Chip Cowsert will serve as Associate Pastor of First Meridian, Mississippi. He will be ordained and installed on February 21 at 5pm.



Jonathan Shumate and two other men were examined at the January Presbytery meeting.

- We examined Rev. Jonathan Shumate and approved him to serve as Assistant Pastor to Cornerstone Katy, Texas. He will be installed on February 21 at 10:30 a.m. The members of his installation commission will be: TE Carter Sanger, TE John Crimmins, TE Nathan Cotton, RE Don Russell, RE Tom Lott (both from Cornerstone) and RE George King (from Covenant EPC Lake Jackson)
- We were reminded that the Pastors' Wives Retreat is still being planned for October 15-17 at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, Louisiana.

Our special thanks are extended to "Zoom Czar" Kory Duncan and all the A/V staff at Lakeside, for helping the electronic portion of the meeting to run so smoothly.



Jonathan Tucker will serve as the Presbytery's moderator for 2021.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

BY GENE COVER

I don't know about you, but I have spent some time in the past several months wishing this stage of my life would hurry up and get over with, grouching about things that I can't do like I used to, and wishing I had some help in figuring out what is true in all that I'm hearing.

Then I am convicted by this small voice inside me about some things that I know to be true:

I need to be **patient**. The President of Purdue sent out a letter to alums about what the university did in order to stay open in the Fall 2020 semester. He said one of his staff said it seems like 2020 started nine years ago. This current time of testing just started ten months ago. Why does it seem so long? In the great scheme of things, it really hasn't been that long; it just seems that way. God has tested my patience many times in my life. This too shall end one day (sooner, hopefully?), but I need to practice patience.

Let's make good use of our time while we wait, patiently.

I need to be **content** with my situation **and thankful** in all things. I get to complaining about what I don't have, and wish that I could have a "normal" life as it was before all this started. Then I am quietly reminded of all the things for which I should be thankful. I have my health, a wonderful wife, a loving family, ability to communicate with my loved ones, can still enjoy flowers, birds, the stars at night, music, quiet times, old family pictures, trains(!), ability to worship the God I love freely. I even found something to be thankful with Linda catching the virus: she now has some immunity while we wait to get her vaccinated. And on and on. I find that my prayer life has improved without so many distractions, and I am in much better touch with my loved ones, all for which I am thankful. Am I content? I think so; I sure do better when I am content with my life.

I need to ask the Spirit for **discernment**. There are so many different opinions out there, often masquerading as the truth, and sometimes outright lies with motives I don't understand. We have one friend who has cancelled her FaceBook account because of all the vitriol, hate and lies being spouted forth. Some people get quite agitated and become irrational after some the things they hear on social media. For those, a good thing to do would be to do what our friend did: stop listening to the wrong voices and cancel their account. What I am asking for is discernment in what I hear and read. I can deal with the truth, even if I don't like it, but with all the lies floating around, I need all the help I can get in ferreting out the truth.

I think you will recognize that each of these: patience, contentment, thankfulness and discernment, as Biblical, and we all would do well to pray that each of us gets a healthy dose in these trying times.

Patience, thankfulness, and discernment are good things to practice during this time.



Want to know more about what folks at Cornerstone believe?

Join us on Friday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. to find out!

Parents' Night Out is going on at the same time, so just drop the kids off in the Educational Building.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS CONT'D

Continued from page 3

☺ **Parents' Night Out:**

On Friday, February 12, Cornerstone parents may drop off their elementary aged or younger children at Cornerstone and then enjoy a night to themselves.

We will feed them pizza, do a craft or two, and munch on popcorn while we watch a movie. Children should be picked up at or before 10:00 PM. You may want to send your kids in their PJs and with pillow and blanket for movie time.

Please contact the church to register your kiddos:
(281) 579-1080
info @
CornerstoneKaty.org.

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

What's your favorite family tradition?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn:
Christmas Eve at my mom's house
- Ms. Kinsey Spain:
Christmas pajamas every year

Let's Check on Our Neighbors

Wednesdays
5:00pm

Meet up on
the Patio



WE WANT TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

Cornerstone is planted in a neighborhood. Do you know your neighbors?

We will begin a house-to-house visit, just stopping by to say "hello" and see if our neighbors need anything.

If you would like to be part of this, just come to the patio on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. We'll go out in teams of two people and won't stay late.



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

(281) 579-1080
info@cornerstonekaty.org

On the Web @
www.cornerstonekaty.org

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