



FRONTLINES

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

BY CARTER SANGER

Preparing for Worship in 2020

In Luke 14, Jesus tells a parable about a master who held a great banquet and sent out his servant to bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame. The servant did so. When there was still room the master sent him to the highways and hedges that his house might be full.

It is my hope and prayer that Cornerstone continues to grow in this as we practice B.L.E.S.S. with our neighbors, coworkers and others whom the Lord

provisionally brings into our spheres of influence. Every month in our session meeting we begin by sharing personal stories of how we have seen the Lord at work through our practice of B.L.E.S.S. It's challenging and convicting at times, but also encouraging.

It is also encouraging to see our sanctuary growing more and more full. Cornerstone earnestly desires to see the name of the Lord lifted up in worship. What does the Lord have in store for us in 2020? Only He knows for sure, but let's pray for God to increase our influence in

our communities and see more people brought into the Lord's banquet (worship); and let's work to prepare for such a growth.

Needs

To that end, we have some upcoming expenses that aren't part of our calendar year budget. We will soon need to replace an air conditioning unit and have planned some much needed renovations for the Sanctuary building. These updates will help us make our place of worship more welcoming to visitors and more reflec-

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Remember to "Fall Back" on Saturday night, November 3.
- Bring your canned goods to fill our boxes to share at Thanksgiving.
- You can let the Sangers know how much we appreciate them by writing a note.
- There will be no Sunday School on December 1, the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

FINANCES REFLECT OUR COMMITMENT TO GROWTH

BY JOHN BARRETT

Several years ago, congregational giving at Cornerstone surpassed operating expenses. The Elders created a Strategic Reserve Fund with the extra funds and used that money for a church plant and for a building fund.

During the last few years, Cornerstone provided over \$50,000 for seminary support, contributed approxi-

mately \$70,000 for a church plant, and paid for the patio and playground expansion without incurring any debt. Haven is now up and running, and Cornerstone has been able to be part of that effort. Italo is now a pastor at Faith Presbyterian in Covington, Louisiana, and he is helping lead that church. The Cornerstone campus, including the patio and playground, is used extensively by the congre-

gation and other organizations in the community.

The extra giving has been used in many ways to expand God's Kingdom. It is nice to look back and see what God has done through this congregation. The last of the Strategic Reserve Fund, approximately \$5,000, will go to Haven in 2020.

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT



Christmas @ Cornerstone

More information about these events will be announced soon. For now, mark your calendars for these dates:

Saturday, December 7:
*Cornerstone
Christmas Party*

Friday, December 13:
*Christmas Ceili &
Parents' Night Out*

Saturday, December 14:
*Memorial Parkway
Christmas Parade*

Thursday, December 19:
*Ladies' Christmas
Fellowship*

Tuesday, December 24:
*Christmas Eve Worship
Service*

- The meeting was somewhat abbreviated since the first World Series game was to be played that evening.

- Roy Thomas was interviewed for the office of Deacon. He shared his Christian testimony, which the Session accepted as certainly valid. Then he told of his sense of call which is related to his love of Christ and his desire to serve the body.

After some discussion, Gene Cover made a motion that Roy be approved, and Tom Lott seconded. The Session voted to approve his ordination. There will be a Congregational meeting in the not too distant future to vote on Roy as a Deacon and Mark Williams reinstated as a Deacon and Ben Colston as Elder.

- Carter's devotional, once again, related to our evan-

gelism temperature and how it can be raised. Carter discussed his ongoing relationship with Ed, and Tom told of his family praying with a tour guide at lunch in Seattle. Steve Bressler is talking with a guy at work, and encouraging him to pray with his wife. Roy and Stephanie took cookies to a couple in their neighborhood. We have to remember to continue looking for opportunities to BLESS.

