

# CORNERSTONE

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Third Sunday of Easter

OI May 2022

# Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone family,

Four weeks ago, I wrote about the "good problem" of growth Cornerstone is experiencing. It's a problem we encounter firsthand each Sunday morning squeezing into overcrowded pews or climbing the stairs to overflow. It's a *good* problem in that growth is a good thing! But it's a good *problem* in that we're running out of space to accommodate the ministry.

Several months back, the elders began discussing how to address the issue of growing numbers and tight quarters. We spent an evening exploring a variety of potential options including adding worship services, augmenting/expanding the chapel (if possible), starting an additional Cornerstone location, planting a new church, building (or buying) a larger facility, or even some combination of the above.

As this discussion took place, other discussions and topics surfaced. We revisited aspects of our history as a church. We touched on our vision and core commitments. We dreamed about the future kingdom impact of an expanded ministry. We also addressed a variety of fears and concerns. Fears of losing the sweetness of fellowship we've long enjoyed. Fears of failure if we try something that doesn't work. Fears regarding the sacrifice it will require to honor God's call and care for his people in this season of growth.

This openhearted dialogue led us to pray, pray, and pray some more. After that initial meeting, I put pen to paper and crafted three prayers for our leaders to commit to praying on a regular basis during this season. These prayers are designed to prepare our hearts for whatever God has in store next for Cornerstone. During this season, I'd like to invite you to join us in praying these prayers as together we seek God's face for the future of Cornerstone.

- The prayer of surrender—"Not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42). In this prayer, we're asking God to bring us to a place where we want God's will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Ask yourself, "What must I release or set aside in order for God's will to reign supreme in my life?" Name those things before the Lord, laying them at his feet.
- The prayer for unity— "Holy father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one even as we are one" (John 17:11) In this prayer, we're asking God for a spirit of unity, both for leaders and the church membership as together we seek God's face. Search your heart to see if there is any offense, frustration, or dismissiveness against any leader or member of the church. If needed, confess this to your brother or sister and be at peace (2 Corinthians 13:11).
- The prayer for wisdom—"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives generously without reproach, and it will be given him" (James I:5) Ask boldly for wisdom for your leaders and the church. As you pray for wisdom, reflect on God's unfailing love for the church and consider what would God most want us to see, know, believe, and protect as we seek to answer his call.

Friends, would you enter into prayer with us in an ongoing way this season? It's easy to get worked up with excitement or fear over this or that, but it's prayer that God is pleased to use to strengthen and direct the church. As Oswald Chambers said years ago, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."

Your servant,

Nate

Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

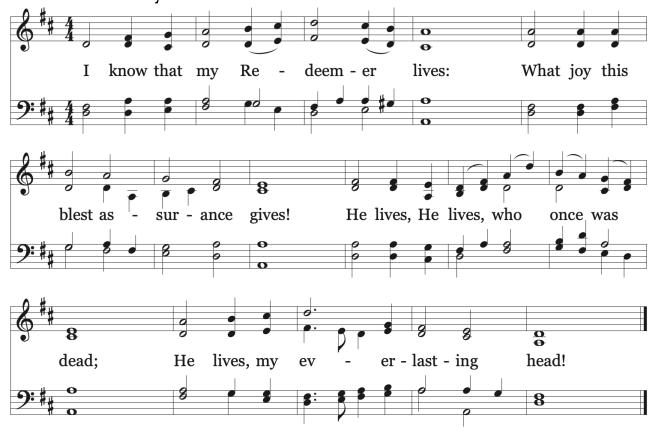
This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

### Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

#### Introit—I Know that My Redeemer Lives, Vs I



Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

#### Call to Worship—from Psalm 34:11-16

Pastor: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

All: What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

Pastor: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

All: Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Pastor: The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous

All: and his ears toward their cry.

Pastor: The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,

to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

All: When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

#### Hymn of Praise—Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; Music: ST. DENIO, Traditional Welsh Melody.

### New Testament Reading—Ephesians 6:10-20

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

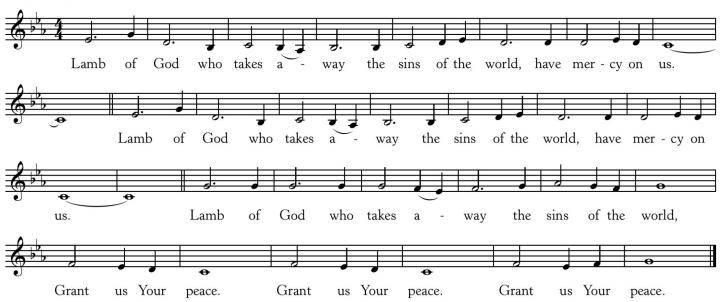
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

# Sung Response—Lamb of God



Text: John I:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

#### Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Isaiah 63:15-19

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing, Look down from heaven and see,

from your holy and beautiful habitation. Where are your zeal and your might?

