

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of the Presbytery of New Covenant

Growing congregations that passionately engage their communities to make disciples.

## The Presbytery Gathers in Sugar Land July 15

Did you know that our *Book of Order* requires two meetings a year (G-3.0304)? Here in the Presbytery of New Covenant, we meet three times a year on the third Saturday in March, July and November. Other presbyteries across the country meet more frequently, and sometimes late on a weekday. We have chosen this schedule to help the work of our committees and to hear the reports from our commissioners to General Assembly (every other year).

We will meet at 9:00 on Saturday, July 15, at First Presbyterian Church, 502 Eldridge Rd. in Sugar Land. This congregation is celebrating 100 years of ministry, having been founded in 1917!

Pastor Fred Seay, the session and the members are making preparations for us to arrive and to have a good meeting.

We plan to spend time in conversation about who we are as a presbytery, what we value, and how we might do our work together. We are in a time of transition, and these are answers that we need to clarify so that we might understand how we move forward. We hope that this time together will yield some thoughtful observations and help us all to make connections.

There will be more information in the meeting materials which will be posted closer to the meeting dates. Everyone is free to read these on the presbytery website (up at the top of

the home page under Presbytery Meetings).

All are welcome – you don't have to be a commissioner to attend!

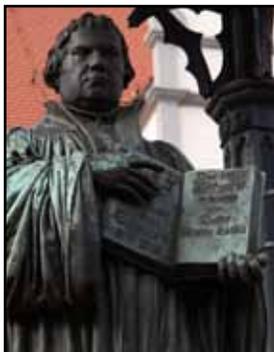


First PC, Sugar Land

## Reformation Challenge

This year marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legendary posting of Luther's

95 theses, an act that galvanized the Reformation. The PC(USA) has developed a FREE online study on Reformed Theology in conjunction



Martin Luther

with our partner denominations. "Opening Doors to Discipleship" ([odtd.net](http://odtd.net)) offers a solid and accessible

study resource that is easily adapted for various settings. To register, use our denominational code of 31627.

Topics include: Who is God?; Who is Jesus Christ?; The Holy Spirit; How we view the Bible; Reformed view of sin and salvation (How Jesus saves us); Discipleship; Who is the Church?; Governing ourselves in the Reformed tradition; Worship and Sacraments; Mystery, faith and doubt; Our hope; and Major threads in Reformed theology.

Please consider participating in a presbytery wide endeavor. We hope for at least 500 people to get involved. This is a flexible program that congregations could use in many ways – individual

students, midweek or Sunday morning classes, officer training, new member classes – the choice is yours. Participating congregations would do their own registration, and then tell us (through Mary Marcotte) how the program is being used.

Why do this? First, we could connect congregations across the presbytery in a study that involves common language around core beliefs. Secondly, many congregations struggle with language about what makes Presbyterians unique. And, it connects congregations with tools that can be used in the future. Consider becoming part of the 500!

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## NEW COVENANT CONNECTIONS

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# Presbytery Finances

As many of you know, New Covenant Presbytery is one of the few presbyteries that funds its operations through voluntary benevolences from its member churches, rather than assessments made based upon congregation size or some other criteria. The “per capita” paid by your church does NOT fund the presbytery, but rather flows straight through to the General Assembly for their operations.

In reviewing the five months ended May 31 benevolences, we find ourselves in a bit of a cash flow shortage, and are asking that, if possible, for as many of our giving churches to donate 50% of their pledged annual benevolences by the end of June, so that we may meet our current operating expenses.

If your church has been unable to pledge or give up to this point, we would ask that you prayerfully consider donating some amount this month

to the Presbytery, which is used to cover salaries, utilities, etc. No amount is too small, and all such donations would be gratefully received.



New Covenant Presbytery depends upon your support for such programs as Presbyterian Youth Connection Council, Annual Officer Enrichment, and other mission work, and we are grateful for the resources given by our constituent churches to sustain our collective work in Christ.

Thank you for your consideration, and may Christ continue to bless the work that each congregation carries out in their respective communities.