- The Session and Deacons then discussed the upcoming 2020 Cornerstone budget. The big air conditioner for the sanctuary is probably going to be an issue before long, and we don't currently have the funds to be able to replace it. We will most likely need to run it to failure and then deal with it at that time. The carpeting also needs to be replaced, and Carter is looking into less expensive ways to have that done.

We will soon be approaching the congregation about funding some of these items. Currently Cornerstone is barely making budget, with monthly income running slightly below what's necessary, and expenses more or less being met. Please continue to pray about this, that God will provide abundantly as He always has. The draft budget will be ready to present at the November Session meeting.

- Plans were discussed for Pastor Appreciation Day. Members of the congregation are encouraged to write a note or card to the Sangers. Owing to the health situation with both Carter's and Rhonda's fathers, there will not be a church-wide lunch.
- As always, the Session concluded with prayers for the needs at Cornerstone.

"FIRST FRUIT" CHEWS?

TITHE YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY – CAN YOU DO THAT?

BY CAROL KUTZER

Are you looking for a way to teach your children about stewardship? Consider asking your children to give 10% of the candy they receive from trick-or-treating.

The process of thinking about giving away something they themselves like, and of caring for others, affirms not only the

joy of giving, but the more intense joy of giving sacrificially. The donated candy will be put to good use in Children's Ministries. If you are up for a real challenge teach them about "first fruits" and giving God our best and not our leftovers. It might prove more challenging to convince them to give up a Jolly Rancher than a piece of licorice.

LADIES' EVENTS PLANNED

BY DONIECE RUSSELL

Friends By the Fire was a wonderful evening of food and fellowship for 23 Cornerstone ladies. The weather was perfect, food was delicious, and the time with old and new friends was sweet.

Thank you to all those who came and brought goodies to share! Thank you Carter and session for that wonderful patio! It's a blessing to have such a wonderful space to gather!

Ladies' Christmas Fellowship

"Christmas is coming! The geese are getting fat!" Well, at least Christmas is coming, and we will be having our annual **Christmas Fellowship!**

This year we have decided to change things up a bit. We will continue with the optional cookie exchange. Bring **cookies** to exchange if you would like or some to share or both. We will also have a fun new addition to the party.

Bring a **\$5 gift for a fun-filled gift exchange.**

Ladies 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!

Please join us on **Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. at Evelyn Saugier's home, 1923 Hillgreen, Katy.** We hope to see you there!



The Ladies' Christmas Fellowship will be at Evelyn Saugier's on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

☺ **And the winner is...**
The winner of October's Brach's Fall Candy Game is Xavi Cogliandro! Xavi's guess of 321 came the closest to the actual number of candy corns & pumpkins without going over. (The actual count was 336.) Congratulations, Mr. Xavi! He will receive all the candy in the jar.

Be sure to submit your guess for November'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.

☺ **Parents' Night Out:**
Parents may drop off their elementary aged or younger children at Cornerstone to enjoy a night to themselves on **Friday, November 15 at 6:00-10:00 p.m.** We will feed them, do a craft or two, and munch on popcorn while we watch a movie.

The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 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 November 14 to register your kiddos. (281) 579-1080 or info@CornerstoneKaty.org

☺ **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.

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**
Question of the month: If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why?

- * Ms. Ann Alcorn: Vanilla, because it goes well with everything!
- * Ms. Carol Rutar: Chocolate chip Mint, because it's my favorite
- * Ms. Kinsey Spain: Strawberry because I've been told I have a big heart
- * Ms. Laura Garay: Neapolitan - because I like trying new things



Parents, you can drop your kids off at Cornerstone on Friday, November 15, for an evening out.



High School and Junior High youth will get together at the Colston's.

YOUTH GET-TOGETHER PLANNED

Some fun is in store for Cornerstone High School and Junior High students on Saturday, November 2! Outdoor games, roasting hot-dogs and s'mores, and hang-

ing out with friends will all be part of the evening.

It will be held from 5:00 p.m. till 9:00 at the Colston's, 1902 Abby Aldrich Lane, Katy.

