



The eNewsletter

December 12, 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 13

WM Christmas Dinner

December 14

Men's Breakfast
Route 68 Christmas Party

December 15

Morning Worship Service
Membership Sunday
Deacon Meeting
Children's Choir Program

December 18

Caroling and Desserts

December 19

Memorial Hospital Lunch

December 21

HS Christmas Party

December 22

Shepherding Groups Meet

December 24

Office Closed at noon
Lessons and Carols Service

December 25

Merry Christmas
Office Closed

January 1

Happy New Years
Office Closed

January 5

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Installation Service

January 7

Mothers' Encouragement
Group

January 8

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

January 9

Ladies' Bible Study

January 11

Men's Breakfast

January 12

Morning Worship Service
Deacon Meeting
MS D-Groups
HS SNL

January 13

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

I thought it might be helpful for me to expand upon the announcement made at the end of Sunday's Annual Congregational Meeting.

The Stated Clerk announced that the Session has set July 1, 2014 as the date when CPC will begin its search for its next Senior Pastor.

I fully support this decision and am grateful for it. The Session and I have talked for more than a year about the future of our church. As we have talked, it has become clear that we need to put into place a plan that will allow for as smooth a transition as possible between me and CPC's next Senior Pastor.

The Session has also expressed its desire that I continue on as staff, but in a lessened capacity. This is what Linda and I would want to do, as long as it is of benefit to the church.

And that's the bottom line: what is best for CPC.

I will be 67 in February. The search will begin in July. The search for a new Senior Pastor may take many months. Statistically, it may take up to two years. However long or short the search may prove, it is time for it to begin. It is Linda's and my prayer that God will give me the health to continue to serve as your Senior Pastor until the new man is identified.

The experiences of many churches imply that CPC will best be served if there is not a gap between my stepping down and the new Senior Pastor taking up his duties. When there is a gap between Senior Pastors it frequently becomes a difficult and challenging time for the congregation as it waits expectantly to identify the next Senior Pastor.

I am now in my twenty-sixth year as Senior Pastor of CPC. For a few of you, I have been your pastor for over thirty years. I could not have asked for more love and support than I have received from most of you most of the time. With gentle kindness the Session has reduced the number of hours per week that I work as your Senior Pastor.

I believe that CPC needs a Senior Pastor who can give more hours and energy to the job than I am now able to give. Twenty-six

years ago Hank Schum came into my office at East Ridge PC and talked about planting a new church in East Brainerd. I shared the vision with the Session and we were off and running.

The work of starting a new church was exciting, frustrating, exhausting and by God's grace, incredibly blessed. I am no longer physically able to provide the energy for a new vision of that sort that led to the formation of CPC.

CPC is a wonderfully blessed church. It is my honor to be your Senior Pastor. But it is time for a renewed vision. It is time to find the next man to take up the reins and provide energetic leadership.

As far as Linda and I are concerned, CPC is our church home. You are not simply our parishioners; you are our friends, our extended family.

Let me share with you a personal experience. I stepped down from being the pastor of Bethel PC in Sparta, Illinois to help begin a new church in Simpsonville, SC. As I prepared for the move, I worried about who would now be called by the Lord to love and care for that congregation. The man who followed me was . . . Bryan Chapell.

As we think and pray about this transition, we need to keep my Sparta experience in mind.

On a related note: Everyone nominated for elder, deacon and trustee was overwhelming endorsed by the vote of the congregation. Stop and pray for Tony Horton, Tracy Wright and John Wykoff as they take up their duties as elders; for Jeremy Armao, Ron Fullam, Dusty Kemp and Richard Mauroner as they begin to serve as deacons; and for Lynda Brown, Greg Duple, Duane Ferrel and Larry Miller as they continue to serve as trustees of the corporation.

In all these things, may God be glorified.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule December 15

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Sandi Schreiner

Creepers

Dawn & Emilia Reynolds

Toddlers

Mandi Johnson
& Kristin Sotelo

Floater

Andrew Schreiner

Sunday School

Infants

Jared & Sarah McCurry

Creepers

Eunice Martin
& Isaiah Harris

Toddlers

Ingrid Guyton
& Amy Maclellan

December Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

BUDGET REPORT

In order to meet budget for 2013 we need \$173,806 in gifts to the general fund by the end of December.

~Elder Tom Lowe

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31st to be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2013.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. with a service of Lessons and Carols.

YOUTH EVENTS

Route 68 Christmas Party is Saturday, December 14, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Chris & Reba Gregory.

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

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.

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Please be sure to make the following changes in your CPC Church Directory:

- Steve & Tammy Bradford
569 Magnolia Place, Ringgold, GA 30736
- Kyle Mullinax
5353 Lazard Street, Chattanooga TN 37412
- Jason & Crystal Middleton
1404 Fore Winds Hill, Ooltewah TN 37363

CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save those Christmas card stamps. Deposit them in the "mailbox" by Pastor Mullinax's office. These used stamps are processed and re-sold with all proceeds going to finance Sunday School curriculum for churches in Latin America.

CAROLING AND DESSERTS

The entire church family is welcome to meet at the church Wednesday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m. We will break up into small groups to go caroling at local retirement homes and various neighborhoods. Bring a dessert to share with everyone as we will meet back at the church for desserts and hot drinks when finished.

WOMENS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner will be Friday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. This year's focus ministry is CRU, an outreach at Brainerd High School.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men of all ages are encouraged to come to the Men's Breakfast this Saturday, December 14, at 8:30 a.m. Chris Gregory is speaking *On An Adventure With Dad*.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Miracle on Main Street will be presented by our Children's Music Ministry on Sunday evening, December 15, at 6:00 p.m.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

This is the last week to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2014. Please [email](#) or call Carol by December 15 and let her know if you want weekly, monthly or quarterly envelopes.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon 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.

PARENTS

Now that it is getting dark earlier, please keep a close eye on your children in and around the parking lot.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m.**
Route 68 (MS) Christmas Party
- Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.**
Children's Choir Christmas Program
- Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m.**
Caroling & Dessert
- Saturday, December 21**
SNL (HS) Christmas Party
- Sunday, December 22**
No Evening Service
- Tuesday, December 24**
Church Office Closed at noon
- Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.**
Candlelight Lessons & Carols
- Wednesday, December 25**
Church Office Closed
- Thursday, December 26**
No Ladies' Bible Study
No eNewsletter
- Sunday, December 29**
No Evening Service
- Wednesday, January 1**
Church Office Closed
- Thursday, January 2**
No eNewsletter