Peace in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Brent Hampton  
Chair, New Covenant Finance  
Committee

## Local Church Emergency Planning: A Basic Outline

### STEP ONE: Scoping and Analysis

1. What are the hazards/threats that are appropriate to address?
  - a. Fire?
  - b. Flooding?
  - c. Wind Damage?
  - d. Other Neighborhood Disruptions?
2. What are our specific vulnerabilities?
  - a. Consider location, age and configuration of facilities
  - b. Consider programs and activities impacted
  - c. Consider specific vulnerable people

### STEP TWO: Information Collection/Safeguarding

1. Identify/catalog insurance coverage and contacts; maintain in accessible locations (backups)
2. Identify financial resources/key contacts for accessing

3. Identify/catalog key emergency contacts (internal and external)

### STEP THREE: Develop a Basic Plan for Responding to Emergencies

1. Identify basic on-site resources required (flashlights, sandbags, window protection, water, etc.)
2. Identify key task leaders/responders and backups
3. Develop specific plan for evacuating facilities
4. Identify key steps for securing facilities
5. Identify communications plan in immediate aftermath of emergency
6. Address continuing operations in the event of major facilities damage

Develop framework for utilizing volunteers and donations for recovery efforts.



## Clerk's Corner

Rev. Lynn Hargrove, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of New Covenant

People keep asking me, "How are you doing?" I have felt the question in a different way since Mike Cole retired. Yes, I have picked up some extra stuff that he would have done. Yes, it has not been easy in this time of transition. What transition is?

I have always tried to be a team player, and to do what needs to be done in the moment. Sometimes that might be answering the phones, or cleaning the carpet, or moving the furniture for a room setup. It might be attending committee meetings that have been under the guidance of another staff member. It might be taking on the communications pieces of the presbytery. There are new opportunities in this time of transition.

I had a call from a retired minister member of the presbytery today. He had served in many capacities when he was here, so he has a better understanding than most of the pressures and demands of serving at the mid-council level. I was touched deeply when he offered to pray for me at the end of our conversation. Our transition needs prayer!

Our staff is here to serve you in the best way that we can! We are working through the absence of Forbes Baker while he is being treated for cancer. Thank you to Carrie, Sharon and Sandra for taking on extra tasks while he is out. Carrie and I are taking on the tasks of Tuesday Connect and Connections with the resignation of Theodora Pounds. Patricia has had some recent health concerns, and will be a bit limited in some of what she can do in terms of room setup. Sharon is caring for her mom. Yes, we are stressed a bit... but we are all team players!

One of the things that I am keenly aware of is that we are not the same presbytery that we have been, and we are learning to accept who we are now. Since the dismissal of four of our congregations last year, our membership numbers have dropped to just above 16,000. That means that we will have six commissioners to next year's General Assembly when two assemblies ago we had 10. Now the largest congregations in our presbytery are in the 1000-1100 range in total members. We used to have

two of the largest congregations in the denomination. That is a big transition for us resource-wise – financial, people in leadership, facilities and other factors.

A number that stays pretty consistent is the number of minister members. We have welcomed many new Teaching Elders into our bounds, and they about equate to the number that we lost last year. Many of our minister members are retired, and many live outside our bounds. The leadership of many of our congregations is in transition, too. Most of our active Teaching Elders are working in congregations or in other religious organizations and are feeling pretty stretched, too. It has been difficult to suggest potential leadership for those seeking transitional (interim) or designated pastors.

I am reminded of one of my favorite progressions: "To be is to do"—Socrates. "To do is to be"—Jean-Paul Sartre. "Do be do be do"—Frank Sinatra. What I need to be aware of during this time of transition is not how I am doing, but how I am being. That goes not just for me, but for all of our staff, and for the congregations in our presbytery.

How can you help? Pray for us. Share your words of encouragement. And, this from a Dove bar wrapper: "All you really need is love, and a little chocolate doesn't hurt."

## What does a vital and vibrant congregation look like?

Ponder these questions: What are you already doing well? What might be a growing edge for you? Does your congregation exhibit some of these qualities?

