CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FRONTLINES

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4 APRIL 2017

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

LIVE YOUR FAITH. SHARE YOUR LIFE.

BY CARTER SANGER

In our officer meetings this year we are discussing and strategizing how to make outreach organic to the culture of Cornerstone and our personal lives. We've been working our way through the book Organic Outreach for Churches by Kevin Harney and discussing lessons I'm taking from my time with other pastors as we work with Rick Richardson, Professor of Evangelism and Leadership at Wheaton College and the Director of the Masters in Evangelism and Leadership.

One of the profound shifts in thinking came from the simple phrase, "live your faith, share your life." We often think about outreach as sharing our faith. But that implies a particular activity, such as walking through a gospel outline with someone and inviting them to trust the Lord. While certainly a valid way to do outreach, it severely limits our thinking about outreach.

As Christians, we are the salt of the earth and light of the world. That means that by living our faith we shine a light in the dark and work against the decay of our culture. When we simply seek to live our faith, we end up sharing our lives with those around us. We serve real needs and find ourselves speaking into real situations from a Biblical point of view. This is a big part of what it means to do outreach organically.

There are challenges, however. The challenges revolve around *living* as opposed to *doing* evangelism. Living your faith is what you are called to do consistently as a Christian. It isn't a part-time gig. It isn't a Sunday only activity. It is what we do at work, at play, and all of the time in between.

This means wrestling against the cultures influences and learning to see the difference between our culture's ways and Christ's way. The Bible calls this sanctification.

SPECIAL EVENTS ARE PLANNED FOR HOLY WEEK

The week before Easter is a solemn and joyous time for Christians, and we will celebrate it with several events:

PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 9 10:30 A.M.
Our children will remind us of Jesus' triumphal entry with special music. Contact Lauren Torregano for practice times.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT CHRIST EPC
APRIL 13 7:00 P.M.
Jesus' last supper with his disciples, when he instituted the sacrament of Communion, will be observed in a joint service with out sister church, Christ EPC. The service will be held in their sanctuary on Thursday evening, April 13, beginning at 7:00 p.m. At this service, a special collection will be taken to help purchase land for Genesis EPC in south Texas. If you cannot attend this service, but would like to make a contribution, just put your donation in the offering plate on Sunday,

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Breakfast will replace Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 16.*
- *Thanks to everyone who came or brought food for the dinner with our AA friends in March!*
- *Presbytery of the Gulf South will meet in Ocean Springs, Mississippi on April 28-29.*
- *Rejoice! Christ is risen!.*

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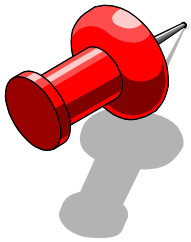
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Our Elders and Deacons have been learning about "pushpin" outreach in the book they are reading.

BY GENE COVER

- Our meeting started with hamburgers and hot dogs we prepared for the AA group that meets in our Education Building every week. We had a good visit with 8-10 of their members.
- Carter led our devotional study based on Chapters 4-7 of Kevin Harney's book, Organic Outreach for Churches. The author described a progression in an outreach ministry at his church that started with a "pushpin", where congregations support missionaries through money and prayers, thinking they have done their part in support. The pushpin refers to the maps that you have seen with a pushpin for each place where a supported missionary is. The next step is committee-based evangelism, where a team presents mission events and opportunities for the members to participate. The final stage of evolution is organic outreach where evangelism is part of each ongoing ministry in the church and is owned by all. Carter challenges us to think of ways to raise our outreach temperature.
- You may have noticed that our sign on Mason Road got knocked down recently by an errant car in the aftermath of a two-car wreck. We will use the insurance settlement to upgrade the sign. The Deacons and Carter are collaborating on a new sign design.
- We are praying earnestly for God to increase our numbers to 300 members by the end of this year so that we can support a church plant in the Katy area with money and members. Please join us in this prayer.
- We have a number of members who are seeking a job. Please pray for them.
- Much of our meeting was spent in prayer for each other and for the flock.

Men's Retreat will focus on what God's word says about manhood.

MEN'S RETREAT WILL BE APRIL 21 & 22

What does it mean to be a man? Society struggles to define manhood. Colleges now even offer courses on "masculinities"- with the idea that there are multiple ways of being a man.

There's much confusion about manhood, including the right source to answer that question. What are we to be as men? What are we to do? Where do we go for answers?

At the Men's Retreat in April, we will go to the right source—Scripture. Come hear Craig Whitlock from Christ EPC walk us through God's Word and show us what God created us to be and do as men. Craig is not only a former Army Ranger, but is a family-oriented man and skilled communicator of God's Word.

So come join your brothers in Christ from our sister church on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, at Camp Cho-Yeh near Livingston, Texas, for a great time of learning, discussion, and hanging out. The cost is $90. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, please contact Buck Oliphant *or* Tom Lott.

