



# The eNewsletter

December 8, 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 Director of Music Ministries...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

#### **December 9**

Ladies' Christmas Dinner

#### **December 11**

Morning Worship

Sunday School

Congregational Meeting

Children's Choir Christmas Program

#### **December 12**

Ladies' Monday Night Titus Bible Study

#### **December 14**

MS/HS Youth Pizza Party

Covenant Corps/MS/HS

Superfly Party

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### **December 15**

Memorial Hospital Lunch

#### **December 18**

Morning Worship

Sunday School

Diaconate Meeting

Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program

CPC Reception

#### **December 20**

Mothers' Encouragement Group

#### **December 21**

Caroling & Desserts

#### **December 23**

Church Office Closed -

Christmas

#### **December 24**

Lessons & Carols

#### **December 25**

Morning Worship

#### **December 26**

Church Office Closed -

Christmas

#### **December 30**

Church Office Closed - New Years Eve

#### **January 2**

Church Office Closed - New Years

#### **January 2**

Ladies' Monday Night Job Bible Study

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2.10-11)

There have been many proclamations in history, from kings, presidents, and generals, but never has there been a more glorious proclamation than that of the angel's proclamation to the shepherds in Luke 2. In these words, which we have heard our entire lives, whether from children in plays or from pastors in pulpits, the Gospel is encapsulated. The angel bring the *good news* of Emmanuel, *God With Us*.

Good News is what we all need. Whether you are rich or poor, old or young, stay at home mom or overworked nurse, business owner or hourly worker, we all become overwhelmed with our own circumstance, our busy-ness, our faults, our failings, and, especially, our sin. If we were left to our own devices the weight of all our baggage and the scars from all our battles would crush us and make us useless in our responsibilities.

This is what Satan wants. He is always whispering to us that we are not good enough, that we screwed up again, that we are always prisoners to our sin.

But God. The angel proclaims Good News. Unto us is born a Savior. Christ came into the world to save sinners. He reconciles us to God so that we have peace with God. He, taking our sin as the sinless One, answers the whispers of Satan with the roar of a lion. They are mine! My blood has made them clean! The battle is won!

This is where the great joy of the believer kicks in. When we realize what Jesus coming to earth to save us from our sins means, joy should spring from within us unrestrained! And that joy shows itself in

our praise to Him through our worship and witness. Living in the great joy brought on by the Good News makes our lives more than livable. It should renew our spirits, refresh our minds to do all things to His glory, and it should impact others through showing the light of Christ to all those who see Him in you.

This year both the Children's program, *Angels We Have Heard*, and the Sanctuary Choir Concert, *Good Tidings of Great Joy*, focus on that familiar message of Christmas that, due to familiarity, may have lost its punch. I encourage you to attend these events as a way to renew and re-focus our hearts and minds on the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The children, playing the part of angels, will proclaim this message loudly and proudly this Sunday evening, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. Come join them in celebrating Jesus's birth.

Next week, the Sanctuary Choir presents *Good Tidings of Great Joy*, a concert with choir and a wonderful orchestra that centers around four words that flow from this familiar Luke text; hope, peace, love, and joy. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to hear the Good News through music. There is also a Reception immediately following the concert where we can fellowship, celebrate, and have an opportunity to wish Pastor Pirschel and family continued success in their ministry as they head back to Temecula.

Come and enjoy these wonderful opportunities to gather together and rejoice in our Savior's birth!

~Jeremy Gaines



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule December 11

#### Worship

##### Infants

Sally Forrester  
& Beth Griggs

##### Creepers

Cathy Smith  
& Lisa Hobbs

##### Toddlers

John & Becky Pearce

##### Floater

Carson Pearce

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Diane Lazor  
& Lynda Brown

##### Creepers

Emily & Cami Calloway

##### Toddlers

Ernie Brown  
& Jean Mauroner

#### December Coordinator:

Rebekah Gernhard

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to attend a Congregational Meeting immediately following the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, December 11.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

We are looking forward to seeing all CPC ladies and guests for a festive evening on Friday, December 9.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come enjoy the children's hard work and presentation of *Angels We Have Heard* on Sunday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m.

### SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Good Tidings of Great Joy*, a concert centering upon the message of hope, peace, love, and joy the Incarnate brings to the world, is Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m.

### CPC RECEPTION

The entire church family is invited to a reception, on December 18, following the Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program. This will be a time of fellowship, as well as a chance to say goodbye to the Pirschel family.

If you are able to bring Christmas cookies for this reception, please let Mary Caudle or Gretchen Brown know.

### COVENANT CORPS AT SUPERFLY

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, December 14, children in Covenant Corps, ages 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, will be rewarded for all their hard work on their catechisms and Scripture memorization by getting to jump, bounce, and flip at Superfly. Please make plans to join us from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to jump, but registration is at 6:45 p.m. It will be a fun evening for the whole family!

### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Middle School and High School Youth are invited to CiCi's Pizza on Wednesday, December 14, at 5:30 p.m. Following dinner, the Youth are joining the Covenant Corps at Superfly from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save those Christmas card stamps. Deposit them in the mailbox by Pastor Mullinax's office. These used stamps are processed and re-sold with all proceeds going to finance Sunday School curriculum in Latin America.

### YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31 to be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2016.

### OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed the following days:

Friday, December 23 - Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 26 - Christmas  
Friday, December 30 - New Year's Eve  
Monday, January 2 - New Year's Day

### NO ENEWSLETTER

No eNewsletter will be sent the following days:

Thursday, December 22 - Christmas Eve  
Thursday, December 29 - New Year's Eve

### WEDDING RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to a wedding reception in honor of Mark and Marie (Daly) Wilson on Sunday, January 8, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. They are excited to see everyone. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joyce Trask or Judy Foster.

### SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars! 2017 Men's Retreat is January 20-21. Details to follow.

### READ-THRU-THE-BIBLE THIS YEAR

Take the opportunity this year to read through the Scripture in one year individually or with your family. The material to aid you is available now at the Welcome Center.

### BUDGET REPORT

Thru December 4:

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Budget:    | \$1,483,399 |
| Actual:    | \$1,254,415 |
| Shortfall: | \$228,984   |