CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FRONTLINES

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2020

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

GOOD OR BAD. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

BY CARTER SANGER

The world has been filled with those who would call evil good and good evil since the garden of Eden. Students of history see it on every continent and in every century. Thus, it shouldn't surprise us to see it on the rise in our own country. And yet we are surprised. And shocked. And frightened. And angry.

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness… (Isaiah 5:20)

Interestingly, the reason we are surprised is that the Biblical concept of right and wrong, good and evil, has been the bedrock upon which our country was founded. We've benefited from a general respect for the law. Underlying this respect has been this widely accepted idea that law is derived from truth that is absolute. For decades we've taken these benefits for granted, assuming them to be universally embraced. They aren't. More and more people question truth, believing truth to be personal and relative. Thus, who is to say that your definition of good is better than mine. This was the question the serpent raised in the garden.

"Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you

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TOP 10 MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CORNERSTONE IN 2019 – NOT IN ANY ORDER

BY CAROL KUTZER

1. 6 New Members, 12 new Communicants, and 5 Baptisms
2. 2nd Guatemala Mission Trip
3. 13th Annual Feeding B4 Feasting – 1st time going to our neighbors at Memorial Parkway Elementary & Taylor HS
4. 1st Annual C4 Christmas boxes going to our neighbors at Memorial Parkway Elementary & Taylor HS
5. First VBS in 10 years
6. Campus Upgrades – Wifi, lighting, A/V, assisted listening devices
7. We hosted Presbytery
8. 7 Small Groups meeting regularly
9. ESL classes / ministry began
10. Summer youth Retreat

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Sunday School will resume on January 12.*
- *Presbytery of the Gulf South will meet in Prairieville, Louisiana, on Friday, January 24th. Jonathan Tucker is serving as moderator of our Presbytery for 2020.*
- *A Congregational Meeting will be held in February to approved the 2020 budget.*

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT

- There was no Session Meeting in November, so the December meeting was held early.
- Carter's devotion, once again, related to our evangelism temperature and how it can be raised.

  Tom had met the Lott's neighbors and invited them over for dinner. He had prayed about meeting them, and God brought up the opportunity. It turns out that Charlie and his wife are believers, and we had a great discussion. Charlie should be coming to TWC in January.

  Ben and his family have been praying for a family to move in who had children. God answered that prayer and the girls have been playing with them. They've met the parents, Alberto and Crystal.

  Don and Doniece are planning a block party. Hopefully that will come together.

  Carter had lunch with Tom's friend, Kenny Baucum. Tom has been praying for his salvation for a long time.

  Jeff and Jennifer's neighbors are Korean, but want to find an English-speaking church.

  Carter's neighbor, Ed, initiated lunch with him. There were several other opportunities that came up in which both the Elders and Deacons have been able to BLESS neighbors and co-workers.
- Regarding campus security, Jack priced out solid wooden doors for the sanctuary, and magnetic locks. The cost would be around $3000. The question was raised if this was actually needed. It is probably secondary at the time.
- It was suggested that a building fund be set up to take care of items such as new carpet, wood for the wall in the sanctuary. Also, the big air conditioner might need to be replaced in the near future. This is not budgeted for in the 2020 budget.
- As always, the Session concluded with prayers for the needs at Cornerstone.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Cornerstone held a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8, and elected two new Deacons and one new Elder. They will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 19.

Roy Thomas and Mark Williams will join John Barrett, Steve Bressler, Jeff Magee, and Jeremy Smith as Deacons.

Ben Colston was reelected for a second term as Elder. He will serve with Gene Cover, Sam Downing, Don Russell, and Tom Lott as Elder.

Please pray for these men to be sensitive to God's leading as they make decisions for our congregation.

NEW DIRECTORIES ARE IN THE WORKS

Be sure that your information is up-to-date in our directory.

It's hard to believe that our church directory needs to be updated again! It has been a year since we printed the 2019 directory, and we have some new faces at Cornerstone.

If you are a new member or regular visitor….

Send your name (include children, too), address, phone, email address, and birthdays to either Carol Kutzer (info@cornerstonekaty.org) or Linda Cover.

If you were included in the 2019 directory….

