



The eNewsletter

February 26, 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of Elder John Wykoff...

Looking Ahead...

February 27

Ladies' Evening of Prayer

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

March 7

Men's Breakfast
Turn Clocks Forward

March 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
HS SNL

March 9

Pictorial Directory
Ladies' Evening Bible Study

March 10

Ladies' Hebrews Bible Study
Pictorial Directory

March 11

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

March 12

Ladies' Bible Study
Pictorial Directory

March 13

Pictorial Directory

March 14

Pictorial Directory

March 15

Morning Worship
Sunday School/Children's
Floor Open House
Pictorial Directory
Diaconate Meeting
Youth Talent Show

"No Sentimental Hope"

At Schaeffer's passing we find ourselves this week in need of hope, but not sentimental hope. Sentimentalism, if you will permit my meaning of the term, is not an excess of feeling in the usual sense, but rather any feeling in any measure which is not grounded in the truth. The careless man who lives in hope that when he dies God will overlook his faults because, he believes, his good deeds outweigh his bad deeds, possesses not only a false hope, but a catastrophically sentimental hope.

Sentimentalism is pernicious because it mimics a good and healthy response to the truth without being in possession of it. It is empty food, having a sweet taste, but nothing to sustain you.

Because it is unconnected to the truth, sentimentalism comes cheap. Take, for example, the popular book *Love Wins* by Rob Bell, which teaches the old error that God does not punish the ungodly. The broad appeal of the book is not a result of Bell's insight into God's character. It is appealing only because the hope of God's grace is so vital, the joy of God's heaven so giddy, and the peace of God's love so complete, we nearly forget that sorrow and sin are also real. It is easy for peddlers of feeling to sell the silhouette of hope, joy, and peace. However, sweet as it tastes, Universalism is not grounded in truth. It is sentimentalism. *Love Wins* offers no more real hope, and maybe a little less, than Robert Louis Stevenson's rhyme: "It is very nice to think / The

world is full of meat and drink, / With little children saying grace / In every Christian kind of place." A happy thought, but no more than that.

Schaeffer is with God. Is that only a happy thought? Is it a sentimental hope? We find ourselves this week in need of true hope to set beside real grief. That is why the following sentence from the Canons of Dort - that saintly summary of the Bible's teaching on salvation - sounds to us like a bell from out of time and space, solid and ringing with clarity:

"Since we must make judgments about God's will from his Word, which testifies that the children of believers are holy, not by nature but by virtue of the gracious covenant in which they together with their parents are included, godly parents ought not to doubt the election and salvation of their children whom God calls out of this life in infancy."

The Fishers may be sure that Schaeffer is with God - as sure as they are of their own salvation, and on the same basis: God's unfailing covenant. That is a hope great enough to set down beside our great sorrow, and it is no sentimental hope. It is grounded in the truth of God's promise to be the God of our children. By His own declaration, the children of believers are holy, which is to say they are saints, and precious in the sight of God is the death of His saints.

This is a hope that David knew. When David lost his young child, what was his astounding declaration? "The child will not return to me, but I shall go to him."

~Elder John Wykoff



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

March 1

Worship

Infants

Lewis & Anna Reid

Creepers

Kate Lambeth
& Kristin Sotelo

Toddlers

Jonah Harris & Britt Collier

Floater

Tavis Brown

Sunday School

Infants

Kimberly
& Courtney Swanson

Creepers

Julia Gracy & Jeannie Hall

Toddlers

Frank & Nicole May

March Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

LADIES' EVENING OF PRAYER

The Women's Ministry is hosting an evening of prayer at the church tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. Ladies of all ages are invited to come together in prayer for the Fishers and their family during this very difficult time. We are meeting in the Frederick Room, and we hope you can join us.

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 this Sunday 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.

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. If you are interested, please contact Bev Mealor or Babs Leach so they'll know how many books to order.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 7, at 8:30 a.m. March's speaker is Hutch Garmany, pastor of Grace Community Church in Trenton, GA. His topic is *Following a God-Given Passion: One Man's Journey*.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

PHOTO APPOINTMENTS

CPC is putting together a new pictorial directory, and we want everyone to be in the directory! Photos will be taken March 9 - 14 (except Wednesday). Appointments can be made at: <http://www.covenantchattanooga.org/church-directory/>. Volunteers will also be available in the lobby before and after worship the next couple of Sundays to help you sign up. For more information, or if you need help to sign up, please call Emily Calloway at 423.432.1743.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The March birthday and anniversary calendar is available at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Janssen & Bethany Firth

1025 Montlake Road, Soddy-Daisy TN 37379

Amanda Lackey

Email.....amandafaith20@gmail.com

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.

CPC PRAYER CALENDAR

This devotional/prayer tool covers all CPC members, family concerns, ministries, missionaries, personal growth in grace, and the world in a one-month cycle. You may pick up a copy of the *CPC Prayer Calendar* in the lobby.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER

For the month of March, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: J. Coffey, J. Harris/D. Hobbs, T. Smith, and C. Wilkie. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

March 4	Chili
March 11	Taco Salad
March 18	Spaghetti
March 25	Sloppy Joes
April 1	Holy Week - No Meal
April 8	Enchiladas
April 15	Meatloaf
April 22	Creamy Sausage Pasta (Heidie's Surprise)
April 29	Meatball Subs
May 6	Scalloped Potatoes & Ham
May 13	Grilled Chicken & Fettuccine Alfredo
May 20	Hot Dogs