Chant makes learning easier

(Continued from page 1)

ing the material through chant and song cause the catechism to stick with our children for years to come. Think of all the useless jingles, songs, TV show intros, and commercials indelibly imprinted in your memory. Song is powerful.

Cornerstone children also memorize Scripture via song through the Seeds Family Worship CDs. Each year the Scriptures follow a different theme, such as the goodness of God or who is Jesus. My own children remember the Seeds songs they memorized in elementary and junior high. Jeremy Smith, our worship leader, even incorporates them into worship from time to time.

In addition to memorizing the Scriptures and catechism, Cornerstone children learn the meaning and concepts of this memory work through our rich Bible story material. Not only do we remember what we learn through song, we also remember stories. Cornerstone seeks to teach through the well told and interesting narratives of the Bible. This combination of memory work and stories lay a Biblical foundation for our children which will last throughout their lives.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
(Proverbs 22:6)

DAILY ADVENT READINGS

Advent season is just around the corner and beginning November 29 you can receive an easy and daily reading in your inbox. Experience Christmas in a new way!

Go to *havenkaty.com* to sign up for this daily reading.

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 14, Issue 12 December 2019

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

Why You Should Bring Your Children to Cornerstone

By Rhonda Sanger

Who made you?
God!

What else did God make?
God made all things.

Why did God make you and all things?
For His own glory.

How can you glorify God?
By loving him and doing what he commands.

Why are you to glorify God?
Because He made me and takes care of me.

These are the first five questions of the catechism chant that Cornerstone teaches our children each Sunday morning. They are so simple and yet so profound. Our Children's catechism is a teaching tool to lead children (and often adults) through the Bible's story of redemption and give them a foundation of the rich theological concepts contained in the Scriptures.

Years ago, when our former youth and family pastor was given the task of teaching the children's catechism to our children (and consequently wrote the chant) he was struck by its clarity and structure. "If only I had this assignment before my ordination exams! It would have made them so much easier!" was his revelation.

The format and content of the catechism order and make sense of the Bible. Our methodology of teach-

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Cornerstone's Christmas Cuisine Crates (C4)

By Debi Barrett

Come be a part of our first ever Christmas Food Drive for members of our surrounding community - Memorial Parkway Elementary and Taylor High School.

On Sunday, December 1, you will see a Christmas tree in our foyer with paper ornaments. Please take one home, get onto the SignUp designated on the back, and select one or more items that will be a part of a Christmas Cuisine Crate to be given to families in need.

Our goal is to fill 20 boxed dinners, so this is going to take quite a bit! Once you've selected the items, you can drop them off in the red barrel which will be in the foyer no later than December 15, or you also have the option of dropping a check into the offering plate made out to Cornerstone EPC with "C4" in the memo line.

We reached out to our local schools this Thanksgiving and the donation was such a success, that when we discovered that food is still what is most needed, we felt that this offering of a wonderful holiday meal is a perfect way to reach out and let nearby families of Memorial Parkway know that we care and are there to support them.

Be sure to grab your ornament on our Christmas tree and sign up on the 1st!

Special points of interest:

- *Check the calendar for all the things going on in December!*
- *Please note that Sunday School will NOT meet on December 1 (Thanksgiving) or December 22 or 29 (Christmas).*
- *We will have a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8, to elect new officers and hear about changes coming to our sanctuary.*

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December happenings at Cornerstone

December 1-15: Cornerstone Christmas Cuisine Crates – C4 Food Drive

Our Thanksgiving food drive went so well we want to continue the blessing for Christmas. To sign up to bring food, visit: https://signup.com/go/GCzZqnE and click on "C4 2019".

Saturday, December 7: Cornerstone Christmas Party at 6:00

All Cornerstone attenders are invited to celebrate Christmas at the Arnolds'. You are encouraged to bring your favorite appetizer and additional beverages. Childcare will be provided on the Cornerstone campus with advanced notice (Contact Carol at (281) 579-1080 or *info@CornerstoneKaty.org* to register your children).

Friday, December 13: Christmas Ceili at 7:00 p.m. & PNO at 6:00 p.m.

Ceili: Join us for an evening of Christmas music and storytelling around the fire in a variation of a traditional Irish ceili. In an "open-mic" format, musicians are invited to come and play their favorite Christmas song or join the other musicians in the round. Contact Jeremy Smith for more information about the Ceili.

Parents' Night Out: Whether or not you attend the Ceili, childcare is available for $10 for the first child and $2 each additional child. Contact Carol for more information about the childcare.

Come celebrate our savior's birth at one of these special events.