Check to be sure everything is correct on your entry.

Do you want a new picture? You can send your favorite one to Carol, otherwise Gene Cover will be around with his camera to take pictures for anyone who needs a picture taken.

CORNERSTONE'S CHRISTMAS CUISINE CRATE (C4) A SUCCESS

BY DEBI BARRETT

You helped feed 20 families this Christmas!

Thank you one and all who donated to our first ever Christmas Food Drive for families in our surrounding community - Memorial Parkway Elementary and Taylor High School.

It was wonderful to see the donations fill 20 boxes of food that were given to needy families in mid December, and they no doubt made quite a difference for their Christmas dinner. Many of you also donated gift cards that enabled us to buy the last items needed, and it was pretty funny to hear Carol lament that we had so much, that it was "hard to spend it all!" We were actually able to add some unexpected extra's to the boxes! Such blessings!

The pictures of the youth who helped wrap and decorate the boxes, along with the delivery to the schools, were shared on Cornerstone's Facebook page. This is such an encouragement in knowing that because of the generosity of Cornerstone members, many community families were reminded of God's love during the Christmas season.

Thank you for taking part!

VISION CONFERENCE WILL REACH MANY

Dear family in Christ,

Hope you are enjoying this Advent season and worshipping Emmanuel. We were blessed to introduce the story of Christ' birth during our Christmas party for students. We were excited to have around 100 international students at our event. Please pray for us as we continue following up and sharing the Good News with them.

Another exciting event was our Vision conference in Atlanta this year on December 28-January 1.

We praise God for over 700 students from around 80 countries who came to this conference. This year I had a privilege to direct the Children of Abraham track for Muslim students and the believers from that background. Please pray for the Lord to open the hearts of seekers and for the believers to be encouraged and built up in their faith.

Lastly, we were reminded by our Bridges leader this season to **make time to savor all that the Lord has done for you through Christ.** May you enjoy your Christmas holiday to the fullest, knowing that "God so loved the world that He gave His only son."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Blessings,

Daka

CHRISTMAS PARADE WAS A GREAT WAY TO SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

Cornerstone folks turned out in force for the Christmas parade through the Memorial Parkway neighborhood on Saturday morning, December 14. It was a beautiful Texas day. We even had a our version of the nativity scene, with our children as the wise men and shepherds, with Mary and the baby Jesus. After the parade there was a cookie swap, and a number of the participants stayed for that. Parade walkers handed out invitations to our Christmas Eve service to those who came out to watch, and members of Coseche de Vida did the same for their worship service. Thanks to everyone who walked or rode the parade route!

STEPPING STONES WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY

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

Stepping Stones, Cornerstone's monthly outreach for teen and pre-teen girls, will begin again on Friday, January 17. Our meetings will be the third Friday, except for March when we will wait till the fourth Friday, and will end with a dinner in May.

This year we will be dividing the girls into junior high and senior high groups, with talks that focus on things that are relevant to them.

Lores Glover, Rhonda Sanger, Evelyn Saugier, and Lauren Torregano will be our speakers for the junior high girls, and Alisa Cotton will present at all four sessions for the senior highs.

We will have a fun activity each month, and of course a take-home craft.

If you know girls in this age group who have not been involved with Stepping Stones before, we would love to have them come to see what it's all about.

CORNERSTONE'S DEACONS FUND IS HERE TO HELP

BY JOHN BARRETT

When someone gives to the Deacons Fund, those dollars are used to help Cornerstone members who suddenly find themselves in need. God's Word tells us to care for each other, and Cornerstone does that in many ways. The Deacons Fund is used when help is necessary to supply part, or all of the need.

If members of the church help another member with home repairs, car repairs, or other types of assistance, the Deacons Fund can be used to buy materials, rent equipment, or pay for other costs needed to complete that work. The Deacons Fund is also used to help with mortgage payments, rent, utilities, and other expenses when someone has lost a job. The Fund has been used to help pay medical expenses and additional costs that have exceeded someone's ability to make the payments.

When members find themselves in these situations, they can come to the Elders and Deacons for help. If anyone in the congregation sees another member in need, they can bring that to the attention of the Elders and Deacons, and they can offer help.