Have gifted, equipped and empowered lay leaders; Understand and can articulate the WHY of their existence; Have active and engaged youth and children's ministries; Exhibit healthy relationships; Extend authentic hospitality; Welcome strangers Embrace change; Mission and service focused; Approach ministry holistically and work to diminish silos; Laughter

and joy are evident; Willingness to engage issues of compassion and justice; Willingness to try new things; Not fear driven; All age groups are valued and nurtured; Active and intentional ministry with children and youth; Meaningful worship and powerful preaching; Strong music; Active prayer life; Racial and cultural diversity; Have a budget and meet it; Small groups engage personal and spiritual growth; There are visible signs of transformed lives; Transformation is an expectation; Awareness of the movement and presence of the Holy Spirit; Christ

centered; Learning communities promote lifelong learning; Practice generosity; Engage in authentic caring, compassion and empathy; Evidence a willingness to share life's ups and downs; People are known by name and are seen and accepted for who they are; Engage in community partnerships beyond the church walls; Operate out of



*continued on page 4*



## Mary's Musings

Mary Marcotte, Associate General Presbyter  
Presbytery of New Covenant

It has been said that timing is everything. The writer of Ecclesiastes famously speaks of God's timing and the ebb and flow of purposes. Sometimes, conditions come together in such a way that world changing events can catch fire and deep transformative change in the ways we humans think, act and interact with the world occur. One of these seminal moments that changed everything is credited with happening on October 31, 1517. The popular story is that by nailing his 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenburg. Recent scholars would see this as the date when Luther sent his list of concerns with the selling of indulgences to the Arch Bishop of Mainz. However the document was transmitted, Luther's timing was right as the movable type printing press was making it possible to inexpensively print pamphlets and books, there was an emerging middle class and the emergence of independent nation states within Germany all promoted the rapid, widespread changes that were to occur.

As Presbyterians, we are a proud part of the Reformed tradition family. So what is your congregation doing to mark this major anniversary – and why should it matter to us? First some observations about the power of history to inform us: understanding our past can help guide us toward the future to which God calls us. Among the

watchwords of the Reformation is the notion that the Church is reformed and always being reformed by the Word of God. In short, an affirmation that God is not yet done with God's beloved creation. That is good news. Principles like the sovereignty of God, the authority of Scripture, the unlimited gift of grace are also good news. The Reformer's understanding that the people of God are elect for service as well as salvation speaks to our commitment to efforts making our world a place where Christ's kingdom values are lived out. This informs activities of compassion and justice seeking. I could go on and on.

But how well do you - and your congregations – know the proud story of our Reformed heritage? Will your celebration be limited to bagpipes and singing *Amazing Grace*, or will you go deeper? What is your plan to fully celebrate this anniversary by reengaging its roots and meaning and how might it guide your future? Here are a few suggestions:

- Congregational Resourcing Team is inviting individuals and congregations to engage in a **500 for the 500<sup>th</sup> Challenge**. Making use of the FREE online resource on Reformed Theology found at [Opening Doors to Discipleship \(odtd.net\)](http://OpeningDoors.org), they encourage individuals and groups to work through the 12 session study. The

plan is to recognize those who compete this process at our Nov. 2017 Presbytery meeting. (see related article on page 1 for details)

- Watch and discuss a movie. **Luther** (2003), starring Joseph Fiennes as a way too good looking Martin Luther does a creditable job of conveying the spiritual, religious, social and political impact of the movement. While there are certainly other films, this one was released commercially and has solid production values as well as content.
  - Consider reading from the series of Armchair Theologian books from Westminster/John Knox Press. Each volume is highly readable and provides helpful insights. Titles include Luther, Calvin, Knox. The Reformation as well as Barth and Bonhoeffer for those who want to extend their study into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Order from [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com)
- While you are on the site, check our other helpful titles such as the **Being Reformed** Study on the Protestant Reformation (6 sessions)
- Children and youth can learn about the Reformation, too! Brand new is **The Protestant Reformation** (5 sessions) for Youth and Young Adults and an outstanding FREE one session downloadable multi-age children's session designed for the church school hour about how Paul's teaching about grace impacted Martin Luther. (Item 31007DR at [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com))

How are you celebrating? Please let me know!

### Vital and vibrant congregation *continued from page 3*

a sense of God's abundance rather than being driven by a scarcity mindset.

And how can New Covenant Presbytery and the Evangelism and Church Growth Committee support congregations in this work? Challenge larger vision – "If your

WHY does not move you to tears, then it is not large enough"; Encourage conversations and partnerships between and among congregations that celebrate best practices and shared approaches to problem solving; Celebrate healthy, functioning churches and tell their stories; Model a culture that laughs a little and loves a lot; Encourage joy and fun; Encourage pulpit and choir

exchanges; Be prepared to go out more and develop deeper relationships with our congregations; Identify good resources and tools for work such as the United Methodist toolkit focusing on Vital Congregations (search UMC Vital Congregations); Continuously add valued content to our presbytery website, particularly highlighting helpful denominational resources.

