CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FRONTLINES

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5 MAY 2016

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

WAITING TABLES

BY CARTER SANGER

Have you ever waited tables? I spent time in my college days as a waiter. Some of you may have done the same. It was at times taxing and at times boring, but overall a great job for a college student. I had all kinds of experiences with people as a waiter, and I took home lots of cash (for a college student) every night. I loved that job.

It is hard to imagine being a waiter today. It is hardly a measure of success in today's world. Sure, it's okay for a college student because it is only a means to a degree and a more successful future. I don't have to convince you of that. Even when I was in college I distinguished between the college-waiters and the career-waiters.

> [WAITING TABLES] IS SET UP ALONGSIDE THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD TO SHOW THAT IT DESERVES JUST AS MUCH COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

This view of waiting tables makes it particularly striking when we come across it in Acts chapter 6. It was in the early days of the apostolic church. The church was rapidly growing and the apostles were having a hard time keeping up with a daily distribution to the widows among them. In response to the squabble, the apostles said to the congregation, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables." It's hard to imagine the apostles as waiters. Our first inclination is to think, "That's hardly a job worthy of an apostle. At least they figured out that it was of lesser importance than the ministry of the word." Then, when the role is assigned to other men known by the congregation as "full of the Spirit and wisdom" we tend to

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BRINGING ORDER TO THE CHAOS

BY CAROL KUTZER

One of my roles as a member of the Fellowship Team and as Churchlady, and as wife of a Facilities Deacon, is to manage the facilities and supplies of the church. This is one of my favorite and yet most frustrating parts of my job. I love organizing things…bringing order to chaos. When I drop off stuff at Goodwill or Katy Christian Ministries I always feel this desire to start sorting the piles and piles of stuff. It would be so fun! The frustrating part – as you can guess – is that stuff never tends to stay organized. Hmph!

Thankfully, my friend Lauren Pechacek is as crazy as I am when it comes to organization. We started planning how to inventory and organize the church facilities and ended in fits of giggles when we realized we could create charts, graphs and labels! Nerd-vana! We had a plan, and we were off!

Most of the work Lauren and I have been doing is behind the scenes and little noticed by most Corner-

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *We say "Viva Volunteers!" at 2:42 Lunch on May 1.*
- *Sunday School will be in recess for the summer beginning May 29.*
- *National Day of Prayer Service will be held at the Merrell Center on Thursday, May 5, beginning at 7:00 p.m.*
- *Remember to pray for our missionaries and ministry organizations.*

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session plans to repeat the Church Health Survey in the fall.

"...PETER EXHORTS ELDERS TO WATCH OVER THE FLOCK OF GOD, 'NOT DOMINEERING OVER THOSE IN YOUR CHARGE, BUT BEING EXAMPLES TO THE FLOCK.' "

BY GENE COVER

- The elders and deacons have been reading Jeramie Rinne's book, *Church Elders*. Jonathan Tucker led the discussion this time as we looked at Chapter 5: "Lead without Lording." Jonathan started out with a reference to 1 Peter 5:1-5 where Peter exhorts elders to watch over the flock of God, "not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock." This type of leadership is impossible without faith in Christ. Rinne ends the chapter with several suggestions on how to structure our church to maintain the posture of humble, towel-clad servants:
  - ◊ Choose humble leaders
  - ◊ Delegate to Deacons
  - ◊ Remain accountable
  - ◊ Honor the Word
  - ◊ Replicate yourself
  - ◊ Trust the Congregation
- The elders are considering which church characteristic we should tackle next as part of our ongoing Fanning the Flame improvement efforts to be a healthier church. We decided that we should perform another church health survey since it has been almost four years since we did the last one. This new survey will occur in the early fall. Past efforts have addressed effective structures, empowering leadership, and evangelism.
- Carter and Nathan will be working on a procedure where we will try to get input from visitors who have elected not to stay in our fellowship, an exit interview of sorts.
- The Budget Committee will be meeting again within the next two weeks to look at further ways to trim costs.
- The small groups are getting on board to study the book, *The Art of Neighboring* by Dave Runyon and Jay Pathak.
- Nathan and Alisa Cotton are thinking about entering the process to be evaluated as church planters. Some of us know that planting a church in the Katy area has been a dream of theirs for some time. The next step is to attend the PCA Church Planters Assessment Center in Atlanta, but there are some timing issues to work out first.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ADDRESSES BUDGET CHANGES

A Congregational Meeting was held following worship on Sunday, April 24, to share information about changes which have been made to the annual budget since it was adopted in February.

