



The eNewsletter

August 27, 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 28

Girl's Night Out

August 30

Morning Worship
Sunday School

Shepherding Groups Meet
Pastor Pirschel's Installation
Ice Cream Reception

September 1

Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council

September 2

Wednesday Night Supper
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
Wednesday Night Activities

September 10

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

September 12

Men's Breakfast

September 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Martinez/Utlaut Bridal Shower
HS SNL

September 16

Wednesday Night Supper
Parent U
Wednesday Night Activities

September 17

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

September 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
HS SNL

To borrow a generational phrase, I'm *stoked* about Pastor Pirschel's sermon series through Genesis. Perhaps the most comforting premise of the Christian worldview is the assurance of a beginning. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." These initial words of Scripture boldly proclaim that we are not lost and wandering in a cosmic circle of time and chance, isolated from any meaning. There is One who stood at the foundation of the world, who with wisdom, majesty, and purpose, caused life and history to unfold.

For the Christian, this comforting premise is deepened by the image of creation as the cooperative work of a relational, Trinitarian God. The account of creation in the Gospel of John runs parallel to the creation accounts of the book of Genesis, except that John makes it clear that the Father was not acting alone. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1.1-4). Paul similarly describes the Son's involvement in creation, referring to Jesus Christ as "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1.15-17).

The New Testament writers unapologetically affirm the Old Testament understanding of our total dependence upon the Maker of heaven and earth. But they add to this affirmation the admission that all creation - from the beginning until now - is further seen through the light of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Word of God, existing with God at the beginning. He is the One who called forth the heavens, the One who holds all things together, the One who sustains the universe by His word even now. And, like the Son, the

Spirit is affirmed in Scripture as present at the beginning and sustaining of all creation: "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host." (Psalm 33.6). Scripture clearly illumines the relational work of God from the very beginning, affirming that creation is the collaborative work of a divine relationship.

In this image of the fullness of life in the Trinity, creation advances not from any lack or need of God, but from God's abundance. And it is for this reason that creation is affirmed as good throughout Scripture. For the work of creation comes at the hands of a good, imaginative, and relational Creator. After each command that beauty and order come forth out of nothing, God declares that it is good-indeed, that creation in this way bears the image of its Creator. Augustine argued that there is a trace of the Trinity in everything. The outpouring of Trinitarian abundance into the work of all created things shows God's covenantal relationship with all creation. From the very beginning, Father, Son, and Spirit have bound themselves to **their** world. God has freely and purposely created the world out of this loving abundance of the Trinity. Leaving this mark, making humanity in His image, God shows the covenantal relationship a loving Creator not only intended for the world but continues to work to restore.

This is indeed a comforting premise. The goodness of God can be seen in the daily activities of an immense and amazing world. Into this good picture of God's creation, we are called to co-operatively participate, *to taste and see that the Lord is good*, to glorify God as Maker of heaven and earth, and join in the fellowship of a creative Trinity. Today and from the beginning, we are neither alone nor without purpose. We were made and we are being remade by the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, the Maker of heaven and earth.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule August 30

Worship

Infants

Crystal Middleton
& Susan Helton

Creepers

Heidie & Charity Armao

Toddlers

Sherry Baierl
& Jonathan Bradley

Floater

Maggie Middleton

Sunday School

Infants

Peg May
& Diane Lazor

Creepers

Amy Creamer
& Rachel Baierl

Toddlers

Frank & Nicole May

August Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

GIRL'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, August 28, the women of CPC are seeing *The War Room*. 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. An ice cream reception will follow in Schum Fellowship Hall.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COVENANT CORPS

Looking for a fun, engaging way for your child to spend Wednesday night? 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!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir begins Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. God's Kids welcomes 4 and 5 year olds and Covenant's Call welcomes 1st through 5th grade children.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

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

MOTHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Mother's Encouragement Group begins meeting September 1, at 10:00 a.m., and again on September 22. Beginning in October, MEG 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, Bev Mealor, will continue 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. 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 September, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: K. Henry, E. Brown, J. Wykoff, J. Hildebrand, and A. Sanders. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

September 2	Beef Enchiladas
September 9	Roasted Chicken with Bacon Potatoes
September 16	Pork Loin with Cheesy Grits
September 23	Taco Salad
September 30	Breakfast

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly breakfast on Saturday, September 12, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. The topic will be, "What I heard you say..." Nursery is provided.