

CORNERSTONE COMMUNICATOR

Volume 33, No. 2
February 2016

Sr. Pastor - Eli Shackelford

Music - Fred Helbling

Pastor - Roger Martin

CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

The Cornerstone Communicator was created in 1985 to provide a way for church and ministry leaders to keep the people of Cornerstone informed about the activities and ministries of the church. While we hope that you will be lifted and encouraged by the articles you find in the Newsletter, the primary purpose of this newsletter ministry is to keep you informed.

Getting to Know You

by Pastor Eli

Church,

Thanks for the warm welcome that you have given me and my family.

Thanks also for your help in inviting friends to Cornerstone for the Welcome Home series. Whether your friends actually came or not, I trust that your invitation meant something to them. You invited them because you care deeply for them and you believe that Cornerstone is a church where they could find a place to belong and a people to belong with. Thank you for that belief in the church and faithfulness to your friends.

I want to extend an invitation to you for the same reason.

I care about you. And I believe in what God is doing in and through us.

That together we are called to create a community where God's heart can be known and *experienced*.

So let's grab lunch. Or coffee.

I can usually get away any time in the morning or mid-day if you have daytime hours available.

More intentionally, we want to invite every Cornerstone Family to our house for dinner over the next few months. We will start by keeping the next eight Saturday nights open for you! The whole night is set aside to get to know you. If our house doesn't work, we are up for coming to your house as well. Let's just make sure that it happens. I will begin asking people this week, so grab your night and let's set something up quickly.

I got to share one of my favorite passages at a Deacons meeting last night. The line in Philippians has always been meaningful to me.

"I always pray for you with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel" (check out Phil 1:3-6).

It's so great to have started doing life and community with you all. I look forward to the various ways that God will knit our hearts and fill us with joy over our partnership in the Gospel.

He is stirring.
Moving.
Calling us out.

There's nothing better than joining God in what He's up to all around us. Cause you know, when you find treasure, you tell everyone. And we've found something here.

Blessings, my friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sundays - Pre-Service Meeting (10:30 am); Worship Service & Jr. Church (11:00 am); Youth Bible Study (1:00 pm)
Sundays (5:00 pm) ~ Templo Worship Service
Mondays (6:30 pm) ~ Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays (6:45 pm) ~ Kids Club and Youth Outreach
Thursdays (7:00 pm) ~ Templo Service

2nd ~ Prayer Meeting (7 pm)

6th ~ Elders' Meeting (8 am)

7th ~ Superbowl Party (4 pm)

13th ~ Food & Clothing Distribution (10 am)

14th ~ Valentine's Day <3

19th ~ Eben-Ezer Prayer Vigil (8 pm)

21st ~ Administrative Board Meeting (1 pm)

23rd ~ Deacon's Meeting (7 pm)

27th ~ Care and Share Lunch (1 pm)

FEATURED INSIDE...

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Don't Shoot the Messenger!

By Pastor Roger

I heard Pastor Eli say just the other day, *"This church [Cornerstone Church] is an amazing church! The people here are so faithful! So dedicated! And that is a real blessing!"* And he's right. The people of this church are dedicated! The people of this church — you — are faithful. And that is a blessing! You have been a blessing to me through all of our years together; and you are a blessing to Pastor Eli now (and, I am certain, will be for years to come!).

I have listened to the hearts of many pastors over the years. I have heard them grieve over churches that do not give of themselves, do not invest in the work or ministries of the church, do not "own" the church they call their own. They attend. And they expect certain things to be done for them by the church. But they don't deeply and faithfully share in the work of the church. But you do! And we (pastors) are blessed beyond belief because of you. And we are thankful to God for you!

But, and here's the other side of the coin, sometimes people who "own" their ministries — people who are faithful and dedicated, people who invest their blood, sweat and tears in the work they do for God — are hurt and sometimes offended when the work that they do, the work they have been doing for years, is questioned. When they are asked, *"Why do we do this? Why do we do it this way?"* Or, *"Is there a better way to do this (ministry)?"* they think they are hearing the words, *"Whatever you've been doing and however you've been doing it, it isn't good enough. It isn't what we need. It isn't what we want. We want something different now."*

We need something different now. We want something more."

If this is happening to you, I want to ask you, as gently as I can, to put aside what you think you are hearing and realize that questions are not criticism, but Eli is asking in order to learn more and to help us dream about what could be. If you're tempted to feel hurt, I want to ask you gently to put aside those feelings and to be as objective as you can possibly be.