# YOUTH NEWS

## Presbytery Youth Mission Trip to Heifer Ranch



Youth mission group at Heifer Ranch

Eighty + youth and their adult sponsors spent a week in June in mission at Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas. The 1200 acre Heifer Ranch is filled with gardens and livestock, offering hands-on, interactive programs and activities promoting sustainable solutions to global hunger, poverty and environmental degradation. A ministry of Heifer International, the ranch is a faith based community development organization which seeks to empower families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity.

The delegation represented seven churches in our presbytery: Covenant in College Station, St. Thomas in Houston, First in Sugar Land, Atascocita, First in Bryan, Community of the Servant Savior and John Knox, both in Houston.

During an intense week of living together, cooking their meals, sharing chores, and working with the crops and the livestock, participants had the opportunity to deepen their faith through a sense of community. They also gained a better understanding of

the difficulties of growing crops to feed families in places around the world that lack good soil and adequate water supplies.

For more information about Heifer Ranch, please visit <https://www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/experience-heifer/heifer-ranch/index.html>. Learn more about the youth activities here in the Presbytery of New Covenant here: [http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=103&Itemid=134](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=103&Itemid=134)



Feeding baby goats at the ranch.

## Youth Celebration June 25-30, 2017

Youth Celebration is a conference for youth who have completed 9-12th grade. This conference begins on Sunday evening with the “big hello” and closes with the “big goodbye” on Friday morning. Each day is filled with time with the keynote speaker, small groups, free time, back home group time and recreation events. Small groups are a key feature of this conference providing youth with a chance to build

community with people from other churches. In small groups, youth are guided by adult leaders who facilitate building community, Bible study and discussions on matters of faith and life.

Registration is open. Register your church group now online at [www.moranch.org/attend](http://www.moranch.org/attend). Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, 2229 FM 1340, Hunt, TX 78024.

## Headed to College in the Fall?

Want to stay connected to your faith? Consider UKirk... “University Church”... the college ministry of the PC(USA).



See if your school is on the list! <https://ukirk.pcusa.org/ukirk-ministries/>

### 2017 Presbytery Meetings

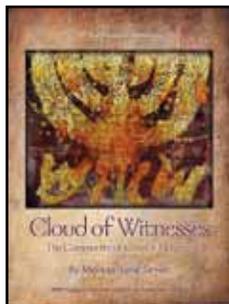
July 15 at First PC in Sugar Land  
November 18 at Northwoods PC in Houston

### Next Connections Copy Deadline

The next deadline is Tuesday, August 8 for the September/October 2017 issue. Send articles and photos to Lynn Hargrove at [lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org).

## PW Horizon Bible Study

Presbyterian Women of New Covenant invite you to an overview of the 2017-2018 Horizons Bible Study: *Cloud of Witnesses. The Community of Christ in Hebrews*, written by Melissa Bane Sevier. All women are invited to attend. The free overviews, led by Cluster Bible Study Leaders and Mary Marcotte, Associate General Presbyter, will be held on the following dates:



**Friday, August 4**  
First Presbyterian Church in Conroe  
2727 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe, 77304  
Registration at 9:45 a.m., followed by overview (10:00 a.m.) and lunch - 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Register with Sharon in church office at 936-756-8884 or [sharonv@fpconroe.org](mailto:sharonv@fpconroe.org)

**Saturday, August 5**  
First Presbyterian Church in Livingston, 910 North Washington, Livingston 77351. Registration at 9:45 a.m., followed by overview (10:00 a.m.)

and lunch- 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. Register with Bonnie Laverty at 713-557-0410 or [blaverty@suddenlink.net](mailto:blaverty@suddenlink.net)

**Friday, August 18**  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Beaumont, 1350 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., Beaumont 77706, 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Register with Holly in church office at 409-892-8611 ext. 100 or [holly@saintandy.org](mailto:holly@saintandy.org)

**Saturday, August 19**  
St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, 4807 San Felipe Street, Houston, 77056, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Registration followed by overview (10:00 a.m.) Register with Lorrie, Office Manager- 713-622-4807 or [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net)

**Tuesday, August 29**  
First Presbyterian Church in Angleton 130 South Arcola Street, Angleton, 77515. 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Register with Linda, Church Secretary at 979-849-5722 or [angpres@att.net](mailto:angpres@att.net)  
Pre-registration is requested one-week prior to each event. All overviews are free! Go to the presbytery's website ([www.pbymofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbymofnewcovenant.org)) for more details.

