



The eNewsletter

July 14, 2016

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

Looking Ahead...

July 17

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting

July 19

Ladies' Summer Bible Study
Men's Summer Bible Study

July 20

Mission: Chattanooga

July 21

Swim Day
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Youth Skate Night

July 22

Mother's Encouragement
Group: Imagination Station
Playdate

July 23

HS Youth Service Project
at CSM

July 24

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Missions Report Service

July 26

Ladies' Summer Bible Study
Youth Game Night
Men's Summer Bible Study
Session Meeting

July 27

Mission: Chattanooga

July 28

Swim Day

July 29

Girls Night Out - Game and
Craft Night

July 31

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Shepherding Groups Meet

August 2

Ladies' Summer Bible Study
HS Girls' Night Out
Women's Council Meeting
Men's Summer Bible Study

August 3

Mission: Chattanooga
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

It's really hard for me to keep a surprise. Perhaps I've bought a gift for my wife, or planned an event for a friend or a loved one, and before you know it, I'm jumping up and down with an enthusiasm that spills the beans and ends all possibility of surprise. I'm just not very good at containment on those kinds of things.

Part of this inability comes from my genuine enthusiasm in giving gifts to others (...it really is more blessed to give than receive [Acts 20.35]). But, if I'm on the level, part of this inability comes from my desire to please, to be viewed favorably. I want to be well-liked and known as that great friend, or family member, who always does such nice things for others. I don't allow things to stay under wraps (figuratively or literally), because I want to be noticed. In this admission, I acknowledge that I have not learned well the discipline of secrecy.

In the greatest sermon ever preached, Jesus talks a great deal about keeping things quiet. "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret ...when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret." (Matthew 6.3, 6, 17-18). In Jesus's kingdom, there is something to be said for keeping secrets, especially when those secrets nurture humility and protect us from the pride that comes from public lives of righteous living.

In writing about the spiritual discipline of secrecy Jesus espouses in the Sermon on the Mount, Dallas Willard (*The Spirit of the Disciplines*), says, "...one of the greatest fallacies of our faith, and actually one of the greatest acts of unbelief, is the thought that our spiritual acts and virtues need to be advertised to be known...

secrecy, rightly practiced enables us to place our public relations department entirely in the hands of God...we allow Him to decide when our deeds will be known and when our light will be noticed." When we desire the right kind of secrecy, Willard goes on to suggest, that love and humility before God will develop to the point that we'll not only see our friends, family, and associates in a better light, but we'll also develop the very Christian virtue of desiring their good above our own. Paul expressed this same truth to the Philippian church when he told them to "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2.3-4).

Perhaps this practice of secrecy is why Jesus urged many who He healed not to reveal His identity. Perhaps this practice of secrecy is why Jesus avoided the crowds and would often go off to lonely places to pray. Jesus placed His public relations department in the hands of God, even when misunderstood or mistreated. He never felt the need to reveal surprises in order to be thought well of.

We can follow Jesus more closely by being discreet with surprises and secrets. We do not have to do things in order to gain the approval of others when our persona is handled by God. Like Jesus, we can practice secret piety, secret prayer, and secret giving. "...and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6.18).

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule July 17

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Sally Forrester

Creepers

Allison Colberg
& Cathy Smith

Toddlers

Catherine & Grace Pippin

Floater

Charlotte Pippin

Sunday School

Infants

Peg May & Diane Lazor

Creepers

Tara Rimondi
& Vangie Wykoff

Toddlers

Craig & Susan Miller

July Coordinator:

Tara Rimondi

TATERS AND TUBE STEAKS

The July 15 Taters and Tubesteaks has been postponed.

MISSIONS REPORT SERVICE

Please join us in Schum Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 24, at 6:00 p.m. for accounts of God's gracious works around the world. Afterwards, there will be a time of fellowship, with fruit cobbler and ice cream.

CPC FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

All CPC families are invited to meet at Hamilton Skate Place on Thursday, July 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person, which includes the cost of your skate rental. For more information contact Tracy Horton at 423.702.1670 or Holly Lehmann at cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org.

MOTHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP PLAYDATE

Moms, children, and families, please come together for a Playdate at Imagination Station on Friday, July 22, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Beth Griggs at bwgriggs@comcast.net.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, July 21, we will provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please call the church office.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

The first meeting and rehearsal of the CPC Instrumental Ensemble is Sunday, July 24, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact Jeremy Gaines for more details.

HS YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

The CPC High School Youth is partnering with the Chattanooga Sports Ministry on Saturday, July 23. The HS Youth will be helping with games, face painting, and cheering for an Outreach Youth Camp. Youth are leaving the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and will return at 1:00 p.m.

CAR WASH PLEDGES

All youth that participated in the Car Wash and collected pledges, please turn in your money by Friday, July 15.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Linda Brown (John)

Email bridgebidy@gmail.com

Chris Gregory

Email forgivenman@hotmail.com

David Herberich

1470 Sheridan Road NE, Apt 1526
Atlanta GA 30324

Noah & Amy Wiersma

8521 Gulf Drive
St. Louis MO 63130

NEW MEMBERS

Chris & Amber Robertson

*Scarlett

9205 Cobblestone Hill Drive
Ooltewah TN 37363

Cell (husband) 501.658.8207

Cell (wife) 731.445.8196

Email chris.robertson84@gmail.com

Email amber.o.robertson@gmail.com

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

The CPC Summer Mission: Chattanooga projects have begun. Each Wednesday 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 the CPC Info emails.

COVENANT CORPS

Teachers and helpers are needed for the 4 year old and kindergarten Covenant Corp classes starting Wednesday, August 31. We have a lot of fun while learning the truths from God's word and would love for you to come help with our Covenant kids. Please contact Holly Lehmann, if you are interested in helping, at cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org.

NURSERY UPDATE

Exiting News! The Nursery Expansion Construction began on Monday, July 11. Please pray for the safety of those working on this expansion.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The new Membership Directories have been printed. Please pick up your copy at the table in front of the Church Office.