



The eNewsletter

March 17, 2016

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...

March 18

Ladies' Friday Morning Bible Study

March 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Membership Sunday
Deacons Meeting
Morris Bridal Shower

March 23

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

March 24

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Seder Dinner

March 25

Church Office Closed -
Good Friday

March 26

Egg Hunt Breakfast

March 27

Morning Worship
Sunday School

March 30

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

March 31

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

April 2

Men's Breakfast

April 3

Morning Worship
Sunday School
SNL

April 4

Ladies' Monday Night Bible Study

April 5

Mother's Encouragement Group
Women's Council Meeting

April 6

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

April 7

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

"Celebrities are those who are well known for their *well known-ness*." That may be a contemporary quote, but, its impetus goes way back. The world has always been enamored with appearance. We're intoxicated by power, drool over prestige, and fawn over those with high, popular, or noted positions. The Academy Awards ceremony and the ever-multiplying spinoffs of the event are cases in point. Endless hours are invested into analyzing every detail of the happenings and the who's who on the red carpet. What are people wearing? Who are they with? Is their popularity soaring or sinking? We are so immersed in these topics, which are given such serious attention and focus, that the sheer emptiness often escapes us.

Perhaps one of the greatest contrasts to the world's chosen is God's choice of messengers. Would anyone have chosen Moses? Would anyone have chosen the twelve disciples? You can almost hear the crowd, the cultured despisers, responding to the likes of Hosea, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist: "Who, them? You've got to be kidding!"

Jonah's life is a great case study for showing just how often we misjudge and misread. If even a professional prophet could get things so wrong in terms of understanding God and those God chooses to bless, forgive, or call nearer, how will we be any different? Yet how often, and how tritely, we invoke the truth that "God's ways are not our ways," while simultaneously operating as if we have it all figured out. Like Jonah, we often feel we know exactly what should happen in any given situation and are more than ready to offer advice, correction, or input. Yet, the frequency with which Jonah got it wrong, the people of Israel got it wrong, and we continue to get it wrong, should truly demand an ample measure of humility and introspection. What does

God see in the lives of those He calls? What are we overlooking? What are we not seeing at all?

In his letter to the Corinthians and throughout many of his writings, the apostle Paul seeks to unpack the mystery of God's workings and to show that God's ways are truly *other* than what is considered the norm. Paul brings home not only the surprising content of the message and the unusual choice of the messengers, but more importantly, the unconventional way that God works. The apostle does not really say anything about why or how God chooses, but simply that God does so: *And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'* (1 Corinthians 1:30-31).

Following Christ requires independent and courageous thinking and acting. It is often to go against the flow, to stand in an opposing manner, to resist what is the wisdom of the crowd. Paul's reminder of the basis upon which God chooses should divest us of our self-elevation. For God's choosing is not based on our credentials or qualifications but solely and squarely on Christ's. Francis Schaeffer used to say, "There are no little people" in God's eyes. We are all sinners saved by and dependent on grace. Thus, we must constantly lay hold of what has been done for us and learn to rest in God's provision, wisdom, and care. We can also rejoice that even today God deliberately, with perfect knowledge, and real intention, chooses the unlikely, overturning titles of power, success, and wisdom in a world with very different scales.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 20

Worship

Infants

Amy & Meg Wooten

Creepers

Carla Stevenson
Macy & Melissa Horton

Toddlers

Katherine Fisher
& Mindy Horton

Floater

Will Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Creepers

Anna Steere
& Rachel Miller

Toddlers

Craig & Susan Miller

March Coordinator:

Heather Harris

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Amy Morris is on March 20, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Amy is registered at Belk, Target, and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

EGG HUNT BREAKFAST

Our annual egg hunt breakfast is Saturday, March 26. This fun event is a fundraiser for the youth going to summer camps and mission trips. A full breakfast is served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. A story explaining the reason we celebrate Easter begins at 9:15 a.m., followed by the egg hunt at 9:30 a.m. for children ages 2 through fifth grade. Bring a basket only, as the eggs are provided. Allergy-free candy is available for those who need it. For more information, please contact Chris Gregory or Tracy Horton.

CANDY DONATIONS

A collection box is located outside of Pastor Mullinax's office for your donations of individually wrapped candy for the Egg Hunt. Please bring donations by Sunday, March 20.

SEDER DINNER

Thursday evening, March 24, at 6:30 p.m., we will gather as the family of God to eat a meal. We will celebrate a Seder service, commemorating the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. This was the meal eaten together by Jewish families the first night of Passover. This wasn't a meal they ate simply because they were hungry. They ate this meal to remember the blood by which they had been saved and safely delivered out of the land of slavery. Likewise, we will gather not simply because we are hungry, though we do anticipate a delicious meal, but because of the blood of the Lamb of God shed for us.

In I Corinthians 5.7, Paul tells us that *Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed*. What we will do Thursday evening, March 24, is a reminder of how important it is for us to recall what took place in Egypt, the significance of the events of that night, how they anticipated events that would occur at Calvary, and the great salvation that is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ. It will be a family meal. Our focus will be on remembering what God has done. Hopefully, God will use our time of celebration to encourage us in our family and *to spur (us) ... toward love and good deeds*. (Hebrews 10.24)

Again this year, the Colonnade in Ringgold will be the venue for this service. **Registration is required by Monday, March 21! You may register by using forms in the Lobby, by emailing cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org or by calling 423.899.5377.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

There is no Wednesday Night Activities this Wednesday due to the Seder Dinner on Thursday, March 24. However, the Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal is at 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DINNER

If you are a teacher or helper, or interested in helping, with 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.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students in your prayers. Many of them are in the midst of their semester and will be making summer plans soon.