All: Your tenderness and your compassion seem to be held back from us.

Pastor: For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us,

and Israel does not acknowledge us;

All: You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

Pastor: O Lord, why do you cause us to wander from your ways

and harden our hearts, so that we fear you not?

All: Return for the sake of your servants, the peoples of your heritage.

Pastor: Your holy people prospered for a little while;

our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary.

All: We have become like those over whom you have never ruled,

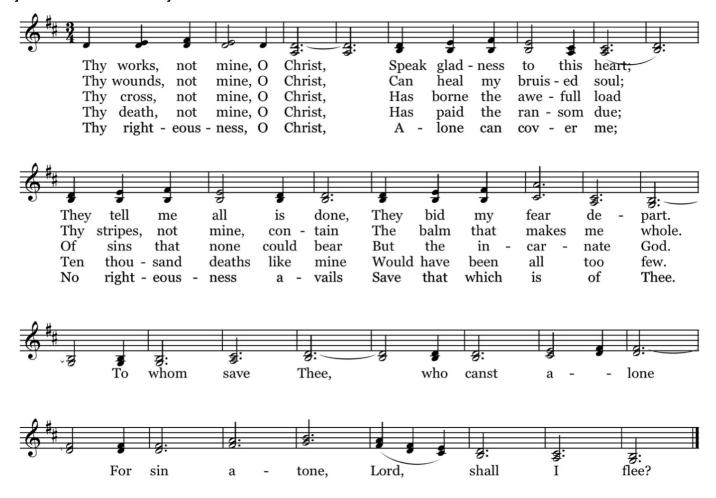
like those who are not called by your name.

# Silent Prayers of Confession

# Assurance of Pardon—Ephesians 2:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

#### Hymn of Praise—Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



© Copyright 2017 Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1899; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2017

# Sacrament of Baptism

—Mabel Cherokee Eby, Daughter of Jonathan & LaNita Eby

"For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. 'And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto you and to your seed after you.' Therefore, believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your house." (Acts 2:39; Gen. 17:7; Acts 16:31)

#### Parental Vows:

- 1. Do you acknowledge your own, as well as your child's, need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Do you claim God's covenant promises for her, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus—and only to the Lord Jesus—for her salvation, just as you do for your own?
- 3. Do you now consecrate your child to God; will you in humble reliance upon His sovereign grace set before her a godly example—praying with and for her, teaching her the good hope of the Gospel, opening to her the truth of the Scriptures, and striving by every means of grace God provides, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

#### Congregational Vow:

Will you as a covenant community joyously commit to assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

#### The Reading of the Word—Exodus 7:I-I3

And the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. <sup>2</sup>You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. <sup>3</sup>But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, <sup>4</sup>Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. <sup>5</sup>The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them." <sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them. <sup>7</sup>Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

<sup>8</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, <sup>9</sup>"When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" <sup>10</sup>So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. <sup>11</sup>Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. <sup>12</sup>For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. <sup>13</sup>Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

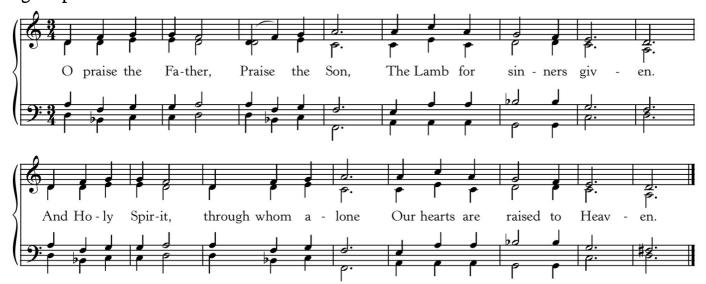
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

Sermon—Delivered: A Study in Exodus, part 12

A Sign of Judgment, A Sign of Salvation

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

#### Sung Response—O Praise the Father



Text: John Mason, 1683; Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2011.

# Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

#### Sung Response—Sanctus



CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: Franklin Sanctus, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

# Words of Institution and the Lord's Table Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

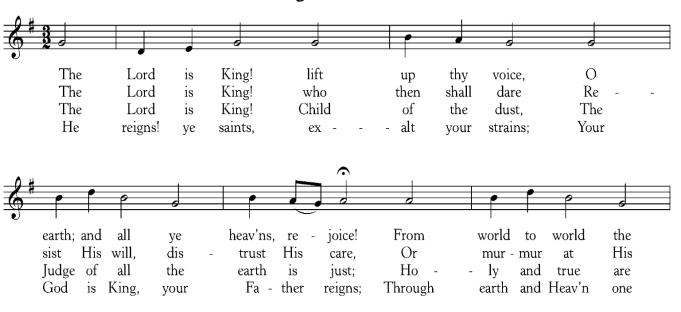
At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.

#### Psalm of the Month—Psalm 8



Text: 1912 Psalter; Keble Psalter Ed. Noah Aikens Music: COSMIC SANCTUARY, Noah Aikens

#### Hymn of Communion—The Lord is King





Text: Josiah Conder, 1824; Music: ROCKBRIDGE, Harmonia Sacra, this version ©2010.

#### Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

# Hymn of Praise—O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus



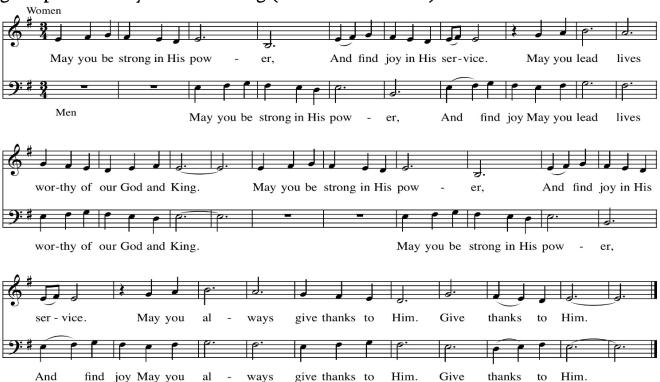
#### GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

### Benediction—from Galatians 6:14, 18

May we boast only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to us, and we to the world. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

# Sung Response—May You Be Strong (Colossians I:10-II)



© Copyright 2013 Allen House Productions (ASCAP) www.songsforthechurchyear.com and Greyfriars Press. Text: Nan Allen, 2013; Music: Greyfriars Press, 2013.

Missions Prayer Focus—Joshua Kines is currently serving as the founding pastor of Parish Church, a recently particularized church plant of the PCA. His roles consist of everything contained in the office of senior pastor with an emphasis on outreach and evangelism. They became a particularized church in the PCA this past August, and are now seeking to plant an RUF campus ministry on the local University campus of the UL Ragin Cajuns. Prayer points:

- Pray that UL can find a RUF campus minister this year and for the continued fundraising efforts for the ministry.
- Pray for our new elders that were installed last August. Pray for their continued growth in wisdom, grace, and vitality as they serve the flock.
- Pray for wisdom as we make some necessary updates to our facility in the coming year. Praying for ongoing financial provision and wisdom to steward those resources well in this renovation.
- Pray for our first group of deacon candidates that will be elected in May. Pray for their smooth transition and clear direction into this new role.
- Pray for Alec Moyer and his continued role as pastoral assistant. He has taken on many responsibilities at the church and is finishing his remaining classes at the seminary.
- Pray for our continued growth and impact in Lafayette as we continue to see new visitors every week.

Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out the visitor card available in the pew in front of you.

Please drop it in the offering boxes at either chapel entrance as you leave.

# Focus on Church Ministry

#### Men at the Mercantile

Brothers, join us for a fun night of fellowship at the Franklin Mercantile on Thursday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. We'll enjoy some delicious Mexican fare and introduce our summer plans. Don't miss out on the festivities! Sign up online through the website or app.

# The Cornerstone School of Discipleship Sundays, 9:45 a.m.

Core Class: Understanding the Bible

If you are reading the Bible and interpreting its message, you are using some principles in the process whether you know it or not. Over the course of five weeks, this class will help you with personal Bible reading and study. We will identify and explain tested principles you can use to get a solid understanding of a biblical text and see how all of Scripture is about Jesus Christ.

