



The eNewsletter

August 21, 2014

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...

August 23

Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Preview Breakfast

August 24

Youth Back-2-School Bash

August 25

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

August 26

Last Ladies' Philippians Study

August 27

Wednesday Night Supper
Resumes
Sanctuary Choir Practice
Wednesday Night Activities
Resume
WM Fall Kick-Off

August 29

Chicks 'n Chocolate

August 31

Shepherding Groups Meet

September 1

Labor Day—Office Closed

September 2

WM Council

September 3

Wednesday Night Supper
Children's Choir Begins
Sanctuary Choir Practice
Wednesday Night Activities

September 4

Ladies' Bible Study

September 6

Men's Breakfast

September 7

Morning Worship Service
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
MS D-Groups
HS SNL

September 8

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

September 10

Wednesday Night Supper
Children's Choir
Sanctuary Choir Practice
Wednesday Night Activities

September 11

Ladies' Bible Study

Questions on our hearts and minds can range from cynical to sincere. We might genuinely seek answers at certain points in our lives, while other times aiming more at testing the answerer. However, this is nothing new.

Hearing of Solomon's great fame and of his relation to the name of the LORD (1 Kings 10.1), the Queen of Sheba planned a trip to Jerusalem. With her royal entourage and offerings, she brought all of the questions she wanted answered. Whether she was coming to the king known as the wisest man in the world to test him with riddles or coming with the hope of finding wisdom in a world of questions, we do not know. The account of the meeting reports of the queen's interrogation and the king's attempt at answering. "And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her." (1 Kings 10.3)

When we aren't always sure what the questions are, or even that the answers can be something real, their interaction is significant. Whether the queen had curiosity or intrigue behind her questions, Solomon treated her inquiries as respectfully as he treated the queen herself. The story conveys that she was overwhelmed... "there was no more breath in her." (1 Kings 10.5) The insight of one whose wisdom came from God left her breathless.

Most of us are not known for reputations of wisdom and opulence like King Solomon. The questions that presently berate Christianity often come with heated words and intimidating contexts. More often than not, it seems Christians are the ones who are left overwhelmed. Yet, God's Word

remains: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3.15) When we're faced with loaded questions, it's a task that easily becomes lost in arrogance or fear, defensiveness or dismissiveness.

When Solomon first asked God for wisdom, he asked with knowledge of God's greatness and an understanding of his desperate need. He was far from perfect, and knew his own answers would fall short. "Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong," he prayed. "For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" (1 Kings 3.9) A Christian response to the questions on the hearts of the world - whether angry or earnest - grows out of a response to the heart of God.

Catching her breath, the queen left Solomon with a picture of a greater kingdom: "Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel." (1 Kings 10.9) The queen saw in Solomon the greatness of his God. She saw that it was his God who put him exactly where he was in life and in wisdom. She also saw in Solomon the evidence of God's love for his servant and the people he ruled.

By God's Spirit, whether the questions on our hearts and the questions of our world are known or unknown, voiced or unvoiced, cynical or sincere, we can hold in Christ an answer for the hope that is within us.

~ Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

August 24

Worship

Infants

Diana Bowers & Joyce Trask

Creepers

Julia & Olivia Bowers

Toddlers

Kenyon & Marcy Wilson

Floater

Scott Beatty

Sunday School

Infants

Kimberly & Courtney Swanson

Creepers

Tammy & William Higgins & Susan Close

Toddlers

Susan Mobley & Craig Miller

August Coordinator:

Marcy Wilson

BRIDAL SHOWER

A drop-in bridal shower/reception in honor of Bethany Griffin, bride-elect of Jamie Sexton, is August 24, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Bethany and Jamie are leaving for China in early September, and they would love the opportunity to catch up with her church family and say goodbye. Please bring a favorite recipe card for Bethany's collection. In lieu of gifts, please consider American Express, VISA, Amazon and Ikea gift cards, or money as they make their transition overseas.

YOUTH BACK-2-SCHOOL BASH

There are some big changes coming to our youth program this year. Sunday, August 24, at 6:00 p.m. your family is invited to find out more at our 7th Annual Back-2-School Bash. The evening starts with food, fun, inflatables and fellowship, followed by an informational meeting outlining this year's youth events. Parents and youth are invited. Nursery provided for children 3 and under.

MATTHEW SMITH & INDELIBLE GRACE CONCERT

Matthew Smith is a Nashville-based singer-songwriter who writes brand new music to centuries-old hymn texts. He is in concert Sunday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.) at Brainerd Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. For more details, visit www.bpcepc.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Wednesday, August 27, the Women's Ministry will have a short meeting after dinner in Schum Fellowship Hall. This year's fall Bible studies, book studies and fellowship groups will be presented.

COVENANT CORPS

Looking for a fun, engaging way for your child to spend Wednesday nights? Beginning August 27, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. the children's ministry offers an exciting program called Covenant Corps, for your 3 year old through 5th grade child. This wonderful program explores, in an age appropriate fashion, God's awesome design for His people and our opportunity to participate in God's plan for reaching the world around us. Hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Nursery volunteers are needed the following dates:

- August 31.....Toddler room during Sunday School
- September 7.....Creepers during Worship
- September 1.....Creepers during Sunday School

If you are able to help out, please contact Heather Harris at 706.891.8754 or jeh1224@aol.com.

CHICKS 'N CHOCOLATE

On Friday, August 29, at 7:00 p.m. the CPC women are invited to Camille Platt's home for a Pokeno Game Night. This a fun night of part bingo, part white elephant gift exchange. Bring a \$5 gift and a snack to share. RSVP to Camille Platt at 706.935.6695 or danielandcamille@hotmail.com. We're excited to see you there!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday Night Suppers return August 27 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Your family will not want to miss the first meal because it is **FREE!** For future meals, the suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free, with a maximum family donation of \$15.

The following shepherding groups have clean-up duty for August 27: J. Gaines, M. Griggs, T. Wright, T. Lowe and E. Mullinax. For the month of September, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: K. Henry, E. Brown, J. Wykoff, J. Hildebrand and A. Sanders. Please contact your shepherding elder to let him know when you can help.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new Sunday School class will begin August 31 in the Parlor. The class called "So, What's Next" is for those students who are finishing up their last year of high school. This class will be taught by Tracy Horton and Drew Lazor. Please come and see **WHAT'S NEXT**.

26TH ANNUAL FCA 5K/10K RUN

The 26th annual 5K run for FCA will be held Labor Day, September 1, at Chattanooga State. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. with the race starting at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds support FCA's ministry in southeast Tennessee. For more information go to their website: www.chattanoogaFCA.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar with the following events if you are interested in participating:

- September 26-27.....Marriage Seminar with Kelly & Tabitha Kapic
- October 24-26.....Youth Fall Retreat at Ponderosa Bible Camp
- October 10-12.....Women's Ministry Fall Retreat at Oak Haven

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

- August 27 Spaghetti
- September 3 Chicken Casserole
- September 10 Meatball Subs & Tater Tots
- September 17 Creamy Sausage Pasta (Heidie's Surprise)
- September 24 Breakfast
- October 1 Taco Salad
- October 8 Chicken Tetraxini
- October 15 Swedish Meatballs
- October 22 Chili
- October 29 Reformation Celebration
- November 5 Chicken & Rice
- November 26 Thanksgiving Service - No Meal
- November 12 Mission Conference - No Meal
- November 19 BBQ
- December 3 Sweet & Sour Chicken
- December 10 Cowboy Casserole
- December 17 Christmas Caroling - No Meal