



The eNewsletter

July 23, 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 Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

July 26

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet

July 28

Ladies' Summer Bible Study

July 29

Mission: Chattanooga
MS Girl's Bible Study

July 30

Swim Day

August 1

Men's Breakfast

August 2

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

August 4

Ladies Summer Bible Study
WM Council

August 5

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 6

Swim Day

August 9

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting
Service of Thanksgiving and
Reception

August 10

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

August 11

Ladies' Summer Bible Study

August 12

Church Wide Prayer Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 13

Last Swim Day

August 16

Morning Worship
Sunday School

August 18

Session Meeting

August 19

Wednesday Night Supper Only
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Why isn't God more obvious? When such mayhem and violence strike, as it did so brazenly last week in our community, why would God allow this to happen? What about the seeming "hiddenness" of God? Bluntly, the psalmist asks, *Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?* - Psalms 10.1. Indeed, the psalmist even suggests God may be inattentive in these plaintive cries: *Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not neglect us forever! Why do you hide your face?* - Psalm 44.23-24. Perhaps, like Job, we wonder why God stays hidden away in unanswered prayers and difficult circumstances. *Why do you hide your face, and count me the enemy?* - Job 13.24. By preserving such passages in the scriptures, God seems to entertain, even invite, such visceral inquiries.

Our belief in a God who can be easily found, and who has acted in time and space, can make the *hiddenness* of God all the more perplexing. Many explanations for God's *hiddenness* are offered: because God seeks to grow our faith, because our sins and disobedience hide us from God and keep us from seeing properly, or because God loves us and knows *how much* and *how often* we need to "find" Him. Perhaps, we hide ourselves from God because of our own sense of guilt and shame (cf. Genesis 3). But, what of those who sincerely seek after God and who are *blameless* with regards to willful hiding?

Do we not take for granted that we have the scriptures which provide a record of God's revelation? Haven't we a book full of God's speech? Doesn't God speak in the wonder and mystery of creation; and through the history of His people, and through the very Word of God incarnate, Jesus Christ? Doesn't our Savior's life reveal the exact nature of God, and place God's glory on full display?

Yes, to all the above! Still, I think, we wonder whether the only place to hear God speaking is in the past. Is God still speaking today? Has He not given contemporary

witness for His presence and work in the world today?

Certainly, God is working and revealed today in His church. For when the church is at its best, it tells fresh the story of God's good news across the ages. The church is to be that living embodiment of God's presence; encountered in the love and care demonstrated by the community for each other and for the sake of the world. We've seen many instances of this lately here in Chattanooga. At its best, the church can be such a community, and can be a symbol of God's presence among us as *God-found*, and not *God-hidden*. The church can be the arms of God around us when we are hurting, or the voice of God speaking when we feel we haven't heard from God. Such a community can be like the faith-filled friends who carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus. The church can be God's voice, God's hands and feet as they extend out into the broken places of the world to bring healing, help, and comfort. Through worship, prayer, communion, service, and sacrifice, the church is to reveal the God who spoke and is still speaking.

God is not often revealed in the roar of the hurricane or the loud-clap of thunder, but in a *still, small voice*- a voice that is often barely audible except to the patient. But when the Church, broken and human as it is, seeks, through the power of the Spirit of Christ, to accomplish *greater things than these*, we see God, and hear God, and find God beautifully obvious.

For those who long to see God, who long to find God in the darkest hour, we may not find Him in the dramatic or the victorious, the miraculous or the stupendous. Instead, we may yet hope to find him in the pew, at the Lord's Table, or in the faithful friends who encircle around, fellow seekers who long to find God too.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

July 26

Worship

Infants

Jeanie Ray
& Reita Pierce

Creepers

Lyndsey, Ellie,
& Daisy Bowman

Toddlers

Jason & Bret Bowman

Floater

Luke Bowman

Sunday School

Infants

Tammy Higgins
& Debby Gardner

Creepers

Heather Morrison
& Lucy Cleveland

Toddlers

Amy Maclellan
& William Higgins

July Coordinator:

Joyce Trask

SWIM DAY

No Swim Day today due to Davidson Road being closed for construction.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly breakfast on Saturday, August 1, 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 Doyle Allen, pastor of Ft. Oglethorpe Presbyterian. Nursery is provided.

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

Please remember our CPC summer service ministry *Mission: Chattanooga* each Wednesday night, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (some renovation projects go to 8:30 p.m.) We have options for everyone, of all ages.

On Campus Activities:

- **Mission Kidz** - elementary age children studying missions - (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)
- **Cooking with a Purpose** - meets every other week, next meeting July 29 -(6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)
- **Missions Support** (stamp ministry and letter writing) (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)
- **Prayer Group** (7:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

Off Campus:

- **Weekly Visitation** (nursing homes, assisted living, or with our shut-ins) (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)
- **Amani ya Juu Warehouse Renovation** - Meet at site - Corner of Willow and Chamberlain Avenue/Highland Park Area (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Ray at 423.504.1916, or Pastor Mullinax at emullinax@covenantchattanooga.org.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

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

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Britt Collier

Cell Phone.....507.272.1193

Tracy Brown

Cell Phone.....423.645.4357

Email.....tlbrown1277@gmail.com

Ann Walker (correction from last week)

Cell Phone.....423.227.6460

Email.....awalker15@epbf.com

Mike Walker

Email.....hikemike@epbf.com

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our New Members who recently joined Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Sandy Harper

21 White Oak Drive, Ringgold GA 30736

Cell Phone.....423.322.0296

Email.....sharper@charter.net

Ernie & Bethany Gray

Molly* (infant)

1709 Arbor Landing Drive, Hixson TN 37343

Cell Phone (Ernie).....423.240.5464

Cell Phone (Bethany).....912.433.0945

Email (Ernie).....erniegray@me.com

Email (Bethany).....

.....bethanyscottgray@gmail.com

John Paul Jones

8125 Graham Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421

Cell Phone.....256.630.2203

Email.....johnjones1203@gmail.com

CHURCH WIDE PRAYER MEETING

Spend some time on your knees during this time of transition. On Wednesday, August 12, come pray together from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone for the gracious send off a few weeks ago; the various gifts and cards, the plaque, the huge remembrance card. Once again, you all have been very gracious; expressing amazing love and support. We thank God and our Covenant Family for everything.

Yours in Christ, Mark