Because of some of the adverse economic factors in our community, and a number of members whose jobs have taken them away from Cornerstone, we have been running a significant deficit this year (as shown in this table).

Jonathan Tucker and his Budget Committee have been keeping an eye on this and concluded that changes in our spending are needed <u>now</u>. Cuts have reluctantly been made in various categories, including missions support, and our Extending Grace Committee is notifying those recipients whose support will end this year.

God has been faithful in providing for Cornerstone through ups and downs over the years, and we trust that he will continue to do that. We have a responsibility to be good stewards with what he gives, too. Please pray for this situation and for wisdom for our leaders.

PUTTING AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE ON THINGS

BY EVELYN SAUGIER

Author, pastor and counselor Paul Tripp writes, "I never went through an intellectual crisis of faith, but something wasn't working. I knew I shouldn't worry in the way I did. I knew I shouldn't care about the opinions of others as I did. I knew I should trust God more. But I didn't know what to do to get myself to that point."

These intriguing words are drawn from Tripp's book, Forever. Why You Can't Live Without It, a book recommended to me by our good friend Liz Wilkins, who found it extremely encouraging after the unexpected death of her mom in 2014.

Tripp's premise is that Christians live with "eternity amnesia", forgetting the many ways that Christ's promise of eternal life infuses our "right here, right now" life with meaning, purpose, joy and hope.

He asks some basic questions at the beginning of his book…"Why is it so hard for us to be satisfied? Why do we stand in front of full closets and say we have nothing to wear? Why do so many of us consistently spend more than we earn? Why do we need to be incessantly entertained? Why are so many of our marriages struggling?" and many others.

As a counselor he has spoken with many Christians who are living with confusion and disappointment, trying to make sense of the pains and struggles of this life, while forgetting the promise of eternity. Tripp makes the case that by bringing a biblical, true, eternal perspective on life and it's issues, we come away with a very different perspective on them, and many understandings are totally redefined.

A forever perspective, for example, redefines what we have commonly come to accept as "love". By "applying forever", and looking at God's ultimate example, we are reminded that love doesn't quit before the job is done, love is willing to suffer, and that love always forgives.

There isn't really anything "new" in this book, in terms of scriptural truths, but it is an excellent means of perspective-change, as he demonstrates how we fail to apply what we know to be true to almost every aspect of our "here and now."

I appreciated the real life examples Tripp uses to demonstrate his points, and his transparency in sharing his own journey of learning to "apply eternity" to such issues as parenting, our relationships, our work, and our God. Definitely worth the read!

Recommended book helps put things in perspective for Christians.

"…CHRISTIANS LIVE WITH 'ETERNITY AMNESIA', FORGETTING THE MANY WAYS THAT CHRIST'S PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE INFUSES OUR 'RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW' LIFE WITH MEANING, PURPOSE, JOY AND HOPE."

QUEST CHURCH HAS GOOD LAUNCH DAY

The following excerpts are from a recent newsletter from Pastor Brett Becker. Cornerstone helps support this church plant in New Braunfels.

Hello Friends,
I hope each of you had a great Resurrection Sunday! We seem to have had a strong launch, but seeing how many people return will be the true test. Like a broken record, I keep saying "Thank You, Lord" over and over again for how greatly He blessed us.

We got overrun and had to pull every chair and bench in the building into the worship space… I'm proud of a number of our regular attenders who had a heart for outreach and gave up their seats for our guests. The attendance count was 144. We have over 70 people who have been traveling with us these past months, attending and giving on a somewhat regular basis, and they were there in force, then all the rest were first-time guests.

