



The eNewsletter

September 3, 2015

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

Looking Ahead...

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 14

Ladies' Monday Night Bible
Study

September 16

Wednesday Night Supper
Parent U
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

September 17

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

September 18

Ladies' Friday Bible Study

September 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
HS SNL

September 22

Mother's Encouragement

September 23

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

September 24

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

September 25

Women's Retreat

If the map of our family's life had a *You Are Here* sticker on it, that sticker would presently be located just beyond the point of no return. All our belongings are packed up and in storage, the house in California has sold, the children have all started in their respective schools and my installation vows have been taken. If all that were not enough, last week, outside the door of my study, a plaque appeared with my name engraved on it. I am pretty sure that means there is no going back now. Not that we want to turn back, mind you, but with every concrete step forward the fact of what is being left behind becomes all the more real. Of course, this is just as true for all of you as well (or better yet, true for y'all). The Pirschel family is not alone, CPC too, is at a point of no return.

This moment is mammoth. When decisions like these are made everything, in one sense, changes. Take that in for a moment. Forest Gump's mom taught that *life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get*. Well I, for one, like to know what I am going to get. In fact, in our household if you ever see a box of chocolates lying around and you decide to open the lid, you will find most of the chocolates have already been cut in half. Why? I like to know what I am going to get. How much more when it comes to my life and future? I know what my life consisted of back home; the friends, the family, the church, the routines and hobbies. Just between us, life

was pretty good. Think about yourselves. You know what your life consisted of as a church under the ministry of Render and, by all accounts, your life was pretty good. Now here we all are, together, at a point where our worlds have shifted and life is changing.

Most people do not like being uncertain or uncomfortable, yet when change arrives it typically brings these two realities in bulk. This present situation is no exception. Yet, the beauty of our lives as Christians is not that God takes away all difficulty and discomfort, but rather that God is present in the midst of them. The God who is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. So, as we look ahead to an exciting, yet unknowable future together, we can find great hope by looking backward. We do not know exactly what our tomorrow brings, but as we survey our separate pasts we can say, with all certainty and comfort, that *thus far, the Lord has helped us*. This much we know, that the God from back there who has been abundantly faithful thus far is right here, right now, and He promises to travel with us into the unknown. So take comfort, beloved, all will be well.

~Pastor Pirschel

PS. I cannot thank you enough for the genuine and loving welcome you have extended to our entire family. You have blessed us.



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule September 6

Worship

Infants

Joyce Trask
& Sally Forrester

Creepers

Sandy Coffey
& Carla Stevenson

Toddlers

Josh & Renee Ray

Floater

John Mark Beatty

Sunday School

Infants

Tara Rimondi
& Peggy Bandy

Creepers

Sarah & Maggie Wade

Toddlers

Jason & Jennifer McNeely

September Coordinator:

Diana Perrel

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. Come hear several men share how Render's ministry has impacted their lives over the past 27 years, "What I heard you say..." Nursery is provided.

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Maria Martinez, bride-elect of Robert Uthlaut is on Sunday, September 13, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Maria is registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The new Membership Directories have been printed. Please pick up your copy at the table in front of the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed on Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

The Women's Ministry is hosting their Fall Retreat, September 25-27, at the popular Oak Haven Resort in Sevierville, TN. The retreat will begin on Friday evening, September 25 and end with worship on Sunday morning, September 27. The cost for the retreat is \$99. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the lobby. A deposit of \$40 will hold your reservation. The deadline for registration is Sunday, September 20. If you have any questions about the retreat or the possibility of scholarship help, please contact Emily Calloway (423.432.1743 or emilycalloway@epbf.com).

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Please send your college student's name, school, and mailing address to the church office. If they are living at home, please make sure we have that information also. Send to cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.

PASTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Pastor Pirschel begins teaching the Pastor's Class this Sunday, September 6. A special invitation is extended each week to those newer to CPC. However, others (not so new to CPC) are welcome! The subject matter is the biblical foundations for our church's faith and practice.

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 meets Wednesdays, 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.

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