



The eNewsletter

July 21, 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 21

Swim Day
Memorial Hospital Lunch
CPC Skate Night

July 22

Mother's Encouragement
Group: Imagination Station
Playdate

July 23

HS Youth Service Project

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

August 4

Swim Day

August 5

Mother's Encouragement
Group: Swimming

August 6

Men's Breakfast

August 7

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Pool Party

I was recently involved in a minor traffic accident. Distracted only for a moment in a creeping flow of cars on I-24, I turned to find the car ahead in a dead stop. Hitting the brakes, I came to an almost, but incomplete halt before tapping the forward car's bumper. Really...it was little more than a tap! The end result was a scratch on my car's front end and *no evident damage to the car ahead* according to the attending policeman. No airbags were deployed and no citation issued. Still I received a letter from a personal injury attorney representing his *injured* client.

Hindsight is 20/20. I, we all, know the truth of that expression. The accident left me full of *if only* thoughts. "*If only I had paid closer attention in such congested traffic... if only I had turned and braked a fraction sooner ...if only I had left earlier for my destination... if only I knew then what I know now, things would have turned out differently.*"

That's probably true in many cases. If I knew beforehand what I know now, things would have turned out differently. Yet equally wrapped up somewhere within my *if only* mindset is the thought that things would not only have turned out differently, but that they would also have turned out *better*. But, knowing this would take much more than 20/20 vision. While it's true that a slight variation of events might have saved me some aggravation, it is equally true that the experience may have spared me something worse. Standing on the other side of knowing gives me a different perspective, to be sure. But to assume that because of that perspective I now see perfectly is a perilous oversight.

The ancient Israelites often cried out to God in the belief that they were seeing perfectly. Their bondage in Egypt was miraculously broken before their eyes. God moved them from slavery to freedom across the dry floor of the Red Sea, putting before His people a sign

momentous enough to make an impression upon each day ahead of them. Yet walking through the challenges of the desert, they cried out as if never having seen the hand that was leading them. "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" (Numbers 14.2-3)

It seems the view from hindsight can be as misleading as it is insightful. The Israelite's mistreatment at the hands of the Egyptians was overlooked in their perception of the other side of the Red Sea. And, their past deliverance at the hands of God was seen as unremarkable and unrelated to their need for God in the present.

For me, the cry of *if only* is too often a cry of distrust. The seemingly harmless expression insists that I know what is *better*, that I know best what I need and what I don't need. Like the Israelites in their forgetful complaint I am often certain that I not only know what will make my life better, but what will make me content. *If only we had meat to eat, then we'd be satisfied*, the Israelites insisted. But they were not, and I too, have not learned the lesson well. The fact is, what I really need is often a far cry from what I think I need. For very good reasons I can look back at prayers and thank God they were not answered!

God is at work in *if only* moments. The One listening to my prayers sits with wisdom infinitely greater than my own. Thank God for the promise and the mystery that things somehow work for good - our trials, our mistakes, our past, our future.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule July 24

Worship

Infants

Sandi Schreiner
& Kelly Orthner

Creepers

David & Rebekah Gernhard

Toddlers

Adam & Millie Sanders

Floater

Emma Newman

Sunday School

Infants

Jessica Greer
& Amy Creamer

Creepers

Susan Close
& Julia Gracy

Toddlers

John Southworth
& Dory George

July Coordinator:

Tara Rimondi

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 tonight 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.

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 12:30 p.m.

2016 PCA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Sunday is the last day to register, please visit the Women's Ministry Table on Sunday for more information, or contact Emily Calloway.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, August 6, at 8:30 a.m. Coach Mark Mariakis, the head football coach at CCS, is sharing his captivating and inspirational story.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

Tracy Horton

Emailthorton@catoosa.k12.ga.us

Tracy Wright

Emailtwright.rhs@catoosa.k12.ga.us

(Eric) & Mary Maurer

6151 Stoney River Drive
Harrison, TN 37341

Cell (wife)423.719.0493

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

The CPC Summer Mission: Chattanooga projects are each Wednesday night. 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.

SWIM DAY

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

SHOEBOX STORIES

Every item given in the Operation Christmas Shoeboxes has the potential to impact a child. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway just past the Nursery for Shoebox Stories each week. Read a first-hand account of the eternal impact of a gift delivered in Jesus' Name.

LOST AND FOUND

The bookcase and stairwell near the coke machine have filled up with item left behind at church. Please be sure to check these two locations for items you may have misplaced.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDARS

The August birthday/anniversary calendar is available for pick up at the Welcome Center.