The spiritual warfare was something else, with an incredible number of distractions and problems happening last month and especially last week, but the Lord is faithful and saw us through it all.…

Our people continue to do a great job of inviting their networks, which my mentor and church planting coach (Bill Easum) says is the most important aspect of church growth.…

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Quest Church celebrated its official launch Easter Sunday.

GET ON BOARD. . . DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND!

BY CAROL KUTZER

"THE ARC OF KATY… WORKS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES…"

Why: To put into action Cornerstone's mission: "Renewing our families, our communities, and our world by bringing faith and life together in Christ." – To be a blessing to our community – To come along side the Arc of Katy and help them minister to those who might be considered by some to be the "least of these".

Who: The Arc of Katy (A 501(c)(3) Corporation) works to create opportunities for all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) that enable each person to be a participating and respected member of our community and to grow in mind, body and spirit.

When: 8:00AM to 3:00PM Monday - Thursday each week beginning June 6 through August 18

Where: Cornerstone's campus

How: There are MANY ways to pitch in. Which one works for you?

- Security Shift: The Arc needs people 18 years and older to sit at the front door of the gym from 8am to noon and noon to 3pm every Monday through Thursday. Just sit and read, play Angry Birds on your phone or write the next great American novel – just be there to be a gate keeper. We would like to cover as many of these shifts as possible and to make it as convenient as possible. To access ARC of Katy 's CareCalendar site, visit *www.carecalendar.org/logon/233906* and enter the following information in the appropriate spaces: Calendar ID: 233906 / Security Code: 2280
- Cornerstone Days: These would occur once per session on Wednesdays June 8, July 6, and August 3. Join us for one or more of the following Cornerstone Day events:
  - Community Crafts: Volunteers will assist the Arc campers creating crafts which will be delivered to various area ministries. (contact Carol Kutzer about this assignment at (281) 579-1080 or *info@CornerstoneKaty.org.)*
  - Lunch: help prepare and serve lunch to the Arc campers and staff. (contact Linda Cover about this assignment at (713) 464-7787 or *covergl@swbell.net*.
  - Sports Time: After lunch, our Cornerstone youth spend time tossing balls, running obstacle courses and other fun physical activities. (contact May Gourlay about this assignment at (281) 543-3692 or *mamagourlay@gmail.com.*
- ARC Sunday: Each summer, invite the campers and their families to worship with us one Sunday. This summer, Arc Sunday will be August 7. The campers will share a song or two with our congregation during the worship service and also be invited to assist our teams of Ushers and Greeters. And since this would be a Community Lunch day we would invite the families to stick around for fellowship and a meal after the service.
- Easter in August: This one day event is a good opportunity for families to serve together. Mark your calendars for Monday, August 8 at NOON. Volunteers will help the Arc campers create their own set of Resurrection Eggs. Then we will help them search for Easter eggs hidden inside the Ed Bldg. Volunteers will also help stuff and hide eggs. Date to be determined.
- ARC Open House: At the end of the summer the ARC has a tradition of hosting an Open House for the friends and families of the ARC campers. This is a highly energetic event where the campers show off the skills they have learned over the summer, projects they have completed and give the families a taste of their experiences.

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You can help with our once-a-session meals by providing food or coming to cook.

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

BY DON RUSELL

What does Living in Community (LIC) mean, and what is it responsible for? Have you found yourself asking those questions? Living in Community is one of the WELL teams, and its mission is "Renewing our covenant family through authentic relationships, spiritual gifts, and diverse passions". Currently LIC is made up of the following teams Spiritual Gift Assessment, Assimilation, Meals and Wheels, Men's Group, Small Groups, Care Groups, and Fellowship.

The **Spiritual Gifts Assessment team** is responsible for guiding people through a process that identifies their spiritual gifts and passions so they can be plugged into a ministry that fits those gifts and passions. If you have not had your spiritual gifts assessed, please contact Mark Williams or Evelyn Saugier to get started.

The **Assimilation team**, led by Ben Moyer, is making guests feel welcome and getting them connected to other members of the church. Let Ben know if you are interested in helping with the "Welcome Table" on Sunday morning.