Taught by Tony Giles, The Chapel

Elective Class: Loving Well: Learning to Embrace One Another as Saints, Sufferers, and Sinners

People can be complex, relationships can be messy, and loving each other well can be challenging. How do we understand ourselves and each other? How do we move towards each other in helpful and Godhonoring ways? This five-week course will give you a Biblical framework to help you pursue and love others as you are pursued and loved by Jesus.

Taught by Ben Griffith, third floor

#### Vacation Bible School: Rooted

Join us at Jim Warren Park June 1-3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. for VBS! We will be exploring how we grow in our faith by looking at God's design in nature. We need volunteers: leaders, prayer warriors, and generous hearts willing to provide supplies or food. And of course, we need your kids—and their friends, too! VBS is for rising K-rising 6th graders. There are QR codes on posters around the building to make for easy registration and volunteering, or sign up online!

#### Eastertide Scripture Readings

There are devotionals for Eastertide available at both Chapel entrances and on the church website and app.

#### Prayer Meeting

Throughout May, the prayer team will meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on the third floor at Cornerstone. The meeting will move to Monday evenings for the months of June and July. Everyone is welcome! Submit prayer requests online or email to prayer@cstonepres.org.

#### Elementary Sunday School Help Needed

We are looking for a few more folks who are willing to serve our covenant children during the summer Sunday school term. The  $3^{\rm rd}/4^{\rm th}$  grade class needs an assistant and a teacher, and we need an assistant for the  $5^{\rm th}/6^{\rm th}$  grade class. Please let Meredith Suits know if you are willing to serve or have questions. elementary@cstonepres.org

#### Blessed—Women's Summer Bible Study

Ladies, make plans to be at Cornerstone on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning June 7. Nancy Guthrie will lead us in the second half of our study of Revelation. Personal Bible study questions are available on the Women's Ministry page of the website. Invite friends and neighbors to join us!

#### Cornerstone Youth

Please help us keep our email list up-todate by scanning the QR code and leaving us your current info before summer begins.



#### Life at Cornerstone

The best way to keep up with all things Cornerstone is through our weekly email, "Life at Cornerstone." It drops into your inbox every Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. Subscribe on the homepage of the website.

#### Lost and Found

Please take a moment to check the lost and found bin in the room behind the kitchen. Items left two weeks will be donated to Graceworks. Today's message, "A Sign of Judgment, A Sign of Salvation," is taken from Exodus 7:I-13. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group (HFG).

- Speaking to Moses, God says, "I have made you God to Pharaoh" (Exodus 7:I). Peter Enns says this statement shows God is planning to "...beat Pharaoh at his own game." What does he mean?
- How does the Moses-being-God foreshadow the coming of Jesus Christ? Further, how does it reflect on our calling to be witness bearers of Christ in the world?
- What importance did snakes have in ancient Egypt? The sign of a staff turning into a snake would have been received by Pharaoh as an attack against him and Egypt. Can you explain why?
- How is the serpent swallowing serpent event a preview of the plagues and even later the Red Sea event? Further, how might it be a picture of what Christ accomplishes in the cross and resurrection (See I Corinthians 15:54,
- How did God minister to you in worship today? Please share what comes to mind with those around you.

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org Assistant Pastor: Ben Griffith (601-606-2687) at ben@cstonepres.org **Assistant Pastor:** Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org

Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org Office Administrator: Robin Spychalski (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org

**Home Fellowship Information:** HFG(*a*)cstonepres.org

Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org **Men's Ministry:** Ron Moffat or men(*a*)cstonepres.org

Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org **Nursery Coordinator:** Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

#### Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Will Kesler (423-313-7493) Jim Payne (615-497-0613) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) John Millard (423-443-8852) Jim Smith (615-347-4188) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

#### Deacons

\*Mark Elliott (615-477-1041) Wes Pittman (615-393-0365) Matt Faulk (714-801-7596) Brent Roberts (615-394-0662) Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) \*Jim Robinson (615-587-0442) Kevin McClung (615-243-9228) Todd Russell (615-319-4803) Mike Payne (615-579-6453)

Matt Suits (706-218-2823) Casey Taggart (662-813-3563) Larry Thompson (901-734-1520) Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

\*On Sabbatical

Post Office Box 407 Franklin, Tennessee 37065 www.cornerstonepresfranklin.org (615) 618-4707

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

