



The eNewsletter

July 30 , 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- 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
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 15**
CYAM Work Day
- August 16**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
Diaconate Meeting
- August 18**
Ladies' Summer Bible Study
Session Meeting
- August 19**
Wednesday Night Supper Only
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- August 20**
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- August 23**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Back-2-School Bash

I reached for a container of *Yoplait* in the refrigerator recently. It was a little beyond the *best used by date*. Throwing caution to the wind I ate the yogurt with my customary gravel (i.e. grape nuts). Apparently, no harm was done.

The concept of *shelf life* is intriguing to me. It's an expression that describes exactly what it attempts to define. For instance, Hostess Ding Dongs have a shelf life (or best used by) of twenty-one days ... I looked it up! But shelf life is also an expression that is symbolically more. One might say of *Cabbage Patch Kids* that they were once quite a phenomenon; shoppers were injured as the dolls were pulled off shelves by frenetic shoppers. But the craze was relatively short-lived; as far as fads go, the shelf life was fairly brief.

In high school chemistry we were told that everything has a shelf life. In fact, in many substances this is an important number to watch. A variety of compounds, particularly those containing certain unstable elements, become more unstable as they approach their shelf life. Chemical explosives grow increasingly dangerous over time and with exposure to certain factors in the environment are liable to explode without warning.

There's a tendency to view ideas and thoughts as having a similar aging process. When something is deemed ancient or even slightly *behind the times*, it could quickly be deemed obsolete. As if it has become outdated like bread or milk, the aging thought or idea, in many minds, grows more unusable with time. And in many cases, history has shown this to be an accurate picture. Certain philosophies might come to mind as movements that showed themselves useless over time and exposure to the world. Like compounds approaching their shelf life, their collapse was inevitable and they eventually imploded without warning.

Ideas and world views undeniably have consequences. Some approach their shelf lives more dangerously than others. Grumbles of discontent from within their own ideological camps may hint at incoherence. Even so, the noticeable shelf life of specific ideas should prompt us to question the *cause* of their expiration, rather than assume it is time alone that moves an idea to expire.

When certain compounds are stored at decreased temperatures, their shelf life is increased significantly. Likewise, the development of preservatives dramatically set back the expiration dates on food in our pantries. Like compounds and edible items, all ideas do not expire equally. So, we are badly mistaken to dismiss a thing or a thought solely because it is old.

The psalmist speaks of God's hope as something that does not expire. "Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it" (119:140). Extending through generation after generation, the promises of God stand untouched and unfazed by a changing environment. Personally, I know how often I have learned the hard way, thinking that surely modern thought has improved the idea, only to find myself returning to words commanded generations ago. Again and again God's own discover a reason to love the promising hope of Father, Son, and Spirit: "Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever" (Psalm 119:152).

Perhaps God's Spirit is the ultimate preservative. God's love is not offered without depth; God's promises are filled with the intention of long (shelf) life. They have been thoroughly tried, tested and proven to be beyond expiration.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

August 2

Worship

Infants

Amy & Meg Wooten

Creepers

Kate Lambeth
& Kristin Sotelo

Toddlers

Mike & Holly VanderGriend

Floater

Tavis Brown

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Creepers

Vangie Wykoff
& Susan Close

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

August Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

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. Doyle Allen, pastor of Ft. Oglethorpe Presbyterian, is speaking on *Light the World*. Nursery is provided.

NURSERY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the generosity of our church family, we have completed 80% of our goal for the Nursery Expansion Fund. As of this week, we need new gifts and/or pledges totaling \$107,000 in order to begin work on this important project. If you are planning on giving a gift or you are currently giving but have not filled out a pledge card, please consider doing so or emailing Carol Beatty (cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.com) with that information. The pledge commitments allow us to understand where we are in the level of giving so we may begin moving forward. Please contact Jason Coffey (jason@cbmc.com) with any other questions you may have.

SANCTUARY CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN

The Sanctuary Choir begins their new season of rehearsal on Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Now is the absolute best time to join as the choir is looking at new music for the fall as well as Christmas music just around the corner. If you have ever thought about joining the choir, come see if choir would be a good ministry for you. Contact Jeremy with any questions.

CHURCH WIDE PRAYER MEETING

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

YOUTH BACK-2-SCHOOL BASH

Your family is invited to our 8th annual Back-2-School Bash on Sunday, August 23, at 6:00 p.m. The evening will start with food, fun, and fellowship, followed by an informational meeting outlining this year's youth events. Parents and youth are invited. Nursery is provided for children 3 and under.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

- Sandy Harper (correction from last week)
Email.....sharper4@charter.net
- Scott and Tabitha Harnsberger (no landline)
Email.....7kiddos@gmail.com
Cell (wife).....423.605.9065
- Jason and Crystal Middleton
7464 Twin Brook Dr, Chattanooga TN 37421
- Josh and Teri Akovenko
9421 Chenoweth Place, Brentwood TN 37027
- Steve and Tammy Knotts
8802 Hurricane Ridge Road, Chattanooga TN 37421

VISITING MISSIONARY

Long-time CPC friend and supported missionary, Teresa Snow (CRU-Austin), is speaking in the CYAM Sunday School class during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, August 2. All are welcome to join.

CYAM SUNDAY SCHOOL

CYAM is hosting Andy Mendosa from Widows Harvest on Sunday, August 9. Andy will present his ministry during the Sunday School hour. All are welcome to come and hear about this vital ministry outreach.

CYAM WORK DAY

CYAM is sponsoring a work day for Widows Harvest on Saturday, August 15 at 10:00 a.m. Details to follow. Please contact Nathan Close with questions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This is a perfect time of year to purchase school supplies for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes as there are many sales right now! This is also a great time of year to buy flip flops, a wonderful item to include, as many children who receive these shoebox gifts have no shoes at all. Of course, you are welcome to buy items for the shoeboxes throughout the year. You are also welcome to bring your items any time and place in one of the BLACK MARKED BINS in the Ladies' SS Class (across from the Coke Machine). Covenant Presbyterian sent 184 shoebox gifts last year and, even now, many of those children are learning about Jesus.