The **Meals and Wheels ministry**, led by Becky Yuvancic, offers a helping hand to those who need meals, for a variety of reasons, and assists in finding a ride to church on Sunday morning for those in need of transportation.

The **Men's Group**, led by Carl Peterson, organizes activities so the men of the church can build relationships and learn from each other. We would love to see all the men at Cornerstone at the men's prayer breakfast every Friday morning starting at 6:00 a.m.

The **Care Group ministry** puts each member of Cornerstone under the care of an Elder or Minister who will pray for them on a consistent basis and be there in a time of need.

The **Fellowship ministry** is led by Alisa Cotton. This ministry organizes events that bring us together so that we can build relationships through activities. Examples of these activities include the community lunch and special events.

Living In Community team has many ways to help keep us connected and offer avenues of service.

ON BOARD: ARC IS COMING THIS SUMMER

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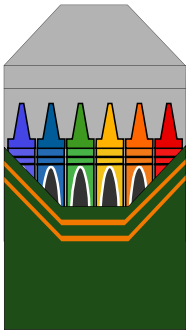
We want to provide a reception for those who attend this event. We will need baked goods and beverages and people to serve them. This event will more than likely be scheduled for Thursday, August 11 around 1:00 p.m. (contact Beverly Tucker about this assignment at (281) 620-5921 or *tuckerjb10@icloud.com.)*

- Donate items: This list will be added to once menus and plans are finalized, but here are a few items to get started:
  - markers (thin and fat)
  - coloring books
  - clean, empty water bottles with labels removed
  - empty egg cartons
- Prayer: Most importantly, pray! Pray for Arc, their staff and campers. Pray for good weather over the summer. Pray for the Arc Team as we begin to meet together. Pray that the Lord would use Cornerstone to be a blessing and proclaim the gospel.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Arc of Katy outside of Cornerstone events, you will need to complete the volunteer application. You may get the forms from the church office or the Arc of Katy's website

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Kutzer
281.579.1080
info@CornerstoneKaty.org



Markers and coloring books are among the supplies needed for ARC crafts this summer.

UPDATE ON QUEST CHURCH PLANT

"NEW CHURCH, NEW HOUSE, SPECIAL NEEDS SON, NEW BABY – THE STRESS-O-METER ISN'T SPINNING FAST ENOUGH…"

(Continued from page 3)

I have been worried sick about finances,…and especially knowing that summer is coming soon and we just don't have the kind of reserves that many successful church plants I know of have had. I've read many times that launch team members are often gone within a year or so of launch, as the new church just wasn't what they thought it would be or they just have an entrepreneurial spirit and like starting new things… Hopefully the strong launch attendance translates into a number of additional people who will travel along with us and we'll be less dependent on external support than we currently are …

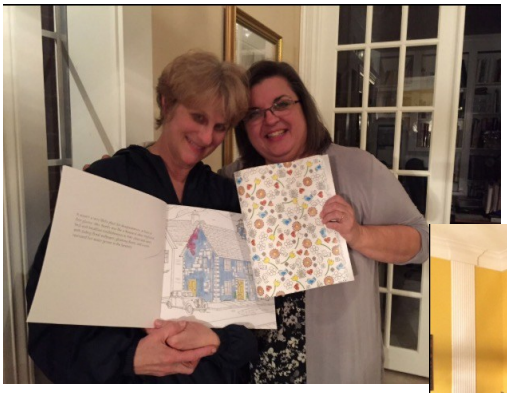
On the personal front, we are still getting unpacked and fully moved into our new house. And the big news is that we are pregnant with child number two, a girl, who is due in September! New church, new house, special needs son, new baby – the stress-o-meter isn't spinning fast enough already so we just keep piling on! I may be an old toad getting a very late start on marriage and family, but I'm doing my best to make up for lost time!

Please continue to pray for the Lord to draw more people, especially those who are not yet Christians, and for more children's workers and more small groups and small group leaders. Please pray also for a substantial anchor gift/s to strengthen our financial reserves prior to summer and in case we lose any major givers.

As always, if I can pray for you or be of service to you in any way, please don't hesitate to let me know.

For the King & His Kingdom,
Pastor Brett Becker

COLORING IS FUN FOR GROWNUPS, TOO



The Women's Central Perk held a coloring evening at Evelyn Saugier's home in March, and about 15 women turned out. It was a great chance for those attending to enjoy fellowship at the same time.

Coloring books for grownups seem to be all the rage these days, and a number of Cornerstone women are using them to express their talents.

PRESBYTERY MEETING HELD IN LAKE JACKSON

BY GENE COVER

Nathan Cotton, Allen White, Jonathan Tucker, Gene and Linda Cover travelled to Lake Jackson for the Sixth meeting of the Gulf South Presbytery on April 22-23. A highlight of the meeting was host pastor Alan Trafford's rousing sermon on Friday night, "The Fire of the Lord," based on 1 Kings 18:16-39. He urged us to rebuild the altar and call down the fire. We have a transcript of his sermon for those who would like to read it.

The following summary was written by our Stated Clerk, Michael Herrin:

The 6th stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Gulf South was a wonderful opportunity to encourage one another in the Lord. We gathered at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Jackson, and as TE Hector Reynoso said in his Reflections and Thanks committee report, "They made us all feel like movie stars!" Here are some highlights of the meeting:

1) We welcomed three new Teaching elders: Rev. Josh Cole comes to us from the Presbytery of the Midwest to serve as the Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi; Rev. Tyson Taylor comes to us from the Presbytery of the West to serve as the Pastor of Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Brandon, Mississippi; and Rev. Ben Cunningham comes to us from the Southern Louisiana Presbytery of the PCA to serve as our church planter in New Orleans.

(Gene's comment: during these exams, two very interesting comments were made regarding re-baptism and serving communion to people with dementia. If you would like to hear more about this, ask Nathan, Allen, Jonathan, Linda or Gene.)

2) We installed Ben Cunningham and Dennis Flach as Evangelists, to New Orleans and Natchez respectively.

3) We commissioned Ruling Elder Walt Gaston to serve as Commissioned Pastor for Liberty and Unity Memorial churches in Mississippi.

4) We voted on the descending overtures from the 35th General Assembly, approving all except 15-B.

5) We approved the petition to establish Quest New Braunfels as a Mission Church of our Presbytery. *(See the related article on page 3.)*

6) We heard Teaching Elder Alan Trafford and Doug Bush tell the inspiring story of how "Celebrate Recovery" is helping First Lake Jackson to reach out to those whose hurts, hang-ups, and habits are keeping them from full submission to God.

7) We enjoyed inspiring sermons from Alan Trafford and Ben Cunningham, and we celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together.

8) We had a rich time of corporate prayer for our congregations, pastors, missionaries and our nation.

9) We heard four World Outreach presentations: Dr. Robert Hamd brought us up-to-date on the work of the Philemon Project in Lebanon; John and Debbie Crimmins explained their work with Global Field Evangelism, training pastors in Africa; Whitney Alexander urged us to volunteer for the mercy ministry trip to Lebanon in August and September, with medical personnel especially needed; and Dan Tidwell told us about the EPC's work with church partners in Lebanon, Germany, and Turkey to help refugees from the Middle East.

In addition, our Women's Ministries Committee rolled out a new design for their meetings at presbytery: they met during the supper hour so that all women—including commissioners—could participate. They plan to continue this format in the future and encourage all Presbyterian women to attend.

We did have a few sad items:

1) At their request, and according to the process outlined in Book of Government 5-10, we dismissed New Covenant Presbyterian Church in Natchez, Mississippi, to Grace Presbytery of the PCA.

2) We acknowledged receipt of Rev. Bill Hyer's renunciation of the jurisdiction of the EPC.

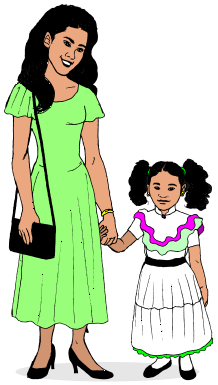
3) Only 31 Teaching Elders and 38 Ruling Elder Commissioners attended the meeting, with about 110 total in attendance.

Our next meeting will be held at New Covenant Presbyterian Church of Mandeville, Louisiana, on September 23 and 24, 2016.

"[PASTOR ALAN TRAFFORD] URGED US TO REBUILD THE ALTAR AND CALL DOWN THE FIRE."

Three new pastors were examined and approved for ministry in our presbytery.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Parents will have both day-time and evening opportunities to enjoy a little time away from the kids this month.

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is…**
The winner of April's Mint Candy Game is Averie! Her guess of 66 was the closest to the actual number of mints in the jar (69). Congratulations, Miss Averie! She will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and all the mints from the jar. Be sure to submit your guess for May's Lindt Chocolate Candy 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:**
The next PNO is scheduled for Friday, May 13, at 6:00 p.m. Cost: $5/child– maximum of $15/family. Please send each child with a meal and a snack. Feel free to drop them off in their PJs. To register, please contact Carol Kutzer at 281-579-1080 or *info@CornerstoneKaty.org*. Or see event scheduled on our Facebook Group: *Cornerstone Katy*. If you do not have children of your own, consider sponsoring a child or two for our young families.

☺ **Parents' Day Out through May:** This month we are offering PDO for preschoolers and infants on Wednesday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. to NOON. The cost is $5/child-maximum $15/family each Wednesday. To register, please contact Carol Kutzer at 281-579-1080 or info@CornerstoneKaty.org.

WAITING TABLES: JESUS' EXAMPLE

We want to cultivate a "serving" rather than "serve me" mentality.

(Continued from page 1)
interpret "wait on tables" to something more dignified (like managing the money) that makes us feel easier about such qualified men doing it. "Waiting on tables" seems so demeaning.

What we forget is that Jesus himself said, "I came not to be served but to serve and give my life as a ransom for many." Jesus came to "wait on tables," as it were. We tend to measure a person's importance by how many people serve him (lawn service, maid service, child-care service) or in the business world how many people report to him. But Jesus flips this on its head, "the greatest among you will be your servant" (Matthew 23:11). In other words, the greatest among you will be the one "waiting on tables".

When the men in Acts 6 are set aside to "wait tables" they were given the highest honor. It was an honor that required them to sacrifice time and ambitions. When I say, "sacrifice time," I don't mean the spare time they had left over after all of their other priorities and ambitions were met. I mean time they would have spent on those other important things. "Waiting tables" wasn't set against the ministry of the word to show that it was beneath the apostles. It is set up alongside the ministry of the word to show that it deserves just as much commitment and dedication.

As you may have noticed, we're trying to step-up our service at Cornerstone. We've been asking that you keep your eyes open for opportunities to serve our neighbors and each other. What we haven't mentioned specifically is that this will require us, as a congregation, to sacrifice time to address some of these needs. Some of you already serve, but others look to your church with a "serve me" mentality.

Let Jesus' words challenge you. His life given to serve you wasn't so you could continue in the ways of the world (with a "serve me" mentality) but to transform you after his own image and follow his example. Are you ready to serve?

Serving alongside you,
Carter

ORDER FROM CHAOS: THE KITCHEN REVAMP

(Continued from page 1)

stone people. We tackled the upstairs storage over the Christmas holidays because it was the perfect time while most of the stuff was busy decking the halls. After that, we took on the remaining Sanctuary storage (kitchen and closets). This included gathering stuff from all the buildings and sorting them. Did you know we should probably not have to buy tea lights, doilies, plastic table cloths, or candles until Jesus comes back? It was embarrassing to learn how much of these items we have.

But now they are all sorted, labeled, and stored in one place, and everyone can find them in the Fellowship closet. Like I said, most of you never noticed this work going on – and that's the way it should be.

However, when Lauren and I began working on the Education Building kitchen everyone noticed. Just like at home, the church kitchen is a hub of activity, and it affects everyone. Our Education Building is used by several hundred people each week, and a good portion of those use the kitchen at some point.