GET ON BOARD . . . DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND!
OUR 6TH YEAR TO HAVE THE ARC ON CAMPUS

BY CAROL KUTZER

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 alongside 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: 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Thursday, each week beginning June 5 through August 17 (they might add Fridays this summer.

Where: Cornerstone's gym

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

- 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
- Join us for one or more of the following Cornerstone Day @ the Arc 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 .
  - Lunch: help prepare and serve lunch to the Arc campers and staff. (contact Linda Cover about this assignment .
  - Activity Time: After lunch, our Cornerstone youth spend time doing fun physical activities. (contact May Gourlay about this assignment
- ARC Sunday: Each summer, we invite the campers and their families to worship with us one Sunday. This summer, Arc Sunday will be August 6. 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.
- Special Event: We are still planning and coordinating this event. In the past we have done Carnivals, Easter in August, and a 2-hour VBS! If you like to plan FUN events contact Carol Kutzer.

- 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.

  We would like to provide a reception for those who attend this event. We will need baked goods and beverages and people to serve them. This event is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, around 1pm. (contact Carol Kutzer about this assignment.)
- 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.
- Security Shift: The Arc needs people 18 years and older to sit at the front door of the gym for one shift each day. The morning shift is from 8:00AM to NOON. The afternoon shift is NOON to 3:00 PM. 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.

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

BRIDGES WILL HOST AN EASTER PARTY

Bridges Easter Party will be held at a home in the Katy area on Saturday, April 8.

Daka and the Bridges International team took around 30 international students on a Spring Break trip to El Paso, Texas. Pray that these students were impacted spiritually and even invite Jesus into their hearts.

This is from Daka's latest newsletter:

We are also in the Lent season, leading up to Easter, including our Bridges Easter party on Saturday, April 8. It's a great opportunity for us to engage our students spiritually. We usually try to meet them one on one and have an Easter survey with them. The questions we ask are:

- When someone mentions Easter, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?
- Have you participated in Easter celebrations? Describe the celebration.
- Have you heard the original story behind Easter?
- Easter celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ. According to your understanding and belief, why was Jesus crucified?
- Do you think or believe He came back from the dead?
- In your opinion who is Jesus Christ?

Pray that the Lord will open doors for us. Pray that our students will be receptive and not harden their hearts. Pray for the fruit that will bring glory to our God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Blessings,
Daka Dyussekov

The Bridges Easter Party will be held at a home in the Katy area, and there is a need for volunteers to bring food and to come and help set up and visit with the students when they arrive. If you can help with any of these, please contact Daka.

Carol Kutzer and Lauren Pechacek have completed their CERT Training ard are ready for any emergency!

CERT TRAINING UPDATE

BY CAROL KUTZER

Lauren Pechacek and I are now CERT graduates!!! Not only was our training valuable, but the instructors were fun and easy to relate to. Lauren and I are now encouraging our NOMP team to host a CERT class here at Cornerstone. Let us know if you are interested. For more information, please visit: *HarrisCountyCitizenCorps.com*.

To register for the April, June, or September class with ESD48 please visit: *hcesd48.org/cert-training*.

2:42 LUNCH ON MAY 7 WILL HONOR GRADUATING SENIORS

Our next 2:42 Lunch will be held on Sunday, May 7, following worship and will honor our four seniors graduating from high school. They are:

Abbie Kutzer
Elizabeth Magee
Mercer Sanger
Baylor Wrubel

Be watching for details on how you can help with this special event, and plan to be there as we wish them well in their next adventure!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is…** The winner of March's Candy Game is William Gourlay. His guess of 81 mints in the jar was the closest to the actual count (113) without going over. Congratulations, William! He will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and all of the sugar free green mints.

Be sure to submit your guess for April's Mystery 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.

☺ **Happy Birthday, Ms. Carol!** Our much loved nursery worker, Carol Rutar will be celebrating her birthday on April 12. WoooHooo! Give her a hug and smile!

☺ **Palm Sunday Children's Choir:** If your little ones would like to participate in the Children's Choir on Palm Sunday, April 9, please contact Lauren Torregano for more information.

☺ **Did you know?** Our nursery workers have a combined total of 35 years of experience here at Cornerstone!

☺ **We're Hiring:** We are looking to expand our team of nursery workers. Please help us be on the lookout for new hires. Please tell your referrals to contact Carol Kutzer. Thank you!

HOW CAN YOU SAY "NO" TO THESE SWEET FACES OF CHILDREN IN OUR CONGREGATION? WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR WORSHIP TRAINING, NURSERY DUTY, AND OTHER CHILD CARE RESPONSIBILITIES.

HEART-TO-HEART AND STEPPING STONES END

Heart-to-Heart, Cornerstone's mentoring ministry for women, and Stepping Stones, our new ministry for pre– and young teen girls, will both wind down at the end of this month.