We need to remember — to "own" — the fact that we asked our Pastor Search Team to find us a new pastor, a new leader who would be excited about Jesus and about leading us to become the church we need to be, so we can do the work God is calling us to do today. The church we were yesterday was the church we needed to be to do the work God called us to do then. But that was yesterday. This is today. A new day. We're being called (by God!) to become a different church. And Pastor Eli is the one God has provided to lead us to become the church He wants us to. So, as Shakespeare said, *"Don't shoot the messenger!"*

Let me explain. Many years ago, you sent some of us through a two-year leadership training course called T-Net. During that training, they talked a lot about change — how changes are made successfully in churches. They told us there are two main roles to be played in the process of church change: the "Prophet"; and the "Inside Facilitator".

"The Prophet" is the one who tells the people repeatedly — the one who convinces them — that change is needed now! *The "Prophet" is an outsider*", they said, *"or will soon become one"*.

The "Inside Facilitator" is someone who is known and trusted by the people of the church. Once *"The Prophet"* has done the work of convincing the church that change must come—the "Inside Facilitator," the "Trusted One," leads the church through the change. Their advice? *"Use a book or an outside (of the church) "expert" to do the work of the prophet, because the Prophet will always be "killed"*.

Unfortunately, we have not followed that advice. We knew we needed to change. That's why we searched for a new pastor. But we have cast our new pastor in the role of *"The Prophet"*. We've asked him to lead us into change — to identify where and how we need to change so that we can become the church God is calling us to be now. And if we're not careful — really careful — we're going to find ourselves resenting "The Prophet". We're going to find ourselves blaming our new pastor for the changes that **God** is asking us to make. So, I want to ask you:

- Please keep in mind that the call for change comes from God. So that we can continue to be the church He wants us to be, doing the work He wants us to do now.
- Please be as objective as you can be when you are asked to change how you do what you do for our church. Please try to channel any hurt or frustration into the desire to become what God is calling us to be, and a willingness to do whatever is necessary to make that happen.
- And, please, whatever you do, *Don't shoot the messenger!* He's our new pastor, and he will be for years to come!

February

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| | 1 Women's Bible Study (6:30 pm) | 2 Prayer Meeting 7 pm  Chris Brown | 3 Kids Club and Youth Outreach (6:45 pm) Sandy Fallis | 4 Templo Service (7 pm) | 5 | 6 Elders Meeting (8 am) |
| 7 10:30am: Pre-Service Mtg 11am: Worship, Jr Church, Communion 1 pm: Youth Bible Study Superbowl Party (4 pm) | 8 Women's Bible Study (6:30 pm) | 9 Mike Gibbons | 10 Kids Club and Youth Outreach (6:45 pm) | 11 Templo Service (7 pm) Johnny Huerta | 12 | 13 Food & Clothing Distribution (10 am) |
| 14 10:30am: Pre-Service Mtg 11am: Worship, Jr Church, Communion 1 pm: Youth Bible Study Valentine's Day Jeff Owen | 15 Women's Bible Study (6:30 pm) | 16 | 17 Kids Club and Youth Outreach (6:45 pm) Leo & Teddie Coonradt | 18 Templo Service (7 pm) | 19 Templo Prayer Vigil (8:00 pm) | 20 Gabby Jacobs |
| 21 10:30am: Pre-Service Mtg 11am: Worship, Jr Church, Communion 1 pm: Youth Bible Study Administrative Board Mtg (1 pm) | 22 Women's Bible Study (6:30 pm) | 23 Deacon's Meeting (7 pm) | 24 Kids Club and Youth Outreach (6:45 pm) | 25 Templo Service (7 pm) Newsletter Items Due (thank you!) Eli Arana | 26 | 27 Earl & Carmella Brown Richard Hammond Braden Gibes |
| 28 10:30am: Pre-Service Mtg 11am: Worship, Jr Church, Communion 1 pm: Youth Bible Study Care & Share Lunch (1 pm)  | 29 Women's Bible Study (6:30 pm) | <p>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.</p> <p>—1 John 4:7-8</p>  | | | | |

