



The eNewsletter

October 6, 2016

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

Looking Ahead...

October 9

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
HS Youth Bonfire
at the Horton's

October 10

Ladies' Monday Night Titus
Bible Study

October 12

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

October 13

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

October 14

CPC Autumn Golf Fellowship

October 16

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal
MS Youth Bonfire
at the Cathey's

October 18

Mothers' Encouragement
Group

October 19

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

October 20

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

October 23

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Church Picnic

October 26

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Reformation
Activities

October 27

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

October 28

Girls Night Out - Movie Night
Youth Fall Retreat at CPC

October 29

Youth Fall Retreat at CPC

Equipping Leaders in West Africa

Here are a few snippets from the reports written during my September trip to Ghana:

Counterfeit Enthusiasm

It's election season in Ghana and crowds lined the road to Sunyani. The ruling party (NDC) was meeting in Sunyani and the speeding caravans of the party bigwigs were greeted by cheering, flag-waving, and dancing. We thought these people were showing their enthusiasm for the current government, but then we witnessed the true reason for their excitement: as they passed the crowds, NDC operatives were literally throwing money out the windows of their vehicles!! It was clear the crowds' enthusiasm was purchased, not genuine.

What could be better than teaching God's Word to those who are eager to hear it? During the first week, I had the privilege of giving an exposition of Romans to over 100 Shiloh students every morning. (Several other men were working with me on this trip, including our own Stan Armes who was teaching *Christ and Salvation* in Sunyani this first week.) These Shiloh students are church leaders who are committed to learn and study God's Word. And as I walked with them through Paul's presentation of the gospel of God's grace, they eagerly listened and took notes.

Each morning, I was greeted with wide smiles, loud applause, and joyful shouts. Their enthusiasm was genuine and overwhelming! They ministered to me through their eagerness and their willingness to learn. Although they were happy to see me, it was actually God's truth that produced such enthusiasm in them: the stunning truth that God looked upon His sinful, helpless enemies and out of His sheer grace gave His Son to redeem them. Unearned, unconditional, unrelenting, unending grace: the free gift of God in Christ. It is no wonder they cheered! And so should we.

During the second week, I moved to Sunyani to teach the students in the MINTS Bible School that ELI helped establish there. Stan Armes, in turn, shifted to teach at the MINTS in Kumasi.

26 Pastors and a Rented Bus

No, it's not the tagline for a joke; it's an example of the power of the gospel. Last week, a number of the Shiloh students went to Archbishop Addae to proclaim they had trusted in Christ as their Savior. They were serving in a church and studying in a Bible school, but realized they were not believers! The gospel of God's grace powerfully called them to faith in Christ (Romans 1.16) through the teaching they received at Shiloh – including last week's study in Romans. So, Archbishop rented a bus and took 26 students to a nearby river for baptism.

[In Sunyani] I taught Synoptic Gospels from the standpoint of literary analysis. We considered the intended audience of each writer, the theme of each book, the unique elements included, and, most importantly, the view of Christ's ministry each gospel presents. These new insights helped the students understand some of the apparent *contradictions* between the three gospels and prepared them to more effectively preach and teach from these vital accounts of our Lord's life and ministry.

For example: Matthew presents Christ as the King of Israel, the descendant of Abraham, and son of David. The students were especially challenged by Christ's description in the *Sermon on the Mount* of His blessed people and the new perspectives of His Kingdom. Few of us are comfortable with the *upside down* perspective of Christ's Kingdom: weakness is strength, God's praise is more important than men's praise, one cannot serve God and money, and heart attitude trumps outward activity. As we worked through these ideas, the students struggled to apply them in a Ghanaian context where outward performance and seeking the praise of men are so common.

I thank God for His blessing on the work in West Africa. ELI impacts literally thousands of God's people with the truth of God's Word through the leaders we are training. I'm also thankful that you eagerly send me to do this vital work – a ministry in which you participate through your prayers and support.

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 9

Worship

Infants

Kelly Orthner
& Beth Griggs

Creepers

Dawn Reynolds
& Diana Bowers

Toddlers

David & Rebecca Gernhard

Floater

Capps Brown

Sunday School

Infants

Jessica Greer
& Peg May

Creepers

Julia Gracy
& Amy Creamer

Toddlers

Craig & Susan Miller

October Coordinator:
VOLUNTEER NEEDED

AUTUMN GOLF FELLOWSHIP

Join your CPC family at Fields Ferry Golf Club in Calhoun, Georgia on Friday, October 14. Shot-gun start at 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$40. Limited space, so registration required. Contact Tony DeMarco or Eric Mullinax for details.

COVENANT CORPS PJ NIGHT

On Wednesday, October 19, the Covenant Corps classes are encouraged to wear pajamas to class and be ready to watch a movie about a hero of our Christian faith!

CHURCH PICNIC

Please plan to join us at our annual Church Picnic on Sunday, October 23, at Heritage Park at 12:30 p.m. BYOPB (Bring Your Own Picnic Basket), drinks and desserts provided. Activities for everyone!

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

Mark your calendars! The Marriage Committee invites you to their Fall Seminar on November 4, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and November 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., in Schum Fellowship Hall. Pastor Pirschel is the speaker. Registration is required. Childcare provided for children 10 and under by registration only. Contact Jon or Heather Harris for registration details at jeh1224@aol.com. Cost is donations only.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free, and the maximum family donation is \$15.

For the month of October, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: D. Elwood, J. Gaines, D. Hobbs, J. Harris, J. Wykoff.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

October 12	Baked Sandwiches and Fries
October 19	Chicken Tikka Marsala
October 26	Hot Dogs
November 7	Beef Enchiladas

YOUTH BONFIRES

High School Youth are meeting at the home of Tony and Tracy Horton (474 Cardinal Road, Ringgold, GA) on Sunday, October 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Middle School Youth are meeting at the home of Adam and Leanna Cathey (270 Indian Mound Road, Ringgold, GA) on Sunday, October 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

YOUTH RETREAT

High School and Middle School Youth are invited to a Youth Retreat on October 28-29 in Schum Fellowship Hall. Details to follow.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Labels are available at the Welcome Center to place on the boxes marking age and gender of the child. You can participate several ways:

- * **Fill a shoe box** for a specific gender/age child (2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14). OCC requests the use of Walmart or Dollar store's plastic boxes which are shoe box sized as they are more durable. If you are able to write a note to include in your box, it would be a great blessing to that child as they have been known to prize things like letters and pictures well into adulthood. Collection points are in the Ladies Sunday School classroom across from the coke machine or in the Children's Wing.
- * **Donate items** - items for shoe boxes. Sample items: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloths, small toys, combs, socks, school supplies, hard candy (no chocolate since it melts, no liquids), bowls, spoons, flip-flops, t-shirts etc.
- * **Donate money** - OCC requests \$7 for shipping per box. Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, and put OCC on the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate no later than November 13.
- * **Wrap and stuff boxes** on Saturday, November 19, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom.