



The eNewsletter

December 10, 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...

Looking Ahead...

December 10

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

December 11

Women's Christmas Dinner

December 12

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

December 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee
Diaconate Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program

December 15

Mother's Encouragement Group

December 16

Caroling & Desserts

December 17

Memorial Hospital Lunch

December 18

Ladies' Friday Bible Study

December 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday

December 24

Church Office Closed -
Christmas Eve
Lessons & Carols

December 25

Church Office Closed -
Christmas

December 27

Morning Worship
Sunday School

December 31

Church Office Closed at noon -
New Year's Eve

January 1

Church Office Closed - New
Year's Day

January 3

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

January 4

Ladies' Monday Night Bible
Study

My daughter's favorite Christmas movie, and, possibly her favorite movie regardless of the season, is a musical version of *A Christmas Carol* that was produced about fifteen years ago. No, at our house we don't choose the Muppet version, or the George C. Scott version, or even the Patrick Stewart version. This version stars Kelsey Grammer, Frazier Crane of all people.

In the musical, light is used to lead the story. The Ghost of Christmas Past appears from the flicker of a candle. She illuminates all that was right and all that was wrong. When the Ghost of Christmas Present steps from the shadows into the light and reveals the two children, Ignorance and Want, what is tucked away in the mind of Scrooge regarding the poor comes to the front of his thinking. Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Be reveals to Scrooge a foreshadowing of his death through illuminating his own gravestone, and shows how meaningless his life of living for money had been.

We have an even greater Light, which guides us.

When the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, first appears to the believer, the darkness is separated from the light, and we are shaken to our core, or are *sore afraid*, because we see ourselves, even more so than Scrooge, for whom we really are. But that Light empowers us as well. Light keeps us from bumping around in the dark. With God's Light, we see His path for us, and the obstacles that the Prince of Darkness has placed in our way. With

Christ as our Morning Star, we have an unwavering guide on our way. God shows us what is good for us, and nurtures us and helps us grow through His Word.

And when the Light of Christ is shone through His people, it draws men to it. I miss the times when a thunderstorm would knock out power to our house, and, one by one, the kids would make their way down the hallway to be in our bedroom with the only lit candle in the house. Being *in the light* gave them the security they needed to rest peacefully. When the Light of Christ shines through us in our words, deeds, and attitude, it has an enormous impact on those around us. Much like that candle in our bedroom, God's Light in us shows men a peace, a security that may not be understood, but is undeniably real.

This year's Sanctuary Choir Christmas concert focuses on the theme of going from darkness into light, or, more specifically, *the Light*, Christ. From Genesis to the Great Commission, we will follow the path illuminated by that Light, which shows us God's love in redeeming His people from the dominion of darkness to live in His Light. The concert is this Sunday evening, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. Please come and join us, and bring your friends, family, and neighbors. There is no greater time than this season to share the Light of Christ to a world that enjoys darkness too much.

Merry Christmas from the Gaines family to yours,

~Jeremy



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule December 13

Worship

Infants

Anna Reid
& Kelly Orthner

Creepers

Carla Stevenson
& Emily Calloway

Toddlers

Katherine Fisher
& Scott Orthner

Floater

Cami Calloway

Sunday School

Infants

Donna Armes
& Amy Wright

Creepers

Sue Spalding
& Lucy Mantel

Toddlers

Volunteers Needed

December Coordinator:

Joyce Trask

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Emily Vatt, bride-elect of David Butt, is on Sunday, January 17, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Emily is not registered. Gift cards are the best gift option since the couple will be moving out West after the wedding.

SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Post Tenebras Lux, From Darkness Into Light is presented Sunday evening, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. Come join together as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and King.

PRISON MINISTRY ORIENTATION

Are you interested in joining other CPC men in rewarding ministry at Walker State Prison? The next training/orientation session takes place at First Presbyterian Church (Chattanooga) on Saturday, December 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please contact Tim Owens or Rich Denking for more details.

SNL

SNL is not meeting in the month of December and will resume January 10.

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.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, December 17, we will provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit this week, please call or email the church office.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. with a service of Lessons and Carols.

SAVE THE DATE

It's an offer you should not refuse! 2016 Men's Retreat coming soon! January 22-23, 2016 at Camp Vesper Point, with Pastor Pirschel as the speaker.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following changes in your CPC Membership Directory:

Jesse & Lenny Pirschel
1112 Westwood Avenue
Chattanooga TN 37405

Tom & Frances Lowe
6744 Willow Brook Drive
Chattanooga TN 37421

Bruce Spencer
Email.....cbsuga57@epbf.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Pirschel's Wednesday Night Bible Study will not meet in December. Class will resume January 6.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

The next supper is scheduled for January 6.

CAROLING AND DESSERTS

The entire church family is welcome to meet at the church Wednesday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. We will break up into small groups to go caroling at local retirement homes and various neighborhoods. Bring a dessert to share with everyone as we will meet back at the church for desserts and hot drinks when finished.

CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save those Christmas card stamps. Deposit them in the mailbox by Pastor Mullinax's office. These used stamps are processed and re-sold with all the proceeds going to finance Sunday School curriculum in Latin America.

BUDGET REPORT

Through December 6:
Budget: \$1,385,104
Actual: \$1,296,027
Shortfall: \$89,077

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31 to be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2015.

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed the following days:
Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25 - Christmas
Thursday, December 31 - closing at noon
Friday, January 1 - New Year's Day