



# The eNewsletter

January 12, 2017

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...**

**January 14**

Youth Ice Skating

**January 15**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Officer Installation  
Diaconate Meeting  
Instrumental Rehearsal

**January 17**

Mothers' Encouragement  
Group

**January 18**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

**January 19**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch

**January 20**

Men's Retreat

**January 21**

Men's Retreat

**January 22**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

**January 25**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities

**January 26**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

**January 29**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
GUBA

**February 1**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

**February 2**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

**February 3**

Valentine Dinner

**February 5**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

**February 6**

Ladies' Bible Study - Job

When I was in first grade Mrs. Johnson, my teacher, decided to teach us about graphs and polls by asking simple questions. One of those questions was "What is your favorite color?"

Up until that point I had lived a simple, nurtured, and perhaps sheltered life. My Mama had stayed home with me until I began school and, being a teacher, had kick started our education through books upon books, film strips, songs, and, most importantly, through answering endless questions. She gave me a toolbox full of skills with which to succeed in the scary world known as the first grade. I had all the answers.

When Mrs. Johnson asked our favorite color, I was sure I knew the right answer. There was no answer other than RED in my mind. Red – the color of the best team in the land – the Georgia Bulldogs. Red – the color of my favorite flavors of candies – cherry and cinnamon. Red – the color of over half of my clothes. I turned in my answer and the next day Mrs. Johnson showed us the results using a couple of different types of graphs.

Blue won. Red was second.

Blue won? How in the world could blue win? Blue is obviously inferior to red. How could someone think otherwise? Was my teacher saying I was wrong? Was my life a lie?

This all may sound a bit silly, but to my six-year-old mind this was an existential crisis. I could not believe that other people did not always think the same way I did.

I had a similar experience the first time I went on a mission trip to Belarus. The Gospel shows itself differently in Belarus. There is almost no danger of a *social Christianity* because to be an evangelical means to endure at least some level of ostracism from society and fear of persecution. Yet, here there were faithful men and women, whether in tiny hamlets or bulging cities, which passionately prayed for one or two people to join their fellowships against all obstacles.

The Christianity I had known was rather comfortable. Send others. Pray for others. Read stories, but leave the work to the professionals. Stefan, a church pastor CPC supports, works another job to support his family. (We supplement him so he doesn't have to work three jobs.) Yet, when we arrived at his church to present a mini-concert, he was scouring his village for the lost so a spiritual door could be opened. He even had the town drunk come in. Stefan was only concerned with being a faithful servant, not being judged a success in man's eyes.

Mission trips are good things because they cause us to go through *existential crises*. They help us realize the good and bad of our own spiritual lives, as well as open our eyes to possibilities and realities that exist outside our limited spheres of life. They link us with brothers and sisters around the world and give us a hunger to impact the WORLD for the glory of God.

In June of this year, 14 choir members will go to Belarus to experience an *existential crisis* much like I did four years ago. Last time only seven from our church took the journey, so I am praising God for doubling the eyes, ears, and feet that will have the benefit of seeing God's work halfway around the world. Pray for us all. Pray for tender hearts, energetic voices, encouraging attitudes, and feet guided by God. Support the group financially if you can.

Friday, February 3, at 6:30 p.m., the choir will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine Dinner. This dinner is and has been a fundraiser for the trip to Belarus. It's also a lot of fun, from the delicious food to the pleasant fellowship to the unbelievable cake auction. Sign up sheet is located in the Lobby. There are only 160 slots, so don't delay.

By the way, there will be a lot of my favorite color, RED, there.

~Jeremy Gaines



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule January 15

#### Worship

##### Infants

Esther McEachern  
& Kelly Orthner

##### Creepers

Heidie, Jenny,  
& Charity Armao

##### Toddlers

Scott Orthner  
& Tavis Brown

##### Floater

Capps Brown

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

##### Creepers

Kim Collins  
& Lucy Cleveland

##### Toddlers

Luther & Shirley Allin

#### January Coordinator:

Catherine Pippin

### MEN'S RETREAT

The 2017 CPC Men's Retreat, for men college age and older, is January 20-21 at Johnson Woods Retreat Center. This will be a retreat like no other, *Man-To-Man*. Please register at the Welcome Center or contact Joe Fisher or Doug McEachern for more information. Cost is donations only.

### VALENTINE DINNER

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine Dinner and Cake Auction benefitting the choir mission trip to Belarus, is Friday, February 3, at 6:30 p.m. Please be sure to register, space is limited. Nursery registration required (ages 3 and under). Please contact Jeremy Gaines with any questions at [jgaines@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:jgaines@covenantchattanooga.org).

### 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 January, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: D. Elwood, J. Gaines, J. Harris, D. Hobbs, T. Smith, and J. Wykoff

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU\*

January 18	Pork Potpie
January 25	Breakfast
February 1	Spaghetti and Caesar Salad
February 8	Chicken Enchiladas
February 15	Chili (Red and White)
February 22	Coq Au Vin
March 1	Cajun Pasta
March 8	Chicken Tikka Masala
March 15	Corned Beef and Potatoes
March 22	Baked Potato Bar
March 29	Stromboli

\*Menu subject to change as needed

### PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember to pray for our College students as they start another semester.

### YOUTH ICE SKATING

The HS and MS Youth are invited to the *Ice on the Landing* on Saturday, January 14, at 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.

### GUBA SCHEDULE

HS and MS Youth - our next few GUBA meetings are scheduled for January 29, March 12, and April 23. These meetings are at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Please plan to bring a dessert to share.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join the *Grown Ups* (formerly Kingdom Seekers) Sunday School class, starting January 29, as they study the book of Daniel. John Southworth is leading this study.

### MARRIAGE RETREAT

Save the date! The Marriage Retreat is scheduled for April 21-23. Registration will begin soon. More information to follow.

### MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, January 19, we'll provide lunch to 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.

### LOST AND FOUND

The cabinet next to the coke machine has filled up with bibles, jackets, and other items left behind. Please be sure to check this area for items you may have misplaced.