## “What is ours to do?”

Senior students at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) grappled with this question as they learned about the women and children who are detained at the ICE facility in Karnes City, Texas. Presenter Dr. Helen Boursier visit to the campus in April was made possible through the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grants of our presbytery.



Dr. Boursier speaks to students at PPAS.

The “Senior Seminar” offers the opportunity to connect faith and social justice. Art and poetry exposed horrific stories of the residents, the majority from Central America. The immigrants seeking asylum suffer great hardships — in their home countries, along their journey north, crossing the borders into Mexico and the United States, and even within the Residential Center itself.

PPAS students have a unique perspective, being international students who followed protocol to obtain an educational Visa to study and temporarily live in the United States. They understand the bureaucracy one must traverse to become a foreigner on U.S. soil first-hand; and, they feel empathy for the plight of people who are in such dire situations that they cannot wait for the process.

Students learned the importance of becoming educated about what is happening, and also to share the stories within their circle of influence – wherever it is that people will listen. These are ways of participating in God's justice.

## POP - Prayers of the People

Walking alongside patients and their families is the focus of the ministry known as “Prayers of the People” (POP). Established in 1974, the lay ministers of POP have provided prayers, spiritual care, and community resources. POP provides training for those interested in working in a hospital setting, as well as continuing education opportunities for their volunteers. Patients can receive new Bibles and “prayer bears” to help them to cope with their medical diagnoses. The ministry has expanded beyond the Texas Medical Center to outlying



medical facilities all around the Houston area.

Please contact AnneMarie Wallace for more information. Phone: 281-814-3362 or by email at [prayersofthepeople@popministry.org](mailto:prayersofthepeople@popministry.org)

## Did you know the first foods eaten on the moon were communion elements?

That was one of the many amazing stories just over one hundred

Presbyterian Women from congregations throughout the New Covenant Presbytery learned when they attended the annual



The moon

PW Spring

Gathering on April 29. The Spring Gathering was held this year at Webster Presbyterian Church in Webster, Texas, a church down the road from NASA and the home church to many NASA employees. The theme of the gathering was “Walk with Me.” Keynote speaker, James White, from Free the Captives, a faith based nonprofit fighting the human trafficking of Houston’s youth, educated the women about the organization’s efforts in the fight against modern day slavery.

Fellowship breaks allowed PW to experience many including the stories of human trafficking survivors through the visual art display created by artists from Webster Presbyterian and the Houston area. Participants journeyed through the art exhibition commemorating Earth Day. The Allende Meteorite, which is incorporated into the stained glass window at the chancel cross, was available for viewing by telescope. Lunch time speaker Jeff Carr, former Director of Public Affairs and News Chief at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, recounted the story of the first lunar communion taken by Buzz Aldrin, Apollo 11 astronaut and Webster PC then ruling elder. On

June 20, 1969 Buzz quietly conducted communion on the lunar space module “Eagle” shortly after landing on the moon’s Sea of Tranquility. The women were able to view a replica of the miniature chalice that was used for the lunar communion. The original chalice is locked in a bank vault for security.

The women’s generous donations of shoes, socks, gift cards, jewelry, and various sundry items will be used to assist the Bay Area Turning Point in serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, race or sexual orientation.

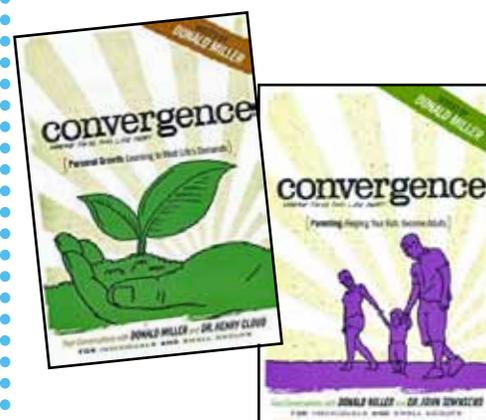
The day ended with an inspiring worship service led by Rev. Helen DeLeon. Helen’s sermon was based on Luke 4:14-20a and her personal mission trip experiences in Honduras. She reminded participants that now they are “un-blinded” to the crisis of human trafficking, and they “cannot un-know what they now know”. She challenged the attendees to consider how to respond to this knowledge and call. The love offering was dedicated to the Free the Captives organization.

