CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FRONTLINES

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3 MARCH 2020

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

DEVOTION

BY CARTER SANGER

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

In the beginning of this year my wife and I started having devotions together every morning and every evening. It's very simple. We follow one devotional book in the morning on the Psalms and another in the evening on the Proverbs. Perhaps you thought I've always done this because I'm the pastor. I haven't. Oh I have on occasion, but they've seen more forced than faithful. Why now? I'm not entirely sure. I suppose it was because I felt broken. The buildup of stress, the reflection on life in light of dad's fading health, the sadness of so many missed opportunities probably fueled it. Perhaps the reason doesn't matter. What is more important is the power it has had over my soul.

We say we want to know the Lord, but I'm not sure we really do. He always seems to get duty-driven time at best, and none at worst. But when you feel your own emptiness and brokenness and you drink from the well of God's grace, it touches you. When you delight in the Lord, it awakens you. My desire to know the Lord and not just about the Lord, is growing. Who would have thought?

Through our devotions, God is at work in both of us. He's knitting us together like we've never experienced in almost 30 years of marriage. Sad that it took so long, but what a joy it is today.

And an unexpected blessing is that our new closeness with each other has spilled over to our children. They've seen us closer, laughing together, praying together, holding hands together. While I can't say definitively what it's done to them, I've noticed that the attitudes just seem a little better toward each other; a little calmer; a little more at peace.

So, what is my counsel? Be broken before the Lord and cling to him. Cling to him and cling to your spouse. Love them well. Delight in them and wait for the Lord to work miracles.

Carter

ARE YOU AN ARMORBEARER?

BY GENE COVER

Back in 2012, when we started our Fanning the Flame effort, we had a prayer ministry going called Armorbearers. In Old Testament times, kings were warrior chiefs who led their armies. They were strategic targets for their enemies. If a king could be put out of action, his army would usually lose heart and scatter. Kings often recruited armor bearers from their most valiant, devoted soldiers to carry large shields for protection from enemy assault.

The visible leaders of the local church (especially the pastors) are strategic targets for the devil (Luke 22: 31-34). The pastor sets the pace and the pattern for the

(Continued on page 6)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

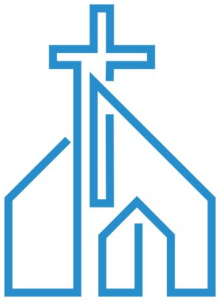
- *Remember to set your clocks and "spring forward" Saturday night, March 7.*
- *Sunday School will be in recess during Spring Break, so no Sunday School on March 8.*
- *Stepping Stones will meet the fourth Friday in March instead of the third, due to Spring Break.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SESSION REPORT	2
BUDGET UPDATE	2
LADIES' EVENTS	3
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS	3
WORKDAY PLANNED	4
VBS PRAYER REQUEST	4
REPORT FROM UGANDA	5
CALENDAR	7

SESSION HIGHLISHTS

BY TOM LOTT



Improvements are being planned for our sanctuary building. New carpet and changes to the front of the sanctuary are in the works.

- Matt Tincopa presented his Eagle Scout Project proposal. This will entail laying a sidewalk that will stretch from the existing north portion of the patio, alongside the Education Building, the fence, and to the area next to the rear of building. The original project would have ended the sidewalk before reaching the area of the trash cans, but it was proposed to extend it to the trash cans.

  This will be a significant aid not only to Cornerstone but also to the men who have to transport the trash cans across the grass when the area is wet. The total project cost will be approximately $3000. A drainage pipe will be inserted under the sidewalk. The project was approved by Session.

- Pablo Monroy addressed the Session and Deacons and thanked us for the partnership that Cornerstone has with Cosecha de Vida. Please remember to pray for that congregation.

- As a devotional, Carter shared what has been happening in his life over the past few weeks, and how faithful God has been to him and his family.

- The Session and Deacons discussed the funds needed to do the proposed work in the Sanctuary, which would include new carpet, installing wood on the south wall, and possibly buying new green chairs. It was decided that the new chairs can wait. We will be better stewards of the funds God has so graciously given us if we're extremely careful about what we spend the funds on, and how quickly. Jim Kolesar has committed to overseeing all of the work.