Just bring \$2 to put toward the cost of food.

Call Adika at 713-822-0358 if you plan to come or have questions.

HEART-TO-HEART BEGINS A NEW SEASON

BY LINDA COVER

It was exciting to see the responses from women at Cornerstone when Heart-to-Heart began its new season in October! Ten new mentoring pairs were begun, joining 4 who are carrying over from the spring. We welcomed 3

mentees from Haven who will be part of this ministry.

Heart-to-Heart has been one of the strengths of Cornerstone, as it gives women an opportunity to know each other on a deeper level. We are also reaching down to include girls who are in high

school this year. This ministry is open to anyone who is a regular attender at Cornerstone, whether a member or not.

If you missed the start-up but would like to participate, talk to Linda Cover, Evelyn Saugier, or Lores Glover.



Heart-to-Heart began a new season in October with good participation.

OPPORTUNITIES WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Dear Friends,

Host for Thanksgiving

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 the Thanksgiving event and each student who will be participating—and consider in what other ways God might be calling you to get involved.

Contact Daka at ddyussekov@bridgesinternational.com

for us to match you as a host for two international students in your home this Thanksgiving. This is a great opportunity to help students experience a local holiday in an authentic way, to form a new friendship, and to be a light shining God's love for the nations. Please contact him if you have any questions or for more information.

Sharing the story

Save the date for a unique Bridges gathering for believing student leaders and volunteers. We will be trained in an effective way to share stories from the Bible as is done for oral-focused people all over the world. This event will take place on Monday, November 4 at 6:00 p.m. at

the University of Houston BSM building, 4801 Calhoun Road.

Vision Conference

Vision Conference is our annual Bridges International conference. Please pray for this huge endeavor and that God will bring many students to participate.

If you're interested, you can also consider coming with us. Join 600+ international students from around the world as they explore life, faith, fun and culture together. You'll get to make new friends, learn more about reaching out to the international students in our city, and visit some of America's most iconic Southern cities in this 6 day adventure.

For Bridges,
Daka



GIVING OPTIONS

BY CAROL KUTZER

As I process the offerings each week, I am reminded of all the ways people donate...but everybody may not be aware of all of them. So here is a list of all the different ways you can donate to Cornerstone. Which one works best for you?

- **Regular Check** dropped in the offering plate.
Pros: teaches your kids regular giving as they see you put in the plate each week.
Cons: you forget to write the check, or your lose it all together. (I have found a few in the recycle bins.)
- **Bank Check** sent from your bank when you set up Cornerstone EPC as a "bill". On your banking website, you set up how much and how often. Then the bank sends the checks
- like clockwork. This is my method of choice.
- **Charitable Giving Funds** which generate scheduled checks, much like your bank. I hear there are some super tax benefits for those who use this method.
- **Online Giving** through our website. While PayPal handles these transactions, you do not need an account to use this feature. Access our Giving Page and click on the Giving Button. You can also set up regular scheduled payments.
- **AmazonSmile** allows you to support Cornerstone EPC every time you shop. When shopping use our unique Amazon Smile Link. Remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) support chari-

ty. Confirm the organization you wish to support is Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Do this now before the holiday shopping season begins.

- **Good Neighbor Donations** are rare, but I still occasionally receive a check from Randalls' Good Neighbor donations. If you shop at Randalls or Albertsons link your frequent shopper card to Cornerstone with the code 5009.
- **Cash** is king, so they say. However, unless you put your cash in an envelope with your name on it, there is no way to track your giving...if this is important to you.

Either way, thank you for supporting Cornerstone EPC.

May God bless you,
Carol



Putting money in the offering plate is not the only way you can support the work of our church.

