



The eNewsletter

December 18, 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...

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

December 26
Merry Christmas
Office Closed

December 28
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet

December 31
Office Closed at Noon
New Year's Eve

January 1
Happy New Year
Office Closed

January 4
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

January 5
Ladies' Night Owl Bible Study

January 7
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

January 8
Ladies' Morning Bible Study

January 10
TVP Winter Meeting
WM Council

January 11
Morning Worship/Installation
Service
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting

January 14
Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

He is the sovereign King Who controls all of history.

She was nearly ninety. She had never given birth. She had never conceived. When she heard the visitors tell her husband that, in a few months, she would conceive, and that this time next year would give birth - she laughed. It wasn't a laugh of delight. It was a response of disbelief and incredulity. But, one year later, Isaac was born. When all hope seemed gone, God blessed the union of Abraham and Sarah with a child.

For years, Isaac's wife waited for a child. Finally, in response to her husband's prayers, Rebekah gave birth to twin boys. The younger of the twins was named Jacob. After he was grown and married, his wife, Rachel, would also prove to be barren. To her husband's other wives, at least eleven children had been born - ten sons and one daughter. Finally, after years of frustration, tears and many prayers, she gave birth to a male child. He was named Joseph.

In Scripture God is described as "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." He is the sovereign King Who controls all of history. He is the One Who does things in His own way. He is the One Who uses history to bring glory and praise to Himself. He is the One Who uses events to testify to His majesty and greatness.

Our ways are not His ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. That's why we often have great difficulty understanding what He is doing - and why. But, His ways are perfect. His control of history is always purposeful, and His purposes are right and good. He acts in time and space in such a way as to testify to His existence and absolute power.

She was pregnant. As a young teenager she found herself with child. She wasn't married. She was betrothed, but she and her intended had not yet been wed. Neither had they consummated their relationship. And, yet, she was going to have a baby.

Joseph knew the baby Mary carried in her womb was not his. But, he stood by her. Both he and Mary had been visited by an angel who told them God would place a baby in her womb. Joseph had been told the child Mary carried would be "Immanuel." They had both been told the child was to be named Jesus.

And, some time just prior to the start of the first century, in a little village named Bethlehem, she gave birth. As they had been instructed, they named the baby Jesus. The night of His birth they were visited by shepherds who spoke of angels. The angels had instructed them to come to worship the baby who now lay in a manger.

Some time later, Mary, Joseph and the baby were visited by astronomers from a land far to the east of Judea. They brought gifts for the child - gifts fit only for a king!

Again, God had worked in a way that demonstrated His power and testified to the significance of this Child born to a virgin. In time and space, God had acted so as to underscore His sovereignty, mercy and love. To Mary was born Jesus. He was the Son of God. And, He had come to save His people from the curse and power of sin.

Throughout time, God has controlled human history so as to testify to His covenantal purposes. God worked through the lives of those who were a part of His covenant community so as to make it clear that He was their God, and they were His people.

We are His covenant people. He is our God. And, He is at work in our lives. We do not always understand His purposes. But, we know He is always working to save unto Himself a people, through whom He will be glorified, honored and praised.

We are His people. He is our God. He is at work in and through us. Therefore, we should delight and rest in the words of Paul: "If God be for us, who can be against us."

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule December 21

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Emily Calloway

Creepers

Carla Stevenson
& Emily Elwood

Toddlers

Eric & Lucy Mantel

Floater

Elijah Harris

Sunday School

Infants

Domekia & Ellie Gaines

Creepers

Sarah & Maggie Wade

Toddlers

Mike
& Holly VanderGriend

December Coordinator:

Boo Mullinax

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Krista Steere, bride-elect of Brad Gibson, is Saturday, January 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Krista is registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. with a service of Lessons and Carols.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

The HS Youth Christmas Party is this Saturday. 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.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31 to be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2014.

READ-THRU-THE BIBLE THIS YEAR

Take the opportunity this year to read through the scripture in one year individually or with your family. The material to aid you is available at the Welcome Center.

CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save those Christmas card stamps. Deposit them in the "mailbox" by Pastor Mullinax's office. These used stamps are processed and re-sold with all proceeds going to finance Sunday School curriculum for churches in Latin America.

BUDGET REPORT

In order to meet budget for 2014, we need \$264,855 in gifts to the general fund by the end of December.

~Tom Lowe, Treasurer

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Extra nursery volunteers are needed for Sunday, December 28, during Sunday School in both Infants and Creepers. If you can help out, please contact Heather Harris at 423.503.8651 or jeh1224@aol.com.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Deacons and elders are being installed during the morning service on Sunday, January 11.

Women's Ministry officers are being installed during the morning service on Sunday, January 25.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is a time when we clearly realize how much we have been blessed. As we rejoice in God's goodness through the gift of His Son, please especially remember in prayer:

Those who are undergoing very difficult trials

Those who have lost loved ones who are especially missed during the holidays

The persecuted church around the world

Our missionaries

Our military personnel and their families

The staff of Covenant Presbyterian Church wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!