



The eNewsletter

May 21, 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 Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

May 23

Youth Car Wash Fundraiser

May 24

Morning Worship
Graduate Recognition
Sunday School
Graduate Reception
Youth Family Picnic at
Heritage Park

May 25

Memorial Day - Church Office
Closed

May 26

Ladies' Hebrews Bible Study

May 27

Mission Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

May 30

Relay for Life
Beatty/Estes Wedding

May 31

Morning Worship
Promotion Sunday
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet

June 2

WM Council

June 3

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

June 6

Men's Breakfast

June 7

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Mission Committee Meeting

June 8

General Assembly
Ladies' Evening Bible Study

June 9

General Assembly
Ladies' Hebrews Bible Study

June 10

General Assembly
Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

June 11

General Assembly

Since I was privileged on the 10th to give a quick survey of my last ministry trip, I thought I would write more about some of the things that occurred when I wasn't teaching:

* Even before leaving on this trip, I had a difficult time preparing the material for the Agape Evangelical Church convention. And my struggle continued through my arrival in Ghana and the first day of teaching. I found it difficult to focus and I was easily distracted. I know that missionary reports are supposed to be glowing with success and optimism, but I must be honest and tell you that this started out as a difficult trip.

Rather discouraged after that first day of the conference, I emailed Susan, asking her to pray specifically for greater freedom and focus in my teaching. She sent that request to a number of other people, and it went out as well to the CPC congregation.

By God's grace, the teaching the following day was as different as night and day! The Holy Spirit gave peace of heart, freedom in speech, and spontaneous illustrations. God answered the prayers of His people!

The spiritual wrestling (Ephesians 6.12) that characterizes the Christian's life and ministry becomes much more obvious to me when I'm in Africa. Again, I'm struck by how desperately I need the grace of God every day. Thank you for praying!

* On Easter Sunday, the service included the serving of the Lord's Supper. But just imagine the stage management required to serve communion to several thousand people who are lining up at the front of the stadium. It was holy pandemonium as communion cups were used, washed, refilled and used again. But it was such a blessing to share in the sacrament with my brothers and sisters there!

* African roads are legendary for ruts, erosion and potholes. Ghana is no exception - especially once you turn off the main thoroughfares. On our way to one teaching venue, we turned off at the usual place, carefully negotiated the rough track across a field, and started down the trail to the church - only to discover it had been deliberately blocked with a ditch and a big pile of dirt. We tried another route and found that road was so eroded by recent rains that we risked losing a wheel if we tried to negotiate it. Finally, we simply parked the car and walked in - this in the middle of Kumasi, a city of nearly 3 million!

* This is the rainy season in W. Africa, so we had several bouts with heavy rain and thunder storms. At the end of the second week, my flight from Kumasi to Accra was cancelled due to heavy weather and I missed my flights from Accra to Lusaka. I was able to rebook for the next day, but with both added expense and stress.

My travel plans for reaching Zambia were disrupted, but God's plans are always best. It's good for me to be reminded that I am not in control. In reality I NEVER am, but I seem to see it more clearly in Africa. And it was particularly fitting that this reminder came as I was on my way to investigate the possibilities for ministry in a new country.

Looking back on this ministry trip, by God's grace it was very productive all around. I was privileged to teach God's Word to several thousand Ghanaians, some of whom are key leaders in both the church and in education. And the Zambia portion of the trip opened a possible new ministry venue, as we seek to follow God's call to equip leaders. Thank you again for sending me to do this work!

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule May 24

Worship

Infants

Amy & Meg Wooten

Creepers

Mike & Holly VanderGriend

Toddlers

Jonathan & Kansas Bradley

Floater

Matthew Beatty

Sunday School

Infants

Camille Platt
& Diana Bowers

Creepers

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

Toddlers

Ellen Heider
& Holly Harnsberger

May Coordinator:

Rebekah Gernhard

YOUTH CAR WASH

The youth are hosting a car wash Saturday, May 23, at Auto Zone on East Brainerd Road. The car wash begins at noon. The car wash itself is free. Please plan to help our youth by getting your car washed!

YOUTH FAMILY PICNIC

All youth and their families are invited to an end-of-the-year family picnic at Heritage Park on Sunday, May 24, at 6:00 p.m. Drinks are provided. Bring a picnic and a few lawn chairs for your family.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The women's summer Bible study begins Tuesday, June 2, at 10 a.m. in the Perseverer's classroom. The class will use the study guide *Becoming a Woman Who Loves* by Cynthia Heald. Brenda Mason and Ann Walker will co-lead. This study is open to women of all ages, and a nursery will be available. Look for the sign-up sheet and books in the narthex on Sunday. The cost for the book is \$10. We hope to see you there!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, June 6, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. The speaker will be Jeremy Gaines.

MISSION CHATTANOOGA

This summer at CPC Mission: Chattanooga meets each Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

On Campus activities: Mission Kidz, Cooking with a Purpose (meets every other week, May 27 is kitchen clean-up), Missions Support (stamp ministry and letter writing), General Grounds Keeping, Prayer Group and Sanctuary Choir practice.

Off Campus: Weekly Visitation (at local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, with our shut-ins), Warehouse Renovation and other construction/renovations projects as needed*.

*Volunteer Leaders needed to help with the process each week. If you are willing to help, please contact Josh Ray 423.504.1916.

IMMEDIATE HELP NEEDED

Do you enjoy working with children? If so, we need you! Prior teaching experience is not necessary. Beginning May 31, teachers and helpers are needed in the 2 year old and 5th grade Sunday School classes. Wednesday nights, Covenant Corps teachers and helpers are needed in the 3 and 4 year old classes. If you are interested in helping in any of these classes, please contact Holly Lehmann by email at hlehmann@covenantchattanooga.org.

SWIM DAY

Swim day at the Mays' pool begins Thursday, June 11, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and for cleanup.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Tammy Bacon

Email.....tamelabacon@gmail.com

RENT-A-YOUTH

If you would like to Rent-A-Youth, request forms are outside of Chris' office or at the Welcome Center. Have questions or a request? Email Christine Morrison at rpgchatt@comcast.net.

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. Online registration forms are available at www.covenantchattanooga.org. Forms are also available at the Welcome Center. To volunteer, please use separate registration forms found outside Jeremy Gaines' office. For more information, please contact Jeremy Gaines.

COMPASSION SUNDAY UPDATE

Thank you to those who are helping God's children through Compassion International! Approximately 10 sponsorship packets were taken during our recent Compassion emphasis. If you have questions or would like to sponsor a child, please contact Bev Fowler at 706.937.2869.

Together with their families,
EMILIA DAWN REYNOLDS

AND

JASON WILDER MARRS

Request the honor of your presence at their

wedding

*On Saturday, the twentieth of June,
two thousand and fifteen
at two o'clock in the afternoon*

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Reception to follow

Please RSVP to

*Theknot.com/us/emilia-reynolds-and-jason-marrs-jun-2015
or 423-822-8240 by June 5, 2015*