PW of New Covenant is very grateful for the generous hospitality of Webster Presbyterian Church in hosting their annual gathering.

### SAVE THE DATE

2018 PW Presbytery Annual  
Spring Gathering  
April 14, 2018  
Spring Branch Presbyterian  
Church, Houston

## New Resources



### Convergence: Personal Growth: Learning to Meet Life’s Demands DVD

Convergence celebrates the intersection of faith and life. This four-part conversation featuring author Donald Miller and clinical psychologist Henry Cloud addresses topics such as: Why is it important for us to have a community to help us grow? Why is it hard to be vulnerable? How do I set boundaries for myself? How do painful experiences help us grow? The discussion guide offers a key scripture reference and five great questions for each segment. Session segments are 18 minutes long.

### Convergence: Parenting: Helping Your Kids to Become Adults

Convergence celebrates the intersection of faith and life. This four-part conversation featuring author Donald Miller and psychologist John Townsend addresses topics such as: How did God design parenting? How does parenting change as children grow? Why is parenting so challenging? What rewards come from the process of helping kids grow up? How can we parent in community? The discussion guide offers five great questions for each segment. Session segments are 18 minutes long.

## New Covenant Mission Partnership Stories

### Faith in Practice

Faith In Practice, medical mission to Guatemala, is just finishing up its main season. This year, 42 teams will serve, a total of more than 1,200 US and 900 Guatemalan volunteers providing life-saving and changing medical care to the poor of Guatemala, the volunteers, too, being blessed and changed by this mission and the patients with whom they are privileged to meet.

Juan Alberto came to the US for a surgery, David's arm was saved through two different surgeries, staged over time, Marialita came to say thank you to her surgeon yet once again. One patient who had been on crutches for 29 years returned to Antigua yet again, as he does every year, to say thank you for the gift of walking. Hundreds received wheelchairs. Thousands received medicines in dusty villages.

Through it all, especially at this time of Pentecost, we are reminded that this mission is not our own, but rather it belongs to the One who calls us to heal in his name. The One who is healing us even as we seek to serve. And, therefore, we give thanks for the Spirit that gently breathes through this mission, that roars with tongues of fire, every day of this mission. And, we give God thanks for entrusting this mission to our care, for blessing us through this mission that is not our own.

### CEDEPCA



CEDEPCA Mission Trip participants

New Covenant Presbytery has had a strong relationship with CEDEPCA (Central America Center for Pastoral Education) since the 1990s. CEDEPCA is a Christ centered education program that has the following programs:

1) Seminary, pastoral studies and contextual Bible classes, 2) Women's program, and 3) Disaster preparation and relief including water filters to indigenous and rural groups, garden supplies, nutritional assistance, and psychological support.

In 2016-17, they accomplished the following:

- Seminary/Pastoral studies-218 students with 40 pastoral classes and

30 university level seminary classes.

- Women's ministry-2988 participants-2780 women and 208 men. This included courses, workshops, patients at the maternity clinic in Cahabon, and Prayer Shawl ministries.
- Disaster ministry-3577 individuals affected through courses, workshops, psychological support, financial assistance, seeds for family gardens, personal hygiene kits, water filters, and food bags.

CEDEPCA welcomes individuals from New Covenant Presbytery to visit as group trips called intercultural encounters.



Sandra received a hip replacement last April. Now she is walking and helping others



Little boy received a wheelchair and will later have surgery from a pediatric team from Houston



A woman carries a blanket of goods to her home

## New Covenant Mission Partnership Stories

### Peru Partnership



First PC, Bryan in Quillabamba

Four years ago, congregations from New Covenant were invited to take part in a series of mission trips to several locations in Peru. PC(USA) mission workers Rusty Edmondson and Sarah Armstrong coordinated the efforts to get our members to six different sites across the country. Our friends at Webster Presbyterian return this year for their fourth visit to Ayaviri to continue construction of facilities for the Bible Institute, a regional education center which brings people from several neighboring districts for learning and training in both secular and Christian subjects, including English as a Second Language. This partnership has blossomed into conversations about church planting and growth.

