



# The eNewsletter

May 5, 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 Director of Youth and their Families...

While Reba and I are thankful for this body for *many* reasons, we've always been particularly grateful to serve at a church that takes the Great Commission seriously. In fact, we have it printed *in stone* just outside of our sanctuary.



In Matthew 28 Jesus commissions His followers to "Go... and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Years ago, while in seminary, I remember a particularly moving speaker in chapel. He noted that in every language around the world "go" means the exact same thing as: *don't stay!*

The Father calls on every believer to make disciples in our own nation. He placed us in our jobs, neighborhoods, and families for a reason. My next door neighbors need the gospel just as much as someone in a far off country. In fact, *I* need the gospel daily because, as the song says, *I'm prone to wander.*

Having said that, believers are called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to *all nations*. Jesus understood that He was calling us to a daunting task. So much so that His very next sentence is one of the most reassuring truths in all of Scripture. As we carry the gospel to the nations we go with this assurance: "Behold, I am with you, always, to the end of the age." "Behold" here means basically, *don't forget*. Don't forget what? That Jesus will never send you or me to do His work alone. He Himself promises to travel with us. Fulfilling the Great Commission may be intimidating work, but we will never have to do it alone.

Because it is an awesome call, I'm struck by the energy and vigor with which so many in our body fulfill their God-given call to make disciples of the nations year after year. In fact, many of our members seem especially drawn to serve the Lord in what are often called third world countries. I've almost grown used to

hearing about Dan Steere traveling to Ghana and Nigeria. Teams from our church have traveled regularly to Haiti, Liberia, Mexico, Belarus, Uganda, Honduras, and many other places that almost no one would ever want to travel to without being called by Christ. And He's always accompanied those He's called. Always.

This summer, the Missions Committee is sending a team to Lethbridge, Canada. Howard and Sandy Vandergriend were called by God to minister to the Blackfoot First Nations people almost two years ago. Among the Blackfoot First Nations people the leading cause of death among youth and young adults is suicide. In fact, First Nations youth commit suicide about five to six times more often than non-Aboriginal youth. Depression, alcoholism, and drugs are so pervasive in Lethbridge, it has earned the unflattering nickname *Methbridge*. In June, our team will arrive to work hand-in-hand alongside them, fulfilling our God-given commissions together.

Our team consists of: Eric Mullinax, Chris Gregory, Curtis Owens, Yvonne Owens, Grace Morrison, Heather Morrison, Thomas Wilkie, Hope Martof, Kip Reynolds, Solomon Pirschel, Christopher Beatty, Michaela Gregory, Lucy Cleveland, John Morrison, William Higgins, Lewis Reid, Emilia Marrs, Rita Newman, Emma Newman, and Christopher Gregory.

Of particular encouragement to me (and I hope to their families!) is the number of youth and young people that are interested in fulfilling the Great Commission. It is also encouraging to see a CPC mission team that represents such a diverse representation of our community. Please pray with us and for us! Would you ask God's provision, our preparation in spirit and body, protection, and productivity? Pray that God would be pleased to effectively use us to His honor and praise.

When Eric and I asked Howard what the greatest need was in the community he replied, without hesitation, "hope." And so we go. We go because there is hope and it is found in a relationship with a person. We go because the need is great and the workers are so few. We go because Jesus has promised to go with us. We go because we are called. We go because we have been commissioned.

~Chris Gregory

## Looking Ahead...

- May 7 Men's Breakfast
- May 8 Morning Worship  
Sunday School
- May 11 Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal  
Last Wednesday Night Supper  
Illusionist Performance
- May 12 Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
- May 14 Youth Car Wash
- May 15 Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Teacher Recognition  
Canada Mission Trip Meeting  
Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal  
Diaconate Meeting
- May 17 Last Mother's  
Encouragement Group
- May 18 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
Session Meeting
- May 19 Ladies' Thursday Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- May 20 Ladies' Friday Morning Bible  
Study
- May 21 Ladies' Tea
- May 22 Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Last SNL
- May 25 Mission Chattanooga Begins  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- May 26 Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
- May 29 Morning Worship  
Graduate Recognition  
Promotion Sunday  
Sunday School  
Graduate Reception  
Youth Family Picnic



