Ceili moves to new venue on December 4 this year

On Friday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m., bring your voice, your instruments, a dessert, and a friend or two for an evening of playing and singing carols together around the new patio fireplace.

Childcare will be provided on the church campus. (This event coincides with a Parents' Night Out – see Children's Ministry Highlights for more information.)

If you are interested in attending please RSVP to Alisa Cotton. Please let her know if you will be taking advantage of the childcare.

Looking ahead...

A busy holiday season is coming! Here are some dates to put on your calendar :

Sunday, November 29—Thanksgiving weekend, no Sunday School

Tuesday, December 1—Kidz Club Christmas Party and last meeting for fall

Friday, December 4—Christmas Ceili and Parents Night Out at the church

Sunday, December 6—Tentative date for the next neighborhood Prayer Walk

Wednesday, December 9—Ladies Bible Study will end for the fall with a pot-luck celebration

Friday, December 11—Cookie Swap at Evelyn's Saugier's home

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service

Advent begins Sunday, November 29. Lauren Torregano will be organizing a group to decorate the church for this joyous time. Be watching for details on date and time.

A Christmas Caroling Party is also being planned in December, so get your voice in tune.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
CORNERSTONE
JESUS
cornerstone of faith and life.

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

Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Frontlines

Volume 10, Issue 11 November 2015

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

Five Bad Reasons to Go to Church

By Carter Sanger

Why do you go to church? Here's a list of reasons that are common in today's culture.

1. To please my girlfriend, boyfriend, spouse, or parent.
2. To feel better about myself (perhaps for bad choices during the past week/month/year/life).
3. To make friends (particularly with others who can encourage me in my faith). *Related*: To meet a husband or a wife.
4. To instill a sense of morality into my kids.
5. To receive good teaching.

I've listed these as "bad" reasons to go to church because they all focus on you. The underlying assumption about these reasons is that church exists to do something for you. It isn't that these things can't happen when you go to church. Hopefully they will. And they're good things to gain from going to church. But if these are the reasons that drive you to church you will soon find other, and potentially better, choices to accomplish each of these.

Going to church isn't about you, at least not centrally. It is foremost about God and His mission. Part of our problem lies in the phrasing "go to church."

The phrase implies that "church" is a place with particular activities. When we look at it that way, it becomes one of many potential "spiritual service providers" that exists to meet my needs.

But "church" is something altogether different. The Church is the product of the gospel. It is the mission of Jesus. As He says to Peter, "*I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" (Matthew 16:18)

Paul uses several pictures to help us understand the nature of this Church that Christ is building.

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Presbytery Meets at Covington, LA

By Gene Cover

Carter Sanger, Allen White, Nathan Cotton, Jonathan Tucker, Italo Furieri, and Linda and Gene Cover travelled to Covington, Louisiana, for the fall meeting of Gulf South Presbytery on September 25-26. Most notable for us was to hear Italo's personal testimony and sense of call to the ministry. He was formally accepted to be under care of our presbytery as a candidate for ordination.

These are just a few highlights of the meeting, courtesy of our Stated Clerk, Michael Herrin:

- An inspiring and refreshing Concert of Prayer led by Teaching Elder (TE) Phil Thrash, Missionary Prayer Network Coordinator for EPC World Outreach.
- A report on the joint Central South/Gulf South medical mission trip to Lebanon.
- Welcoming Liberty Presbyterian Church and

(Continued on page 6)

Special points of interest:

- *"Fall back" when Daylight Saving Time ends on November1, and join us for lunch following worship.*
- *A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 8, to elect new officers.*
- *Holiday schedule: The church office will be closed Wednesday through Friday, November 25-27, and no Sunday School on November 29, Thanksgiving week.*
- *God is good. Let us give thanks for his provision.*

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Session Highlights

By Gene Cover

Cornerstone's Wedding Policy and Building Use Guidelines are currently being reviewed and updated by the staff and Session.

