



The eNewsletter

March 3, 2016

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

Looking Ahead...

- March 5**
Men's Breakfast
- March 6**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Mission Trip Meeting
Handbell Ensemble Practice
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
- March 13**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Helton Bridal Shower
SNL
- March 15**
Mother's Encouragement
Group
- March 16**
Wednesday Night Supper
Handbell Ensemble Practice
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting
- March 17**
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- March 18**
Ladies' Friday Morning Bible
Study
- March 20**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
Deacons Meeting
Morris Bridal Shower
- March 24**
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Seder Dinner
- March 25**
Church Office Closed -
Good Friday

"Doc, how do we know that what you are telling us is true? Is this just your opinion, or can you show us from the Bible?" There is no greater excitement for a teacher than when his students begin to think for themselves. Ultimately, the goal of all true teaching is to equip learners to critically evaluate information and only take on board that which is valid. They challenged me, not with any disrespect, but because they desired to understand the Biblical basis for what I was teaching. It was wonderful! I thanked them for their questions and we dug deeper into God's Word.

Last month I traveled to Nigeria and Ghana to teach the Doctrine of the Church to the three separate MINTS Bible Schools that ELI has established in these countries. For the week in Nigeria, I was joined by Rev. Don Mountan, ELI's Director Emeritus, who taught Apologetics. Rev. Stan Armes met us in Ghana for the final two weeks, and did an excellent job teaching Expository Preaching. Each of the topics was well-received, but I want to share a small taste of how God helped these leaders better understand Christ's Church.

The Doctrine of the Church was highly relevant because our African brethren had never studied what the Bible teaches about the Church. So as we considered the Scriptural descriptions of the church, its Old Testament roots, God's intention for the church, and various views of church government, they asked many insightful questions. They even continued their discussions outside of class time because the material seriously challenged many of their accepted practices.

They struggled to grasp how the Church could be unified as the Body of Christ when there are so many divisions between denominations and various congregations. Yet, as we considered the differences between the visible and the invisible

Church, they began to understand that while the visible Church does not manifest that unity, the invisible Church is perfectly unified and holy in Christ. Christ is building His invisible Church - His body (see Matt. 16.18) - not any one visible church or denomination. Since these students are from many different denominations, this was a profitable lesson in Biblical ecumenism.

We also discussed at length the thorny issue of authority in the Church. We considered Ephesians 1.22 which categorically states that Christ rules over everything in heaven and earth *for the sake of the Church!* They quickly understood and embraced the concept that all authority comes from Jesus Christ, but many of their questions stemmed from the sad reality that in West Africa authority is gravely misused - even in the Church. Many *founding pastors* view the church as their personal property. In these African-initiated churches, the word of the Founder is law, the money all goes to him (or her) and their children often inherit the church when the Founder dies! Even in the more traditional churches and denominations, the senior pastor often rules autocratically over everything in the congregation. The Biblical teaching on authority, and the accountability to God that comes with that authority, helped them to actually put words to a situation they instinctively knew was wrong.

God gave me great encouragement during this ministry trip, as I witnessed the growing maturity and strong commitment of these leaders. There is great joy in seeing God's people walk in the truth (3 John 4). Thank you for sending me, and for supporting me in prayer while I'm away.

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 6

Worship

Infants

Jeanie Ray
& Reita Pierce

Creepers

Andrea Waldecker
& Colleen Murphy

Toddlers

Catherine & Charlotte
Pippin

Floater

Grace Pippin

Sunday School

Infants

Selah Cross
& Tammy Higgins

Creepers

Sophia Cross
& Volunteer Needed

Toddlers

William Higgins
& Brandon Cross

March Coordinator:

Volunteer Needed

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Taylor Helton is on March 13, from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Taylor is registered at Bed, Bath, & Beyond and potterybarn.com.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m. Tony DeMarco is speaking on *Christ walked into the Life of an Ordinary Man*. Nursery provided.

MISSION TRIP MEETING

If you are 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.

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.

WOMEN'S SPRING SEMINAR

Mark your calendars! The women of CPC are having a Spring Seminar, on Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. *When it rains, sometimes it pours*. Cost: \$6. Nursery available for those who register (infant to age 5). Registration deadline is March 6.

COVENANT CORPS AND YOUTH

On Wednesday, March 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., all children (age 3 through 18) are invited to watch our special guest, Jaden Maxwell, perform for us in Schum Fellowship Hall. Jaden is an amazing Christian Magician with *KNOW ILLUSION MINISTRIES*. Jaden's desire is that through his talents, God will be heard and felt.

Please make plans to bring your children to the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, rather than the Children's Wing or Youth Suite, and join us for a fun and entertaining evening.

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 March, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: J. Harris, D. Hobbs, J. Coffey, T. Smith, and E. Mullinax. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

ATTENTION

On Wednesday nights, please do not take food throughout the church building.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

March 9	Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole
March 16	Irish Shepherd's Pie
March 23	No meal (Seder Dinner)
March 30	Italian Stromboli
April 6	Baked Potato Bar
April 13	Pork Pot Pie

SEDER DINNER

CPC is observing Maundy Thursday, March 24, with a Seder Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Colonnade in Ringgold. Registration forms available at Welcome Center.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DINNER

If you are a teacher or helper for the Children's Ministry (2 year olds through 5th grade), on Wednesdays or Sundays, you are invited to a fellowship potluck on Sunday, March 20, right after Sunday School. If you minister to our children 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. Please contact Holly Lehmann with any questions.