



The eNewsletter

April 9, 2015

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

- 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
- April 15**
Wednesday Night Supper
Youth Parent Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting
- April 16**
Ladies' Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Ministry
- April 17**
Marriage Retreat
- April 18**
Marriage Retreat
TVP Spring Meeting
- April 19**
Marriage Retreat
Morning Worship
Sunday School
No HS SNL
- April 21**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- April 22**
Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities
- April 23**
Ladies' Bible Study
- April 24**
Chicks 'n Chocolate
- April 26**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet
HS SNL

From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

"That's a God thing!" Isn't everything? (I've always loved the wording of the Heidelberg catechism regarding God's providence...*the almighty and ever present power of God by which He upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty – all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from His fatherly hand.*) However, I think I understand the sentiment behind something particularly identified as a God thing. So with their permission I'd like to share Pius and Natalie Mutubwa's story. I'm sure we'll all agree it was and is a God thing!

Pius grew up in the very eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the western shores of Lake Tanganyika. Across this narrow, but longest freshwater lake in the world, lies Burundi. With minimal work opportunities and civil unrest in his region, Pius pursued a teaching post in Burundi. There he met Natalie. Eventually, Pius and Natalie married, a great story in and of itself.

In 1994, long standing ethnic divisions between the Hutu and the Tutsi tribes of Burundi erupted in war. Even though the situation in Congo was still volatile, Burundi was worse. Pius, with his young bride, returned to Congo. Their first child, Joyce, was born in 1996. Two and a half years later Tegra was born to the Mutubwas. The political situation in Congo steadily declined. A seemingly innocent knock on the door could end in an entire family being annihilated.

In the summer of 1999, it happened. While Natalie was with other women working in a community garden and Pius at their dwelling with Joyce and Tegra (two months old), Congolese rebels attacked their village bringing death, destruction, and anarchy. Pius fled with the children to a local hiding place. His separation from Natalie was hours, then days. With all evidence pointing to Natalie's death or worse, Pius joined others in flight to Zambia (hundreds of miles to the south).

Pius, with children in tow, arrived at the border of southeast Congo and northeast Zambia. Now refugees, the family was bussed to Zambia's capital, Lusaka, hundreds of miles further south. From Lusaka, they were transported hundreds of miles further away to a large UN refugee camp in another region of the country. (Are you adding up all these hundreds of miles?)

Weeks later, Pius, with thousands of others, gazed over the new arrivals at the camp and he saw a very familiar face. Unbelievably, Natalie had escaped the carnage in Congo and unknowingly followed the same route that her husband and children had traversed. God guided Natalie through hundreds of miles, thousands of people, and UN refugee camps back to her family.

Together again, they started over as a displaced family in a land that was not their own. They began the long, arduous task of applying for asylum in a western country through the United Nations High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR). We tire easily while waiting at the DMV. Their wait measured in years. During their time in Zambia, Benedicte was born (2003), as was Gloire (2006).

After almost ten years in Zambia, only days before actually leaving, the family of six was told their destination - Chattanooga - in the United States of America. Knowing little of the USA and much less about Chattanooga, they left tropical Zambia and arrived in frigid east Tennessee on February 26, 2009.

Representatives from Bridge Refugee Services greeted the Mutubwas on arrival. They helped the family settle into an apartment and secure work at Pilgrim's Pride chicken processing plant. We (CPC folk) met them soon afterwards and began our rewarding friendship.

All the Mutubwas have worked hard, not taking their arrival here for granted. Pius moved up to a supervisory position at Pilgrim's Pride and has more recently taken a better job with Shaw Industries. Through sweat equity, good money management, and the help of Habitat for Humanity, they are home owners. Natalie was sworn in last Wednesday as a citizen of the United States. Pius will follow soon. Joyce is now a student at Chatt State. Tegra, Benedicte, and Gloire are all thriving in their respective schools.

Even through their work and perseverance, Pius and Natalie marvel at God's kindnesses to them. They can trace His benevolent hand over them in countless ways. With that in mind, they named their latest daughter born in 2013, Grace. In two weeks, they expect another girl ... her name? Favor!

God thing? No doubt about it!

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule April 12

Worship

Infants

Kelly Orthner
& Joyce Trask

Creepers

Joey & Michelle Logterman

Toddlers

Scott & Meg Orthner

Floater

Grace Logterman

Sunday School

Infants

Peggy Bandy
& Sandra Nicely

Creepers

Andrea Waldecker
& Eunice Martin

Toddlers

Amy Wright
& Jennifer McNeely

April Coordinator:
Shirley Allin

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Elena Cross, bride-elect of Chad Grosskreutz, is on Sunday, April 12, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Elena is registered at Target, Kohl's, and Sears.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast this Saturday, April 11, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. Jon Arbuckle is speaking on *Friends, Family, and Phrases*.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, April 16, 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.

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.

WYCLIFFE BANQUET

The Wycliffe Associates Banquet is on Friday, May 1, at the Brainerd Crossroads BX, at 7:00 p.m. Don Richardson, missionary and author of *Peace Child*, is this year's speaker. Come and hear of the new developments in Bible translation. Donations are welcome, but not required to attend. Tickets, however, are required. For complimentary tickets or more information, please contact Lynne Swan at 423.584.5887.

MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp is coming up June 22-26. This year, we are learning about the story of David and Goliath through the musical, *The Rock Slinger* and His Greatest Hit. Registration is \$25 per child, and is available for rising Kindergartners-6th Graders. Registration begins on Sunday, April 12, online at www.covenantchattanooga.org. Forms are also available at the Welcome Center. For more information, please contact Jeremy Gaines.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Brit Collier

Cell Phone.....507.272.1193

Jason Coffey

Email.....jcoffey@cbmc.com

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our New Members who recently joined Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Melissa Cleveland

Lucy (12)

1351 N. Concord Road, Chattanooga TN 37421

Phone.....423.321.2743

Email.....mkcleveland15@gmail.com

Melissa and Lucy have been attending CPC since last summer.

Rich & Aimee Redding

Cara* (3), Noelle* (1)

1308 Phyllis Lane, Chattanooga TN 37421

Cell Phone (Rich).....706.496.5820

Cell Phone (Aimee).....706.871.2284

Email.....richardaimee09@gmail.com

Rich, Aimee, and their girls moved here from Augusta, GA the first of the year, and have been regularly attending CPC since that time.

John & Judy Southworth

1626 Gunston Hall Road, Hixson TN 373423

Phone.....423.847.6611

Email (John).....johnjudysw@gmail.com

Email (Judy).....judycsouthworth@gmail.com

John and Judy have been regularly attending CPC since last summer. Judy is Patty Wilson's sister.

Julie VanderGriend

983 Julien Road, Chattanooga TN 37421

Phone.....423.305.8540

Email.....julzvg@gmail.com

Julie, the daughter of Howard and Sandy VanderGriend, moved to Chattanooga about 6 months ago and has been regularly attending CPC.

Betsy Wade

152 Pine Street, Ringgold GA 30736

Betsy (11) is the daughter of Phil and Sarah Wade.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

April 15

Chicken & Rice

April 22

Creamy Sausage Pasta
(Heidie's Surprise)

The Mutubwa Family with their Habitat for Humanity House



Map of Central Africa

