



The eNewsletter

December 19, 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 Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- December 21**
HS Christmas Party
- December 22**
Shepherding Groups Meet
- December 24**
Office Closed at noon
Lessons and Carols
- December 25**
Merry Christmas
Office Closed
- December 31**
Office Closed at noon
- January 1**
Happy New Years
Office Closed
- January 5**
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Installation Service
- January 8**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
- January 9**
Ladies' Bible Study
- January 11**
Men's Breakfast
- January 12**
Morning Worship Service
Mission Committee Meeting
Diaconate Meeting
MS D-Groups
HS SNL
- January 13**
Ladies' Evening Bible Study
- January 15**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting
- January 16**
Ladies' Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- January 18**
WM Council Brunch
- January 19**
Morning Worship Service
MS D-Groups
HS SNL

One thing I have enjoyed this season is working my way through some recommended Advent readings. It is always a treat to trace again the wonder and fidelity of our God and His gracious plan to save as it is revealed through these passages.

There's no single biblical tradition upon which the Advent season is based. It has no root in the Old Testament and no precedent in the Jewish tradition. In the Christian faith, Advent is something of a later addition in history, as is the celebration of Christmas itself. When the church began to celebrate Christmas in the fourth century, a period of preparation was added to the celebration. The length of this period varied but, by the tenth century, the accepted practice became four Sundays of preparation.

Within the liturgical calendar, Advent marks the beginning of the church year. The first Sunday of Advent is the one occurring nearest, or upon, November 30. While always including four Sundays, the season may vary in length from 22 to 28 days, concluding on Christmas Eve.

Advent has come to us through the Latin *adventus*, referring to the "coming" or "arrival" of Jesus Christ. Within the church a threefold meaning has been derived from this term: (1) The Advent of our Lord in the flesh at Christmas; (2) the Advent of the Lord in Word and Spirit; (3) the Advent of our Lord when He returns bodily in glory. If there is one theme that runs throughout all three, it is the joyful anticipation of what God has accomplished, is doing and will yet fulfill.

Another enjoyment of this Advent season took place last night. Several hundred of us gathered at Walker State Prison (WSP) in Rock Spring, Georgia, for worship. This number included First Presbyterian's choir, mentors in the prison ministry and 200 inmates. It was a rich and

glorious time! As we all worshipped together, you could sense boundaries and bars disappear. We were "of one accord", saved sinners, on equal footing before the cross and captured only by God's grace. First Presbyterian's choir led in worship through a wonderful Christmas concert and I had the privilege of preaching.

We have been given great access into WSP through this Prison Mentoring Ministry. Currently, about 60 mentors go over to WSP twice a month for one-on-one mentoring with an inmate. CPC has contributed eight to that number. Mark Casson, the PCA's director for prison ministry, is attempting to recruit another 160 mentors for those inmates who are waiting and eager to participate. For a ringing endorsement of this kind of ministry, just ask Richard Mauroner, Gerald Schreiner, Rich Denking, Tom Crawford, Nathan Bowers, Tim Owens, Charlie Saunders or me.

WSP is Georgia's one and only faith and character-based prison. This model is being closely observed by legislative leaders and penal officials. What takes place at WSP could be duplicated in other prisons in the region and God is blessing this effort!

The next training session to serve at WSP will be late January. The mandatory training is usually for several hours on a Saturday morning. We'd love to have you join us.

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, let me convey on behalf of the church staff our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

December 22

Worship

Infants

Diana Bowers & Judy Foster

Creepers

Daniel & Camille Platt

Toddlers

Nathan & Olivia Bowers

Floater

Julia Bowers

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Creepers

Kelly, Madeleine
& Abigail Jennings

Toddlers

Selah, Brandon
& Sophia Cross

December Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

BUDGET REPORT

In order to meet budget for 2013 we need \$156,256 in gifts to the general fund by the end of December.

~Tom Lowe, Treasurer

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31 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.

READ-THRU-THE BIBLE THIS YEAR

Take the opportunity this year to read through the scripture in one year individually or with your family. The material to aid you is available at the Welcome Center.

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.

PARENTS

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is a time when we clearly realize how much we have been blessed. As we rejoice in God's goodness through the gift of His Son, please especially remember in prayer:

Those who have lost loved ones who are especially missed during the holidays

The persecuted church around the world

Our missionaries

Our soldiers and their families

Our wounded soldiers

The staff of Covenant Presbyterian Church wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 21 SNL (HS) Christmas Party

Sunday, December 22 No Evening Service

Tuesday, December 24 Church Office Closed (noon)

Tuesday, December 24 Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 25 Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26 No Ladies' Bible Study

Sunday, December 29 No Evening Service

Tuesday, December 31 Church Office Closed (noon)

Wednesday, January 1 Church Office Closed

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our New Members who recently joined us.

Jonathan & Kansas Bradley

Lorelei*, Jayda*

4068 W. Freedom Circle, Ooltewah, TN 37363

(h) 423.956.4658; brandley_j@chattanooga.gov

(w) 423.845.3274; kansasbradley@gmail.com

The Bradley family recently moved to Chattanooga from Kingsport, Tennessee. Jonathan works for the Chattanooga police department.

Carolyn Brown

923 Pembroke Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37421

423.987.3673; cytbrown@aol.com

Carolyn is a retired Hamilton County music teacher. She has two grown daughters.

David & Bekah Gernhard

Charlotte*

212 Rolling Ridge Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421

(h) 603.731.7551; david.gernhard@gmail.com

(w) 484.798.4083; atkinson.bekah@gmail.com

David and Bekah recently moved here from Manchester, NH. David is a Financial Analyst with FSG Bank and they had their first child this week.

Jared McCurry

52 Pintail Drive, Ringgold, GA 30736

423-432-6050; mccurry@catt.com

Jared is the husband of Sarah McEachern McCurry and works in Bradley County.

Hope Martof

Hope is a 9th grader at Grace Academy and the daughter of Jim & Edie Martof.

Sarah Moore

Emilie, Alayna*, Larken*, Oliver*, Carpenter*

1125 Ridgetop Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421

901.304.6565; just.sarah.elizabeth@gmail.com

Bea Sanders

Bea is the daughter of Adam & Millie Sanders.

Mike Triplett

*Jake

7202 Ridgestone Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363

423.227.3325; miketrip@centurytel.net

Mike works for the Post Office in East Ridge and has one son, Jake, who is 7 years old.

Victoria Vatt

Victoria is a 9th grader and is the daughter of Dan & Edyne Vatt.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

SNL (High School) Christmas party is Saturday, December 21, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Tony and Tracy Horton.