Our Presbytery will be voting on this subject [Women Teaching Elders] at our January 2016 meeting.

- We have finished up our study of Michael Horton's *Ordinary*. Carter summarized our study with the significance of being part of the body of Christ and the ordinary means of Grace. Your elders will be starting a review of Jeramie Rinne's book, *Church Elders,* next meeting.
- Jonathan Tucker has been updating our insurance coverage. He informed us that people who use their personal vehicles for church events need to have a minimum of $100,000 of personal liability coverage.
- Carol Kutzer is working on revisions to our Building Use Guidelines and Wedding Policy documents, and all groups using our facilities will be asked to review and agree to our statements. Jonathan is working on a Policy Manual. We are reminded to never find yourself in a situation where you are alone with an unrelated child.
- We seem to be recovering from the deficit in our finances, but we will continue to watch this closely. See the financial box below. Planning for our 2016 budget has begun.
- A Congregational Meeting has been called for November 8 for the purpose of electing officers. Up for (re)election are Kent Saugier and Jonathan Tucker as Ruling Elders and Jack Kutzer and Mark Williams as Deacons.
- Session approved a proposal from Linda Cover to provide a discipling ministry to our young ladies. Among other topics will be workshops on Beautiful Face, Modest Dress, Strong Body, and Healthy Relationships. This falls under our Learning to Follow Jesus Core Ministry. This will begin in January – watch for announcements on this.
- We have rearranged our Care Groups. Don Russell will be rolling this out later this month.
- Our discussion continued this month on the issue of ordination of women Teaching Elders. Our Presbytery will be voting on this subject at our January 2016 meeting. While this issue is supposed to be a non-essential in the EPC, it sure feels like it is an essential. Unfortunately, this has become a distraction from other very important work of the Church.
- The elders have read and agree with EPC's position paper on "The Sanctity of Marriage." You can read this for yourself at *http://www.epc.org/file/main-menu/beliefs/position-papers/PositionPaper-TheSanctityOfMarriage.pdf*
- Please remember to pray for our church, for its leaders and staff, for all of our marriages and for each other.

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely plant you sent in honor of my father's passing. It's beautiful and will remind me of him when I look at it.

Thank you also for your many prayers and concerns. I don't know what I would do without them.

In His love,
Lee Williams

Kidz Club begins fall session

Kidz Club got off to a good start in October at The Fountains apartment complex, with about 30 children attending. The weather has been great, and the kids enjoy letting off some steam with balls and hulla hoops before settling down for a story, memory verse, and object lesson.

We can always use more help, so if you would like to be involved please contact Evelyn Saugier.

The Kidz Club meetings are Tuesday afternoons, 4:00-5:15. The last meeting for this fall will be a Christmas Party on December 1.

Kent Saugier always has kids enthralled with his object lessons, reinforcing some part of the Bible lesson.

Quest Church holds its first service

Here are two good news items from Brett Becker's latest report on the Quest Church plant in New Braunfels:

First Sunday worship
I want to share a praise report that our first morning worship service on Sunday went well. With no advertising other than word of mouth and a touch of social media, my worship leader/church administrator Stephen Stogner and I were guessing that we might have anywhere from the 20's to the 50's in attendance. We had 48, so it was good to be toward the high end of expectations. There were a number of families and individuals who let us know that they were out of town or got hit with sickness in the family, so we could have hit 65-70 or better under ideal circumstances…. We hope to add to Sunday's attendance regularly as we move toward our Grand Opening.

More help added
We have picked up a volunteer youth minister. Timmy Brewer is an outstanding, outgoing, energetic young man full of the fruit of the Spirit who just graduated from college with a degree in Christian Studies with an emphasis in Youth Ministry….He served as a youth minister during college, and he has hit the ground running with us, already planning various spiritual, social, and mission activities for the youth.

Finances are still a major issue, as Brett needs to purchase sound equipment and other gear for the new church (They are currently having to borrow everything). Please pray for them to receive the help they need.

