



The eNewsletter

February 12, 2015

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...

February 13

Youth Free Babysitting

February 15

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Miller Baby Shower
Firth Baby Shower
HS SNL

February 17

Mothers' Encouragement
Group

February 18

Wednesday Night Supper
Youth Parent Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meets

February 19

Ladies' Morning Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Ministry

February 22

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet

February 24

Ladies' Hebrews Bible Study

February 25

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

February 26

Ladies' Morning Bible Study

February 27

Chicks 'n Chocolate

March 1

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
HS SNL

March 3

Mothers' Encouragement
Group
WM Council

March 4

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

March 5

Ladies' Bible Study

On a Sunday in September, several years ago, my mother's extended family gathered in her home church in Bishopville, SC. Ten minutes before morning worship, the pastor asked me to preach.

After a quick prayer, I chose to focus on how the Lord had graciously blessed our family with a godly heritage. I spoke of our ancestors buried in the cemetery immediately adjacent to the church. I thanked God that many of them had taught their children the truth of the Gospel, encouraged them to love the Lord, and trained them to live as followers of Jesus.

I then pointed to the balconies and reminded my family that, at one time, there was a separate entrance leading up to the balconies. They had been built so slaves owned by our ancestors could attend services without "disturbing" the white folk seated beneath them. Those balconies, I told my family, reminded us that, like all of us, our ancestors were sinners.

So, if many of my ancestors truly loved the Lord and took seriously the teaching of His Word, why had they been slave owners? First of all, because slavery was a "given." It was culturally acceptable. Secondly, they owned slaves with clear consciences because those who preached and taught God's Word assured them the enslavement of people due to their ethnic identity was biblical.

This historical abuse of biblical teaching by people who genuinely loved the Lord and took seriously the absolute authority of His Word should sober us.

Today, most in our culture care neither for our Lord, nor His Word, and have

become like a ship without a rudder, lacking any sure means by which to guide their thoughts and behavior.

But, more disturbing and far more challenging, are those who claim to love the Lord and take seriously His Word, and, yet, twist the meaning of Scripture to justify our culture's ideas, practices, and laws.

As I have said, there once was a time when Scripture was used to justify slavery. Now, Scripture is used to justify "freedom." For example, sexual freedom is a "given" in our day. Intimate sexual relations by two consenting adults are judged to be a private matter, whether it is between two of the same or opposite sex.

Understandably, such "freedom" is applauded by those who do not love the Lord or take seriously biblical teaching. But, I have read several books that twist the Scripture to defend such "freedom." It is this second group of "defenders" that should be of greatest concern to us. I am part of a family who twisted the Scriptures to defend their culture's enslavement of African-Americans. Now we are part of a church culture in which many twist the Scripture to defend the "givens" of our day.

So, for us, the challenge is clear. Do we know what Scripture teaches? Are we confident that our "givens" are what Scripture teaches?

May the example of my ancestors prod us to search the Scriptures to be assured our thinking is sound, and we are living in the Light of its eternal, unchanging truth.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule February 15

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Sandi Schreiner

Creepers

Adam & Millie Sanders

Toddlers

Jonathan & Kansas Bradley

Floater

Andrew Schreiner

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Creepers

Eunice & Justin Martin

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

February Coordinator:

Amy Creamer

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

February 18	Stromboli/Pizza
February 25	Chili
March 4	Chicken & Rice
March 11	Taco Salad

BABY SHOWERS

A baby shower in honor of Rachel Miller is this Sunday, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Rachel is registered at Target and Amazon.

A baby shower in honor of Bethany Firth is this Sunday, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Bethany is registered at Babies R Us and Amazon.

FREE BABYSITTING

The Youth are offering free babysitting at the church tomorrow night, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more details, please contact Chris or Tracy.

MARRIAGE RETREAT REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Registration for this year's Marriage Retreat ends this Sunday. Registration forms are located in the lobby. The retreat is Friday evening, April 17, through Sunday afternoon, April 19, at Oak Haven Resort in Sevierville, TN. Scotty and Darlene Smith are the guest speakers. The cost is \$190 per couple, and a deposit of \$50 is required to secure a registration. Be sure to reserve your spot before they're all gone!

FCA ROAD TO VICTORY BANQUET

This year's banquet is on Tuesday, February 17, at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Former Alabama and Seattle Seahawks running back, Shaun Alexander, is the featured speaker. For more information on this ministry fundraiser, please contact Jay Fowler at 423.309.4255.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, February 19, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes or fruit this week, please call or email the church office.

LADIES: SAVE THE DATE

The Ladies' Spring Seminar is coming up on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The focus of the seminar is *Intentional Servanthood: Cultivating the Best of Mary and Martha*. Lunch and childcare are provided. Sign-ups begin Sunday, March 1, at the Women's Ministry table in the lobby. For more information, please contact Teri Akovenko at 704.340.2753 or Susan Mobley at 423.285.0143.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Greg Duble

Email.....greg@canaangroup.com

Sarah McCurry

Email.....frogeyes82@aol.com

Frances Lowe

Email.....rolltidefbl@gmail.com

TOY DRIVE

Covenant Corps is sponsoring their first ever Toy Drive! New and gently used toys of all sizes and shapes are needed by local ministries supported by CPC. Please have your children go through their toys and pick out some they would like to give to a needy child. They can bring their clean, unbroken toys to the "toy box" located at the end of the Children's Wing hallway. We are collecting toys through February 18. This is a great way to educate our children and open their eyes to the needs of people around them. For more details, please contact Holly Lehmann at hlehmann@covenantchattanooga.org.

CHILDREN'S FLOOR OPEN HOUSE

The Children's Ministry cordially invites everyone to an Open House on Sunday, March 15, during the Sunday School hour. Come see the newly renovated classrooms, along with the beautiful, new Covenantal art gallery, and enjoy some refreshments while you're there. We look forward to seeing all of you.

LADIES' SPRING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday mornings, beginning March 5, Bev Mealor is leading a Precept study on Abraham. The study meets in the Library at 10:00 a.m. This is a wonderful study that teaches believers the trustworthiness of God and how He is truly faithful to His word. There is no homework, and all the lessons are done together during class time. Books are \$14.00. If you are interested, please contact Bev Mealor or Babs Leach so they'll know how many books to order.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER

Wednesday Night Suppers are served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free, and the maximum family donation is \$15.