  Funds for the Scout Project will be moved over from the SRF, and we will keep some funds in reserve. There is still a possibility that the Sanctuary AC might need to be replaced soon. The Session and Deacons also spent some time discussing utilization of funds in the Strategic Reserve. Gene Cover said that he would like to see additional funds committed to Missions.

- Nathan Cotton reported on the life of Haven Church. Tithing is good; Haven was 77% funded last year, and the desire is to fully funded in 2020. Future Haven officers Ben Debruler and Andy Tate visited at the meeting.

- As always, the meeting concluded with Shepherding and Care Group concerns and prayer.

MEMBERSHIP APPROVES BUDGET FOR 2020

Cornerstone members approved the budget for 2020 at their February 16 meeting.

Members of Cornerstone met following worship on Sunday, February 16, to approved the church's budget for 2020.

Cornerstone members approved a budget that will cover salaries for our pastor, staff, and nursery workers, as well as giving to support nine missionaries or mission agencies, upkeep on our buildings, office expenses such as the weekly bulletins, insurance, payments to the EPC, and other expenses. Other groups, such as the home-schoolers and AA groups who meet there, also help pay for their usage of our facilities.

Our Deacons are constantly looking for ways to save money, and replacing the lights in our buildings with more efficient LEDs has cut the cost of electricity.

Each member should have received a copy of the Financial Report, detailing expenses for 2019 and a projection for 2020. If you have not gotten your copy, there are still some available in the church foyer.

LADIES' EVENTS PLANNED

BY DONIECE RUSSELL

LADIES' GAME NIGHT

Please join us at 6:30, Friday night, April 3 for fun and games at the home of Doniece Russell. Bring a snack to share and your preferred beverage for this fun-filled evening!

Karon McMahan will have a variety of games set up to keep everyone entertained. Bring a friend if you would like! Games are a great ice-breaker and make it easy to join in! We hope to see you there! Contact Doniece if you have questions!

SAVE THE DATE!

Women of Cornerstone put Saturday, May 9, 9:00-11:00 a.m. on your calendar. That is the date of our Mimosa brunch and garden party.

More details will be available in the April newsletter. Please plan to join us for this lovely event and of course, bring a friend as well!

Join the ladies for an evening of fun at Doniece Russell's home.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is…**
The winner of February's Candy Game is Ellie Shumate! Her guess of 105 came the closet to the actual number of candies without going over. (The actual count was 114.) Congratulations, Miss Ellie!

Turn in your guess for March's Green Kisses 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.

☺ **Spring Break Schedule:**
There will be no Sunday morning classes on March 8 to allow for Spring Break travel. That is also the start of Daylight Savings Time so be sure to set you clocks FORWARD one hour the night before.

☺ **Kids can serve:**
Are you interested in finding ways for your children to be more outwardly focused? Here are some great ways kids can serve the church family:

- Clean white boards
- Emptying the church's recycle bins
- Greeting / hand out bulletins
- Greet any children visiting Cornerstone
- Sort and straighten puzzles & toys
- Clean up sanctuary after service
- Help clean up after communion
- Pick up trash outside

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**
Question of the month: What was your favorite Halloween costume you wore as a child?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn
  Cheerleader
- Ms. Carol Rutar:
  Raggedy Ann – my mom was a very talented seamstress
- Ms. Kinsey Spain:
  Pocahontas
- Ms. Laura Garay: Gypsy

CHURCH WORKDAY IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Help us spruce up the church campus for Easter!

We will start at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Steve Bressler at 281-229-2307 or *SDBmail23@gmail.com* or Mark Williams at 832-247-1013 or *mlwms621@sbcglobal.net*.

There will be something for everyone to do. Pulling weeds is a great job for little hands. Spring cleaning is always welcome after the cold winter we have had.

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and down.

VBS 2020 - UPDATE
MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 29 – JULY 3

BY CAROL KUTZER

The planning team met for the first time and excitement is high for this summer's VBS. We have planned for regularly scheduled planning meetings. They will be every other Monday night at 6:00 p.m. beginning March 9. Pop in when you can to check out what's going on.