I thought it would be a good idea to share some information about the new set up so you can find what you need. Because the kitchen and its contents are so heavily used, we felt it necessary to designate items in the kitchen as available to everyone or limited to Cornerstone Events use. This helps us keep track of our inventory for our events and prevents the need to replace lost or damaged items.

Cabinets:

We created "Everybody Cabinets." These are clearly labeled and are located to the right of the kitchen sink. Now people won't need to search through all the cabinets to find what they need, and they can know which items are intended for their use. Smaller events (25 people or less) will find everything they need in the "Everybody Cabinets", Food Pantry and/or Kitchen Supplies pantries.

The remaining cabinets have labels and are called "Events Cabinets." These are for use for large Cornerstone events (26 people or more). Many items have been washed and wrapped in cellophane to keep them clean and to help us keep track of inventory.

Pantries:

There are two pantries in the kitchen: "Food Pantry" and "Kitchen Supplies". These are rather self explanatory. Feel free to use what you find in there. If you leave food items – please label and date them.

Refrigerators:

The silver refrigerator has become the "Cornerstone" unit, and the white unit is now labeled for guests. (The overhead freezer on the white unit is open to everybody.) This should help us keep things sorted, especially when Cosecha de Vida moves in for the summer (due to the Arc of Katy camping out in the gym all summer). If you leave food items – please label and date them.

Borrowing supplies:

Our Kitchen Policies state that members may borrow items for church events they host at home. There is a copy of these policies on the white refrigerator. The last page of the policies is for use when checking out items to borrow. This includes tables, chairs, tablecloths, appliances, kitchenware, etc.

Lauren and I have not yet completed out project. If you too find organizing good therapy you are welcome to join us. If you have trouble locating items don't hesitate to ask.

Lastly, we are looking for a seamstress with some spare time to help us with a project. Let me know if you have the time to help us.

Labels and new organization should help make our kitchen more user-friendly.

"DID YOU KNOW WE SHOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE TO BUY TEA LIGHTS, DOILIES, PLASTIC TABLE CLOTHS, OR CANDLES UNTIL JESUS COMES BACK?"

NOMP SURVEY RESULTS:

Survey question	*Score (1-5)*
I would recommend Memorial Parkway to others as a great place to live.	4.3
Organized neighborhood activities occur often enough to build a sense of community.	2.9
The HCSO/constable does a good job monitoring Memorial Parkway.	3.8
I feel safe in the Memorial Parkway neighborhood. For example: jogging, walking, taking children to playgrounds, etc.	4.2
I am an involved community member of Memorial Parkway.	2.5
I could use help OR I know a neighbor who could use help with property maintainance such as yardwork or fence repairs.	2.5

Questions with comments (ranked by # comments)

How can community organizations help?

- Help build community with a focus on unity (10)
- Activities for kids (1)
- Place for kids to hang-out (1)
- More inclusiveness of diversity in ethnic groups and religions

What are some strengths of the Memorial Parkway Community?

- Atmosphere/Vibe (14): quiet, peaceful, friendly, community-minded people, comfortable, diverse
- Safety (8): peaceful, well-lit street lights, patrolling constable
- Schools (6): good
- Amenities & activities (6): good schools, pool, tennis courts, clubhouse, swim team
- Grounds (6): clean, well-maintained, sidewalks, large trees
- Property value (5): stable, affordable, established, diversity in design, landscape
- Good location (5): shopping, access to freeway
- HOA (4): low dues
- Communication (2): well-informed on potential dangers and events

What is one thing you would like to see implemented to improve Memorial Parkway?

- HOA enforcement of deed restrictions (10): lawn maintenance, home appearance, street parking, reward faithful with home/landscape appearance
- Street parking (8): too much, dangerous!
- Sidewalk maintenance (8)
- Community events (5): community garage sale, activities for kids (especially in summer), broader participation from residents
- Speeding (5)
- Brighter street lights (4)
- Upkeep of cul-de-sac commons (3)
- Mosquito prevention (3)
- More pool hours during school (3)
- Pets (3): kept on leashes, picked-up after
- Friendlier HOA enforcement (3)
- Support (4): in home maintenance, for elderly
- Neighborhood watch (3)
- Better communication (3)
- Garage sale restrictions (2)
- Additional playground space (1)
- Better school ground maintenance (1)

(Continued on page 11)

LEARNING TO BE NEIGHBORS

BY TODD ELGIE

Who is my neighbor?