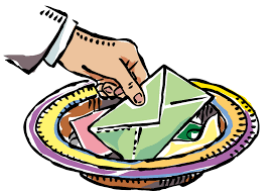
Expenditures from the Deacons Fund are always kept confidential. Anyone from the congregation can seek help and remain anonymous.

Contributions to the Deacons Fund are made when someone specifically instructs that their donation be used for the Deacons Fund. Simply noting that on the memo line of the check or contribution is all that's needed. Those dollars are then deposited in a separate account that is restricted to the types of uses mentioned above.

In 2019, the Deacons Fund was used multiple times for Cornerstone members.

If you have questions about the Deacons Fund, Jeremy Smith is the lead Deacon for this ministry, but you can talk with any Elder or Deacon. Please be assured that any conversation about finances and Deacons Fund disbursements will remain confidential, with as few people involved as possible.

Thanks to the generous donations from Cornerstone members, the Deacons Fund remains strong. We continue to pray that God will supply all the resources we need to help each other, including finances supplied through the Deacons Fund.



You can contribute to the Deacons Fund by simply putting a check in the offering with a notation for that.

LADIES' SIP AND SWAP

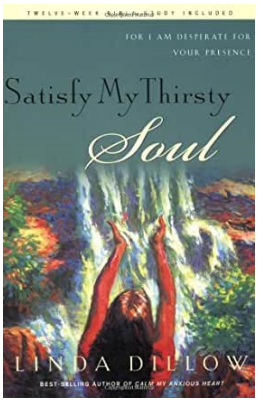
BY DONIECE RUSSELL

Happy New Year! Our second Ladies' Sip and Swap fellowship will be Thursday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

This year our Sip and Swap will be for clothing only. Clothes that are old to you are new to someone else, so we hope you will find time to clean out the closets and dressers and bring your gently used family clothing to "swap" with other ladies from the church.

We will set up tables for you to browse while you sip and snack. Any leftover clothing will be donated to Pennywise of Ft. Bend County.
Please join us as we share food, fun, fellowship, and resources with one another and ultimately with those less fortunate.

"I'm tired of this scarf, but it would be perfect for you!"



The Tuesday evening Bible Study will be reading Linda Dillow's Satisfy My Thirsty Soul.

LADIES' EVENING BIBLE STUDY WILL BEGIN AGAIN JANUARY 14

BY JENNIFER MAGEE

The evening ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday nights beginning January 14 and ending on May 28 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the church.

We will be studying the book, Satisfy My Thirsty Soul, by Linda Dillow. We will learn what true worship is. We are not defined by our families, jobs, service to church or community, or what others see on the outside. We are defined as a child of God and made in His image.

As image bearers, we can live refreshed with the renewed intimacy with Christ. This study will help us in our continuous journey of establishing a deeper faith.

Please come join us. You are always welcome. Contact Jennifer Magee if you have any questions.

GOOD OR BAD: THE BIBLE CAN HELP YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:1–5)

It was a subtle way of questioning God. It was so subtle that it sounded good.

Unless we want to wind up in utter chaos and anarchy, someone's version of good and bad, right and wrong, has to be elevated. The Bible points us to God as the definer of good and bad, the ultimate and absolute arbiter of truth.

How do we live in a world so infected with a relative view of good and bad?

1) Understand it's an ancient problem, not a new one. It isn't a new problem that you have to solve. You have the answer to it already, and it's simple. Know the absolute truth. Treasury agents are trained to spot counterfeit bills, not by the identifying marks of the counterfeits, but by being experts on the real thing. The same is true for God's people. Know the truth so that you might identify the counterfeits.

   Jesus said it another way, "*If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32) This was how Jesus resisted the temptation of the devil when he was tempted in the desert.

2) Have compassion on those who don't see the truth and let the light of truth shine through your life. Jesus explained,

   "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

"Know the truth so that you might identify the counterfeits."