Bob Roane: praises and prayer requests

(Continued from page 3)

One non-Christian woman asked about feeling guilty before God, and I explained and walked her through "The Sinner's Prayer." Please pray for her salvation and for more ministry for me in Shanghai.

3. Praise God, 30 men completed **Bible in 90 Days** at Jester #3 Prison! At our graduation meal, we sang hymns, and many men gave testimonies of how the Lord blessed them during this study, what they had learned, and how they had changed. You would have loved it! Many said they felt equipped to be better husbands, fathers, and law abiding citizens.

4. Started an eight month class on **Authentic Manhood** at Jester #3. This is a repeat class with a new group of men and back by popular demand.

5. Please ask the Lord to give me wisdom and insight to help individuals through **counseling, mentoring, and discipling.**… Jesus says, " Apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Thank you for making these outreach ministries possible!

Very gratefully in Christian love,
Bob

Cornerstone supports several ministries close to home, as well as foreign ones.

Presbytery approves new pastors & churches

(Continued from page 1)

Unity Memorial Presbyterian Church, both in Amite County, Mississippi, as full members.

- Welcoming Christ Presbyterian Church in Daphne, Alabama, as a transitional member, pending dismissal from South Alabama Presbytery of PCUSA.
- Welcoming four new Candidates: Jason Anderson, Italo Furieri, Jeremiah Situka, and Josh Woltmann.
- Examining TE Michel Yonts from Florida Presbytery and approving his call to serve as pastor of the Edna, Texas, Presbyterian Church.
- Examining Kevin Phipps, Candidate under care of the Mississippi Valley Presbytery (PCA) and approving his call to serve as Associate Pastor of New Covenant, Mandeville, Louisiana.
- Approving the call of TE Marty Fields to serve as Pastor of Grace Chapel in Madison, Mississippi.
- Approving the call of TE Richard Harris to serve as Pastor of Christ EPC in Houston, Texas.
- Commissioning Glenn McGuire to serve as Commissioned Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mexia, Texas.
- Celebrating TE Bob Vincent's forty years of service as Pastor of Grace Alexandria, Louisiana, and approving his call as Pastor Emeritus of that congregation.

Following dinner Friday evening, we had a worship service where Pastor Jason Wood preached a sermon of the parable of the sewing of seed in different types of soil from Luke 8:4-18. How do we implant the Word of God, the seed, in people's lives? Preaching is an act of sewing, and preaching and discipleship go hand in hand. If farmers can bear fruit, so can you, but only God can prepare the soil, that is, prepare them to hear.

Ladies attending the meeting enjoyed a time of fellowship, too, and a teaching on Sabbath Rest presented by Patti McCarty from Woodland Presbyterian in Algiers, Louisiana.

The Next Presbytery meeting will be at Mobile, Alabama on January 22-23, 2016.

Gene Cover has been elected to serve as Moderator for Gulf South Presbytery for 2016.

Ladies at Presbytery were told:
Sabbath is not a law,
it is a gift.
It can be a communal thing…relax with friends…OFF the GRID!

Get involved with Christ Clinic

The following is from a letter from Christ Clinic:

Thank you for attending our 4th Annual Breakfast for a Blessing *(Cornerstone sponsored a table.)* With your help, we surpassed our goal of $65,000 and raised more than $85,000 to benefit the uninsured in our community….

We… would like to invite you to "get involved" as we work to help people without health insurance access much needed medical care.

Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- **Become a volunteer—** Participate in a volunteer orientatin, then spend some time helping care for some of those in need in our area.
- **Participate in our Walk with A Doc program—** Come to Rick Rice Park the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m. and walk alongside some of our patients.
- **Become a member of our MOVE committee—**Be part of a special team of volunteers who will help Christ Clinic with the logistics of moving an entire health clinic.
- **Spring Fundraiser: Walk a Mile in My Shoes—**Participate in our spring fundraiser, which will be another amazing event that helps support the vital care provided by Christ Clinic.