Saturday, December 14: Memorial Parkway Christmas Parade at 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we participate in the 2nd annual Memorial Parkway Christmas Parade. We need people to walk in the parade and hand out invitations to the Christmas Eve Service, make floats, or maybe a live nativity. People are also needed to bake cookies for the reception following the parade. To sign up to participate or learn more, visit: https://signup.com/go/GCzZqnE and click on "Memorial Parkway Christmas Parade".

Thursday, December 19: Ladies' Christmas Fellowship at 7:00

Ladies, please join us at the Saugier home for our annual Christmas Fellowship. Bring cookies to exchange if you would like, some to share, or both. This year, we've added a fun new addition to the party…bring a $5 gift for a fun-filled gift exchange. This is an excellent time to bring a friend. As well as lots of fun, food and fellowship we will have a devotional to remember the reason we have this season of celebration…the birth of our dear Savior! Contact Doniece Russell for more information.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. Enjoy an evening of music and sharing the Christmas story from scripture. Childcare for infants only.

Sun	Mon	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship	2	6:00 Men's breakfast 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study	7 6:00 Christmas Party at Arnolds'
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship & Congregational Meeting	9 7:00 Ladies' Bible Study	13 6:00 Men's breakfast 6:00 Session/Deacons' meeting	14 11:00 Memorial Parkway parade
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship C4 Items Due	16	20 6:00 Men's breakfast 7:00 Parents' Night Out 7:00 Christmas Ceili	21
22 10:30 Worship	23 Church Offices closed 7:00 Ladies' Bible Study	27 6:00 Men's breakfast	28
29 10:30 Worship	30	3	4
4	24 Church Offices closed 6:00 Christmas Eve Service	5 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study	7
11	25 Church Offices closed Christmas Day	12	14
18	31	19 7:00 Ladies' Fellowship at Saugiers'	21
25 Church Offices closed	1	26	28

Feeding B4 Feasting recap

Due to everyone's generosity, we able to donate full Thanksgiving meals – 3 more than we planned for! We delivered 12 to Memorial Parkway Elementary and 7 to Taylor High School. The response was overwhelming gratitude. What an honor to be a blessing to our neighbors!

Due to the need, we will be doing another food drive for Christmas. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for more information about Cornerstone's Christmas Cuisine Crates – C4. Let's blow up hunger whenever we can.

The first episode is complete!

Excerpted from Jonothan Schumate's post:

HTTPS://WWW.CROSSLIFE.ORG/TOLIVEGOSPELSERIES

The first full episode of CrossLife's gospel series, "*To Live,*" is now up on YouTube! Check it out and be sure to share on Facebook, Twitter, or Email.

To Live tells the gospel of why God made the world, why there is so much evil and suffering, how God turned all that is death into life through Jesus, and what hope we have for the future.

This first part, LIFE, begins at the beginning. Why did God make the world? Why did He make us? The answer found in Genesis 1 is that a good God made a good world for us to enjoy and delight in to His honor and His delight.

This is the first of four parts. It is our goal that the average Christian who uses this series will go from sharing their faith ***ALMOST NEVER*** (zero times in an average year), to evangelizing at least 1-3 times a year.

We need your help to finish the work! You can help in one of two ways:

1. Help us finish *To Live*.
2. Support our ongoing work with a recurring gift.

There are few times in life where there is an opportunity to help thousands hear the gospel. I am so thankful to be at this point in our ministry with CrossLife, and I hope you can partner with us in prayer and financial giving if possible.

If you would like to make a large gift through a charitable fund, please email me at *jonathan@crosslifetoday.org* to make the arrangements.

I look forward to sharing the progress of this project with you over the next couple of months!

Take care and God bless,
Jonathan

Stepping Stones will begin in January

Stepping Stones, Cornerstone's ministry to junior and senior high girls, ages 10 and up, will begin again in January. This year we will divide the girls into two groups, with programs focused on topics that are relevant to their age group.

Meetings will be the third Friday each month, January through May, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

All Cornerstone girls and their friends are encouraged to come and enjoy some refreshments and a fun activity, as well as a message to help them deal with the challenges they face.

Evelyn Saugier, Lauren Torregano, Lores Glover, and Rhonda Sanger will have something to share with the younger girls, and Alisa Cotton will be speaking to the older girls. If you have any questions, just ask one of these ladies or Linda Cover.

Stepping Stones will begin again on Friday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Bridges party will introduce international students to the Christmas story

Dear Friends,

We are very thankful for the role you play in God spreading His love to international students in the Houston area. Thanks for your prayers and thanks for the opportunities you take to meet and interact with these future leaders from around the world who are with us during this brief and strategic chapter of their lives…. please pray for each event and each student who will be participating- and consider in what other ways God might be calling you to get involved.

