



The eNewsletter

August 11, 2016

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

Looking Ahead...

August 14

Morning Worship
Sunday School

August 17

Prayer Group
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 18

Memorial Hospital Lunch

August 19

Officer's Leadership Training

August 20

Officer's Leadership Training

August 21

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal
Youth Fall Kick-Off

August 24

Wednesday Night Supper
Prayer Group
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Session Meeting

August 26

Mother's Encouragement
Group: Imagination Station

August 28

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Leadership Team

August 31

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

September 4

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

September 5

Office Closed - Labor Day

September 6

Women's Council Meeting

September 7

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

September 8

Ladies Movie Night

September 9

PCA Women's Retreat

Years ago I joined a recovery group. You may not realize it, but most of you joined as well. The group goes by the name, *The Church* and it centers on its weekly meeting. I do not write this to make light of those who are in recovery or who have loved ones in recovery. Rather, I write it to stress the reality of our situation as Christians. All of us in Christ are in recovery.

We began this life bent toward sin and we are birthed into a world, the whole of which, is already swimming in sins temperate waters. This shared reality molds all of us. This is our common Adamic heritage, or in the words of Hank Williams Jr, our "family tradition". In this tradition, we are shaped by false stories telling us who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. These fables enflame false loves which, in turn, create disordered desires. Through years of acting on these desires we acquire tastes for all the wrong things.

Consider for a brief moment our current culture. What does it love? What does it hold forth as valuable? What stories does it celebrate? Where are the boogeymen? If I just parachuted into America in 2016 from another land, what would catch my attention? Without giving an exhaustive list, it would be clear that possessions, wealth, food, fashion, fame, and politics matter. Celebrity, technology, convenience, individualism, consumerism, pleasure, and being non-judgmental are accepted as virtuous. Should that surprise us? Not really. If people generally believe that we are here for a brief time and the greatest goal of our time spent on this globe is self-fulfillment, then these virtues make perfect sense. The logic of it is simple, if you only live once you should do what makes you happy. If ideas like this stoke the fires of the American imagination, is it a surprise that seeking kicks and giggles in the form most readily available is the outcome? Of course, this is not only story shaping our culture. Consider our current political season and the non-stop, panic-inducing, punditry. I have read countless articles in the last six

months from folks on both sides of the political aisle that claim, in one way or another, if their candidate is not elected it spells doom for humanity. Or the reverse, if the other party's candidate is elected, the foundations will crumble into the sea.

These are the cultural waters in which we swim. These waters not only pick us up in their currents, they also cause erosion in our habit of being. We are all shaped by the flow of culture. Admitting it is a large part of battling against it. This is where weekly worship rolls up its sleeves and does its heavy lifting for the cause of recovery. We enter into our Lord's Day recovery meeting and, not unlike AA, we first admit our complete inability to change, "Our Help is in the Name of the Lord". We also introduce ourselves and our condition, "we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep." If we are going to battle the formative power of our current culture, we must admit we actually have learned to love much of what we say we are disgusted by in culture. We bemoan the lack of morals, the sensuality, and the selfishness of our modern world, while often being co-belligerents with the culture. Thankfully, worship offers us more than just a chance to admit our failures, it offers us a true story in the midst of the deception. Worship is an escape to what is real after living a weeklong fiction. In this hour we learn about the real world again. A world where you do not only live once. A world in which good triumphs over evil, humility brings exaltation, the unlovely are beloved, the weak are considered strong, giving is better than receiving, and the little, the last, the least, and the lost are our celebrities and big shots. In this worship event we awaken from our slumber and recover from our addiction to the false loves of this life and we offered something more lovely and more life-giving in return; Jesus the way, the truth and the good life.

~Pastor Pirschel



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule August 14

Worship

Infants

Gretchen Brown
& Beth Griggs

Creepers

Holly & Ava Lehmann

Toddlers

Brian & Liam Lehmann

Floater

Jonmark Beatty

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Creepers

Sue Spalding
& Karen Crago

Toddlers

Luther & Shirley Allin

August Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

SWIM DAY

Today is the last CPC Swim Day at the May's this summer.

YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF

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

COVENANT CORPS

SLIDE back into Covenant Corps on August 31, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fun water games, including a giant slip 'n slide and sprinklers, will be enjoyed during Covenant Corps' first session. Bring a towel and a change of dry clothes.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL LUNCH

Our church has the privilege of being part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. On Thursday, August 18, we will provide lunch to the families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please call or email the Church Office.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

It's not too late! The Women's Ministry is still taking registrations for the Fall Retreat in Birmingham to attend the PCA's Women's Transformed Conference (Nancy Guthrie, guest speaker). The retreat begins Friday, September 9 and ends Saturday afternoon, September 10. The cost is \$75, plus hotel fees. Register at the WM table in the Lobby or email Becky Pearce at rpearce16@gmail.com.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT MOVIE NIGHT

Girls Night Out Movie Night is Thursday, September 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Boo Mullinax's home to watch *The War Room*.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

As your college students 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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Betty Quillin (zip code change)
NHC Health Care Facility
2403 Battlefield Parkway #407
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

Jesse & Elizabeth Estes
36 Old Fort Drive
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Men's Breakfast on September 17 is open to all Men and Women of CPC, as well as youth. The Men's Ministry is excited to announce that R.V. Brown is our speaker, a High School sports coach and founder of Outreach to America's Youth. R.V. is speaking on *Spiritual Battles*. Nursery provided. More details to come.

PERSEVERERS CLASS

The Perseverers Class is starting a study led by Dr. Lamar Allen on *Apostle Paul's Letters to the Romans*, beginning September 3. From its very first readers to present day Paul's detailed exposition of the Gospel in this letter has profoundly affected all who read it. Many have been converted by its message including Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley. In the Preface to his commentary on Romans, Martin Luther wrote, "This Epistle to the Romans is the true masterpiece of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it everyday, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes." Join a great group for a verse by verse study of this wonderful Epistle.

ANNOUNCEMENT BULLETIN BOARD

Please note the bulletin board outside of the Perseverers Classroom has job opportunities listed, along with services provided by various CPC members.