



The eNewsletter

March 26, 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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Looking Ahead...

March 28

Church Work Day

March 29

Palm Sunday
Morning Worship
Sunday School
HS SNL
Shepherding Groups Meet

April 1

No Wednesday Activities
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

April 2

No Ladies' Bible Study
Maundy Thursday Service

April 3

Good Friday - Church Office
Closed

April 4

Egg Hunt Breakfast

April 5

Easter Sunday
No Sunday School
No HS SNL

April 7

Mothers' Encouragement
Group
WM Council

April 8

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

April 9

Ladies' Bible Study

April 11

Men's Breakfast

April 12

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Cross Bridal Shower
Diaconate Meeting
HS SNL

April 13

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

April 14

Ladies' Hebrews Bible Study

From the Pen of the Director of Music Ministries...

Isaac Watts' hymn, *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*, has had a lasting impact upon the Church throughout the ages. Reflecting upon the preciousness of Christ and our unworthiness to receive His ultimate sacrifice, Watts paints a picture that helps give a deeper understanding of grace.

*Alas! and did my Savior bleed
And did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I!*

*Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!*

*Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin.*

*Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes in tears.*

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.*

Beginning with the first stanza, Watts wonders at the mystery of Christ dying for such a worm as he. To understand how precious grace is, one must understand how much it is needed. When that is understood, the question then becomes one of why God, in all of His fullness and perfection, would make such a sacrifice on behalf of someone like us.

The need for Christ's suffering and death is explored in the second stanza: *Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned upon the tree?* Christ died to pay the penalty for real sin. He died for the sins that you and I have done and will do, not an imagined ethereal sin that sits out there in an abyss and gets no one dirty. We were and are the reason for the groanings upon the tree. *Love beyond degree* is an appropriate exclamation for this realization of grace in action.

Our response to our understanding of grace is an important one. We cannot ever do anything to earn one ounce of the grace that the Lord has shown us. Yet our response to that grace should compel us to live our lives for Him. This is what Watts conveys in his final stanza: *But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe; here, Lord, I give myself away, tis all that I can do.*

As we prepare ourselves for the reflection upon the arrest, trial, suffering, crucifixion, and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as the celebration of His Resurrection, let us not lose sight of the cost of grace and the need of grace in our lives.

We have several services and activities over the next few weeks that will help us highlight and ruminate upon God's grace to His people. This Palm Sunday, March 29, we remember the Lord's prophecy-fulfilling triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9.9; Matthew 21.1-11). On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we will gather to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and enter into a tenebrae service, especially recalling what our Savior did on our behalf. Saturday morning, April 4, the children will hear of Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the grave.

Our Easter Sunday Service, April 5, is the highlight of the year for our church. This year we will trace the majestic *I AM* statements of Jesus in the Gospels. Many celebratory songs will be offered to the Lord, and the Gospel will be clearly presented.

On Easter Sunday be even more welcoming to the visitors; this may be the first time they have heard the Gospel. Pray that God will give them the same realization He gave Isaac Watts of what grace truly is. Pray that He will give us the unction to give *ourselves* away to Him in all we do.

~Jeremy Gaines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 29

Worship

Infants

Tammy & Mandi Bacon

Creepers

Heidie, Jenny,
& Charity Armao

Toddlers

Catherine Pippin
& Daughter

Floater

Lexi Bacon

Sunday School

Infants

Diane Lazor & Peg May

Creepers

Daegan Brown
& Isaiah Harris
& Rebekah Gernhard

Toddlers

Sherry & Rachel Baierl

March Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

CHURCH WORK DAY

We need lots of helpers - folks of all ages and skills - for the church work day this Saturday. Please join us from 8:30 a.m. until noon to help spruce up our facilities and grounds for Easter. There is a continental breakfast available at 8:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Next Thursday evening, April 2, we will observe Maundy Thursday. *Maundy* originates from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning a command or mandate, referring to Christ's command given the night before His crucifixion that His disciples should love one another (John 13.34). That night, as they celebrated Passover, the disciples were told by Jesus the bread of Passover would now represent His body and the cup His blood. At 7:00 p.m. we will celebrate our Lord's Supper and participate in a tenebrae service denoting the growing *darkness* that would encompass the next two days before His glorious resurrection.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monthly nursery coordinators are needed for June through December. Each month, the coordinator contacts all scheduled volunteers to remind them of their schedule, and assists Heather in ensuring the volunteers are in the nursery each Sunday. If you would like to serve in this capacity, volunteer in the nursery, or need to change your current volunteer status, please contact Heather Harris by April 1 at 423.503.8651 or jeh1224@aol.com.

THANK YOU

Thank you all so much for your prayers and encouragement during my recent surgeries. The cards and phone calls meant so much. I rest in the words from Isaiah 46.4 (paraphrased): *I will be your God throughout your lifetime...I made you, and I will care for you.*

~Lewis Reid

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The April birthday and anniversary calendar is available for you at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Randy & Eunice Martin

No Landline

Cell Phone (Randy).....423.280.2549

Cell Phone (Eunice).....423.618.6525

EGG HUNT BREAKFAST

Our annual egg hunt breakfast is next Saturday, April 4. This fun event is a fundraiser for the youth group. The proceeds help defray the cost for students going to summer camp and mission trips. A full breakfast is served from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. A story explaining the reason we celebrate Easter begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by the egg hunt at 10:15 a.m. for children ages 2 through the fifth grade. Allergy-free candy is available for those who need it. Bring a basket only, as the eggs are provided. A collection box is located outside Mark Wilson's office for your donations of individually wrapped candy. For more information, please contact Emily Calloway or Chris Gregory.

BAND-AID BANQUET

Volunteers in Medicine's annual Band-Aid Banquet is scheduled for Monday, April 20, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Abba's House in Hixson. VIM is a faith-based clinic in Eastgate for the under-insured and working poor. CPC's Ministry Expansion Fund gave seed money to help in launching this work, and is a regular supporter of VIM. Several of our members have served in leadership capacities with VIM, particularly Ron Fullam and Polly Henry, while others have volunteered at the clinic. The Voices of Lee are participating in the evening program. For reservations, contact Ashley Evans at aevans@vim-chatt.org or see Pastor Mullinax for more information.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER

For the month of April, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: K. Brown, D. Grant, M. Lander, and M. Walker. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

There is no meal next week, April 1, due to Holy Week. The meal on April 8 is Pizza.