Members of First, Bryan journey to the rain forests in Quillabamba to continue work on a seminary from which the first class graduates this summer. Having spent four summers

at this site, these members will be able to attend the dedication. These facilities also host a retreat center that offers training for pastors and lay leaders. This year's project is construction of a new kitchen facility. Quillabamba is known as the "land of perpetual summer" and is located in the upper Andes mountains.

The mission team from the Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church travels with friends from First Presbyterian in Kingwood to the barrios of Lima to provide medical clinics and VBS, as well as a construction project. One of their specialties has been working with a local optometrist to fit new eyeglasses. Their efforts over the past four years are allowing expansion into new areas including an evangelical seminary in Sicuani and with the Iglesia Evangelico Presbiteriano in Ayaviri.

### Legislative Seminar to Washington



The Institute for Civility in Government will be leading an Adult Legislative Seminar to Washington, DC September 16-22, 2017. The seminar will include plenty of free time for sightseeing, worship, and table fellowship. There will be briefings on selected issues, and an opportunity to meet with legislators and/or staff to share concerns. Cost is \$1,150/person for hotel room (double occupancy), roundtrip airfare, Metro passes, and facilitation fee. Food and any admission fees, or other transportation (such as Uber) are on your own. For more information, contact Cassandra Dahnke at 713-444-1254 or Tomás Spath at 281-782-4454, or email [info@instituteforcivility.org](mailto:info@instituteforcivility.org). Registration deadline is July 31st.



Woodlands Community PC, mission team

# events and happenings



- July 1**  
PYCC Application Deadline
- July 4**  
Fourth of July Holiday  
*Presbytery Center Closed*
- July 6-8**  
Big Tent  
*Washington University  
St. Louis, Missouri*
- July 10-15**  
Synod Youth Workshop  
*University of Tulsa  
Tulsa, Oklahoma*
- July 15**  
Presbytery Meeting  
*First PC  
Sugar Land, Texas*
- July 20-22**  
Coffee, Curriculum and  
Conversation  
*Resource Center  
Presbytery Center*
- July 21-31**  
Youth Spiritual Pilgrimage  
*Montreat Conference Center  
Montreat, North Carolina*
- July 25-30**  
Youth Celebration  
*Mo-Ranch*
- August 6**  
Retirement Celebration  
for Rev. Winfield 'Casey' Jones  
*First PC  
Pearland, TX*
- August 8**  
*Connections* deadline
- August 12-13**  
PYCC Kick-off Retreat  
*Cho-Yeh Conference Center  
Livingston, TX*



## GOLD RUSH QUARTET

First Presbyterian Church, Tomball invites you to a Celebration for the Whole Family on **Saturday, July 1**. A "Patriotic Potato" supper will dessert will be served from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and the Gold Rush Quartet will perform at 7:00 p.m. A free will offering will cover the food and entertainment. Contact the church at 281-351-2199 or Roberta Young at 281-907-2030 or check the church website [www.fpctomball.org](http://www.fpctomball.org). The church is located at 30410 Tomball Pkwy., Tomball (across from Lone Star College).



## Coffee Curriculum & Conversation

Are you curious about curriculum options for children, youth and adults?

- Are you looking for a very particular type of study material for a special group?
- Do you wish you knew more about some of the support materials for Growing in Grace and Gratitude?
- Are you eager to create a plan for the new program year that is not just more of the same old, same old?
- Have you ever wished you could ask questions and give requests to the folks who are responsible for our denominational curriculum resources?

Here is your opportunity to address any or all these needs! Meg Rift, Associate for Curriculum Development at Congregational Ministries Publishing of our denomination will join us with wisdom to share and a listening heart. Come learn more about the best in old and new resources for your use. Bring your questions and go home with answers and a plan!

Choose the date that works for you, **Thursday, July 20** or **Saturday, July 22** from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Presbytery Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston. Make your reservation through Eventbrite or by emailing [mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org) helps us plan for your gracious welcome.

Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coffee-curriculum-and-conversation-tickets-35637678255>

# events and happenings



Join us for a time of praise and thanksgiving as we celebrate our

## 114th Anniversary & Rededication of the sanctuary

on **Sunday July 9** at 4:00 p.m.  
Heights PC is located at 240 W.  
18th Street, Houston, TX.