UPDATE ON THE CALL FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS

BY CAROL KUTZER

Last month, I wrote an article titled *What If?* In that article I posted the question: What if the answer to burned out volunteers is not to take a break, but to continue to volunteer...especially if EVERY able-bodied person over the age of 14 pitches in. This past month I was able to

add 16 new volunteers. Praise the Lord! That is a record!!!! I want to say thank you to those individuals who have answered the call to serve your covenant family and who jumped through all the hoops to be trained, qualified servants. To help our long-time volunteers and to prevent all these

new volunteers from being over-scheduled, I have tried very hard to limit scheduling to once a quarter. Because of this, I still have 12 vacancies for this quarter. Please consider filling this need. Call me, let's see if you can become newbie number 17!

Carol Kutzer
280-579-1080

"I STILL HAVE 12 VACANCIES FOR THIS QUARTER. PLEASE CONSIDER FILLING THIS NEED."

2020: GROWTH AND SOME CHALLENGES

(Continued from page 1)
 tive of the glory and excellence of the God we worship. To accomplish the updates to the Sanctuary we will need one-time offerings from the Lord's people, above and beyond the tithe to our annual ministry budget. The needs will be roughly \$50,000.

I am reminded of the need for similar offerings to be given by the Lord's people when the tabernacle was being built.

Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the Lord has commanded. ⁵ Take from among you a contribution to the Lord. Whoever is of a gen-

erous heart, let him bring the Lord's contribution (Exodus 35:4-5)

It was an interesting time to ask the Lord's people for contributions, as they had just come out of slavery! But the Lord's people responded to call as we read in the next chapter.

And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, ⁴ so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, ⁵ and said to

Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do."

⁶ So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, ⁷ for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more. (Exodus 36:3-7)

May the Lord do this again through us!

For the Kingdom,
Pastor Carter

"IT WAS AN INTERESTING TIME TO ASK THE LORD'S PEOPLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS, AS THEY HAD JUST COME OUT OF SLAVERY!"

CORNERSTONE'S FEEDING B4 FEASTING 2019

BY CAROL KUTZER

The purpose of Feeding B4 Feasting is to provide Thanksgiving meals for the hungry before we enjoy our own feasts. And this is Cornerstone's 13th year to host this food drive. We will accept donations through November 17. Our goal is to put together 16 boxed Thanksgiving meals. Please consider helping in the following ways:

- Sign up to bring menu items by visiting: <https://signup.com/go/GCzZqnE> and clicking on "Feeding B4 Feasting 2019"
- You may leave your donations in the red barrel in Carol's office
- In lieu of providing food, consider donating money or a gift card from Kroger.
- Write a letter or prayer 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.
- Help sort, pack, shop and deliver food on Monday, November 18 at 9:00 a.m.
- Help wrap the boxes on Tuesday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m.

The CSCK families will spend one Sunday morning in November decorating boxes and writing letters and prayers to the families receiving the boxed meals.

This year our Feeding B4 Feasting ministry is supporting a different organization. We are happy to announce we will be distributing the boxed meals between Memorial Parkway Elementary, MP Junior High and Taylor High School. What a great way to serve our neighbors!



Feeding B4 Feasting lets us bless our neighbors.

FINANCES: MISSIONS AND MAINTENANCE

(Continued from page 1)

A lot of prayer went into decisions about how to use the Strategic Reserve Fund. We are now praying for future finances and how to support church growth and missions.

In addition to seminary support and church planting, Cornerstone provides funds for several mission organizations. Cornerstone's goal is to send 10% or more, as the Lord provides, of the annual operating budget to missions.

Giving in 2019 has come close to covering the op-

erating budget. The facilities are requiring more maintenance, and we anticipate additional major expenses in the future. Two pressing needs are floor repairs and new carpet in the Sanctuary, and air conditioning replacements as those units age.

Please continue to pray for Cornerstone's finances. The Deacons have started preparing the 2020 Budget and are making plans for necessary maintenance expenditures. It is good to see how God has used Cornerstone over the

years. We are confident He will continue provide the resources we need as we seek and follow His guidance.



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**On the Web @
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