



# The eNewsletter

December 5, 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...*

#### **December 7**

Youth Service Project-Soup  
Kitchen  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
Sanctuary Choir Lunch

#### **December 8**

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

#### **December 9**

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

#### **December 11**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Children's Choir  
MS Christmas Caroling  
HS Gift Wrapping  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### **December 12**

Ladies' Bible Study

#### **December 13**

WM Christmas Dinner

#### **December 14**

Men's Breakfast  
Children's Choir Rehearsal  
MS Christmas Party

#### **December 15**

Morning Worship Service  
Membership Sunday  
Children's Choir Program

#### **December 18**

Caroling and Desserts  
Session Meeting

#### **December 19**

Memorial Hospital Lunch

#### **December 21**

HS Christmas Party

#### **December 24**

Office Closed at noon  
Lessons and Carols Service

#### **December 25**

Merry Christmas  
Office Closed

#### **January 1**

Happy New Years  
Office Closed

He's a little old man. He was always short but he's gotten shorter the last few years. Once he was rather stout but now he's almost skinny. He used to be quite a talker but now he doesn't have much to say.

He worked for the railroad repairing damaged vehicles and, when he came home, he didn't stop working. The times I was with him were usually spent cutting down trees, splitting wood and stacking the logs. He made the wood splitter we used. I don't know a lot about wood splitters, but his was by far the largest I've ever seen.

As long as I've known him (since the summer of '66) he's been a deacon in the Baptist church he and Linda's mother attended. Every Sunday afternoon after dinner, he'd go up to his bedroom and take the tape of the pastor's sermon and make copies. I'm not sure exactly how many but it took a couple of hours for him to complete his self-assigned task.

During the week he'd take a copy of the pastor's sermon to the shut-ins of his church. I told you he could talk. He loved visiting the shut-ins. Once a month he'd also take them a copy of "Our Daily Bread."

One of his pastors told me about the time their community was deluged by a flood. The pastor's salary was dependent upon what the people placed in the offering plate. Because of the flood there was no church that day. But my father-in-law, William Clyde Jackson, waded through the waters to take his tithe to the parsonage so the pastor and his family could have enough money to make it through the week.

When Linda first wrote home from college to tell her parents that she was dating a boy named "Render," he let it be known that he hoped she didn't get serious about

somebody with a name like that.

But we became good friends. He could be gruff. He could hurt your feelings without realizing he was doing so. He was about as stubborn as anyone I've ever known. As he told it, there were things – like bread or cake – that he "wouldn't eat with somebody else's mouth." But you never had any doubts about whether he loved you.

He built the house Linda grew up in. When her parents came to visit us, Linda always had a long list of things for Dad to fix. He could fix anything. And, in most cases, he fixed whatever was broken without going to a hardware store to buy a part. I don't know how he did it, but he did.

And then there came the day when he climbed into his car to go to the recycling center, took a wrong turn and kept driving until he ran out of gas some 250 miles later. It was several hours before a Connecticut policeman called to say they had found him by the side of the road, patiently waiting for someone to come to his aid.

After that, he assumed the police had taken away his license and we never corrected him.

My in-laws now live with Linda's sister and her husband, Carol and Joel, in Asheville, North Carolina. That's where we were for Thanksgiving.

Friday evening we sat around the table and sang "Amazing Grace." Dad, who at 91 doesn't always seem to know what's going on around him, sang every word. He loves his Lord, his wife, his family. And you should know that the only one whose name he can remember is that guy named Render.

~Pastor Caines



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule

December 8

#### Worship

##### Infants

Beth Griggs & Kelly Orthner

##### Creepers

Stephen & Mindy Haywood

##### Toddlers

Scott & Meg Orthner

##### Floater

Luke Orthner

### Sunday School

##### Infants

Peg May & Peggy Bandy

##### Creepers

Sue Spalding  
& Amy Creamer

##### Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

##### December Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting will immediately follow the worship service Sunday.

### BUDGET REPORT

In order to meet budget for 2013 we need \$251,309 in gifts to the general fund in the rest of December. This amount is a little smaller than what we needed at this time last year. ~Elder Tom Lowe

### YOUTH EVENTS

#### SNL (HS):

Soup Kitchen is on Saturday, December 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Youth are required to be 16 years old or accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to participate. If you have questions, feel free to call Sam Hobbs or Chris Gregory.

Gift Wrapping is on Wednesday, December 11, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The high school small groups will offer FREE gift wrapping to our church members. Whether you have one or 100 gifts, we are ready to wrap! Donations of wrapping paper and ribbon would be appreciated.

Christmas Party is Saturday, December 21, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Tony and Tracy Horton.

#### Route 68 (MS):

Christmas Caroling is on Wednesday, December 11, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The middle school small groups will be visiting local retirement homes to sing Christmas Carols to the residents.

Christmas Party is Saturday, December 14, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Chris & Reba Gregory.

### 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. 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](mailto:rpgchatt@comcast.net).

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with Operation Christmas Child through the giving of supplies, time, money and prayer. This year we provided 121 boxes, 41 which were packed by the children and their Wednesday night leaders. Please continue to pray for the children who will receive the boxes.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Pounding so generously this year! We amply provided for 18 families and individuals in our church and community. God is so good! Thank you for your open hearts and open hands.

### WOMENS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner will be Friday, December 13, 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.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men of all ages are encouraged to come and hear Chris Gregory speak at the Men's Breakfast Saturday, December 14, at 8:30 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Next week's Wednesday Night Dinner is Stromboli and is 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 December 11: D. Grant, M. Lander, M. Walker and K. Brown. Please contact Brian Lehmann (deacon in charge) to let him know you can help.

### PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students in your prayers. Many of them are finishing their fall semester of school and taking exams in the next two weeks.

### VISIT AMANI YA JUU

Please consider visiting Amani Ya Juu's Christmas Party December 5-7 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Purchase discounted gifts that give back at this CPC supported ministry. For more details visit their website ([www.amaniafrica.org](http://www.amaniafrica.org)) or their store at 420 S. Willow Street, Chattanooga (parking and entrance is on Chamberlain Street.)

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

It is time to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2014. Please [email](mailto:) or call Carol by December 15 and let her know if you want weekly, monthly or quarterly envelopes.