



The eNewsletter

September 10, 2015

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

Looking Ahead...

September 10

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

September 12

Men's Breakfast

September 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School

Mission Committee Meeting
Martinez/Utlaut Bridal Shower
HS SNL

September 14

Ladies' Monday Night Bible
Study

September 16

Wednesday Night Supper
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

September 26

Women's Retreat

September 27

Women's Retreat
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet
HS SNL

September 30

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

October 1

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

As you read this newsletter, I will have just completed teaching at the annual Women's Conference of the Agape Evangelical Church in Ghana. My lessons to them were taken from Ephesians and Colossians and opened with a study from Colossians on thankfulness. This opening study was convicting to me because I find that I tend to spend more time focused on what I don't have rather than thanking God for the innumerable blessings I already enjoy. Perhaps you can identify with that struggle. If so, Paul's exhortations to thankfulness may encourage you as they have me.

"Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light." (Colossians 1.12) It is only proper that our thanksgiving should begin with our salvation. We were citizens of "the domain of darkness", and we lived as children of the darkness. But because of God's love for us, we have been "transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son." This movement from darkness to light – and the eternal inheritance we have received as a result – is cause for great thanksgiving on our part. In fact, our thankfulness to God shows that we truly grasp how helpless we are without His gracious intervention in our lives.

"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in Him and...abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2.6-7) Paul warns the Colossian believers against moving away from Christ. Rather, they should find their stability and spiritual growth in connection with Christ alone. Both justification and sanctification are a work of God's grace through faith in Christ. Therefore, any growth in holiness that we may see in our lives is cause for abundant thanksgiving to God.

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...and be thankful." (Colossians 3.15) Romans reminds us that "since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans

5.1) This peace manifests itself in our internal climate as well as in our relationships within the church. We are called as "one body" and our peaceful unity – something we see so clearly here at CPC – is another reason for giving thanks to God.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3.16) The Bible is Christ's Word, but it is also the Word about Christ. Learning more from the Word about our wonderful, all-sufficient Savior produces a kind of music in the soul. This music is a good antidote for complaining thoughts, because though the words of our songs may vary, the melody is always one of thankfulness.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3.17) Words and deeds pretty much encompass everything other people see in us. With this command, Paul moves our thankfulness into the everyday world. Our visible lives – at home, work, play, and church – are to manifest that Jesus is our Lord, by openly giving thanks to God in what we say and how we act.

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4.2) Since thankfulness to God is to characterize both our inner and outer life, then it should certainly permeate our conversations with God. We continue to need His gracious intervention at every point in our life, and we increasingly realize that we have no life without Him. Knowing this, we live in an atmosphere of thankful prayer: Thank you, Father!

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

September 13

Worship

Infants

Heather Harris
& Sandi Schreiner

Creepers

Josh & Diana Perrel

Toddlers

Adam & Millie Sanders

Floater

Elijah Harris

Sunday School

Infants

Donna Armes
& Jessica Greer

Creepers

Emily & Cami Calloway

Toddlers

Luther & Shirley Allin

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.

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.

RENDER UNTO CAESAR

The Kingdom Seeker's class invites you to join them on a new study led by John Southworth, starting September 13. *Render Unto Caesar: the Christian and the State* will touch on the separation of church and state, civil disobedience, criminal justice, and many more topics as we seek to understand what God's Word says to American Christians today. Class will meet on the second floor of the Education wing, under the sign that says Grown Ups.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

PASTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Pastor Pirschel teaches the Pastor's Class each Sunday. 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.

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.

CPC VISITORS

Long-time friends of CPC, Drs. Sujai and Lavanya Suneetha, directors of *Nireekshana* in Hyderabad, India, will speak in Schum Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 20. *Nireekshana*, launched with *seed funds* from CPC's Ministry Expansion Fund, is a Christian holistic ministry (medical, Biblical counseling, training, socio-economic support) dedicated to the compassionate care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

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 16	Pork Loin with Cheesy Grits
September 23	Taco Salad
September 30	Breakfast