



The eNewsletter

December 4, 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 Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

December 6

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sanctuary Choir Lunch

December 7

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Congregational Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Concert

December 8

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

December 10

Wednesday Night Supper
Children's Choir
Wednesday Night Activities

December 11

Ladies' Bible Study

December 12

WM Christmas Dinner

December 13

MS Christmas Party

December 14

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Diaconate Meeting
Children's Christmas Program

December 15

Ladies' Night Owl Bible Study

December 16

Mothers' Encouragement
Group

December 17

Caroling & Dessert
Session Meeting

December 18

Memorial Hospital Lunch

December 20

HS Christmas Party

December 21

Morning Worship
Sunday School

December 24

Office Closed at Noon
Lessons & Carols Service

December 25

Merry Christmas
Office Closed

Mary did you know?, the song Jeremy sang this past Sunday morning, is high on my list of favorites. I realize it's somewhat speculative, but the series of questions it asks are, for me, a proper reflection upon Mary's lack of full understanding.

In Luke 2, we're told that after hearing the shepherd's story of being visited by angels announcing Mary's baby boy was a Savior, the Christ, the Lord, Mary "treasured up all these things, *pondering* them in her heart." (Luke 2.19)

And then, twelve years later, we're told in Luke 2.51 that Mary was again treasuring up in her heart words spoken to her. This time, the speaker is her twelve-year-old Son.

For three days Mary and Joseph had been looking for Him. (Read Luke 2.41-51 to know why He was "missing.") They finally found Him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, asking questions and amazing them with His answers to their questions.

Understandably, Mary rebukes Him for having gone missing. (Think about that. Mary rebukes Jesus.) But, His response sets her to pondering: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Then, there's the episode in Mark 3 where Jesus returns to His hometown and is so caught up in ministering to those who crowd around Him, He hasn't time to eat. What mother is going to let her son go hungry?

In Mark 3.21, we're told that his family was so troubled by all this they went to "rescue" Him. It was their conclusion that He must be out of His mind. This story resumes in verse 31, where we're told that it was His *mother* and His brothers who came looking for Him.

So, what did Mary know? Before her Son's death and resurrection, she knew less than you know. And, being just like us, she had her moments of doubt and uncertainty. She also had her times of great torment. She would see her Son arrested, falsely accused and found guilty of heresy. She would see Him stand battered and bloodied before a crazed mob demanding His crucifixion. She would see Him drag His cross through the streets of Jerusalem. She would see Him nailed to a cross, the Object of further ridicule and mocking. And, she would see Him die.

How many questions flooded her mind? How many moments did she recall, beginning with the visit of Gabriel prior to her virginal conception? How she must have struggled to hold on to her faith in the Lord's promise concerning her Son.

She was just like us, with our questions, with our uncertainties, with our moments of doubt. But, like us, there came that day when all her questions were answered, her uncertainties settled, her doubts resolved.

For, on that third day after she saw Him die, she saw Him standing in the upper room, alive, eating a piece of fish, and preparing her and the others to be witnesses to the good news that He is God the Son, the long-promised Man born of woman, the long anticipated Son of David, Who has crushed beneath His feet the Head of the Evil One, and now reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

And, one day, be it soon, we will see Him face to face, and then, we will know, even as we are known by Him.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule December 7

Worship

Infants

Becky Pearce
& Susan Helton

Creepers

Lisa Hobbs
& Allison Colberg

Toddlers

Kate Lambeth
& Britt Collier

Floater

Ava Akovenko

Sunday School

Infants

Kimberly
& Courtney Swanson

Creepers

Rachel Miller
& Julia Gracy

Toddlers

Jeannie Hall
& Jennifer McNeely

December Coordinator:

Boo Mullinax

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

December 10	Cowboy Casserole
December 17	Christmas Caroling - No Meal

SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

A Feast of Carols is presented this Sunday evening, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. Come join the choir and instrumentalists as together we celebrate the birth of our Savior and King.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Pick up the latest Youth Brochure at the Welcome Center. It includes the dates/times/costs of all youth activities through July.

SNL (HS):

Gift Wrapping on Wednesday, December 10, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The high school small groups will offer FREE gift wrapping to our church members. Whether you have one or 100 gifts, we are ready to wrap! Donations of wrapping paper and ribbon would be appreciated.

Christmas Party is Saturday, December 20. Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to head out for a Progressive Dinner. The party ends at the home of the Middletons at 9:00 p.m.

Route 68 (MS):

Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 10, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the middle school small groups are visiting local retirement homes to sing Christmas carols to the residents.

Christmas Party is Saturday, December 13. Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to head out on a Christmas Scavenger Hunt. The party ends at 8:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner is Friday, December 12, at 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for girls (10 years and under). Sign up at the Women's Table in the lobby.

CAROLING AND DESSERTS

The entire church family is welcome to meet at the church Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m. We will break up into small groups to go caroling at local retirement homes and various neighborhoods. Bring a dessert to share with everyone as we will meet back at the church for desserts and hot drinks when finished.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It's time to order *Offering Envelopes* for 2015. These envelopes may be used for regular giving or giving to the Nursery Fund Pledges. Please email cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org and let Carol know if you want weekly, twice a month, monthly or quarterly envelopes. You may also pick up an order form at the Welcome Center. Orders are due by December 15.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our Memorial Hospital Lunch Ministry is next Thursday, December 18. If you can contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes or fruit, please call or email the church office.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER

For the month of December, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: K. Brown, D. Grant, M. Lander and M. Walker. Please contact your shepherding elder to let him know when you are able to help.

SAVE THE DATE

Marriage Retreat
April 17-19, 2015
Oak Haven Resort, Sevierville, TN

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Brent & Sandra Nicely

Phone (Brent).....423.645.9533
Phone (Sandra).....423.650.5056

THANK YOU

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to our Thanksgiving Pounding. We were able to provide for 11 families, including 4 families in our church. The items were received with grateful hearts!

Thank you to all who helped with Operation Christmas Child through the giving of supplies, time, money and prayer. This year we provided 190 boxes! Please continue to pray for the children who received them.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program

Friday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Ladies' Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.

Route 68 (MS) Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Caroling & Dessert

Saturday, December 20, at 6:00 p.m.

SNL (HS) Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m.

Lessons & Carols

Church Office Closed at Noon

Thursday, December 25

Church Office Closed

No eNewsletter

Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 31

Church Office Closed at Noon

Thursday, January 1

Church Office Closed

BUDGET REPORT

Through November 30:

Budget:	\$1,325,512
Actual:	\$1,112,747
Shortfalls:	\$212,765

*You are cordially invited
to the wedding of
Tom Lowe
and
Frances Lester
on December 13, 2014
at 2:00 p.m.
Eastern Heights
Presbyterian Church
Bristol, TN*