



# The eNewsletter

November 7, 2013

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
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## From the Pen of Kirsten Powers...

### Looking Ahead...

- November 9**  
Men's Breakfast
- November 10**  
Missions Conference  
Morning Worship Service  
Diaconate Meeting  
MS D-Groups  
HS SNL  
Parent Class
- November 11**  
Ladies' Evening Bible Study
- November 13**  
Wednesday Night Supper  
Children's Choir  
Covenant Corps  
Missions Conference
- November 14**  
Ladies' Bible Study
- November 16**  
Mission Conference-Shepherding Groups
- November 17**  
Missions Conference  
Morning Worship Service  
Membership Sunday  
Concert of Prayer Service
- November 19**  
Mothers' Encouragement Group
- November 20**  
Wednesday Night Supper  
Children's Choir  
MS Route 68  
HS D-Groups  
Wednesday Night Activities
- November 21**  
Ladies' Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- November 23**  
Operation Christmas Child  
Shoe Box Filling
- November 24**  
Morning Worship Service
- November 27**  
Thanksgiving Service
- November 28**  
Thanksgiving-Office Closed
- November 29**  
Thanksgiving-Office Closed
- December 1**  
Lord's Supper Celebrated  
MS D-Groups  
HS SNL  
Parent Meeting

*Kirsten Powers is a contributor to USA Today and a columnist for Newsweek/The Daily Beast. She is a Democratic commentator at Fox News. Here is a brief edited version of her article from Christianity Today. Full the full article, please click [here](#).*

Of all people surprised that I became an evangelical Christian, I'm the most surprised. If there was one thing in which I was completely secure, it was that I would never adhere to any religion - especially to evangelical Christianity, which I held in particular contempt.

From my early 20s on, I would waver between atheism and agnosticism, never coming close to considering that God could be real... When I moved to New York...everyone I knew was politically left-leaning, and my group of friends was overwhelmingly atheist...

To the extent that I encountered Christians, it was in the news cycle...I didn't feel I was missing much. So when I began dating a man who was into Jesus, I was not looking for God...

A few months into our relationship, my boyfriend called to say he had something important to talk to me about. I remember exactly where I was sitting in my West Village apartment when he said, "Do you believe Jesus is your Savior?" My stomach sank. I started to panic... When I answered no, he asked, "Do you think you could ever believe it?" Then he said the magic words for a liberal: "Do you think you could keep an open mind about it?" Well, of course. "I'm very open-minded!" Even though I wasn't at all...

A few weeks later I went to church with him... [When] the pastor preached I was fascinated. I had never heard a pastor talk about the things he did. Tim Keller's sermon was intellectually rigorous, weaving in art and history and philosophy... Each week, [he] made the case for Christianity... [and] expertly exposed the intellectual weaknesses of a purely secular worldview. I

came to realize that even if Christianity wasn't the real thing, neither was atheism.

I began to read the Bible. My boyfriend would pray with me for God to reveal Himself to me. After about eight months of going to hear Keller, I concluded that the weight of evidence was on the side of Christianity. But I didn't feel any connection to God and, frankly, I was fine with that.

Then one night in 2006, on a trip to Taiwan, I woke up in what felt like a strange cross between a dream and reality. Jesus came to me and said, "Here I am." It felt so real. I didn't know what to make of it. I called my boyfriend, but before I had time to tell him about it, he told me he had been praying the night before and felt we were supposed to break up. So we did. Honestly, while I was upset, I was more traumatized by Jesus visiting me.

I didn't know what to do, so I spoke with writer Eric Metaxas, whom I had met through my boyfriend and who had talked with me quite a bit about God. "You need to be in a Bible study," he said. "And Kathy Keller's Bible study is the one you need to be in." I didn't like the sound of that, but I was desperate.

I remember walking into the Bible study... I don't remember what was said that day. All I know is that when I left, everything had changed. I'll never forget standing outside that apartment on the Upper East Side and saying to myself, "It's true. It's completely true." ...A veil had been lifted off it. I had not an iota of doubt. I was filled with indescribable joy.

The horror of the prospect of being a devout Christian crept back in almost immediately. I spent the next few months doing my best to wrestle away from God. It was pointless... Slowly there was less fear and more joy. The Hound of Heaven had pursued me and caught me - whether I liked it or not.