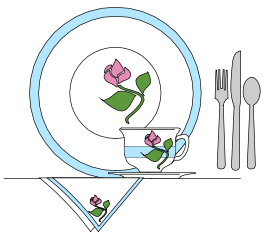
Heart-to-Heart
Mentoring pairs and Prayer Warriors will join for a Closing Potluck Celebration dinner on Friday, April 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mentors are asked to bring a plate of finger sandwiches, and mentees bring a salad. Drinks and dessert will be provided, and Prayer Warriors may just come as our guests. Childcare will be provided.

This will be a time to reflect on the past six months and share some highlights of our time together.

Stepping Stones
Diane Moyer will talk about pure thoughts for the final Stepping Stones program on Friday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m.

Stepping Stones will end its second season with a dinner including the girls' mothers and the ladies who have been our presenters this year on Friday evening, May 5, at 6:30 p.m.

We look forward to hearing from the girls what was meaningful to them these past few months.



Closing dinners will mark the end of the season for H2H and Stepping Stones.

PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES:
SEVEN PRAYER TOOLS FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL

The following is taken from a booklet published by Wycliffe Bible Translators.

PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message…." Colossians 4:2-3

Open doors can't be taken for granted. Many missionaries work in countries that are difficult to access or in areas that are resistant to the gospel. But "open doors" include more than just access to naitons and people groups. Individuals' hearts also need to be open and receptive to God's truth.

- *Pray that God will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships.*
- *Pray that those who serve will be led by the Holy Spirit and recognize open-door opportunities.*
- *Pray that God will lead His people past barriers to hearts ready to receive His Word.*

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS IN WITNESS

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel…."
Ephesians 6:19

Missionaries are regular people who fear pain and rejection as much as anyone else. When faced with opposition, they need God's strength to help them stand firm.

- *Pray that missionaries will have boldness to overcome the fear of embarrassment or failure.*
- *Pray that the Spirit will provide them with words that communicate effectively in other cultures and languages.*
- *Pray against evil forces that would seek t hinder the spread of the gospel.*

PRAY THAT GOD'S WORD WILL SPREAD

"Finally, dear brothers and sisters, I ask you to pray for us. Pray first that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes…."
2Thessalonians 3:1

Obstacles must be removed to allow God's Word to spread rapidly and freely. Removing obstacles implies resolute resistance in spiritual warfare. Just as Aaron and Hur supported Moses' arms in the battle against the Amalekites (Exodus 17:12), you can strengthen the arms of missionaries through your prayers.

- *Pray for strength and stamina as missionaries encounter antagonistic spiritual forces.*
- *Pray that people willresistSatan's plans to obstruct the spread of the gospel.*
- *Pray that God's Word will indeed spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes.*

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

"Pray, too, that we will be saved from wicked and evil people, for not everyone believes in the Lord."
2 Thessalonians 3:2

In some countries, open doors may expose missionaries to the possibility of danger and personal harm. Opposition to the gospel may include hatred and violence.

- *Pray that God will keep Christian workers safe from those who seek to hurt them.*
- *Pray that God will change the hearts of those who are resistant to His Word.*

PRAY FOR THEIR MINISTRY

"Pray…that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there…."
Romans 15:31

Cooperation and partnership are essential to ministry and vital to the progress of the work.

- *Pray that the missionary's ministry and attitude will be worthy of acceptance.*
- *Pray that colleagues and fellow believers will be supportive.*

PRAY FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE

"Pray…so that by God's will I may come to you with joy…." Romans 15:31-32

Many missionaries travel frequesntly, both nationally and internationally. Their mode of transportation varies from country to country and often involves stressful situations.

- *Pray for clear guidance from God regarding travel decisions.*
- *Pray for necessary permission to travel.*
- *Pray for protection and provision during their travels.*

PRAY FOR REFRESHMENT

"Pray that I may…together with you be refreshed." Romans 15:31-32

Missionaries deal with may of the same stresses you face in life, like overwhelming workloads, conflicts in relationships, and financial uncertainties. Often, however, missionaries struggle with these issues alone, without the fellowship and support of other Christians. Living and working cross-culturally adds an additional element that canchallenge their emotional, spiritual and physical vitality.

- *Pray that God will provide opportunities for missionaries in lonely areas to spend time with other believers.*
- *Pray that God will provide times of peace and relaxations to refresh His workers.*
- *Pray that God will encourage missionaries with the knowledge that people back home care about their emotional well-being.*

Come for breakfast and worship on Easter Sunday

(Continued from page 1)
April 9 or 16, and mark it "Genesis EPC".

EASTER BREAKFAST
APRIL 16 9:30 A.M.
We will enjoy breakfast on the patio, with a time of good food and fellowship before worship. Breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. Come hungry!

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
APRIL 16 10:30 A.M.
Our worship service will be held at the regular time, and it will be a special time of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. This is an ideal time to invite family and friends to join you.

EGG HUNT
APRIL 16 12:00 NOON
Following worship, the kids will have a chance to hunt for Ester Eggs on the church grounds—some of which will contain a special prize. Areas for younger children and older children will be designated.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
CORNERSTONE
JESUS
cornerstone of faith and life.

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