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule May 8

#### Worship

##### Infants

Sandi Schreiner  
& Grace Morrison

##### Creepers

Emily & Cami Calloway

##### Toddlers

Adam & Millie Sanders

##### Floater

Matthew Beatty

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Amy Wright  
& Volunteer Needed

##### Creepers

Julia Gracy  
& Tara Rimondi

##### Toddlers

John & Eva Herberich

#### May Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, May 7, at 8:30 a.m. Ton Horton is speaking on *Life Behind the Wood Shed*. Nursery provided.

### COMPASSION SUNDAY

Our church is participating in Compassion Sunday this week. This is a national event that helps us grow in our understanding of God's very special love for the poor. Please begin praying now about sponsoring one or more of these children in need. Sponsorship packets will be available on May 8. Please contact Bev Fowler with questions or stop by the table in the Lobby.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FINALE

Wednesday, May 11, is the last Wednesday Night Supper, served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:40 p.m., with hot dogs for dinner. Illusionist, Jaden Maxwell, will perform from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall.

### YOUTH CAR WASH

The youth are hosting a car wash on Saturday, May 14, at noon, at Auto Zone on East Brainerd Road. The car wash itself is free, but you can make a pledge to sponsor a youth. Also, please help by planning to get your car washed!

Youth: if you need extra sponsor forms, they are hanging outside of Chris' office.

### LADIES' TEA

You are invited to the Ladies' Tea on Saturday, May 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost for an adult is \$8 and children 12 and under are \$6. Kid-friendly and allergy-friendly options available. A nursery is also available for those who sign up. Registration forms are at the Women's Ministry table in the Lobby. Sign up deadline is May 15. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Calloway at 423.432.1743.

Anyone wishing to volunteer china for the table or a cake stand, please sign up at the WM table.

### MUSIC CAMP 2016

Music Camp is June 6-10. Kids from Kindergarten through entering the 6th grade are invited to come and join us for a week of music, drama, crafts, Bible, and fun! Please register on our church website or fill out a form from the Lobby. See Jeremy Gaines for more details.

To volunteer to help with Music Camp, please use separate registration forms found outside Jeremy Gaines' office.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Mark Wilson

6482 Brookmead Circle, Hixson TN 37343

### TRENDING NOW FIELD TRIP

Sunday, May 15, from 1:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Trending Now class is going to Lake Winnie. The cost is \$23.54 or \$26, plus tax, depending on how many attend. Meet Tracy Horton and Adam Sanders at the front gate. Bring a sack lunch. Parents, please pick up your child at the front gate by 5:00 p.m.

### KINSHIP GROUPS

This summer, the Women's Ministry is launching several Kinship Groups focusing on special interests: book clubs, hiking, and cooking to name a few. Members of these groups will meet once a month to share in their interests together. Sign up lists are at the WM Table in the Lobby. Contact Colleen Murphy or Eva Herberich for details.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Do you like animal crackers and enjoy working with children? We would love for you to consider working in our Children's Ministry. We still need the following spots filled: 2 year old helper, 1<sup>st</sup> grade helper, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade helper, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade helper. Working with our Covenant children will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Contact Holly Lehmann with any questions [cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org).

### GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 29, is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. Please let us know if you are graduating or have a graduate in your family so we can recognize everyone graduating since last spring. We are recognizing graduates from high school, college, trade school, masters, or doctorate programs. In the next few weeks, please email [cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org) with the name of the graduate, the degree earned, name of the school, and date of graduation.

### SENIOR POSTERS

All Seniors and their families are welcome to display a Senior Poster outside Schum Fellowship Hall for Graduate Recognition Sunday. Please put all posters in the church office by Wednesday, May 25. Be creative and have fun displaying your photos!