



The eNewsletter

May 26, 2016

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Director of Children's Ministries...

Looking Ahead...

May 29

Morning Worship
Graduate Recognition
Promotion Sunday
Graduate Reception
Sunday School
Youth Family Picnic
Shepherding Groups Meet

May 30

Church Office Closed -
Memorial Day

May 31

Men's Summer Bible Study

June 1

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

June 2

Swim Day

June 4

Men's Breakfast
Diaconate Meeting

June 5

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

June 6

Music Camp Begins

June 7

Women's Council Meeting
Men's Summer Bible Study

June 8

Mission: Chattanooga

June 9

Swim Day

June 10

Canada Mission Trip Begins

June 12

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Music Camp Performance

June 14

Ladies' Summer Bible Study
Men's Summer Bible Study
Session Meeting

June 15

Mission Chattanooga
Last Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsal

June 16

Swim Day

You have probably noticed that we have a lot of children around our church. We have around 150 children (ages 2 years old-5th grade) that come to our Sunday morning and Wednesday night children's classes. Each of these children are very special to God and to our church family. Our church has been growing, which is a great thing, but as a church grows sometimes it can become challenging for everyone to get to know people and families in anything more than a surface way. I wanted to give you an opportunity to get to know a little bit about the Creamer family, specifically their beautiful daughter Erin. James and Amy have two children, McKellan, who is 12 years old, and recently moved up to Middle School Youth, and Erin who is just about to be 10. I asked Amy to tell you a bit about Erin, so when you see her in the halls you can give her a hug and have a little bit better idea on how to relate to Erin.

~ Holly Lehmann

I have been considering how best to introduce Erin to those of you who may not know her. At first I found myself detailing a lot of medical and therapeutic information, but realized that though these experiences have been a part of what has gotten Erin to where she is today, just as we are all molded by our experiences, they really do not tell you who Erin is. I could write a dissertation on Erin's medical and therapeutic history, but will summarize it instead.

Erin was born full term, July 25, 2006, and landed in the NICU because she quit breathing and was septic. During her NICU stay she received a primary diagnosis of microcephaly (small head and brain). In her first few years, Erin received other diagnoses including epilepsy, sensory processing disorder, optic nerve hypoplasia, and an as-of-yet unidentified syndrome from a myriad of specialists and therapists and countless procedures. Over the years, as the Lord used the knowledge and skill of the experts He placed in our path, Erin was discharged by many of these as she progressed. She still gets occupational therapy to help with fine motor and sensory processing issues, speech therapy, and vision therapy; and she still sees a geneticist, neurologist, and endocrinologist.

We are blessed that our school system and Erin's teachers are phenomenal and want to see her reach her full potential as much as we do. Erin is in a MOID (Moderately Intellectually Disabled) classroom, but attends music, P.E., and lunch with the typical population. She loves school, and although she has struggled in the past with out-of-her-control behavior and anxiety, she has matured and overcome. Erin is always making progress. Although her issues have changed over the years, the Lord has been faithful to hold us fast when we have felt

overwhelmed. Erin thrives in routine and familiar places, sometimes becoming anxious when she cannot predict her situation. When she is anxious, Erin's vocal repetition escalates, and she often becomes frantic. When ongoing reassurance will not calm her, she needs to be held and hugged tightly. Erin is cognitively about three years old (and not toilet trained), which also leads to some of our daily challenges, particularly self-care, such as any parent has to do with a toddler.

If ANY thing that has happened in Erin's life was different, then she would not be exactly who she is - our *best girl*. We would not change a thing. The Lord knew we needed Erin as she is; He has used her to teach, bless, humble, and hone us, and we are grateful that the Lord knows what is best for us! Erin is loving, trusting, empathetic, forgiving, repentant, persistent, determined, independent, focused, funny, and imaginative. She loves animals (and as many of you know, making animal sounds), swimming, singing, roller skating, blowing bubbles, being a helper, watching movies, and playing in the sand. Erin also has an affinity for bubble wrap, ink pen springs, scotch tape, dental floss, and dog leashes; she is a hoot!