## LUNAR MOONSHOT COMMUNION



You are invited to join Webster PC for the 48th Anniversary Lunar Landing Celebration during the 11:15 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, July 16**. This celebration commemorates the historic event of Buzz Aldrin, an elder at Webster PC, who partook of communion while in space. The Faith Choir and Orchestra invites singers from other churches to participate. The church is located at 201 W. Nasa Parkway, Webster, TX.



This show is supported in part by a grant from Texas Commission on the Arts

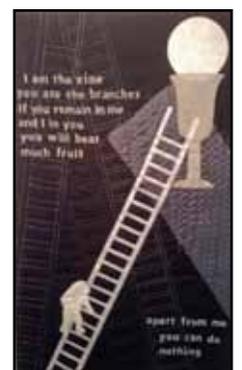
## Coffee House LIVE

Join St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on **Thursday, August 24**, for Coffee House Live. Guy Forsyth returns to Coffee House LIVE to present "The Hot Nut Riveters", Texas' Original Recession Era String Band. Featuring an all-star cast of ringer musicians playing all-acoustic instruments. The Hot Nut Riveters traffic in a strange and heady home brew of genres and influences mining the deep, rich veins of American traditional and popular music forms and they're funny. Their debut studio album, "Moustache Girl", features 7 voices, countless instruments, and at last count, 5 hilarious commercials. Expect classic American tunes as well as new original material from some of Texas' finest!

For more information, check out: <http://www.facebook.com/hotnutriveters>. Doors to the family center open at 7:00 p.m. and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome; no cover charge. Donations are welcome. St. Andrew's is located at 5308 Buffalo Speedway in Houston.

## ARTTalk

There will be 60 quilts from the International *Fly Me to the Moon* art quilt collection on display for *The Heavens are Telling* exhibit on **Sunday, July 16** at Webster PC, Webster. On **Friday, July 21** at 7:00 p.m., fiber artist and curator Susanne Jones of *Fly Me to the Moon* will lead a discussion on the subjects and craftsmanship of the quilts. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres. Come early to view the quilts and enjoy the offerings.



Lunar Communion by Michelle Flamer

## ARTDo and Block Party

All ages are invited to join a Quilting Bee on **Saturday, August 12** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn to "knot quilt" an earth rise panel to be given to Camp Erin, a national bereavement program for youth. There will also be community cook-out. For more information on both art events, go to [www.websterpc.org](http://www.websterpc.org).

# In our Prayers

*For our congregations and pastors in transition  
For our staff – for their health and wellbeing  
For those who are diagnosed with cancer, and for their care teams and care givers*

## Health Concerns

RE Arnetta Boson - Member of Pinecrest PC, Houston  
Rev. Casey Jones - Pastor of First PC, Pearland  
Rev. Pat Clark – HR

## Sympathy for those who mourn

Jeffrey Davis - son of RE Dale Davis, First PC, Brazoria - Mr. Davis was killed in a car accident on May 29  
Michael Allen Jack - son of Janet Jack, widow of Rev. Kenneth Jack. Mr. Jack died on May 31  
Hazel Arvella Collins Ruth - mother of Lynne Ruth, retired administrator at St. Paul PC, Houston. Mrs. Ruth died June 2  
Johnny Breed- Father of Rev. Katrina Pennington, Clear Lake PC, Houston - Johnny died on June 3  
Mack Bowie - grandfather of Aaron Bowie, Pinecrest PC, Houston. Mr. Bowie died on June 9  
Darline Petersen, member of First PC, Alvin, Ms. Petersen died away on June 13

RE = Ruling Elder | HR = Honorably Retired

## Job Opening



### **Atascocita Presbyterian Church is looking for a part-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

It will be approximately 20 hours per week. Salary will be commensurate with experience. We are looking for a self starter who works well independently. If you are interested please contact the church at [apc@apchumble.org](mailto:apc@apchumble.org), and we can send you a current job description or you can send your resume to [apc@apchumble.org](mailto:apc@apchumble.org). The church is located at 19426 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble, TX. We are hoping to have someone on board by August 15th.

Details on these positions as well as other openings may be found on the presbytery's website [www.pbyofnewcovenant.org](http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org) under Congregations/Church Jobs.