



# The eNewsletter

July 28, 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 Senior Associate Pastor...*

### *Looking Ahead...*

#### 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

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Instrumental Ensemble  
Rehearsal  
Youth Pool Party

#### August 9

Ladies' Summer Bible Study  
Men's Summer Bible Study

#### August 10

Mission: Chattanooga  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### August 11

Last Swim Day

#### August 14

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

#### August 16

Session Meeting

#### August 17

Mission: Chattanooga  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### August 18

Memorial Hospital Lunch

#### August 19

Officer's Leadership Training

#### August 20

Officer's Leadership Training

While recently channel surfing (...by admitting this, I am not endorsing the exercise)...I came across a witless sitcom and the question, '*Are you serious?!?*' kept coming up again and again in the dialogue. "Josh went to the movies with Brittany...are you serious?!?" "Afterwards they went for dinner....are you serious?!?" "Josh's ex heard about it and was not happy...are you serious?!?" Really? Were script writers, producers, and directors actually paid for such silliness? In this particular episode the question didn't seem to be a genuine inquiry as much as some sort of exclamation. However, that's a good question that we need to regularly and honestly ask ourselves. Often when we should be speaking seriously, we are not.

In our current more-heat-than-light presidential campaign, the expressed views of one cynical politician comes to mind. He said, "The purpose of words is to conceal thought." As a comment on how we sometimes talk this is too true to be good! Don't we all, not just those running for office, regularly talk for effect? Don't we often say things we don't really mean and could not possibly begin to defend? Are we not often guilty of casually giving assurances which we have little-to-no thought of fulfilling?

A reluctance to value our word as our bond - to count ourselves committed by what we've actually said - is no slight error and can certainly destroy our integrity. Why are business contracts, marriage vows, and ordinary pledges - to do this, to see to that, to be here, to go there - so

frequently broken? Why are our lives too frequently littered with promises which we have failed to keep whether from malice, poor management, self-seeking, or sheer carelessness? Is it not because we too fail to take our own words seriously?

The Bible, however, takes words and promises seriously. Why? Because trustworthiness is part of God's indelible image pressed upon us. He desires that aspect of His image be faithfully reflected in us. Without this fidelity to our words, relationships, indeed, all of society can easily disintegrate.

When Jesus rebuked the idea that one can break a promise sworn by any sacred object, so long as God's name has not been explicitly mentioned, His point was that you cannot keep God out of anything. He is not deft to any pledge. He is part of every transaction. He is everywhere and all promises are made in His presence and involve Him, whether His name is mentioned or not (cf. Matthew 5:33 ff). So promises should be seen as sacred, in that sense, and we ought to always strive to keep them. Our children seem to instinctively know this, and feel this strongly. Too bad adults are sometimes dulled in this realm.

Promises (words) that honor the Lord should be made cautiously, but kept conscientiously once made, knowing, that failure in this area is no slight error. A lesson we all may have a hard time learning well...but, a lesson much needed.

~Pastor Mullinax



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule July 31

#### Worship

#### Infants

Joyce Trask  
& Ann Walker

#### Creepers

Dawn Reynolds  
& Kansas Bradley

#### Toddlers

Tammy Knotts  
& Tavis Brown

#### Floater

Kallie Arbuckle

### Sunday School

#### Infants

Donna Armes  
& Domekia Gaines

#### Creepers

Sherry & Rachel Baierl

#### Toddlers

Emily & Cami Calloway

#### July Coordinator:

Tara Rimondi

### 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.

### BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDARS

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

### 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.

### YOUTH POOL PARTY

High School and Middle School Youth are invited to a Pool Party at the May's pool on Sunday, August 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Due to space, only the Youth and their parents are invited this time.

### YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF

Mark your calendars for the Youth Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, August 21, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall.

### COLLEGE MINISTRY

As your college kids prepare for their Fall semester, please send their name, school, and mailing address to the church office. If they are living at home, please make sure we have that information also. Send information to [cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org).

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following change to your CPC church directory.

#### Todd & Cathy Smith (no landline)

Cell (husband)..... 423.593.0179

Cell (wife)..... 423.593.0182

#### Len Williams

1710 Mountain Bay Drive

Hixson, TN 37343

Cell ..... 423.316.8483

### 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 for more details at [cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto: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. The last Swim Day is August 11.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This is a perfect time of year to purchase school supplies for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Also a great time to buy flip flops, a wonderful item to include. Check out our Shoebox Stories bulletin board just past the Nursery. Read a first-hand account of the eternal impact of a gift delivered in Jesus' Name.