



The eNewsletter

October 29, 2015

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

October 31

Turn Clocks Back Before Bed

November 1

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
HS SNL

November 2

Ladies' Monday Night Bible
Study

November 3

Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting

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

November 8

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Siler Baby Shower
Youth Fall Retreat

November 11

Wednesday Night Supper
Mission Conference Activities

November 12

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

November 14

Missions Committee Brunch

November 15

Mission Conference Sunday
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
HS SNL

November 17

Mother's Encouragement
Group

November 18

Wednesday Night Supper
Parent U
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

Sunday evening, I was rather spent as I stepped on the plane returning from my mother-in-law's memorial service in Florida. I was dreaming of a two-hour nap before I even found my seat. Of course, as is usually the case in situations like these, when one is intent on being anti-social and insistent on having earned the right to be so, I found myself next to an animated, first-time traveler. The young woman had been a child as she watched the events of 9-11 unfold and had determined then never to travel by airplane; that is, until today, when family events presented a need to break her own rule. She was anxious, excited and inquisitive all at once. She also noticed things I'm fairly certain I have never noticed in my travel experiences, commenting with elation, curiosity, or confusion on every single one of them. Her excitement eventually became refreshing to me. By the time we landed, I not only had a new friend, but was awakened to things I fail to see around me.

It would seem that repetition has a way of lulling us to sleep; monotony a way of robbing us of sight or else leaving us disinterested. Real life examples are readily available. How many news stories do we need to hear about violence or suffering, racial oppression or injustice, before we fail to hear them at all? For that matter, how many stories about something small but positive do we really take in before we respond in boredom? How many times do we need to sit on an airplane or see the bird outside our window before the marvel of flight simply goes without notice? Like most adults, we learn to tolerate the repetitious by learning to operate on auto-pilot.

And yet, I am certain, even among the most skilled of auto-pilots, there was a time when we found ourselves, like every child, delighting in the routine, longing for another minute with grandpa, another page of the story, another trip down the slide. The incongruity is unmistakable. How can our failure to see be blamed on monotony, unconscious living attributed to the repetitive, when at one point monotony and

repetition were not only tolerated but *invigorating*? Blindness can easily be blamed on the world around us - and there is a sensory overload - but perhaps this is too easy an answer. Perhaps the scales on our eyes are thickened not by the many repetitions in life, but by our failure to see life in the many repetitions around us.

Jesus spoke of the kingdom as belonging to the likes of little children, and many have speculated the child's ability to see the world with wonder as one of the reasons for it. The children's cry for more could be a quality of the very God who created them. Doesn't the Lord command the sun every day and the moon every night, "Do it again"?

For the child on the slide or the toddler with a story, "Do it again!" is far from a cry of boredom or routine, but a cry for more of life itself. This is likewise the joy of the psalmist, the cry of the prophets, and the call of Christ: *Consider the lilies, how they grow...if God so clothes the grass of the field...how much more will he clothe you?* Luke 12.27-28. Jesus asks the world to consider the kingdom around us like little children. And, thus, something more like God - finding a presence in faithful recurrences, grace in repetition, rumors of another world in the ordinary world around us. Here, even those within the most taxing of life's repetitions - the daily care of an aging parent, the constant burden on the shoulders of those who fight against injustice, the labor of hope in a difficult place - can find solace. *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope*, said Jeremiah in the midst of deep lament. *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning... 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him'* Lamentations 3.22-24, emphasis mine.

Morning by morning, the daily liturgy of new mercies comes with unapologetic repetition to all who will see it, the gift of a God who revels in the creation of yet another sunrise, the encore of another starry night, the discovery of even one lost soul.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule November 1

Worship

Infants

Jay & Susan Helton

Creepers

Lyndsey, Ellie,
& Daisy Bowman

Toddlers

Jason & Bret Bowman

Floater

Capps Brown

Sunday School

Infants

Sandra Nicely

Creepers

Karen & Madison Crago

Toddlers

Vangie Wykoff
& Ellen Heider

November Coordinator:

Eva Herberich

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

November 4	Spaghetti and Caesar Salad
November 11	International Soup and Salad Bar
November 18	Chicken 'N Biscuits
December 2	Fettucine Alfredo
December 9	Roast Beef and Mashed Potatoes

BABY SHOWER

A baby shower in honor of Brandi Siler is on Sunday, November 8, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Brandi is registered at Children's Fair, Babies R Us, and Target.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

David Herberich.....UT
 Michael Horton.....Samford
 Kristen Liner.....Georgia State
 Emilia Marrs Chattanooga State
 Luke OrthnerSamford
 Andrew Schreiner Chattanooga State
 Abbie Stokes Georgia Southern

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly breakfast on Saturday, November 7, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. Nursery is provided.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

CPC's Annual Missions Conference is November 11-15. This year's theme is *To Such Belong the Kingdom*. Throughout the week, we'll focus on children's outreach and student ministries. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Herb Ward. Make plans to join us Wednesday, November 11, through Sunday, November 15, for many planned events.

30 DAYS OF PRAYER

Mission to the World (MTW), the PCA's foreign mission arm, has produced a *30 Days of Prayer for World Missions* calendar. This helpful prayer tool is available at the church's Welcome Center. Please commit to pray for our missionaries and ministries throughout the month of November - this coincides with CPC's Annual Missions Conference, November 11-15. Particularly, pray for those in restricted-access countries where believers are often persecuted for their faith. The calendar also highlights the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on November 1, giving you the opportunity to join the worldwide body of Christ in prayer for the persecuted church.

MEN'S 2016 RETREAT

Looking ahead - mark your calendars! We are excited to announce that the Men's Retreat is scheduled for January 22-23 at Camp Vesper Point. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday night and be finished by noon on Saturday. The retreat speaker is Pastor Pirschel, and he will be focusing on who we are as men of Christ and how that works itself out in our day-to-day lives. More information to follow!

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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directory:

Dottie Gillette

Standifer Place, 2626 Walker Road, Room 519
Chattanooga TN 37421

Almeda Bost

c/o Julie Meeks, 1 Travelers Court,
Simpsonville SC 29681

Mary Maurer

4450 Michigan Avenue Road NE, Cleveland TN 37323
Home..... 423.476.0051

Jon & Patty Arbuckle

Cell Phone (husband)..... 423.762.3962
Cell Phone (wife)..... 423.593.3180
Home..... 423.551.4237

Emilia Marrs

Cell Phone..... 423.331.3503
Email..... elite.marrs@gmail.com

Ed & Kay Brown

Email.....edwbrown1@epbf.com

Jon Griffin

Email.....jdgriffin@usxpress.com

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

November 21 is packing day! Collection boxes available in Ladies' Sunday School Class, as well as the Children's Wing. If you want to pack your own box, labels are available, at the Welcome Center, to place on your box, marking age and gender. To help with shipping, make checks payable to *Samaritan's Purse* and place in the offering by November 15.

THANKSGIVING POUNDING

It's time again for our annual collection of nonperishable food items to share with those in need. Please bring your donations of canned goods and staples and place them in the box outside Danny Grant's office by November 18. Monetary donations are always welcome (due November 15), and are needed to purchase perishable items (turkey, ham, etc.) on the day of delivery, November 21. If you know someone in need or if you, yourself, could use a hand this year, please contact the church office or an elder.

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.

NURSERY SCHEDULES

Nursery Volunteer Schedules are available for pick up at the Welcome Center.

YOUTH FALL RETREAT

All Middle School and High School youth registered for the Fall Retreat, November 6-8, please be at the church on Friday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m. The youth will return Sunday, November 8, at noon.