



The eNewsletter

January 7, 2016

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

January 7

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

January 9

Men's Breakfast

January 10

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee
SNL

January 13

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

January 14

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

January 15

Ladies' Friday Bible Study

January 17

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
Diaconate Meeting
SNL

January 20

Wednesday Night Supper
Parent U
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

January 21

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

January 22

Men's Retreat
Girls Night Out

January 23

Men's Retreat

January 24

Morning Worship
Sunday School

January 27

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

January 28

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

January 30

Youth Bowling Party

January 31

Morning Worship
Sunday School
SNL

Happy New Year! 2015 has been quite a year of change for the Pirschel family. To name just some of the changes; we moved across the country, began ministering at a new church, sent our first child off to college (even if only up the mountain) and purchased a new home. As I write this, I know that it has been quite a year of transition for Covenant Presbyterian Church as well. Pastoral transition is no small event in the life of a congregation. The potential pitfalls in the process are legion. Yet, thus far, the Lord has helped us.

One striking and tangible way that we can see God's kindness to us is in the giving from 2015. It is no small thing for a church to reach their annual budget and quite another for a church to exceed in projected giving by over a \$150,000. For those who did not hear on Sunday, the church exceeded its projected general fund giving by \$165,000. Not only did God provide abundantly in this regard but this giving does not reflect the fact that we also were able to meet our desired goal for the Nursery Expansion Fund this year. Consider that for a moment. This is something that should evoke heartfelt praise from us no matter what year it is, but when one considers this grace in giving took place in the midst of a pastoral transition speaks volumes concerning the work of God among His people here. I would encourage you to take some time to give thanks

to the Father for His work in our midst, knowing that this is not something we have done but rather something He has done through us.

I would also like to personally express my gratitude to you as a congregation; as the minister coming into a new situation there are countless potential challenges. According to the stats, financial shortfall is one challenge that I am supposed to be dealing with at this very moment. During transitions, it is almost inevitable. Or so the stats say. And yet, God has been kind through His work in you to remove that as a burden to my ministry here. This is a huge encouragement to me. And I can say, on good authority, that it was an encouragement to Dusty Kemp as well as he takes on his new role as acting treasurer. All Glory to God.

Please note that the combined Sunday School Class, *A Conversation on Corporate Worship*, begins this Sunday. There will be an opportunity to submit questions in writing concerning the series or concerning changes to the service. These questions will be collected after the first class, so that I can address them properly. I look forward to the dialogue and to opening God's word together.

~Pastor Pirschel



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule January 10

Worship

Infants

Joyce Trask
& Ellie Bowman

Creepers

Lyndsey & Daisy Bowman

Toddlers

Jason & Luke Bowman

Floater

Bret Bowman

Sunday School

Infants

Alayne Griffin
& Sandra Nicely

Creepers

Cayce Weekley
& Rachel Miller

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

December Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly breakfast on Saturday, January 9, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. Vanna Ker is speaking on *I was running for my life*.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Pirschel is teaching a combined Sunday School class, including the youth, in the Sanctuary, January 10, January 17, and January 24. This will be *A Conversation on Corporate Worship*. Refreshments available in Schum Fellowship Hall, but please do not bring food into the Sanctuary.

SNL

SNL is meeting this Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

VALENTINE DINNER

The 4th Annual Valentine Dinner and Cake Auction, benefitting the 2017 choir mission trip to Belarus, will be held Friday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. This is a must-do social event in the life of the church, and this by reservation only dinner fills up fast. Registration in the lobby, after church.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE BEGINS AGAIN

If you are interested in making music, being a part of an ensemble, and giving your biceps and triceps a workout, your day is coming! Handbell Ensemble rehearsals will start on Sunday, January 17, at 4:30 p.m. We will rehearse twice a month, and welcome anyone Middle School age and up regardless of experience. To learn more and to show interest, contact Jeremy Gaines at jgaines@covenantchattanooga.org.

YOUTH BOWLING

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE: All High School and Middle School Youth are invited to go bowling on Saturday, January 30, at noon, at Pinstrikes.

MEN'S RETREAT

It's an offer you should not refuse! *Real men, doing real life, with real challenges, through a real God*. 2016 Men's Retreat coming soon! January 22-23, at Camp Vesper Point, with Pastor Pirschel as the speaker. Cost: \$65 per man, \$100 maximum per family, a great opportunity for families of men. Open to High School freshman and older. Includes two meals and snacks.

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.

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 January, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: J. Gaines, J. Brown, M. Griggs, T. Wright, T. Lowe, and T. Gaither. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

January 6	Chicken Curry
January 13	Beef Brisket Sandwiches and Oven Fries
January 20	Chili (red or white) and Cornbread
January 27	Stromboli
February 3	Jambalaya Pasta (Mac 'n Cheese for kids)
February 10	Breakfast
February 17	Baked Chicken and Cheesy Grits
February 24	Pork Enchiladas