If you would like more information, contact Beverly Allen at (281) 574-1540 or email *beverly@christclinickaty.org*.

Cornerstone's Feeding B4 Feasting 2015

By Carol Kutzer

This is Cornerstone's ninth year to host our Feeding B4 Feasting event. The purpose of Feeding B4 Feasting is to provide Thanksgiving meals for the hungry before we enjoy our own feasts. We will accept donations starting October 25 through November 15. Our goal is to put together 16 boxed Thanksgiving meals. Please consider helping in the following ways:

- Pluck feathers from a turkey on one of the posters located in the Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary foyer and then shop for the items listed on the feathers.
- You may leave your donations in the red barrel in the church office.
- In lieu of providing food (particularly perishables like turkeys, pies, breads, etc.) consider donating a gift card from HEB.
- Write a letter 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.

The CSCK families will spend the morning of Sunday, November 15, decorating boxes and writing letters and prayers to the Clothed by Faith patrons.

We will need help on Monday, November 16, sorting, shopping and delivering the meals. If you are interested in helping, please contact Beverly Tucker at (281) 620-5921or *tuckerjb10@icloud.com* Thank you!

This year our Feeding B4 Feasting ministry is supporting:

Clothed by Faith
Mason Creek Business Park
21811 Katy Freeway,
Suite D105
Katy, TX 77450
281-676-8837

Look for the turkey posters and pluck a feather to help feed a needy family this Thanksgiving.

Clothed By Faith is a 501(c)3 accredited organization.

New Children's Book Available

By Carol Kutzer

God Made All of Me by Justin and Lindsey Holcomb has been added to the books for sale in the foyer of the Sanctuary. A copy has also been placed in each of the children's rooms in the Education Building.

We hope your family finds this book a great tool for educating and protecting your children against abuse. Here is a blurb from their letter to parents and caregivers on the opening page:

"The message children need to hear is: 'God made all of you. Every part of your body is good, and some parts are private. He made the parts of your body that other people see every day, and he made your private parts. Every part is good because God made every part and called them all good.' "

"The message children need to hear is: 'God made all of you. Every part of your body is good, and some parts are private.'"

News from Bob Roane

Dear Praying Friends,

1. I preached again at **Iglesia Presbiteriana Oaklawn** in Houston…. It's now a Mexican-American bi-lingual church and we use a translator. This is a spiritual hungry flock, and it's fun to preach/teach here because I interject bits of Spanish from my studies and work experience in New York. People feel connected and honored when an Anglo speaks Spanish with a good, loving, respectful attitude. These people really love the Lord and His word! Please pray for them and their current pastor, Tim Stiemann,…. Ask the Father to give me ongoing ministry here.

2. Thank you for praying for my teaching by Skype (internet) to a house church in **Shanghai, China**, for two Saturday nights. We use a translator from English to Mandarin… Question and answer times both weeks were wonderful! Most attending were new believers.

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Dear Cornerstone Family,
Thank you so much for your goodness and kindness to us and our family when we lost Granny. The plant was both beautiful and thoughtful.

Thank you also for showing the love of Christ to us and Don's extended family through the meal provided. Becky was so kind to organize it, and we are grateful to all who provided food. We loved telling a mostly unbelieving family that this was from our other family...our church family.

Thank you mostly for loving us so well during this sad time. We thank God for making us a part of you!

Love,
Don & Doniece Russell

The Church: you have a part in it

When you make participation in the life of the church optional, you leave the body handicapped; the building weakened.

(Continued from page 1)

Baptized or Betrothed. The Church is made up of those who have responded to the gospel call with faith and repentance and consequently been baptized as a sign of God's promised cleansing work. This is a sign that they belong to Jesus.

Body. Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 all speak of the Church as Christ's body with different parts that do different things, implying that each part is needed for the whole to function.

