



# The eNewsletter

February 18, 2016

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## *From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

#### **February 19**

Ladies' Friday Morning Bible Study

#### **February 21**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Handbell Ensemble  
SNL

#### **February 24**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### **February 25**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **February 26**

Girls Night Out

#### **February 28**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Shepherding Groups Meet  
SNL

#### **March 1**

Mother's Encouragement Group  
Women's Council Meeting

#### **March 2**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### **March 3**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **March 5**

Men's Breakfast

#### **March 6**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Mission Trip Meeting  
SNL

#### **March 7**

Ladies Monday Evening Bible Study

#### **March 9**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### **March 10**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **March 12**

Women's Spring Seminar

At our house we have recently revisited the TV show from the late 80's, *The Wonder Years*. The show opens with Joe Cocker singing the Beatles song, *With a Little Help From My Friends*. The prophets from Liverpool, whether they knew it or not, were on to something profoundly Biblical in that song. The truth being expressed is simple; you can't make it on your own. That is a Biblical truth worth repeating; you can't make it through the Christian life without other living, breathing, time-and-space-occupying Christians to help you on your way.

In Hebrews 3, we find the author of the book warning a group of Christians about the danger of falling away from the faith. The admonition the author gives is that the church is to *beware* lest they find within themselves an evil unbelieving heart that would depart from God. So how does one take care so that this does not happen to them? How can one be certain that their heart isn't being tempted to disbelieve the good Word of God? Just take a good look inside and do a personal inventory, right? Who knows you better than you? Well, according to Scripture, a lot of folks.

You see, the remedy against unbelief that is proposed by the author is that we, the church, should "exhort one another daily." And the *reason* that this is necessary is so that we are not "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3.13) Do you know why we are not the best judges of ourselves? Because sin is deceitful and your own heart tricks you. Basically, you and I lie to ourselves regularly about how we are doing spiritually.

Is this hard to believe? Consider the last time someone confronted you about an offense you committed, were you immediately eager to agree with their assessment of your actions? Or were you more tempted to move into your best Johnnie Cochran impression? Ask your spouse or a close friend what your areas of sin and personal weakness are and, when they lay it out before you, see if you do not argue against some of their findings. We all convince ourselves we are better than we really are because our hearts are slippery and sin is deceitful!

This is one of the Bible's reasons for saying you need other Christians. You need them because you cannot see yourself clearly and you do not always tell yourself the truth. Don't feel too bad, we all live, to a certain extent, in a state of denial; believing ourselves more righteous than we are. We are all severely blinded by sin. What makes sin so insidious is that first it makes us sick, and one of the effects of the sickness is it convinces us we are well. Thankfully, God has provided a solution. First and foremost, He provided Jesus as an all-sufficient Savior for sinners of every sort. Second, He gave us the body of Christ to exhort us and, in so doing, to show us our blind spots so that we don't grow hardened by our sin and fall away. That is why the claim that we should avoid church because of all the hypocrites is a self-defeating argument and ultimately a symptom of the disease under discussion. For the author of Hebrews, one of the core reasons for gathering as the church is precisely because we are hypocrites and, because that is true, we need *a little help from our friends* to keep us from becoming bigger ones.

~Pastor Pirschel



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule February 21

#### Worship

##### Infants

Esther McEachern  
& Sandi Schreiner

##### Creepers

Emily & Cami Calloway

##### Toddlers

Josh & Diana Perrel

##### Floater

Daegan Brown

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Jessica Greer  
& Tara Rimondi

##### Creepers

Sherry & Rachel Baierl

##### Toddlers

John & Eva Herberich

#### February Coordinator:

Peg May

### GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. the women of CPC are having a Leap Year Game Night at the church. Ladies, bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Please contact Dory George with any questions, 423.693.1740 or snailmail.dg@gmail.com.

### MISSION TRIP MEETING

Everyone interested in the Canada Mission Trip this summer, please attend an informational meeting on Sunday, March 6, at 12:15 p.m. in the Frederick Room.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

For the month of February, the Young Marrieds Sunday School class is joining the Calvin & Hobbs Sunday School class for a discussion on *The Gospel and Sexuality*. Dr. Kevin Eames, a psychology professor from Covenant College, will be leading the discussions. This topic will cover a variety of cultural issues such as marriage, homosexuality, gender identity, living together before marriage, gender roles, and more. Due to the mature subject matter, parents can determine if they want their children to attend or not.

### MEALS FOR MOMS

*Meals for Moms* is our ministry to new CPC moms and their families. If you would like more information about taking a meal to our new mothers, please contact Rebekah Gernhard at atkinson.bekah@gmail.com.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DINNER

If you are a teacher or helper for the Children's Ministry (2 yr olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade), either Wednesdays or Sundays, you are invited to a fellowship potluck on Sunday, March 20, right after Sunday School. If you minister to the children on Sunday during Sunday School, please bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, rolls, or dessert). If you minister to our children on Wednesday night during Covenant Corps, please bring a main dish. Drinks will be provided.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Mike Triplett

Email.....miketrip@epbfi.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, 4 and under eat free. The maximum family donation is \$15.

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

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

February 24	Pork Enchiladas
March 2	Soup 'N Bread Bowls
March 9	Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole
March 16	Irish Shepherd's Pie

### BUDGET REPORT

A copy of the approved budget for 2016 is available at the Welcome Center.

### COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please remember to pray for our college students as they are in the midst of their semester and are studying hard.

### WOMEN'S SPRING SEMINAR

Mark your calendars! The women of CPC will have a Spring Seminar, on Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.