



The eNewsletter

October 15, 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...

October 16

Ladies' Friday Morning Bible Study

October 17

Church Work Day

October 18

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting
HS SNL

October 20

Mother's Encouragement Group

October 21

Wednesday Night Supper
Parent U
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

October 22

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

October 25

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
TVP Reformation Service

October 28

Reformation Celebration

October 29

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

October 31

Turn Clocks Back Before Bed

November 1

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
HS SNL

November 3

Mother's Encouragement Group

November 4

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

November 5

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

November 6

Youth Fall Retreat

November 7

Youth Fall Retreat
Men's Breakfast

Kelly Gissendaner was executed September 30 for her role in the killing of her husband. During her time in a Georgia prison, she became a Christian. The evident genuineness of her conversion elicited calls from all over the world to spare her life. Even a letter from Pope Francis wasn't enough to sway the authorities. As Gissendaner's sentence was being carried out, it was reported, she sang *Amazing Grace*.

The debate raised by this case was gripping. Proponents as well as opponents of the death penalty attempted to drown the other's voices. News of the execution was greeted by cries of triumph from those who had sought justice for the crime. Others were left wondering where, when, and how mercy applies when the life of an individual hangs in the balance.

Without minimizing the personal angst of this difficult situation, wasn't this a classic representation of the distinct poles of justice and mercy? How are the guilty to be spared in cases where absolute justice is administered? If there are no shortcuts, no bribes, and no turning of a blind eye against evil, what hope is there for those in the clutches of justice? The tension between justice and mercy is a reality with which we all live, and, depending on the circumstances, our call for vindication is only matched by our plea for mercy.

The biblical solution to this conundrum is uniquely glorious! God's justice was perfectly administered at the Cross and His eternal mercy publicly displayed when God took upon Himself the punishment meant for the guilty. The perfect, sinless, infinitely just God devised the means whereby sinful, guilty human beings could be justly reconciled to God without an ounce of guilt being swept under the carpet. No other proposed means of liberation for humanity even begins to address this dilemma. The rhetorical force of the question posed in Hebrews 2.3 ought to always confront every seeker of justice; *How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?*

However, many of us stumble over the gospel even while seeking either justice or mercy in matters we feel entitled to judge. When our sense of justice is threatened, we demand answers, whether the object of our anger is another or a perfect God. This is nowhere

more evident than in attacks on the character of God based on His administration of justice, especially in the Old Testament. But at the root of this reaction lies the failure to appreciate the full implications of what one really asks for when one demands justice. If justice is to be absolutely served, the guilty cannot go unpunished. The only recourse for the guilty is to seek mercy, and mercy cannot be demanded.

Old Testament saints harbored no illusions about God being subject to their standard of justice, for they were no strangers to His terrifying holiness and hence the gravity of sin. The fact that the Israelites were His chosen people did not keep them from facing the consequences of their own disobedience, as even a casual reading of the book of Lamentations will show. There was a reason that the script writer for *Fiddler on the Roof*, which chronicles the struggles of a Jewish family, has Tevye suggest that God choose other people the next time around.

Perhaps part of the reason why we are disinclined to recognize our own dire need for mercy may be due to the fact that our clamor for justice, however impassioned, is almost always tilted in our favor. The darker recesses of our own hearts are hard to discover, but, it's there that the light of the gospel must shine. The gospel reveals and convinces us that God's assessment of our condition is true and absolute.

But if God is anything like the Scriptures say (and we dare not think otherwise), then not only should we expect God to judge sin but we can also be confident that, in the end, no one will be able to find fault with His verdict. That's why Abraham was able to trust in God's righteous judgment, even beyond the grave, when he chose to sacrifice Isaac upon the command of his Creator. He reasoned that God is able to raise the dead. Whenever we demand justice and obedience, we affirm the same standard that also condemns us. They are blessed indeed whose passion for justice is informed by the mercy of the Cross.

~ Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 18

Worship

Infants

Amy & Meg Wooten
& Esther McEachern

Creepers

Dawn Reynolds
& Emilia Marrs

Toddlers

Mike & Holly VanderGriend

Floater

Julia Bowers

Sunday School

Infants

Rachel Miller
& Alayne Griffin

Creepers

Eunice Martin
& Amy Wright

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

October Coordinator:

Judy Foster

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Oct 21 Chili Pie
Oct 28 Chicken 'N Biscuits

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

Scott Beatty	Lee University
Davis Brown	Ole Miss
Ali Fugatt	UTC
Anna Harnsberger	Tennessee Tech
Abby Horton	Covenant College
Jason Marrs	UTC
Meg Orthner	UTC

SNL CHANGE

The location for Sunday's SNL has been changed from the Gregory's to the home of Tony and Tracy Horton (474 Cardinal Road, Ringgold, GA 30736) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., guys bring dessert, gals bring drinks. Transportation not provided.

NURSERY COORDINATORS NEEDED

Please contact Heather Harris if you are willing to be a Nursery Monthly Coordinator for one of the following months: December, March, April or May.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Labels are available to place on the boxes marking age and gender of the child. You can participate several ways:

- * **Fill a shoe box** for a specific gender/age child (2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14). OCC requests the use of Walmart or Dollar store's plastic boxes which are shoe box sized as they are more durable. If you are able to write a note to include in your box, it would be a great blessing to that child as they have been known to prize things like letters and pictures well into adulthood. Collection point is the Ladies Sunday School classroom across from the coke machine.
- * **Donate** - items for shoe boxes. Sample items: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloths, small toys, combs, socks, school supplies, hard candy (no chocolate since it melts, no liquids), etc.
- * **Donate money** - OCC requests \$7 for shipping per box. Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, and put OCC on the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate no later than **November 15**.
- * **Wrap and stuff boxes** on Saturday, November 21, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom.

Covenant Corps is encouraging children to bring in items to give OCC. A large donation box is in the Children's Wing for kids to bring items on Sundays and Wednesdays, so they can develop a heart for giving and be a part of giving to children around the world.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directory:

James Hall

Email.....jahall@epbfi.com

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Wednesday, October 28, we'll celebrate our Reformation heritage with food and lots of fun-filled, informative activities, including: Bunyan Bounce House, Tetzels Toss, Calvin's Catapult, The Diet of Worms, Pin the Theses, Salvation Shot, and Reformation Rings...just to name a few! Supper is from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the activities are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Costumes are optional. Be on the lookout for the funny-looking fat friar.

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*. The epistle deals with the supremacy and finality of Christ in beautiful but sometimes challenging language. Join us in a great study of God's Word in depth.

PARENT U

Parents, there is an informational meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, at 5:45 p.m. in the Youth Suite. Please plan to attend.

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.

YOUTH FALL RETREAT

All Middle School and High School youth are invited to a "Modgnik" Fall Retreat, November 6-8 at Ponderosa Bible Camp in Mentone, Alabama. The cost is \$60.00. Danielle Wilkie is collecting registration and \$30 to secure spots. Space is limited. Full payment is due by October 25. Checks made out to CPC. Please contact Chris Gregory for further questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Please collect empty toilet paper or paper towel rolls for a special project being planned by the Women's Ministry. Place them in the box by the WM table.