



The eNewsletter

March 31, 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 Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- 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**
Clothes Swap
- April 10**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
SNL
- April 13**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
- April 15**
Girl's Night Out
- April 17**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
SNL
- April 19**
Mother's Encouragement Group
- April 20**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Joint Deacon/Session Meeting
- April 21**
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- April 22**
Ladies' Friday Morning Bible Study

Have you ever wondered why God created? Some will say that God created because He was lonely, others say He needed to display His love, while others, a bit more theologically savvy, will say He needed to receive glory. But once we start down any of these roads, we have a head start toward heresy with the wind at our back. Hidden underneath each supposition is the idea that God created because He *needed* something. Which is another way of saying, before He created, God was lacking something. When stated in such stark terms, most of us would agree that sort of thinking just won't do.

It seems, if we reason rightly from what we know is true about God, that creation in totality came into existence simply because God wanted it to. When we consider that creation was not necessary for God's sake, then we must conclude that all of creation, at one level, is in excess. Creation is something God has done for the pleasure of doing it. When we consider the vastness of creation we cannot help but notice it is slightly over the top. Think of it, there are stars that are created that will never be seen by the human eye, yet He has named them. There are creatures on the earth that are yet to be discovered, and may never be, discovered except by Him. There are planets that are unknown, and the ones that are known are largely uninhabited. In a culture that defines things in a large part by their efficiency and economic value, this kind of indulgent creation would be considered wasteful.

Why would God create like this? When we act like this, why do we do it? As humans we make art, cook glorious feasts, enjoy love, and go on vacation

because it is a wonderful pleasure to do so. That is what God has done in creation. Think of how glorious this is. God made all that there is, all that is good and true and beautiful, and none of it is made to meet a need He has. Yet here we are in this wonderful world. A world that from top to bottom is a gift. And in this glorious gift there is only one creature made with the capacity for thanksgiving. Only man is expected to stop and thank God for the gift. Man, whose very life is blessing, is expected to bless God. To fail to do so, in Biblical language, is idolatry (Romans 1.20-23). To believe the idolatrous lie that creation exists for creation's sake is shown most clearly by lack of gratitude.

One of your chief duties as a Christian is delight and gratitude. God has been a generous Father and is frivolous in His giving. God is not unhappy about our enjoyment of the world, in fact quite the opposite. He is only unhappy if our enjoyment of the gift handed down doesn't complete the circle by returning in thanksgiving ascending upward. As Chesterton says, "Thanks are the highest form of thought and gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." Look around you, there is so much to be taken in and appreciated; friends, family, home, sunsets, sweets, and smiles. None of which are even explicable much less deserved. They are all given. May our lives be filled with gratitude to the Giver. "O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness" – Shakespeare

~Pastor Pirschel



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule April 3

Worship

Infants

Lisa Hobbs
& Ellie Bowman

Creepers

Lyndsey & Daisy Bowman

Toddlers

Jason & Luke Bowman

Floater

Bret Bowman

Sunday School

Infants

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

Creepers

Cayce Weekley
& Bethany Firth

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

April Coordinator:

Mindy Horton

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, April 2, at 8:30 a.m. Jim Hammond is speaking on *Every Man Needs a Posse*. Nursery provided.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FINALE

We were able to reschedule the illusionist, Jaden Maxwell, to perform for us on Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. This is our last scheduled Wednesday Night Supper. It should be a fantastic evening for everyone!

CLOTHING SWAP

It's time to clean out your closets again! Bring items you do not wear, like, or that do not fit and swap them for something you can use. There are usually men's, women's, kid's, infant's, and maternity clothes, with the occasional household item thrown in. Even if you don't have anything to bring, come "shop". The Clothing Swap is on Thursday, April 7, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Wade at 706.937.5951.

MISSIONS YARD SALE

Spring Cleaning for Missions! A "parking lot" yard sale is scheduled for April 23 to help raise funds for those going on the CPC Mission Trip to Canada. Please keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning. Be thinking of items you may have that you could donate to this effort. Starting Wednesday, April 20, your donations can be brought to the church. Contact Boo Mullinax for more details.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The April birthday and anniversary calendar is available for pick up at the Welcome Center.

TATERS AND TUBE STEAKS

Mark your calendar! Friday, April 29, is our Taters and Tubesteaks dinner at Coolidge Park with a Lookouts Game to follow.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Justin Martin

Email..... saeculum91@gmail.com
Cell Phone423.883.5869

Scott & Lisa Morris

Email.....lmorris087@gmail.com

Steve & Tammy Bradford

Cell Phone (husband).....423.605.5294
Cell Phone (wife).....423.605.5293

YOUTH TALENT SHOW

All youth and parents are invited to attend our Annual Youth Talent Show on May 1, at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Please note this is a different date than originally scheduled. Hope to see you there!

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 April, the following shepherding groups have clean-up duty: D. Grant, M. Lander, M. Walker, K. Brown. We will contact you weekly by email to see if you are available to help.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

April 6	Baked Potato Bar
April 13	Pork Pot Pie
April 20	Spaghetti and Caesar Salad
April 27	Taco Salad

CHOICES PREGNANCY CENTER

Be a Voice Walk & Run is Saturday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m. at Camp Jordan. Enjoy face painting, inflatables, games, and prizes. All proceeds go directly to the life-changing work of Choices Pregnancy Center. Register at www.choicesPRCnow.org.