



The eNewsletter

August 20, 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...

August 23

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Back-2-School Bash

August 26

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

August 28

Girl's Night Out

August 30

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Pastor Pirschel's Installation

September 1

Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council

September 2

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

September 3

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

September 6

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
HS SNL

September 7

Church Office Closed:
Labor Day

September 9

Wednesday Night Supper
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

September 10

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

September 12

Men's Breakfast

September 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Diaconate Meeting
Martinez/Utlaut Bridal Shower
HS SNL

September 16

Wednesday Night Supper
Parent U
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday Night Activities

Yesterday, Joyce asked for a recommended book on prayer. Paul Miller's, Tim Keller's, Richard Pratt's; just a few that come to mind. I probably have twenty books on this subject alone.

And just typing the word *prayer* into an internet search engine brought up thousands and thousands of articles, documents, sites, books, and periodicals on prayer! Discussions, seminars, and classes about prayer are as common as the praying football player in the end zone after a touchdown. Every religion has some form of prayer, and Christians are exhorted to pray "without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5.17).

And yet prayer is often a source of perplexity and deep mystery. Confusion comes not only with questions concerning what to pray and how to pray unceasingly, but also with wondering whether or not prayers make a difference or are being heard at all. Phillip Yancey's book *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* attempts to address many of these questions about prayer. Why does God seem silent so much of the time to our prayers? Why does God seem to answer prayers for some and not for others? And when we receive one after another *no* responses to our prayers, how are we to understand both its efficacy, and the God who loves us?

And as if these questions aren't hard enough, Jesus' own bold statements about prayer don't always clarify the matter. After all, wasn't it Jesus who proclaimed: ask, and it will be given to you ... and promises that like our earthly fathers, God longs to give us what is good in response to the asking, seeking, and knocking of prayer? (Matthew 7.7-11)

Luke's gospel makes explicit what Matthew's implies about God's gift given in response to prayer. Jesus tells his disciples, "What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly

Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11.11-13). According to Jesus, the goal of all prayer is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and in the world. The Holy Spirit is the ultimate *good gift* that God gives in response to our asking, seeking, and knocking.

Prayer is about our relationship with God. The more a relationship grows and develops, the more one wants of it. Hence, God promises to give us more of the Holy Spirit - in and through all the circumstances of life - as the deep answer and the good gift in response to prayer.

The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit as the *comforter*, and the one who comes alongside. This is the same Spirit the apostle Paul indicates "intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words," and "intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8.26b-27) Therefore, when difficulties come, when our prayers seemingly go unanswered, there is the assurance that we are not alone. God longs to come near to us and to come alongside us with the comforting presence of His Spirit.

In His promise to be present with us through the power of the Holy Spirit, God suggests that His presence with us *is* the deepest answer to prayer. It is God's *yes* even if answers to specific requests seem to be *no*. Ultimately, God desires to bring comfort, not from dependence on the things of this world, but in His presence with us and alongside us through the Spirit.

Through the power and presence of the Spirit, God longs to be the very answer to our prayers. "Ask, and the Holy Spirit will be given to you. Seek, and you will find the Holy Spirit with you. Knock and the door of God's kingdom will be opened to you. For how much more will our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule August 23

Worship

Infants

Lucy Mantel
& Gretchen Brown

Creepers

Cathy & Katie Smith

Toddlers

Eric Mantel
& Daegan Brown

Floater

Isaiah Harris

Sunday School

Infants

Jared & Sarah McCurry

Creepers

Vangie Wykoff
& Amy Wright

Toddlers

Jean Mauroner
& Patty Liner

August Coordinator:
Gretchen Brown

BACK-2-SCHOOL BASH

Find out what's in store for our youth this year! Your family is invited to our 8th Annual Back-2-School Bash. The evening will be a time of prayer, worship, 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF

Look for information in the bulletin on Sunday, August 23, regarding all the opportunities coming up on Wednesday nights this fall. On Wednesday, August 26, there is a short meeting after dinner in Schum Fellowship Hall, presenting room assignments and curriculum for Choir, Children's Ministry, and various Bible Studies. The Women's Ministry will meet longer to discuss their different studies and options.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COVENANT CORPS

Looking for a fun, engaging way for your child to spend Wednesday night? Beginning on August 26, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., our children's ministry offers an exciting program called Covenant Corps, for your 3 year old through 5th grade child. This wonderful program explores, in an age appropriate fashion, God's awesome design for His people and our opportunity to participate in God's plan for reaching the world around us. We are excited to start another year in Covenant Corps and can't wait to see you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ON WORSHIP

Jeremy Gaines, Director of Music Ministries, is beginning a class on the Biblical Foundations of Worship on Sunday, August 30, in the Calvin & Hobbs Sunday School Class in Schum Fellowship Hall. Come and take part in a study about what worship truly is and why it is so important.

GIRL'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, August 28, the women of CPC are planning to see *The War Room*. Please sign up at the Women's Ministry Table on Sunday. Please contact Colleen Murphy at 423.463.5885 for more details.

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.

MOTHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Mother's Encouragement Group begins meeting September 1, at 10:00 a.m., and will meet September 22, otherwise will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. All moms available to meet are welcome to come fellowship together and encourage one another. Nursery is provided.

LADIES' THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Ladies' Thursday Morning Bible Study resumes September 3, at 10:00 a.m. The teacher is Bev Mealor, continuing the study of Abraham. Nursery is provided. Please contact Bev Mealor, 423.505.4048 or Babs Leach 423.629.5493 for more details.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:40 p.m. Next week's meal will be BBQ. The suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free, and the maximum family donation is \$15.

For the month of August, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: J. Gaines, M. Griggs, T. Wright, T. Lowe, E. Mullinax/T. Gaither. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.