Although none of us can know another's heart in the way our heavenly Father does, an earthly parent does know her child's heart in a way others may not. We were greatly blessed, in January, to meet with our Elders and share with them about Erin's heart, and how, though she cannot express it in words, we do not doubt that she belongs to the Lord, and that she has a pure and genuine relationship with God. Erin is now a communicant member of CPC, and I have the privilege of telling her during each Lord's Supper that the elements are "a special present to Erin from Jesus." Erin loves to be at church; she loves the chimes resonating from the building on Sunday mornings, and especially loves to listen to (and often sing along with) the choir and soloists. Daily, music moves her.

Erin is currently working on appropriate social greetings, being more patient, eating small bites, using a utensil rather than her hands, and writing her last name. If she greets you with a neigh, woof, or meow, please ask Erin to use her words; as endearing as her greetings are, they will not be nearly as cute when she is older. Thank you all for loving our family well for over a decade!

*~The Creamers
James, Amy, McKellan, and Erin*



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule May 29

Worship

Infants

Lewis & Anna Reid

Creepers

Sandy Coffey
& Andrea Waldecker

Toddlers

Carlotte & Catherine Pippin

Floater

Grace Pippin

Sunday School

Infants

Tammy Higgins
& Ellen Heider

Creepers

Colleen Murphy
& Susan Close

Toddlers

William Higgins
& Jennifer McNeely

May Coordinator:

Tammy Higgins

PROMOTION SUNDAY

May 29 is Promotion Sunday! All the children are excited to meet their new teachers and see their new classroom. Parents, please accompany your child to their Sunday School class and meet their new teachers. Also, please turn in the Child Registration form, which is located in the Lobby, in the Children's Wing, and in the individual classrooms. Only one registration form is needed per family. Thank you so much for your help getting your children to their correct classroom and having a wonderful first day in their new classes. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. We are recognizing graduates from high school, college, trade school, masters, or doctorate programs. Our graduates will be recognized during the morning worship service and a reception will be held in their honor in the Courtyard (weather permitting) during the Sunday School hour.

YOUTH FAMILY PICNIC

All youth and their families are invited to an end-of-the-year family picnic at Heritage Park on Sunday, May 29, at 6:00 p.m. Drinks are provided. Bring a picnic and a few lawn chairs for your family.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, June 4, at 8:30 a.m. Randy Nabors is speaking on *Men on the Move and the gates of hell*. Nursery provided.

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.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The June birthday and anniversary calendar is available at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Linda Fischer

Email.....lindadalip@aol.com

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

The CPC Summer Mission: Chattanooga projects began yesterday. Each week, activities will be on-campus and off-campus from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A list of activities will be sent each week via email.

SWIM DAY

Swim day at the May's pool begins Thursday, June 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and for cleanup.

PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED

Regular plastic grocery bags are needed for a weaving project of sleeping mats. Thousands of bags needed, so don't be stingy! Mats will be used locally and for a Haitian mission. Please put bags in the box outside of Pastor Mullinax's office.

MEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

CPC Men are invited to a Men's Summer Bible Study on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mark Miller. The study is *The Triumph of God: Demonstrated through the Life of Elijah*. The study will meet from May 31 to August 9. Please contact Mark Miller with any questions at 423.298.8842.

LADIES' SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Join the CPC Women's Ministry for their annual Summer Bible Study on Tuesdays, June 14 thru August 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Nursery is provided if requested. The study is on Cynthia Heald's book *Becoming a Woman Whose God is Enough*. The study leaders are Bev Fowler and Susan Steere. Please contact Susan Gunter with any questions.

MEMORIAL DAY

The church office is closed, Monday, May 30. There will be no eNewsletter sent on Thursday, June 2.