February

PRAYER CALENDAR



| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | 1 Elders and Administrative Board <i>Outreach Ministries for Youth</i> | 2 Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.  | 3 <i>Trust, Unity, Love, and Joy in our "blended family"</i> | 4 <i>Outreach to the Neighborhood</i> | 5 Kids Club Director: Becky | 6 Music Minister: Fred & the Music Team <i>Unity and Love at Cornerstone</i> |
| 7 Deacon of Worship: Carmella Worship Service Iglesia Ebenezer <i>Deep-hearted worship for our congregation</i> | 8 Elders and Administrative Board <i>People who need a place to belong—finding a home at Cornerstone</i> | 9 <i>Planning future sermon series</i> | 10 Deacon of Fellowship: Rickie <i>Courage for people inviting friends to Cornerstone</i> | 11 Pastor Eli <i>People who struggle to trust God</i> | 12 Youth Outreach Ministry <i>People who need a place to belong—finding a home at Cornerstone</i> | 13 <i>Food Pantry and Clothing Closet</i> |
| 14 Deacon of Worship: Carmella Worship Service <i>New Sermon Series</i> | 15 Elders and Administrative Board | 16 <i>Planning Outreach Ministries for Youth</i> | 17 Church Office: Becky <i>Children of Kids Club ministry</i> | 18 Pastor Roger <i>Revival @ Cornerstone</i> | 19 Discipleship Team <i>Friends who haven't met Jesus</i> | 20 <i>Templo Eben-Ezer (anniversary this month)</i> |
| 21 Deacon of Worship: Carmella Worship Service Iglesia Ebenezer <i>Outreach to the Neighborhood</i> | 22 Elders and Administrative Board <i>Revival @ Cornerstone</i> | 23 | 24 Deacon of Finance: Denny <i>Outreach Ministries for Youth</i> | 25 Pastor Eli | 26 <i>People who need a place to belong—finding a home at Cornerstone</i> | 27 Music Minister: Fred & the Music Team |
| 28 Deacon of Worship: Carmella Worship Service Iglesia Ebenezer <i>Revival @ Cornerstone</i> | 29 Elders and Administrative Board |  | | | | |

Prayer at Cornerstone

- **Prayer Meeting:** February 5, 7 pm at the church
- **Prayer Calendar:** See the prayer calendar in this newsletter for suggestions on who/what to pray for.
- **Leadership and Ministry Planning:** Pray for Eli, Roger, Fred, our Administrative Board, and Deacons, as they all work together to think about our ministries, how we can reach out to the community, and how we can grow together.



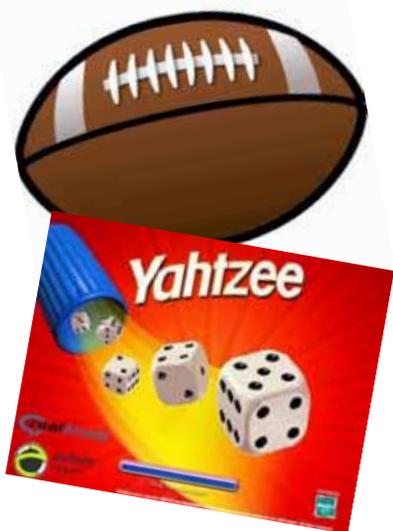
And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

—1 John 4:16

Superbowl Party

Join us at the church on February 7, 4 pm in the gym for a great time together. There will be a big game on the screen, small games on the side, great food — and a chance to get to know each other better!

- **What will we eat?** We'll have a baked potato bar, and there's a signup sheet in the church foyer for things to bring. Also, if you feel like bringing other snacks, please do!
- **What else should I bring?** Some people bring comfy lawn chairs to watch the game in...we line them up and have a great time.
- **Do I have to watch the game?** Nope. Some people are passionate about football, others not so much. But the others have a great time playing board games.
- **If I don't want to watch the game, can I bring board games?** Yep! Please do!
- **Who do I talk to if I have questions?** Talk to Rickie Crandall, 801-891-4170.



MORE LIFE TOGETHER



God's Valentine: Putting Families Together

God is revealing his heart among us in many ways! One way is by opening opportunities for loving parents to bring young ones into their families.

John and Rickie Crandall will be adopting an infant this year — God has brought them this baby through a friend. They're in need of help for the adoption expenses. If you can help, click their gofundme link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/p9a8jk38>

Brian and Natalie Wade also have a chance to adopt a child — and they could use help with adoption expenses as well. If you can help them, talk with them. Plus, a gofundme link will be coming soon!

Our Youth Outreach Has Expanded!

