



The eNewsletter

June 26, 2014

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...

June 27

Music Camp Ends

June 29

Morning Worship Service
Music Camp Program
Ice Cream Social

June 30

Men's Genesis Bible Study

July 1

WM Philippians Study
WM Council

July 2

Youth Bible Study
Youth Praise Team Practice
Mission: Chattanooga

July 3

Swim Day
Youth Pool Day Plus

July 4

Independence Day
Office Closed

July 6

Morning Worship Service
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Stephens/Gaither
Bridal Shower
Youth Summer Fellowship

July 7

WM Night Owl Bible Study
Men's Genesis Bible Study

July 8

WM Philippians Study

July 9

Youth Bible Study
Youth Praise Team Practice
Mission: Chattanooga

July 10

Swim Day

July 12

Tennessee Valley Presbytery

July 13

Morning Worship Service
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meets
Delk Baby Shower
Diaconate Meets
Summer Youth Fellowship

Last week Pastor Steere, Ruling Elder Tom Schreiner and Linda and I were in Houston, Texas, attending the 42nd meeting of the General Assembly of the PCA.

Tuesday evening the GA met for worship. Following worship, Dr. Bryan Chapell was elected moderator for the coming year. Dr. Chapell preached for us during our 10th anniversary celebration and at the dedication of our new Sanctuary.

On Wednesday and Thursday the GA received the reports of the various Committee of Commissioners which had met on Monday and Tuesday to review the work of the various denominational agencies (such as Covenant College) and to consider the particular concerns or complaints of individual Presbyteries or Sessions.

One of the major focuses of this year's GA was to hear, debate, and ultimately receive a position paper formulated over the past three years concerning the issue of preaching the Gospel to the Islamic world.

Islam acknowledges that Jesus was a great prophet, but not as great as the prophet Mohammed. The biblical teaching that Jesus is the Son of God is highly offensive to followers of Islam. They ridicule the idea of a virgin birth and mockingly ask if our God had sexual relations with Mary.

Furthermore, for them the idea that the man Jesus is also God is simply outrageous. Their god, Allah, is an utterly transcendent being who would never take on human flesh and could not die on a cross.

The concern raised by several missionary movements is how to preach the Gospel to followers of Islam without giving immediate offense to their cultural ideas and prejudices.

The paper presented and received by the GA concludes that the preaching of the Gospel is always offensive. For example, our culture is offended to be told that everyone is sinful before the sight of God because they have rebelled against the One by Whom and for Whom they were made.

As is true for us, so it is true for the Islamic world - the preaching of the cross

causes offense. It always has and always will. Only the Holy Spirit can change the hearts of those offended and give them eyes to see the truth of the good news and the faith to embrace Jesus as Savior, Lord and King. Therefore, the Gospel is to be preached to all peoples everywhere without compromise.

Islam worships Allah. Our culture worships the idol of pluralism. The Gospel is offensive to both our cultures. The observation was made that we may well face increasing opposition from those who worship the default position of our day.

Pluralism teaches the secular "truth" that there are no absolute truths, except for the absolute "truth" that there are no absolutes. Pluralism insists that everyone should be free to believe what they choose to believe. Therefore, anyone who preaches that there are absolute truths that must be acknowledged by everyone is a bigot. Which means that our Lord was bigoted to insist that He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14.6).

As a result, we are bigots if we dare to insist that He is God, the One by Whom and for Whom we were made, and has handed down to us from on high His absolute truth, making known to us mankind's desperate circumstances, the only way of deliverance, and how we should therefore live.

I am not a prophet (nor the son of a prophet), but I urge "you who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem [His church] and makes it a praise in the earth" (Isaiah 62.6-7). Pray so, remembering that Jesus promised He would build His church and not even all the fury of hellish ideas could overcome it.

May the Lord not treat us as we deserve, be we followers of Islam or worshipers of the idol of pluralism. May He be merciful to us by sending the Holy Spirit to take away our stone cold hearts, replacing them with hearts alive to the Lord and His eternal truths, for the sake of His glory and our temporal and eternal welfare.

~ Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule June 29

Worship

Infants

Susan Helton
& Gretchen Brown

Creepers

Joey & Michelle Logterman

Toddlers

Josh & Renee Ray

Floater

Grace Logterman

Sunday School

Infants

Domekia & Ellie Gaines

Creepers

Julia Gracy &
Heather & Grace Morrison

Toddlers

Jack Cross & Jeannie Hall

June Coordinator:

Kay Gaither

BRIDAL SHOWERS

A bridal shower in honor of Lacy Stephens, bride-elect of Joe Gaither, is Sunday, July 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Lacy is registered at Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Ministry summer Bible study on *The Gospel According to Genesis*, led by John Herberich and Mark Miller began Monday, June 23, but there is still time to join. The study lasts through August 18 and meets at 7:00 p.m. at Mark's home. Please contact Mark at 423.298.8842 with any questions.

RENT-A-YOUTH

This program helps our students raise the needed funds to attend youth activities. The youth need to raise money throughout the year, so many jobs are needed. To *Rent-a-Youth*, use the request forms at the Welcome Center. If you have questions or a request, please send Christine Morrison an email at rpgchatt@comcast.net.

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

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The monthly birthday and anniversary calendar for July is now available at the Welcome Center. Be sure to pick up your copy!

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.

CHANGES/CORRECTIONS TO THE DIRECTORY

Please be sure to make the following changes in your [CPC Church Directory](#):

John Herberich

..... johnherberich@gmail.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST

There will be NO Men's Breakfast in July. Please mark your calendar for the next Men's Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, August 2, at 8:30 a.m. Dan Gilchrist, pastor of Chattanooga Valley PCA is speaking on *Successes and Failures in a Man's Gospel Cycle*.

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

This summer at CPC, Mission: Chattanooga meets each Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A nursery is provided for children 3 and under for those participating in Mission: Chattanooga.

On Campus activities: Mission Kidz, no Cooking with a Purpose (meets July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20), Missions Support (stamp ministry & letter writing), general grounds keeping 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.