



The eNewsletter

July 18, 2013

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

July 21

Membership Sunday
Special Speaker in Sunday
School-Heidi Meiners
Summer Schedule-No Evening
Activities

July 23

Ladies' Summer Bible Study

July 24

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Practice

July 25

Swim Day

July 26

Family Camping/Rafting Trip

July 27

Family Camping/Rafting Trip

July 28

Shepherding Sunday

July 30

Ladies' Summer Bible Study

July 31

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Practice

August 1

Swim Day

August 4

Lord's Supper Celebrated

August 6

Ladies' Summer Bible Study
WM Council Meeting

August 7

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Practice

August 8

Swim Day

August 10

Men's Breakfast

August 11

Mission Committee Meeting
Deacon Meeting
Summer Schedule-No Evening
Activities

August 13

Ladies' Summer Bible Study

August 14

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Practice

August 15

Swim Day
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Ministry

August 16

Chicks 'n Chocolate

Pete Rose was my role model. I'm not talking about his propensity to gamble but about how he played baseball. If you don't remember him, or are too young to have seen him play from the 1960s through the 1980s, his nickname was "Charlie Hustle." He always played hard. When walked by the pitcher, he would run to first base.

As I write this week's newsletter, I feel like a coach telling Rose, "You need to pick up the pace."

Few could look at our giving record as a church and not conclude that many of you give often and generously to support our efforts as a congregation. For twenty-five years our officers have drawn up a budget for the coming year. Each new year's budget has increased slightly, based upon the fact that the previous year's giving met or surpassed budget.

During these years we have been enabled to "give away" approximately 20% of our money to other ministries and causes. We have been blessed to provide diaconal support to others in their time of need. By the way, the diaconal fund has never been part of our budget but has always been generously underwritten. At the same time we have steadily increased the budgeted amount needed to meet our mortgage payments.

Some of you will remember that we initially set aside \$500,000 to help cover our mortgage payments. A few years ago the Session chose to use the remaining balance of that fund to pay down our indebtedness. Since that time, a certain portion of each year's surplus has been set aside at the beginning of each new year to help cover that year's mortgage payments. Now we've reached the point where our mortgage payments (approximately \$30,000 a month) are part of our budget. We have paid down our mortgage of \$5.2 million to 3.1 mil-

lion over the past few years.

Giving for the first two weeks of July has been strong. But at the end of June we were \$144,000 below budget. Giving in June was \$50,000 below budget for the month. Our budget requires a weekly average giving of \$26,000. We've always been behind in our giving at midyear but never by this amount. So I'm writing to let you know the reality of our circumstances.

Again, I feel like a coach telling Pete Rose to "pick it up." I love you all and boast of you in the Lord. In our family we try to be open and honest about the reality of our situations, so if possible we can respond to one another's needs. We, the people of CPC, are family. So I want you to know the reality of our finances.

As God promises to do (2 Corinthians 9.6-8), may He bless you as you honor Him by doing cheerfully whatever you can to help alleviate the financial pressures under which we now operate as a congregation.

If you'd like a copy of this year's budget, Carol will gladly provide one for you.

Linda and I give back to the church 10% of what we receive (and have been audited twice by the IRS for doing so). We give to other causes as well but only after we've given to the church our tithe. Tithing was the standard used in the OT. When Paul encourages the Corinthians to give, he does not speak of tithing, but challenges them to contribute what they can "cheerfully" give. I hope you hear me doing the same.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

July 21

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Britt Collier

Creepers

Dawn & Emilia Reynolds

Toddlers

Duane & Mindy Horton

Floater

Will Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Marty & Nancy Cooper

Creepers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

Toddlers

Jason & Jennifer McNeeley

P.M.

No Evening Service
Summer Schedule

July Coordinator:

Peg May

SPECIAL THANK YOU

On March 8, 2012 the phone call that no Army parent ever wants to receive came. Our son Andrew, our soldier, had been critically wounded while serving in Afghanistan. We were shocked, confused, devastated and frightened. We were knocked to our knees. All we could do was cry and pray.

Yet, even in the earliest moments of this awful tragedy you, our church family, wrapped your loving arms around us. The prayers, the words of comfort, the meals and hugs, gave us hope and encouragement. We were experiencing the love of Christ in action.

By God's grace and mercy, through the love of our church family, the fear and despair gave way to hope and determination. Together we saw a young husband and his amazing wife, living out their vows as a testimony for all to see. You stood by us and cared for us when good medical progress turned to setbacks and bad news. Yet we never felt hopeless or abandoned. Through you, God was saying, "Don't worry, I've got this. I have a plan. I will be glorified."

Plans of a home for Andrew and Tori were revealed and without hesitation you stepped in with enthusiasm, encouragement and financial support. As the days of "the build" arrived, the CPC family was there in great numbers. Working hours upon hours, side-by-side, helping to make this dream a reality. You showed to a watching world what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ. And they were watching and taking notice. The gospel was shared without a word spoken.

As this particular milestone has come to completion, the journey for Andrew and Tori continues, and we as his family will try to settle into our "new normal". But, as Cathy and I look back upon our life here at CPC, we know that through God's providence he placed us here and you in the lives of our family. We thank God for you and the many ways, great and small, that He has used you in the raising of our children and in our own spiritual growth. You have been a living example of Christ's love long before Andrew was injured. God's perfect plan is unfolding and He will be glorified.

Words cannot express our gratitude and love but we thank you for all you have done before and during this trial. We have been richly blessed even through the most difficult of circumstances. To God Be the Glory.

~Todd and Cathy Smith and Family

God Moves In A Mysterious Way

William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

The college prayer ministry consists of an adult volunteer who agrees to pray for a CPC college student for a year. Monthly contact by email, Facebook, snail mail, etc. is also encouraged. Addresses are provided and you will receive a monthly email reminder about contact and prayer. We have about 14 students in need of an adult prayer partner this school year. Both men and women are needed. If you are interested or have questions, please email Brenda Mason at bren854@comcast.net by August 1.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

On Saturday, August 1, at 8:30 a.m. the Men's Ministry of CPC would like to invite men of all ages to the monthly Men's Breakfast. Dan Steere is speaking on "Talk to Me!" Because "Silence in NOT Golden." Make plans to attend for a wonderful time.

SANCTUARY CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN

The Sanctuary Choir begins their new season of rehearsal on Wednesday, July 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Now is the absolute best time to join us as we are looking at new music for the Fall. Christmas music is just around the corner as well. If you have ever thought about joining choir, come to a rehearsal - no strings attached - to see if choir would be a good ministry for you. Contact Jeremy with any questions.