As we start a new year, commit to a Bible reading plan. Pair up with others in your small group to encourage it and ask them to hold you accountable. Talk about what you're reading with your spouse or your kids or others in the small group. If you're not regularly in the Word, then what are the things that are regularly influencing you? What you focus on has great affect on your life. Jesus explains,

"Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness." (Luke 11:34)

Looking forward to 2020,
Carter

LADIES' MORNING BIBLE STUDY TO RESUME THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

BY BEVERLY TUCKER

"Feeling worn thin? Come find rest. The Blue Ridge Parkway meanders through miles of rolling Virginia mountains. It's a route made famous by natural beauty and the simple rhythms of rural life. And it's in this setting that Hannah Anderson began her exploration of what it means to pursue a life of peace and humility.

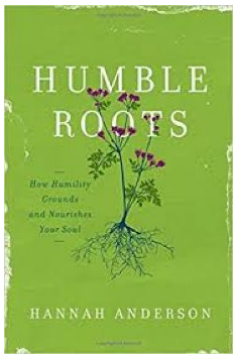
Fighting back her own sense of restlessness and anxiety, she finds herself immersed in the world outside, discovering a classroom full of forsythia, milkweed, and a failed herb garden. Lessons about soil preparation, sour mulch, and grapevine blights reveal the truth about our dependence on God, finding rest, and fighting discontentment.

Humble Roots is part theology of incarnation and part stroll through the fields and forest. Anchored in the teaching of Jesus, Anderson explores how cultivating humility--not scheduling, strict boundaries, or increased productivity--leads to peace.

"Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden," Jesus invites us, "and you will find rest for your souls." So come. Learn humility from the lilies of the field and from the One who is humility Himself. Remember who you are and Who you are not, and rediscover the rest that comes from belonging to Him."

Books are available to purchase for $10 each (checks made to Cornerstone EPC). We will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary building.

Childcare for infants through preschool-aged children is available. If you have questions, please contact Beverly Tucker.



Want to "grow" in your faith? Join us on Thursday mornings for a look at Humble Roots.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KITZER

☺ **And the winner is**…
The winner of December's Sweet Stripes Peppermint Candy Game is Calvin Shumate! Calvin's guess of 70 came the closet to the actual number of peppermint candies without going over. (The actual count was 73.) Congratulations, Calvin! for January'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.

☺ **Valentines Parents' Night Out:**
On Friday, February 14, at 6:00 p.m. parents may drop off their children (free of charge) in their PJs at Cornerstone and then spend a few hours celebrating Valentines together. Please send a dinner with them, a blanket and a pillow. We will provide a dessert, a craft or two, and popcorn while they watch a movie. Children should be picked up at or before 10:00 p.m. Please contact the Carol Kutzer (281) 579-1080 or *info@CornerstoneKaty.org*.

☺ **Clothes & Diapers 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. Also, when your child outgrows diapers, if you have any remaining, please consider donating them to the nursery.

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**
Question of the month: If you woke up tomorrow as an animal, what animal would you choose to be and why?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn: Cat, so I can sleep all day.
- ·Ms. Carol Rutar: Too many to choose from, (God made some amazing animals!!) maybe an eagle to soar high.
- Ms. Kinsey Spain: A fish so I could just keep swimming and face more fears.
- Ms. Laura Garay: Dove. I love how peaceful they look.

Drop off the kids at Cornerstone for a night out on Valentines' Day, February 14.

Are you part of a Small Group?

Small Groups keep us connected during the week. They provide a place to talk about issues that may concern us, help us think about the Sunday sermon, and give us an opportunity to pray with and for each other.

Cornerstone's Small Groups meet all over the Katy/Houston area—there's probably one near you! Here is the schedule for when and where they meet. You can talk to any of these leaders if you have questions about what goes on. Feel free to visit several if you aren't sure.

Sundays

5:30 Sanger group meets on the church patio

5:30 McMahan group meets at the McMahan home.

Wednesdays

7:00 Russell group meets at the Russell's home.

7:00 Cover group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Cover's home

Thursdays

6:30 Arnold group meets at the Arnold's home.

6:30 Schumate group meets every two weeks at the Schumate's home.

7:00 Saugier group meets at the Jedig's home.

Assisted Listening Devices Available

Ask at the Sound Booth

Thanks to Lauren Torregano and her crew for making our buildings look so festive during the Christmas holidays!

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.