



The eNewsletter

October 31, 2013

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

November 2

Daylight Savings Time Ends-
Turn back your clocks!

November 3

Lord's Supper Celebrated
MS D-Groups
HS SNL
Parent Class

November 5

Mothers' Encouragement
Group
WM Council

November 6

Wednesday Night Supper
Children's Choir
MS Route 68
HS D-Groups
Wednesday Night Activities

November 7

Ladies' Bible Study

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

I revisited an op-ed article that I had filed away. In the article, the author was pointing out that one of the great strengths of American society is the freedom of the individual. I'm sure there's much validity in such a statement. But to me, one of the great dangers in our contemporary society is that this freedom of the individual has often led to sinful individualism, a lack of community and an absence of commitment. There seems to be this overriding "right" in which individuals are exclusively committed to themselves. The net result can be seen in the fragmenting of families, communities and the society of which we are all a part. Sadly, this trend is also seen in many aspects of the church of Jesus Christ.

Now I'm not saying that there is not a legitimate and necessary aspect of individualism about our spiritual experience. But, what I'm hearing and witnessing more and more is that people today want "spirituality" (and they'll define that in countless ways), but not in the terms of the church of Jesus Christ, not in the terms of the *communion of the saints*.

It is the clear teaching of the Scriptures that one of the fundamental aspects of spiritual life is the communion of saints. We regularly and publicly declare that this is a fundamental truth we hold (cf. Apostles' Creed). May we never lose the richness and requirements of such a phrase because of our familiarity with it!

What are saints? Saints are those believers from all ages who are united to Christ (thus to one another) through saving faith in His atoning death.

What about communion? Perhaps a

good way to speak of the word "communion" is by looking at another word...koine. Koine Greek was the language of the era in which Jesus lived. It was common Greek, the language of the common people, the language of the marketplace. Koine means common or shared. Koinonia, a word that comes from koine, has the meaning of communion, fellowship, partnership, and relationship. It has the root idea of sharing or having something(s) in common. So when we talk of the communion of the saints, what we're talking about is those people who have been called into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, in some way sharing in fellowship, partnership, and relationship.

What do we share? Primarily, we share in the amazing graces, the very real suffering, the once and for all death, the powerful resurrection and the yet-to-be revealed glory of Jesus Christ. This is the staggering vertical dimension of our being united to the Son. And, secondarily (but, not unimportantly), we share in the love of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We participate in each other's gifts and graces. We are concerned for the mutual well-being of each member in the family of faith. This is the comforting and obligatory horizontal dimension of being united to the Son...and to all who belong to Him.

May God help Covenant Presbyterian Church - this community, this fellowship, this family - to not only confess, but demonstrate the **communion of the saints**.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

November 3

Worship

Infants

Sherry & Rachel Baiert
& Sally Forrester

Creepers

Carla Stevenson
& Lisa Hobbs

Toddlers

Josh & Teri Akovenko

Floater

Mollee Brown

Sunday School

Infants

Elizabeth Beatty
& Grace Morrison

Creepers

Heather Morrison,
Christopher Beatty
& Rachel Miller

Toddlers

Jason & Crystal Middleton

November Coordinator:

Cayce Weekley

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."

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

CPC's 19th 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, during the Worship Service and Sunday School. Then again on Wednesday, November 13, for an international dinner and special speakers. Many Shepherding groups have plans for special speakers throughout the weekend and the week will finish with Sunday morning on November 17.

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.

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) or Doug Craven (423-902-2004 or email dccraven@comcast.net). For endorsement, please ask CPC participants: R. Mauroner, G. Schreiner, N. Bowers, T. Crawford, R. Denkinger, E. Mullinax or T. Owens.

DVD ORDERS

You may fill out an order form for a DVD of *Covenant Beginnings* and *What Makes Covenant Covenant* at the Welcome Center. Cost is \$3.

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 6: J. Gaines, M. Griggs, J. King and T. Gaither. Please contact Pete Johnson (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:

Eric Griggs	Georgia Tech
John Mark Griggs	Covenant College
Caroline Gunter	UTC
Joshua Haynes	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. Stickers are available to place on the boxes marking age and gender of the child. You can participate several ways:

- * **Fill a shoe box** for a specific gender/age child (2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14). OCC requests the use of Walmart or Dollar store's plastic boxes which are shoe box sized as they are more durable. If you are able to write a note to include in your box, it would be a great blessing to that child as they have been known to prize things like letters and pictures well into adulthood. Collection point is the Ladies Sunday School classroom across from the coke machine.
 - * **Donate** - empty shoe boxes or items for shoe boxes. Sample items: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloths, small toys, combs, socks, school supplies, hard candy (no chocolate since it melts), etc.
 - * **Donate money** - OCC requests \$7 for shipping per box. Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, and put OCC on the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate no later than November 17.
 - * **Wrap and stuff boxes** on Saturday, November 23, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom.
- November 23 is the deadline for boxes and items.*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

November 6	Lasagna
November 13	Mission Conference Int'l Meal
November 20	Meatloaf
November 27	No Meal-Thanksgiving Service
December 4	Chicken and Dumplings
December 11	Pizza