Will you join us in this prayer this month?

Lord, thank you for this VBS opportunity. Let this event be an opportunity for us to pour into the lives of kids in our community.

Holy Spirit, please speak to the hearts of each child, leader, volunteer, parent, and caretaker. Let us glorify Jesus in all that we do. We pray this ministry strengthens relationships, changes hearts, and brings kids, families, and volunteers closer to You.

This month, we join with the planning team as they decide whether this summer we should attempt to do an evening VBS ministry. Please give them discernment and clarity.

We pray in Jesus' name. Thank you, Lord.

If you can't be involved in VBS, you can still help us get ready by preparing materials to be used. Just come every other Monday starting March 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the copy room. You don't have to join us every time; come when you can. Kristin Corkran, Carol Kutzer, Pablo and Marta Monroy will attempt to be at every meeting.

KEEP UP WITH WORSHIP ON-LINE

Did you miss a Sunday? Not to worry! The sermons are posted on our church website: *cornerstonekaty.org*. Just look for the *Sermons* tab at the top of the page. The current sermon series is based on the book of Hebrews, and the writer of Hebrews helps us see how the Old Testament characters and covenants prepare us to understand the person and work of Christ.

UGANDA TRIP HAS SURPRISING BLESSINGS

BY SARA CALL

In the Summer of 2019, my family traveled to Uganda and served there for 3 weeks. If I were you, I might assume that my family is a career missionary family and that we do things like that all the time.

NOPE! We are pretty normal. We live in the suburbs of Houston and have little kids to raise and bills to pay. When Jeremiah Situka, the President of Sovereign Wings of Hope (SWOH) first asked us to go to Uganda as a family, we thought, "He must be kidding," but we thought about it for a year. In that time, we prayed and discussed what it would look like for us as parents of young children to live in a way that acknowledges Christ in the way we live out our lives – to demonstrate to ourselves and our children that Jesus is real (not just for bedtime stories and Sundays). When we were asked again, we realized we had no reason to say, "No." We were ready to say, "Yes!"

"Yes" meant training and fundraising, Yellow Fever vaccinations and Malaria medication, but most importantly, saying "Yes!" meant stretching our faith and our trust in Christ. My greatest anxiety was parenting our 3-year-old and 6-year-old in a cross-cultural environment. What if our parenting choices were offensive in Uganda? What if the ways that we parent our kids were problematic or distracting? Of all the things that I could have worried about, that was what kept me up at night.

Of course, the things that I feared were non-issues in Uganda. Our Community Transformation Team (CTP Team) was met with hospitality and graciousness at every turn. Our 3-week trip was non-stop from the time we got on the plane in Houston until we got back on a plane to fly home.

We served in various capacities in three cities in Eastern Uganda. We spent the first couple of days in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, acclimating and attending church at a local EPC church plant. Then we drove 130 miles east to Tororo. In Tororo, we served with Hospice Tororo. Our team, including our 3-year-old and 6-year-old, visited hospice patients and prayed with them. Most of the patients had advanced stage cancer and received pain management care from the hospice team. The nurses and social workers treated the patients with dignity and compassion. They challenged me in their dedication to their patients and their sensitivity to the medical, social and spiritual needs of their patients.

After a week working with Hospice Tororo, it was time to travel 80 miles west to Jinja. Jinja is famous as being the source of the Nile River. Outside Jinja, Wings of Hope Christian Primary School educates over 700 students and is one of the ministries of Sovereign Wings Of Hope. The school allows SWOH to use one of their buildings to hold a pastor training conference for three days each summer. Last summer was the third year in a row that the conference had been held. Pastors and their families traveled long distances, in some cases 6 hours, to attend the conference. For three days, 200 pastors and church leaders received training, and every day – yes even on the last day - more people arrived to attend the training.

I had the privilege to lead a women's break out session on the last day of the conference. George, a Ugandan translator, and I stood in front of a room of 100 women to respond to their questions regarding leadership in the church and Christian marriage. No pressure! The women's sincere questions were challenging to answer.