- "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- "…***we*** are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, ***joined and held together*** by every joint with which it is equipped, ***when each part is working properly***, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:15-16)
- "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so ***we, though many, are one body in Christ***, and individually members one of another. ***Having gifts that differ*** according to the grace given to us, let us use them…." (Romans 12:4-6)

Building. Another powerful image is that of a temple in which God's Spirit comes to dwell.

- The Church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, ***being joined together***, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him ***you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God*** by the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:20-22)
- "…you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2: 5)

When you put these together you find that you don't "go to church" , but rather you are part of the church, if you are a follower of Jesus. **When you make participation in the life of the church optional, you leave the body handicapped; the building weakened**.

Being part of the church means using your spiritual gifts alongside others in the church in the work of the mission of the church. It doesn't just mean attending worship. Our membership vows include this idea, "*Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?*"

So where are you serving? How are you participating? What are your spiritual gifts? If you don't have an answer, let me know and we'll get you started (or finished) with a spiritual gift assessment. But let us be what God has redeemed us to be – the Church!

Serving with you in the Church,
Pastor Carter

A church is a building, but The Church is the people in it.

NOMP sponsors first Community Garage Sale

By Sharon Peterson

On Saturday, October 3, about 20 families and individuals in and around Memorial Parkway joined together at Cornerstone for our first Community Garage Sale. It was a wonderful time to meet our neighbors and provide a service for them. The feedback was very positive and many are looking forward to us hosting another sale soon. Katy Christian Ministries also received a truckload of donations from all our leftover sale items.

We had several volunteers from our church family who came out to hang out and help where needed. Thank you so much volunteers, especially those who helped with set up and clean up!

The garage sale was one of the ways Cornerstone is reaching out to our neighboring community.

Children's Ministry Highlights

By Carol Kutzer

☺ **And the winner is…**
The winner of October's Candy Corn Game is Gene Cover! His guess of 205 came closet to the actual count of candy corn in the jar (253). Congratulations, Mr. Cover! He will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and all 253 pieces of candy. Be sure to submit your guess for November's Nips Game…and be sure to write clearly and include your FULL name. To encourage our kids to read the Frontlines newsletter, winners must ask Mrs. Kutzer for their prize.

☺ **Parents' Night Out:**
On Friday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. parents may drop off their 1st grade or younger children at Cornerstone and then spend a few hours Christmas shopping, wrapping gifts, attending the Christmas Ceili, or enjoying some quiet time. Please send a dinner with them. We will feed them, do a craft or two, and munch on popcorn while we watch a movie. Children should be picked up at or before 10:00 p.m. Cost is free; however, registration is required. Please contact the church office by Thursday, December 3, to register your kiddos: (281) 579-1080 or *info@CornerstoneKaty.org*.

☺ **Wanted:**
If you are cleaning out your children's closets anytime soon, please keep our nursery in mind. Items we would like to have: toddlers shorts, leggings, and t-shirts; outgrown diapers; napping pads/mats; and light blankets.

☺ **Snots not Hot!**
If your child is sick with fever or other communicable illness, please keep them home. We are coming up on flu season. Let's make an effort to keep the germies at home!

"On Friday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. parents may drop off their 1st grade or younger children at Cornerstone and then spend a few hours Christmas shopping, wrapping gifts, attending the Christmas Ceili, or enjoying some quiet time. "

Dear Cornerstone Family and Small Group,

Thank you to the church family for the wonderful plant waiting for us when we got back from Corpus. It is flourishing and will be a special reminder of the memories we have of Papi. He was a very kind, generous and loving man. Thank you also to our small group for the beautiful standing floral arrangement which reminded us of the prayers being lifted on the family's behalf and the presence was comforting for us. We are so thankful for the support and prayers during this time and calling Cornerstone our church "home".

In His Comfort and Peace,
Eddie and Patti Uresti

We received several Thank You notes last month. Look for others in this newsletter.