



The eNewsletter

November 14, 2013

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

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
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
Youth/Parent Meetings

December 3

Mothers' Encouragement
Group

December 4

Wednesday Night Supper
Children's Choir
Wednesday Night Activities

December 5

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

December 7

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sanctuary Choir Lunch

December 8

Morning Worship Service
Mission Committee Meeting
Diaconate Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Concert

December 9

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

Monday I worked in the backyard for five hours. That statement may sound like bragging, and I guess I am. But it's also a statement of praise. By the middle of the afternoon I was exhausted, but it felt great. It's been a long time since I've been able to work that hard for that many hours.

A few weeks ago we had some trees cut down at the back of our property. Our neighbor owns the woods behind our house that provide us with both privacy and wonderful foliage. Over the past thirty years she's allowed us to dump various items in the woods. I'm sad to say I took advantage of that opportunity.

But with the cutting down of a few trees, what I disposed of over the years was no longer hidden. So I spent today doing penance for my past sins, as Ruth and I dug up and properly disposed in a dumpster my hidden transgressions.

Like a lot of my sins of the past, I didn't think at the time that what I was doing was really wrong. In fact, I thought it was justified. It was certainly quick and easy. And who cared? Who would ever see? Who would ever know?

But then, with just a few trees cut down, it all became visible, and it wasn't pretty. In fact, it was pretty awful. I thought about listing some of the thing I had tossed into the woods. But I'm too ashamed to share with you that information.

But today I was able to do something about my past failures. It wasn't fun, but it was satisfying to be able to undo the wrong I had done.

Several years ago my wife returned

from shopping to find me weeping in my study at home. I was weeping because the Lord had reminded me of some things that had long been hidden, tossed into the most heavily wooded portions of my memory. They were things I had never confessed out loud to anyone, including my Lord. In fact, I had convinced myself that these past events weren't all that important, for who would ever know, who would ever see? But then the Lord had cut down the trees blocking my view, and I could see all the ugliness of what I had done.

Past events are not like junk thrown into the woods. You can't clean them up. You can't undo what you've done. But what I could do, was ask the Lord's forgiveness. And that's what I did. Linda found me weeping because of the joy that was mine to know that I was forgiven of sins that had been buried for years.

I asked Linda to sit down and listen to me. I needed to confess those things aloud to her. She knew nothing about most of them. Some had taken place before we were married, others after. I knew listening to my litany wouldn't be pleasant. But I thought she needed to know.

And I needed to hear her say out loud, "I forgive you. And, more important, the Lord forgives you." I knew I was forgiven. But I needed to hear her audibly speak those words.

James 5.16: "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." I was healed. And today, my back yard looks a great deal better.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

November 17

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Joyce Trask

Creepers

Brian & Holly Lehmann

Toddlers

David & Kate Lambeth

Floater

Scott Beatty

Sunday School

Infants

Edyne Vatt & Brenda King

Creepers

Amy Wright & Jeannie Hall

Toddlers

Patty Liner & Jean
Mauroner

November Coordinator:

Cayce Weekley

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

November 20	Meatloaf
November 27	No Meal- Thanksgiving Service
December 4	Chicken and Dumplings
December 11	Pizza

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

CPC's 19th annual missions conference, *Aross the Lands*, is in full swing. Be sure to join one of the many special speakers planned for Sunday School classes this Sunday.

Sunday School Guest Presenters:

Dr. Tom & Ann Austin - Foundation Builders
Christine Harrison - Schum Fellowship Hall
Jill Finley - Youth Suite
Kay Burklin - Perseverers Classroom
Cara Childers - Choir Room
Pete & Joanna Vaughn - Children's Sunday School

The Missions Conference will conclude with a *Concert of Prayer for the Nations* led by Dr. Tom Austin in Schum Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

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 (due this Sunday) 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.

RENT-A-YOUTH

Rent-A-Youth helps our students raise the needed funds to attend youth activities. The youth need to raise money throughout the year, so more jobs are needed. At this time, the youth are working on raising money for the Fall Retreat. If you would like to *Rent-a-Youth*, request forms are outside of Chris' office or at the welcome center. Have questions or a request? Please email Christine Morrison at rpgchatt@comcast.net.

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Please be sure to make the following changes in your CPC Church Directory:
John Pippin..... johnpippin10@comcast
Elizabeth Davis..... e99100@gmail.com
Andrew and Tori Smith
.....4238 Bill Jones Rd, Apison, TN 37302

GRATEFUL GOBBLER

People from all walks of life will gather together for the three-mile Grateful Gobbler Walk held on Thanksgiving Day at 8:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Coolidge Park. Proceeds from the event are distributed to groups such as the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and the Chattanooga Homeless Coalition to help the needy in our community. For more information or to register, visit gratefulgobbler.org.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It is time to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2014. Please email or call Carol and let her know if you want weekly, monthly or quarterly envelopes by December 15. Email Carol at cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday Night Dinners are served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free. The maximum family donation is \$15.

The following shepherding groups have clean-up duty for November 20: J. Gaines, M. Griggs, J. King and T. Gaither. Please contact Jonathan Calloway (deacon in charge) to let him know you can help.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

Drew Lazor	UTC
Abby Lyons	UTC
Justin Martin	Calvin College
Cara Martof	Berry College

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.

OCC AND OUR CHILDREN

Last week, our children learned how **they** can help bring in items, make boxes and send them to needy children all over the world. We will be collecting items until Wednesday, **November 20th**. Thank you so much for your help in this endeavor.

~Holly Lehmann

COVENANT CORPS SCHEDULE

November 20:

Practicing being thankful by writing thank you cards and packing Operation Christmas Child boxes

November 27:

No Covenant Corps - Thanksgiving Service Thursday

December 4:

Christmas Party

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a lunch-eon ministry at Memorial Hospital. The third Thursday of each month, we provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you can contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes or fruit this week, please call or email the church office.

ADVENT CALENDAR

The Advent Calendars for the families with children (through 5th grade) are available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

WOMENS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner will be Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. Seating begins at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for 12 and under. Pre-registration and payment is required by Sunday, December 8. A nursery will be available for those pre-registered. This year's focus ministry is CRU, an outreach at Brainerd High School.