



The eNewsletter

September 24, 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...

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

October 3

Men's Breakfast

October 4

Lord's Supper Celebrated

Sunday School

HS SNL

October 6

Mother's Encouragement

Group

Women's Council

October 7

Wednesday Night Supper

Belarus Choir Concert

Session Meeting

October 8

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

October 11

Morning Worship

Sunday School

Missions Committee Meeting

Diaconate Meeting

HS SNL

October 12

Ladies' Monday Night Bible

Study

October 14

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday Night Activities

October 15

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

Memorial Hospital Lunch

Clothes Swap

October 16

Ladies' Friday Morning Bible

Study

Prayer, Paternity, and Puntmes

Paul Miller poses a great question in his book *A Praying Life*. 'What', he asks, 'does an unused prayer look like?' The answer: anxiety. Anxiety, he posits, is 'self on it's own.' It is the result of me (and possibly you) attempting to live life in my own strength and on my own terms. King David describes it thus:

"O Lord, my heart is *not* lifted up; my eyes are *not* raised too high; I do *not* occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me." (Psalm 131.1)

Before delving into this much further I'd like to tell you about the *puntmes*.

There are at least three *puntmes* in our neighborhood. "What," you may ask, "is a *puntme*?" Simply stated, the term *puntme* applies to any small dog that I've considered punting. Why would I want to do such a thing? While there are a plethora of reasons, one rises to the top: on several occasions they've bitten my children. A few of our younger kids even refuse to walk through our front yard. Because of this I am continually reminded of the fact that a very small dog to me seems terrifyingly large to my loved ones.

The solution, I've found, is to stay right beside the kids. If the dogs are being particularly obnoxious and the kids become particularly frightened, I'll simply scoop them up in my arms and whisper into their ear: "Daddy's got you. You're safe with me."

The truth is that I like doing this. It's not a burden for me to protect my little ones, it's part of the privilege that comes with being a father and, frankly, I like holding them when they're afraid. Even though the *puntmes* scare my kids, it drives them into my arms and so, in some sense, I'm almost grateful for them. Almost.

I can relate to my kids. I'm an exceedingly fearful person. In my fear my first impulse is still to run away, or at least avoid the situation all together. But when I do this, I miss the blessing of being with my Father.

Scripture encourages people like me, and maybe you, to view our fears differently. Instead of running from them, our Father intends to redeem our fear by allowing it to be a catalyst to drive us into His arms through prayer. He graciously gives us, His children, opportunities to draw near to Him by putting us in situations that we simply cannot handle and are beyond our natural ability to cope with. When these *puntmes* come (and they always do!) we are faced with a choice: We can allow ourselves to be consumed by anxiety and attempt to gain some measure of control over the situation in our own strength, or we can use our fears as an opportunity to lapse into honest prayer and lean our hearts towards our Heavenly Father.

David speaks of it thus:

"But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me." (Psalm 131.2)

The truth is that without those mental *puntmes* in my life, I'm not sure I would want to run to my Father as often or feel my need for Him as keenly. Frankly, He and I wouldn't be nearly as close if I weren't driven into His arms regularly. So I'm learning to be thankful for the *puntmes*.

In this sense, I'm grateful for circumstances that tend to produce anxiety in me. Fear, if left unchecked, can destroy everything it touches. But for us, dear brothers and sisters, fear can be a springboard into a closer relationship with our Father in which we jump into His arms only to hear Him whisper to us: *It's okay my beloved, I'm here, I'm greater than your fears, and I'll keep you safe.*

~Chris Gregory



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

September 27

Worship

Infants

Lewis & Anna Reid

Creepers

John Pearce
& Andrea Waldecker

Toddlers

Catherine
& Charlotte Pippin

Floater

Grace Pippin

Sunday School

Infants

Rebekah Gernhard
& Aimee Redding

Creepers

Lucy Cleveland
& Heather Morrison

Toddlers

David Gernhard
& Rich Redding

September Coordinator:

Diana Perrel

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students as you pray. Here are a few of the many we have:

Christine Armao	Lee University
Olivia Bowers	Tennessee Tech
Eric Griggs	Georgia Tech
Holly Harnsberger	Chattanooga State
Aaron Lazor	UTC
Cara Chandler	Berry College

SNL

This Sunday, September 27, SNL meets at Tony and Tracy Horton's home (474 Cardinal Road, Ringgold, GA 30736) from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Transportation not provided.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly breakfast on Saturday, October 3, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. Pastor Pirschel will be the speaker. Nursery is provided.

MEALS FOR MOMS

Meals for Moms is our ministry to new CPC moms and their families. If you would like more information about taking a meal to our new mothers, please contact Rebekah Gernhard at atkinson.bekah@gmail.com.

PERSEVERERS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Perseverers Class, led by Dr. Lamar Allen, begins a new study on the book of Hebrews on October 25. The epistle to the Hebrews has been called *a rare gem among the King's treasures*. That may be an understatement. The epistle deals with the supremacy and finality of Christ in beautiful but sometimes challenging language. Contained within this wonderful epistle is one of the finest commentaries on the Old Testament. Join a great group of believers who love to study God's Word in depth.

BELARUS CHOIR

Invite your family and friends to a Belarus Choir Concert on October 7, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. but all other Wednesday Night activities will be suspended.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directories:

Paul Beatty
Email.....pebttty@gmail.com

Lewis & Anna Reid (no landline)
Cell phone(husband) 423.227.2367
Cell phone.....(wife) 706.820.1158

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our New Members who recently joined Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Wendell & Betty Varnell
7426 Emanon Road, Harrison TN 37341
Cell Phone.....(husband) 423.432.2461
Cell Phone.....(wife) 423.432.4913
Email.....wavarnell7423@gmail.com

Christian & Brandi Siler
309 Bass Road, Chattanooga TN 37421
Cell Phone.....(husband)423.504.6647
Cell Phone.....(wife) 423.284.9317
Email.....chrisitansiler@gmail.com
Email (wife)basiler@gmail.com

John Mark Beatty
John Mark is the son of Paul and Carol Beatty. He is a 9th grader at Ringgold High School.

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 last week of September, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: D. Grant, M. Lander, M. Walker, and K. Brown. We will contact you by email to see if you are available to help.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

September 30	Breakfast
October 7	Creamy Sausage Pasta
October 14	Baked Sandwiches with Oven Fries
October 21	Chili Pie
October 28	Chicken 'N Biscuits