Our Youth Outreach ministry is starting again the first week of February — and now will serve both *both guys and girls* from 6th grade to 12th grade. Praise God!

- **When and where do they meet?** Wednesday nights, 6:45 pm to 8 pm at the church.
- **Who can I talk to if I want to find out more?** Call Natalie Wade, 385-315-6161.

Kids Club News

Kids Club also took a break during the darkest, coldest weeks of winter — and we're ready and excited to start meeting again.

- **What age kids can come?** Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome.
- **What time and where?** Wednesday nights, 6:45 pm to 8 pm at the church.
- **What goes on at Kids Club?** A whole lot of fun! Plus learning and growing as we learn about God together. If you're curious and think you might want to help, talk to Becky Speulda and come check it out!
- **Who can I talk to with questions?** Becky Speulda, 801-580-1432.

Who Wrote the Book of Love?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. —1 Cor. 13:4-7

By day the Lord directs his love,
at night his song is with me. —Psalm 42:8

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. —John 17:22-23



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
—Romans 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS...



Can You Help the Food Pantry?

(Please PLACE DONATIONS IN THE BLUE TUBS at the front entrance.) For February, no later than Tues, Feb 9th. For March, no later than Tues, March 8th.

Items needed include:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Bath soap bars | Shampoo |
| Canned fruit | Spaghetti pasta |
| Canned tuna | Toilet paper |
| Canned veggies | Toothbrushes |
| Dish soap | Toothpaste |
| Mac & cheese | Tomato paste & sauce |
| Pinto beans | White rice |
| Ramen noodles | |

Financial contributions are always appreciated!

Just mark your donation as "Food Pantry" and put it in the offering.

Questions? Talk to Rick Taylor (801-808-9478).

Please bring donations on a Sunday or call the church office (801-568-0954) to be sure someone will be available to let you in.

NEEDED: WINTER CLOTHING DONATIONS

The following items are needed:

- . Good-condition, clean clothing
- . Clean & polished shoes (with laces if appropriate)
- . Clean bedding

Suggested donations include: pants, socks, shirts, jeans, sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, sweat pants, shoes, work boots, & bedding.

We especially need children's and babies' clothing.

Donations are due by **February 9th for the February distribution**, and by March 8th for the March distribution.

Please be sure your donations are washed and in good condition before placing them in the bins in the northwest corner of the gym. We thank you for your gifts — and your giving heart.



So hey, I'm not sure if anyone looks at this page anymore...so I'm launching a little survey, sneaky-style. If you read this and tell me, there's a candy bar in it for you. Thanks! Sherri

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I specialize in small commercial and residential real estate. If you have real estate needs or questions, please feel free to ask.



Want to advertise in the classifieds?
Just send an e-mail to Sherri at
sherrivance@gmail.com.

Donations for Worship CDs

We encourage you to donate \$1 per CD copy of the Worship service. Please designate gifts as "Worship."
Contact Marty Lopez with questions. Thank you!

"Blessed Home"

Do You Need Home Cleaning Services?

Elda can help!

Call Elda Arana at 818-612-8129

for Free Estimates.

(Elda uses eco-friendly products.)

Hosting a get-together or looking to surprise someone with a yummy treat? Rickie Crandall (801-891-4170) is selling her amazing cupcakes to raise money for their adoption account. Buy cupcakes for your next event — your guests will love them and the money will go to a great cause.



Psst: Cutting down on sugar? You can just visit their gofundme account to help out. Go to:

<https://www.gofundme.com/p9a8jk38>

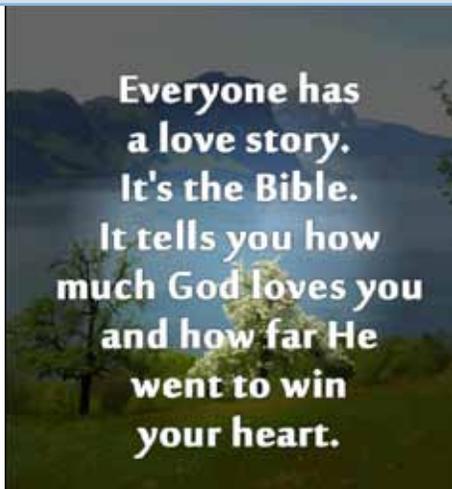
Sandy Ortega is taking orders for Avon if anyone is interested. She will provide books as needed or requested.

Call 801-330-5212 for information.





God's amazing heart



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