



The eNewsletter

June 12, 2014

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of the Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

June 13

Adams/O'Rourke Wedding
(Private/Off Site)

June 14

Men's Breakfast
Reynosa Mission Trip Ends

June 15

Morning Worship Service
Sunday School

June 16

MS *The Edge* Conference Begins
WM Night Owl Bible Study

June 17

General Assembly Begins
WM Philippians Bible Study

June 18

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

June 19

Memorial Hospital Lunch
Ministry
Swim Day

June 22

Membership Sunday
Morning Worship Service
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet

June 23

Music Camp Begins
WM Bible Study
Men's Genesis Bible Study

June 24

WM Philippians Bible Study
Session Meets

June 25

Mission: Chattanooga

June 26

Swim Day

June 27

Music Camp Ends

June 29

Music Camp Program
Ice Cream Social

June 30

WM Night Owl Bible Study
Men's Genesis Bible Study

July 1

WM Council
WM Philippians Study

Having just returned from three weeks of intensive ministry in Nigeria, all I can do is summarize what was accomplished and try to give you a taste for what God is doing in that needy country. I call it needy for, although fully half of Nigeria's 170 million people are designated "Christian," the gospel of salvation by grace through faith and the truths contained in God's Word are often unclear – even to church leaders!

By God's grace – and because you prayed – I was able to teach five conferences in three weeks. All of these conferences took place in the southwestern area of the country, far from the religious/tribal violence that is an almost daily occurrence in the north.

The work began in Shagamu, where I met with fifty Pentecostal pastors to teach them how to properly interpret the Bible. While the believers here strongly believe the Bible to be God's Word, they often treat it as a "magic book," considering anything found in it to be God's guidance. In one of our Q & A sessions, a senior minister insisted that ALL sickness was caused by demonic activity and supported his claim by citing portions of three unrelated verses taken out of context! This is a very common practice, and it leads to huge problems in the church. Since so few leaders have been trained to properly interpret Scripture verses are often taken out of context, erroneous teachings are justified by one or two proof texts, and whole sections of the Bible are neglected because they do not fit with the preacher's favorite doctrines. By God's grace, those who attended this conference were able to laugh when they saw themselves revealed in my examples of poor interpretation, and came away with the conviction that they needed to follow the method they had just been taught when they studied their Bibles.

I then moved to Abeokuta for a weekend conference in a small church and the

next week to Emure where I taught 250 church leaders. Both these conferences were on Biblical Marriage – a much-needed topic in Africa where marriages are often filled with conflict and twisted by false cultural assumptions on the roles of both husbands and wives. Again, God blessed His Word and, judging by the questions asked during the conferences, began the process of healing some of those marriages. The conference in Emure was particularly important because that large group included leaders from over thirty churches coming from many denominations. As these leaders return to their congregations to teach this material, the impact on that community will be powerful.

Returning to Akure (Gideon's home), I taught a weekend conference on Leadership from 1 Timothy, and then I spent the final week teaching the book of Hebrews in the MINTS Bible School in Akure. None of these leaders had ever studied through the book, so it became a doorway for them to not only more fully understand the work of Christ for us, but also grasp the importance of the Old Testament as the foundation for the New Testament. Hebrews' teaching on faith was especially applicable since most of them viewed faith as a "lever" to force God to act on their behalf. This view belittles God and dishonors Christ. Faith is not believing that God will give me an SUV. Rather, faith focuses on Christ as the sum and substance of ALL of God's promises, in particular THE promise: "I will be your God and you will be my people." Seeing this clearly taught in Hebrews literally changed their view of Christianity.

I don't have the space to tell you about so many other things: encouraging conversations, car troubles, travel challenges, awesome scenery, meeting a king, or food adventures. Ask me about it sometime and I'll be glad to tell you some stories.

Thank you for supporting this vital work – an extension of CPC's own ministry – through faithful prayer and giving.

~ Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule
June 15

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Joyce Trask

Creepers

Daniel & Camille Platt

Toddlers

Duane & Mindy Horton

Floater

Will Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Susan Close
& Eunice Martin

Creepers

Ingrid Guyton
& Debby Gardner

Toddlers

Craig Miller
& Susan Mobley

June Coordinator:

Kay Gaither

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The CPC Men's Ministry would like to invite men of all ages to the monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, June 14, at 8:30 a.m. Kevin Smith, the pastor of New City Presbyterian, is speaking on "Men in Spiritual Warfare."

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Ministry is beginning a summer men's Bible study on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. on *The Gospel According to Genesis*, lead by John Herberich and Mark Miller. The study starts on June 23 and lasts until August 18 and meets at Mark Miller's home (761 Lanoir St. Chattanooga). Please contact Mark Miller at 423.298.8842 with any questions.

MUSIC CAMP JUNE 23-27

Music Camp 2014 is right around the corner! Kids from kindergarten through entering 6th grade are invited to come and join us for a week of music, drama, crafts, Bible and all-out fun! You can register and pay on our church website. Cost for the week long camp is \$25. See Jeremy Gaines for more details.

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.

WM BIBLE STUDIES SUMMER 2014

MONDAYS

• Study on *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller
Meets the 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom with Ann Walker, Eva Herberich and Diane Lazor leading the study.

• Study for Night Owls using *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full* by Gloria Furman
Begins on June 16 and meets every other week from 8:30 p.m. in the Rossville, GA home of Emily Calloway. Books can be purchased in the lobby or in digital format.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

• Bible Study on *Philippians*
Meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies Classroom with Marla Neal leading the study. A nursery is provided.

SWIM DAY

Swim days at the Mays' pool are Thursdays throughout the summer, from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and for cleanup.

WE NEED YOU!

It's time to put those baptismal vows into action! There are immediate needs for the Covenant Corps program beginning Wednesday nights this fall. If you are willing to volunteer, please [email](#) Holly Lehmann.

Specific needs for the Covenant Corps program on Wednesday nights include:

- ⇒ Helpers in 3 year old class
- ⇒ Teachers and helpers in 4 year old class
- ⇒ Teachers/helpers in Kindergarten class
- ⇒ Helpers in combined 1st-2nd grade class

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

This summer at CPC, Mission: Chattanooga meets each Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

On Campus activities: Mission Kidz, Cooking with a Purpose (meets June 25, July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20), Missions Support (stamp ministry & letter writing), general grounds keeping, Sanctuary Choir Practice and prayer group.

Off Campus: Weekly Visitation (at local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, with our shut-ins), Amani Ya Juu Warehouse renovation and other construction/renovations projects as needed.

STAMPS SUPPORT MISSIONS

Did you know that stamps from letters can be used as revenue for missions? Please place your saved foreign and domestic stamps, in good condition, in the collection container outside Pastor Mullinax's office. The stamps are being sorted and prepared to mail to Florida during Mission: Chattanooga where they are sent to a Christian retirement community for processing. The money from the sale of these stamps is then used to fund new Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools in Latin America.