Students will be having fun and experiencing American Culture at the Bridges Christmas Party, being held Friday, December 6, at 1515 South Blvd, Houston. They'll also learn about the meanings behind many of the traditions and hear the Christmas story in a culturally relevant way.

Pray that God would use this event to reveal the amazing miracle of the nativity! If you can come, please let us know and bring some Christmas decorations because the home hosting us will not have the inside of the house decorated beforehand.

Celebrating Christmas with you,
Daka

bridges INTERNATIONAL

You can help international students understand what Christmas is really about.

Reminders and Alerts for the Ladies

By Doniece Russell

In December...
Ladies don't forget to mark your calendar for our annual cookie exchange fellowship on Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. We will also have a fun $5 gift exchange game. Bring a wrapped $5 gift without your name on it.

See the Cornerstone website and FB event invitation to RSVP or ask questions. You can also ask Evelyn or me (Doniece) if you need more details. The fellowship will be at Evelyn Saugier's house. Please come and bring a friend for this sweet time of fun and fellowship.

In January...
After the New Year be on the lookout for other upcoming fellowships. Details for a new and improved "Sip and Swap" as well as a game night will be in the January newsletter. As you clean out and organize after the Christmas holidays keep the sip and swap in mind. Remember your trash might be another's treasure!

Bring your famorite cookies to share and take some home, too.

Children's Ministry highlights

By Carol Kutzer

Parents' Night Out will give you a chance to go shopping or attend the Ceili.

☺ **And the winner is**… The winner of November Turkey Pellets Game is Elly Colston! Elly's guess of 120 came the closest to the actual number of Werther's Original candies without going over. (The actual count was 188.)

Congratulations, Miss Colston! She will receive all the candy in the jar and a Chick-fil-A gift card. Be sure to submit your guess for December's Candy Game…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. (Sad note: The last 2 months of candy were not claimed and given away to others. Remind your friends to read the newsletter.)

☺ **Parents' Night Out:** Parents may drop off their elementary aged or younger children at Cornerstone to enjoy a night to themselves on Friday, December 13 at 6:00–10:00 p.m.

We will feed them some pizza, do a craft or two, and munch on popcorn while we watch a movie. The cost is $10 for the first child and $2 each additional child. You may want to send your kids in their PJs and with pillow and blanket for movie time. Please contact the church office by December 12 to register your kiddos. (281) 579-1080 or *info@CornerstoneKaty.org*

(Continued on page 5)

☺ **Clothes Needed:** If you are cleaning out your child's closet please keep our nursery in mind. We need 2T & 3T shorts/pants/leggings for girls and boys who have had potty accidents.

The Cogliandros say farewell

The Cogliandro family will leave for Hawaii in January.

Dear Cornerstone family,
Most of you know that we have planned to move back to Maui and have generally said January. We now have our tickets and a firm date, departing 1/23. Since we are vacating our apartment and then staying with friends further in town, our last day at Cornerstone will be Sunday 1/12.

Obviously our move comes with mixed emotions and leaving Cornerstone (and also Liberty!), is one of the sadder aspects. Even though Joe has been a member since the 90's and I since 2005 (with interruptions :)) it still hasn't seemed like enough time to get involved in all the areas we could or get to know the individuals we grew to admire over all these years.

Thank you for being our family, the body of Christ. The selflessness, humility and depth with which the word is taught are some of what make Cornerstone unique. Thank you for allowing us to grow, participate, serve and be served here!

Love,
Joe, Janette, Tasanee, Makani, Xavi & Tito

Feeding B4 Feasting involves our kids in ministering to others

Feeding B4 Feasting has been a part of Cornerstone's ministry to the community for several years now. Each year during Sunday School, the kids decorate boxes to fill with food for families who will not otherwise have a Thanksgiving meal. They can use their creativity to decorate the boxes and also include a note to the family who will receive it.

Children's Ministry cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:** Question of the month: Do you collect anything? If so, what?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn: I don't collect anything
- Ms. Carol Rutar: White milkglass
- Ms. Kinsey Spain: Pens
- Ms. Laura Garay: Purses

Church Budget

Monthly Budget	$30,600
Income— September 2019	40,244
Expenses– September 2019	36,505
Net for September 2019	**3,739**
Annual Budget—2019	$367,200
Income—2019 YTD	270,760
Expenses—2019 YTD	287,696
Net for 2019 YTD	**(16,936)**