



The eNewsletter

August 6, 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Director of Youth and Their Families...

Looking Ahead...

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
Prayer Group
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 20

Memorial Hospital Lunch

August 23

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Back-2-School Bash

August 25

Ladies' Summer Bible Study

August 26

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

August 28

Chicks n' Chocolate

August 30

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Pastor Pirschel's Installation

September 1

Mother's Encouragement
Group

When we read Scripture we are often reading someone else's mail. John's third epistle is one such example. This particular letter is addressed to one of the apostle's disciples, a young believer named Gaius. Gaius loved and followed Christ even in the midst of a culture that resented him for doing so. A few people were making life and ministry somewhat difficult, if not down right discouraging for Gaius, so John felt led to write a letter of encouragement to his spiritual son. I'm so glad he did because the Holy Spirit has been using this letter to encourage God's spiritual son's and daughters for two thousand years.

A few weeks ago I was particularly grateful for verses 3-4. In it John says of Gaius: *I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.* I think I understand where John is coming from here and I bet many of you do too. There is nothing quite like hearing that one of our sons or daughters has a living, vibrant, relationship with Christ. When we hear this, it warms our hearts and brings a deep sense of joyful gratitude. In fact, John says that literally nothing brings him more joy than this!

One of the great struggles in youth ministry for me lies in the fact that sometimes students pass through, graduate, and then move away, never to be heard from again. On the flip side, I'm always grateful to hear about what God is doing in the lives of those who I happen to run into periodically. In fact, one of the greatest encouragements in my life is finding out that a former member of our youth ministry is following hard after Jesus into adulthood.

So I hope you can appreciate the blessing God gave Reba and I a few weeks ago. Hannah Griggs has a passion for reaching inner city kids here in Chattanooga. She heads up the Chattanooga Sports Ministry which exists to transform the communities of at-risk youth in Chattanooga with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Her husband, John

Mark, shares her passion and together they make a great team. John Mark grew up at Covenant (he was a senior in high school when Reba and I arrived here) and God is using him and Hannah in some amazing ways and in some very difficult situations. Would you pray for them? A few weeks ago our high school youth spent a week working with them. It was a blessing to see them in action and to hear their amazing stories of grace and mercy in the inner city. Like Gaius, they are in a difficult situation, but they are persevering in the face of difficulty for the sake of reaching kids for Christ.

Seeing these two in action was amazing, but it was even more of an encouragement to see that two more of our former youth, Abby Horton and Katelyn Newsome, are on staff with Chattanooga Sports Ministry. These girls are having a huge impact on our city for the Gospel. I can't tell you what a blessing it was a few weeks ago, to see former youth ministering alongside our current youth, united under the common cause of evangelism here in Chattanooga. As John said thousands of years ago: *There is no greater joy!*

~ Chris Gregory

For your encouragement, brothers and sisters, I would like to share a letter from John Mark and Hannah with you:

We would love to thank the youth of Covenant Pres. for coming out to support our ministry! CSM is growing in numbers and in faith and we would love to invite you to help share the love of Christ to youth in our community through the game of soccer! There are many ways to get involved as we start our Fall season in September!



Thanks again for your love, prayers and ongoing support!

Blessings,
John Mark and
Hannah Griggs



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule August 9

Worship

Infants

Kelly Orthner
& Lexi Bacon

Creepers

Colleen Murphy
& Paid Worker

Toddlers

Scott Orthner
& Paid Worker

Floater

Tammy Knotts

Sunday School

Infants

Alayne Griffin
& Rachel Miller

Creepers

Eunice Martin
& Julie Gracy

Toddlers

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

August Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND RECEPTION

Pastor Caines is preaching during the Morning Worship Service on August 9. There is a Service of Thanksgiving at 6:00 p.m. in honor of Pastor Caines' long ministry among us. A reception honoring Dr. and Mrs. Caines will follow in Schum Fellowship Hall.

SANCTUARY CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN

The Sanctuary Choir began their new season of rehearsal on August 5. Now is still the best time to join as the choir continues 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. Join the choir on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPC, please contact the church office by phone or email to set up an appointment.

LARGE PRINT MORNING WORSHIP

For those interested, our Morning Worship songs printed in the bulletin will be available in the Narthex in larger print. Please ask a deacon to help you locate them.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Debby Gardner

Email.....dhg0716@epbf.com

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. All are welcome to come. 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.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Pastor Pirschel's Installation Service is August 30, at 6:00 p.m. during the Evening Worship Service. A reception will follow in Schum Fellowship Hall.