During and after the pastor training conference, we visited with the teachers and students of Wings of Hope Christian Primary School. One of the highlights was praying for a student who needed a new wheelchair and crutches. Within days of our prayers, a donor provided the

(Continued on page 7)

Our CTP Team: (Back Row L-R) Emerald Thomas, Sara Call, Jeremiah Situka, Ian Call (Front Row L-R) Fiona Call, Rowen Call

Sara Call and translator, George, answering questions in women's breakout session of pastor training conference.

ARMORBEARERS: A JOB FOR ALL OF US

As Armourbearers, we can stand in prayer for the protection of our pastors and leaders.

congregation (1 Timothy 4:12); the pastor also models godliness (Hosea 4:6-9; Luke 6:40). Congregations seldom grow beyond the model set by their pastor.

As the warrior chief depended on the armor bearers to raise their shields to ward off the enemy assault, church leaders depend on the prayers of their people to protect them from the "flaming arrows" of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16). The Apostle Paul pled with Christians to pray for him (Romans 15:30; Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Hebrews 13:18).

"PRAYER FOR YOUR LEADERS IS AS IMPORTANT AS FOOD IS FOR YOUR BODY."

Prayer for your leaders is as important as food is for your body. Each time you eat a meal, pause to thank God for the food and pray for your leaders.

We had a pamphlet which outlined a seven day prayer program for our leaders. This guide gives seven scriptures and suggests prayers for daily intercession. Repeat the daily prayers each week for one month. Pray for your pastor daily and select a church leader, staff person or other leader each day to pray for.

Day One seems particularly appropriate:

Pray: King Jesus, help our pastors and the other leaders of our church to be victorious in the struggles of ministry. Help me and others in our church to pray for them. May they be rescued from unbelievers that might resent them and may their ministries and service be acceptable to the members of our church so they may have joy and be refreshed.

We will provide reprints of the prayer pamphlet and ask you to continue with your prayers for our pastors and other leaders for the month of April.

Keep those prayers coming, folks!

Gene

Copies of the pamphlet "Pray for Leaders" are available in the church narthex.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE VERSE?

Most of us have a favorite Bible verse. What's yours?

We would like to share some of those in the upcoming newsletters. Just send your favorite to the Covers at *covergl@swbell.net*. It will be interesting to see how often the same verse pops up. We will print them in upcoming newsletters.

If you have not gotten your new church directory or Annual Report, extras are still available.

NEW DIRECTORIES AND THE ANNUAL REPORT ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to everyone who sent a new picture or updated your contact information for our new directory! We have extra copies of that available, so if you want another one, just pick it up.

Copies of the Annual Report are still available, too. Everyone who is a member of Cornerstone should have received a copy by now. It is good to know that our officers believe in transparency and are always ready to explain where the money goes. If you have questions, just ask John Barrett.

Uganda: God answers prayer

(Continued from page 5)

necessary money, a wheelchair and crutches were purchased, and they were delivered to the school. We were able to present the student with the very things that we had prayed for him. He was able to see that God answers the prayers of His people.

As I write this, a CTP Team is preparing to go to Uganda this summer. Please pray for them as they prepare. Pray that God would provide all their needs and give them confidence in their ability to do the work that is set before them. If you are interested in serving in Uganda this summer, it isn't too late to apply to join the team. For more information about our trip last summer, you can read our blog at *callsonamission.wixsite.com/uganda*.

To learn more about Sovereign Wings Of Hope, you can find it at *SWOH.org*.

SWOH MINISTRIES, INC.

The Calls and Jeremiah Situka are members of Haven Church.

Farewell to the Jedigs

Cornerstone seems to be a church where people pass through for a while on their way to somewhere else!

We will sadly say goodbuy to the Jedig family this month as Kent and Rikki move on to their next assignment in Australia. Marcus and William are back in school in Denmark, and we wish them all the best in their studies.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
CORNERSTONE
JESUS
cornerstone of faith and life.

1351 S. Mason Rd.
Katy, Texas 77450

(281) 579-1080
info@cornerstonekaty.org

On the Web @
www.cornerstonekaty.org

Seeking to renew our families, our communities, and our world by bringing faith and life together in Christ.