~Kirsten Powers



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule November 10

#### Worship

#### Infants

Lisa Hobbs  
& Beth Griggs

#### Creepers

Cathy, Grace & Katie Smith

#### Toddlers

Debbie & Becca Duble

#### Floater

Ryan Duble

### Sunday School

#### Infants

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

#### Creepers

Anna Harnsberger  
& Anna Steere

#### Toddlers

Mike & Holly VanderGriend

#### November Coordinator:

Cayce Weekley

### MISSIONS CONFERENCE

CPC's 19<sup>th</sup> annual missions conference is November 10-17. This year's theme is *Across the Lands*, taken from Psalm 107.1-3, where the psalmist calls us to give thanksgiving for the Lord's redemptive work across the lands. Throughout the week we'll hear of God's work in distant lands, from massive international cities to the remotest hamlets, and how we can partner in the extension of His kingdom. We'll also hear of the Lord's work here in our land and among us. Make plans to join us Sunday, November 10, through Sunday, November 17, for many planned events.

### INTERNATIONAL ITEMS NEEDED

If you have any international items that could be used for decorations during the Missions Conference, please put your name on them and drop them off in Pastor Mullinax's office by November 12.

### YOUTH HAPPENINGS

#### Talent Show

All youth and parents are invited to attend our first annual Youth Talent Show Sunday, November 10, at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall.

#### Calendars

Parents: Updated youth calendars are available at the Welcome Center.

### THANKSGIVING POUNDING

It's time again for our annual collection of nonperishable food items to share with those in need. Please bring your donations of canned goods and staples and place them in the box outside Mark Wilson's office by November 20. Monetary donations are always welcome and are needed to purchase perishable items (turkey, ham, etc.) on the day of delivery. If you know someone in need or if you yourself could use a hand this year, please contact the church office or an elder.

### PRISON MENTOR MINISTRY TRAINING

The next Prison Mentor Ministry training for men to serve at Walker State Prison in nearby Rock Spring, GA, the first and only Faith and Character Based Prison in Georgia, will be Saturday morning, November 16, at First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga. For details, contact either Alan Bonderud (423-903-3700 or email [arbonderud@gmail.com](mailto:arbonderud@gmail.com)) or Doug Craven (423-902-2004 or email [dccraven@comcast.net](mailto:dccraven@comcast.net)). For endorsement, please ask CPC participants: R. Mauroner, G. Schreiner, N. Bowers, T. Crawford, R. Denkinger, E. Mullinax or T. Owens.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast Saturday, November 9, at 8:30 a.m. Brian Cosby is speaking on "Rebels Rescued: Multi-generational Discipleship."

### PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students as you pray. Here are a few of the many we have:

Taylor Helton	Chattanooga State
David Herberich	UTK
Jonathan Herberich	UT Dental School, Memphis
Sam Hobbs	UTC

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. For more details, click [here](#) to visit OCC's website. *November 23 is the deadline for boxes and items.* See Judy Foster for more information.

### A NOTE ABOUT OCC FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Last night in Covenant Corps our children learned about "Operation Christmas Child." We watched a video that told the children all about what Operation Christmas Child is and how they can help bring in items, make boxes and send them to needy children all over the world. This is going to be an on-going project that we will be undertaking over the next several weeks, with the last collection from the children being Wednesday, **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Your child received a flier about Operation Christmas Child when they left class so you will know specifics about what items to bring or not to bring into class next week so we can start packing some shoe boxes. I think this is going to be a very special hands-on project that the kids will really enjoy. So often our children are used to receiving gifts. I hope this will help them to get in the giving mindset. Thanks so much for your help in this endeavor.

~Holly Lehmann

### CHRISTMAS AT THE COVE

First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a bus trip to the Billy Graham training center at The Cove in Asheville, N.C. on December 14-15 for the Christmas program. Celebrate the birth of the Savior during a memorable Saturday evening of warm fellowship with a festive Christmas dinner and a program featuring the music of Point of Grace with Cliff Barrows hosting. The per-person price is \$175 for double occupancy. This trip is open to adults only. Call Elder David Cooper at FPC to get more information or to reserve your spot by November 11.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

November 13	Mission Conference Int'l Meal
November 20	Meatloaf
November 27	No Meal-Thanksgiving Service
December 4	Chicken and Dumplings
December 11	Pizza