



The eNewsletter

January 16, 2014

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

Looking Ahead...

- January 18**
WM Council Brunch
- January 19**
Sanctity of Life Sunday
Morning Worship Service
MS D-Groups
HS SNL
- January 21**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- January 22**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
- January 23**
Ladies' Bible Study
- January 25**
Youth/Parent Snow Tubing
- January 26**
Morning Worship Service
Kemp Baby Shower
Gernhard Baby Shower
Shepherding Groups Meet
- January 29**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
- January 30**
Ladies' Bible Study
- January 31**
Men's Conference
- February 1**
Men's Conference
- February 2**
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Youth Super Bowl Party
- February 4**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting
- February 5**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activity
- February 6**
Ladies' Bible Study
- February 7**
Valentine's Dinner

We are so thankful for the new class of officers that God has given to Covenant Presbyterian Church! My homily at their installation this past Sunday evening was taken from 1 Timothy 3 - the passage that most clearly lays out the qualifications of elders and deacons. Since the church stands or falls on the quality of its leaders, I want to take an opportunity to expand somewhat on those qualifications and to drive home their importance for the spiritual health of the church.

These qualifications can be divided into four different areas which, taken together, provide us with a definition of what Paul means when he says that elders ("overseers") must be "above reproach." Paul begins with an extensive list of personal qualifications that speak to the character of the elder. Reading down through these qualifications, it is evident that Paul requires an elder to be a spiritually mature believer who has come to the point in his walk with Christ that his character increasingly reflects the character and priorities of his Savior. He is also expected to be "apt to teach:" i.e. the elders are called to be the teachers of Christ's church.

The second area of qualification has to do with the elder's household: he must "manage his own household well." Paul has already said that an elder must be a "one woman man" (that's the literal meaning of the phrase "husband of one wife"), so having a good marriage is part of his qualification. But, beyond this, his Christ-like character must be reflected in his household - particularly in the way he relates to his children. An elder's home should reflect positively on the doctrine he professes.

Third, Paul insists that the elder must not be a new believer. Eldership requires experience. In other words, an elder must have walked with Christ long enough to

be confident in Jesus' love and, at the same time, clearly aware of his constant need for grace. There is a godly wisdom that comes with this kind of experience that is a strong evidence that God has called a man to the office of elder.

The final area of qualification seems, at first, to be somewhat strange: an elder must "be well thought of by outsiders." This requirement speaks to how an elder lives his life outside of church. How is it that the attitude of unbelievers should have a bearing on whether a man becomes an elder or not? As Peter says (1 Peter 3:16), we all ought to live in such a way that we give unbelievers no cause for criticism. This is particularly true for an elder, since he represents the church of Jesus Christ to his community.

These are stringent requirements! And we at Covenant Presbyterian Church take these requirements very seriously. By God's grace, we are blessed with the elders God has given us. Ours is a strong and fully qualified Session comprised of saints who are also sinners. None of us fully meets all of these requirements all the time. However, by the grace of God, the power of His indwelling Spirit and our mutual accountability as the elders of this church, we are enabled to live out these qualifications for God's glory.

Why is this important? Because a church reflects the character of its leaders: Qualified leaders make for a spiritually healthy church. This is why Paul exhorted Timothy with these words: "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:16)

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

January 19

Worship

Infants

Gretchen & Mollee Brown
& Esther McEachern

Creepers

Cathy, Grace & Katie Smith

Toddlers

Josh & Teri Akovenko

Floater

Jonah Harris

Sunday School

Infants

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

Creepers

Anna Harnsberger
& Julia Gracy

Toddlers

Mike Holly VanderGriend

January Coordinator:

Judy Foster

BABY SHOWER

There is a baby shower for Rachel Kemp on Sunday, January 26, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Rachel and her daughter are registered at Target and Babies R Us.

There is a baby shower for Rebekah Gernhard on Sunday, January 26, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Perseverers classroom. Rebekah and her daughter are registered at Target and Babies R Us.

2ND ANNUAL VALENTINE DINNER

Friday evening, February 7, the choir will hold their 2nd Annual Valentine Dinner at the church. A four course dinner will be served, and entertainment and a cake auction will also be thrown in. Cost? Free of charge! Reservations are required and sign-ups will begin this Sunday. Donations will be accepted in order to help fund a choir mission trip to Belarus in 2017. It is our hope to send 20 or more to Belarus, so we will be raising funds over the next several years. See Jeremy for any details.

YOUTH: LOOKING AHEAD

The Parent Group resumes this Sunday, January 19, in the Frederick Room from 6:00 p.m. Dr. Tracy Horton will lead this group as it discusses the following topics: social media, teenagers and stress, gender differences, peer pressure, cyber-bubble, obsessions, motivating boys and media. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Parent/Youth Snow Tubing: If you or your students registered for the Parent/Youth Snow Tubing trip, be at CPC no later than 8:30 a.m. on January 25. Students should bring the balance of \$10 along with money for lunch and warm clothes. We will arrive back at CPC no later than 4:00 p.m. Saturday evening. If you have questions, call Chris Gregory at 423.718.6800.

The Youth Super Bowl Party is Sunday, February 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the home of Dee and Lisa Hobbs. Please bring a salty or sweet treat to share.

The Dare-2-Share Conference is March 14-15 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. This event is open to any 6th through 12th grade student. The cost is \$56 if you register by February 26. The cost will go up to \$69 after February 26. Please see Chris Gregory or Sam Hobbs to sign up.

The Edge Middle School Conference is June 16 thru June 20 at Covenant College and costs \$275. Space is limited so turn in your deposit of \$50 with a registration form to Chris Gregory or Sam Hobbs by April 27.

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 rpghatt@comcast.net.

MEN'S CONFERENCE

The Men's Ministry Conference is at CPC on Friday, January 31, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be no dinner Friday night but breakfast will be served Saturday morning around 8:30 a.m. Reverend Philip Caines, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, is speaking on *Tools of the Trade: Men and the Means of Grace*. The conference will be in Schum Fellowship Hall with a cost of \$10.00 per person recommended but not required.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and is served 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 the month of January: D. Elwood, T. Schreiner, B. Higgins, M. Wilson, . Please contact Brian Lehmann (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:

Daniel Trask	UTC
Jason Marrs	Chattanooga State
Emily Vatt	East TN State University
Josh Adams	UTC

LOST AND FOUND

The bookcase and stairwell next to the coke machine have filled up with precious items left behind at church. Please be sure to check these two locations for any item you may have misplaced!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

January 22	Soup & Salad
January 29	Tater Tot Casserole
February 5	Breakfast
February 12	Taco Salad
February 19	Chicken Tetrazzini
February 26	Cowboy Casserole
March 5	Enchiladas/Spanish Rice
March 12	Baked Ziti
March 19	Chicken & Rice
March 26	Meatball Subs
April 2	Heidie's Surprise
April 9	Meatloaf
April 16	No Meal - Seder Dinner
April 23	Sweet & Sour Chicken
April 30	Taco Salad
May 7	Grilled Chicken/Fettuccini
May 14	Lasagna
May 21	Hot Dogs