The answer most of us think of is the parable of the Good Samaritan. And most of us think we'd do the same thing when faced with a similar scenario - call 911, administer first aid, see to it that things are taken care of at the hospital, etc.

But did you ever think - what if my *neighbor* is my neighbor? In 2009 a group of 20 Denver area pastors met together and approached their mayor asking how they as churches could best work together to serve the city. "The majority of the issues our community is facing would be eliminated or drastically reduced if we could just figure out a way to be a community of great neighbors."

Dave Runyon, one of the pastors said later in the their discussion, "Am I the only one here who is a little embarrassed? We're asking the mayor how we can best serve the city, and he basically tells us it would be great if we could get our people to obey the second half of the Great Commandment."

The NOMP team is reading through the book that came out of this experience, The Art of Neighboring. The book analyzes barriers in our culture to being good neighbors (time and fear) and gives guidance, practical steps, and encouragement on how to become a better neighbor to our *actual neighbors*. The principles in the book will help NOMP, CEPC, and Memorial Parkway learn to be better neighbors to each other.

If you are interested in reading this book, ask Todd or another member of the NOMP team for a copy.

We are looking for ways to reach out to residents of Memorial Parkway.

THE ART OF NEIGHBORING... GIVES GUIDANCE, PRACTICAL STEPS, AND ENCOURAGEMENT ON HOW TO BECOME A BETTER NEIGHBOR TO OUR *ACTUAL NEIGHBORS.*

NOMP SURVEY RESULTS (CONT'D)

Positive youth activities	13
Arts and crafts festival	12
Community run/walk	11
Tutoring for students	10
Outdoor movie night	10
Community garage sale	9
After-school program	9
Family game nights	9
Blood drive	9
Food drive	8
Recreational sports (i.e. 3-on-3 basketball)	6

Bingo night	5
Parenting classes	4
ESL classes	3
Community story time	3
Lay counseling services	2
Senior citizen activities	2
Financial classes	1
Internet training	1
Marriage class	1
Chili supper night	1
Music on the lawn	1
Spanish Foreign Language Classes	5

One comment comes to mind as I think about these results. At the time of our survey, we did not qualify responders when it comes to their activity interest. That means there were responders that thought offering positive youth activities was a good idea even though they did not have any kids of their own. So while it might seem like offering positive youth activities might get a lot of involvement from the neighborhood, that might not be the case in reality. The same may be true for other activities on the list.

Looking ahead to summer

The Fellowship Team has planned some events to keep us connected over the summer.

There will be three Women's Central Perk evenings, offering a chance to get together for **coffee and conversation** in the Education Building Den, beginning at 7:00 p.m. They will be:
Friday, June 10
Friday, July 15
Friday, August 12

Celebrate Independence Day with your Cornerstone family! We will hold a **pool party** either Saturday, July 2, or Monday, July 4. Be watching for more details closer to the time.

Our next **2:42 Lunch** will be Sunday, August 7, when we will invite the ARC campers and their families to join us for worship and lunch afterwards.

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.

Communion service will offer options of wine or juice

In the March issue of Frontlines, Carter wrote about the rationale for offering wine as a choice during the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Historically, wine is what would have been drunk when Jesus instituted this sacrament and what was used for centuries afterwards. Grape juice was substituted in many churches more recently in deference to those who have an objection to alcohol.

At Cornerstone, we will begin offering both during our celebration of communion on Sunday, May 1. The wine will be in the clear cups around the outside of the trays, while the grape juice will be in the purple cups in the inside of the trays. It will be up to each person to select the one you prefer.

If you want to review Carter's article, you can find a link to the past newsletters on Cornerstone's website under the *Get Involved* tab, or read it as a Pastor's blog under the *Resources* tab..