



The eNewsletter

October 1, 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 Music Ministries...

Where is your heart?

When I was preparing to go to Belarus in 2013, my heart wasn't necessarily in it. I enjoyed the music and making music, I enjoyed the rehearsals and even the planning for the trip. I even enjoyed facilitating fundraisers so that others could go. But Belarus was a far off place with no connection to me personally.

Render had been there, along with Ernie and others. We, as a church, had helped fund a building for their seminary (a Baptist one!), and many had been a part of the Chernobyl Children's Project that brought children out of radioactive areas for a season in the late 80s and 90s. We had enjoyed trips every four years by the Belarusian choir, a wonderful musical ensemble. Ted Hope for years, and then Ron Jobe, had helped keep us connected to the seminary and Victor, our friend. These were all noble reasons to be involved. But my heart wasn't in it.

As we left, there was trepidation over language barriers, cultural barriers, food barriers...lots of things to help keep my heart out of it. We flew halfway around the world and were tired. We went to bed, and the next day we toured the seminary. I felt more like a tourist at that time. I was interested, but to me it was like going to an exhibit.

That night we had our first rehearsal with the Belarusian choir. We sat in a way that they surrounded us. As we rehearsed I noticed the similarities between their rehearsal and one of mine. They had jokesters-people who cut up. There were side conversations going on. As the rehearsal progressed, more and more of those side conversations happened... between people who didn't even share a language. Simple words such as 'very good' and 'thank you' were shared in both languages. I was blessed to have a gentleman next to me who spoke English fairly well. He helped interpret what was being said. After a while, I felt more comfortable with these strangers in a strange land.

We sang together in several churches. After one service, a birthday party for Victor was celebrated. We were also invited. Our fellowship with our brothers and sisters from Belarus went to a new level. We shared in joy and laughter. We understood the sentiment the choir showed for Victor.

In homestays, we were able to connect with our friends even more. I stayed with a gentleman from the choir, a tenor, and his family. He repaired large trucks for a living. He had a beautiful garden-roses upon roses upon roses. We shared meals and fellowship through Google Translate. I learned that his house was being taken by the government to make a new rail line. They would notify him exactly when and then he had to move within a month. They offered an apartment in the city. The garden would be gone.

We visited several small home church pastors in Belarus. Stefan Soludukha is one that we as a church support. We were able to put people to names we had seen on the backs of bulletins. We visited kid's camps. I made balloon animals (badly) and all of us were loved as friends, not foreigners.

By the time we said goodbye, I knew that it would not be goodbye forever. I would be back. I had friends; brothers and sisters in Christ who had the same goal as me, to love God and to proclaim Him to the whole world. My heart was with them.

My brothers and sisters, your brothers and sisters are coming to town for a visit. They will be with us Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. for a concert. All Wednesday night activities are being directed towards this concert. Our choir, along with members of Christ United Methodist Church's choir will sing several selections with them. Come. Support them in their work. Love them. Love on them. Be a family. I now have a heart for them. If you get to know them, you will as well.

~Jeremy Gaines

Looking Ahead...

- 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 10**
Ladies' Self-Defense Class
- October 11**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee 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
- October 17**
Church Work Day
- October 18**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
Diaconate Meeting
HS SNL (at Gregory's)
- October 20**
Mother's Encouragement
Group



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 4

Worship

Infants

Diana Bowers
& Beth Griggs

Creepers

Tammy, Lexi
& Mandi Bacon

Toddlers

Nathan & Alayna Bowers

Floater

Julia Bowers

Sunday School

Infants

Tammy Higgins
& Debby Gardner

Creepers

Sue Spalding
& Susan Close

Toddlers

William Higgins
& Babs Leach

October Coordinator:

Judy Foster

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Oct 7 Creamy Sausage Pasta
Oct 14 Baked Sandwiches
with Oven Fries
Oct 21 Chili Pie
Oct 28 Chicken 'N Biscuits

CPC KIDS MINISTRY

If your child is ages 3 years old through 5th grade and is attending Covenant Corps, each Wednesday night they learn about God's love for us through Bible stories and the memorization of Bible verses and catechisms. The chart below lists the catechisms for your children. This quarter we are offering your children an incentive program to memorize the catechisms their class is working on.

We hope that these incentives (listed below) will be a wonderful way to encourage our children to hide God's word in their hearts. We will be working with the children during class on their catechisms, but we would love it if you would also work with your children at home. Please let your child's teacher know if you do not have a list of the catechism questions and answers. Our hope is that these truths they are memorizing will stay with them for years to come. Thank you for helping us develop in your children a love for memorizing God's truths in a fun way.

Reward chart for 2015-2016				
	1st Tier- Covenant t -shirt	2nd Tier- Superfly	3rd Tier- Medal	King size candy
3 yr. olds*	#'s 1-2	#'s 3-4	# 5	#'s 1-6
4 yr. olds*	#'s 14-16	#'s 17-19	#'s 20-21	#'s 14-22
kinder- garten*	#'s 29-30	#'s 31-32	#'s 33-34	#'s 29-35
1st&2nd grade*	#'s 1-5	#'s 6-10	#'s 11-14	#'s 1-15
3rd grade*	#'s 109-112	#'s 113-116	#'s 117-118	#'s 109-119
4th&5th grade**	#'s 39-43	#'s 44-48	#'s 49-52	#'s 39-53

*Memorizing catechisms from the First Catechism teaching children Bible truths by Great Commission Publications

**Memorizing catechisms from the Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

David Armao	UT
Breezy Atkinson	Dalton State
Kelsey Fowler	Lee University
Austin Harnsberger	Calvin College
Alexis Liner	UGA
Maya Pirschel	Covenant College

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.

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.

LADIES EVENT

Ladies, in place of our Girls Night Out event, we are having a self-defense class on Saturday, October 10, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall, for ladies ages 16 and older. It is intended for ladies of all abilities. The cost is free. Sign-ups are in the lobby at the Women's Ministry table. If any questions, please contact Emily Calloway at 423.432.1743 or emilycalloway@epbf.com.

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 October, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: T. Horton, D. Elwood, and T. Schreiner. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.