



The eNewsletter

January 19, 2017

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

Looking Ahead...

January 20
Men's Retreat

January 21
Men's Retreat
Women's Council Meeting

January 22
Morning Worship
Sunday School

January 25
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities

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' Monday Night
Bible Study - Job

February 7
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
Women's Council Meeting

February 8
Wednesday Night Supper
Youth Leadership Team
Wednesday Night Activities

February 9
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

February 11
Men's Breakfast
MS Youth Game Night

February 12
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting

February 13
Ladies' Monday Night
Bible Study - Titus

We have a new President. Mr. Trump's election has caused quite a stir – to put it mildly. I like to flip between two news networks. One is highly critical of the President-elect and the other is quite enthusiastic. One was quite enthusiastic about President Obama and the other highly critically. Both, in my opinion, overstate their cases for and against both administrations.

As citizens we have the freedom to express our opinions. As followers of Christ, we are to speak the truth – to speak the truth in love. Our God-given responsibility to speak truthfully requires us as citizens to choose our words and express our opinions carefully and lovingly.

Proverbs 10.19 warns that “when words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrain his lips is prudent.” Even more pointed are the words of Proverbs 18.2, “A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.” Furthermore, in this heated political environment, we're told in Proverbs 17.28, “Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.”

What does all this mean for us who are free as citizens to express our opinion? At the least it means we should pick our words carefully when we speak about those who rule over us.

Many of you know that I do not appreciate hearing slanderous remarks or jokes about our Presidents. Like many of you, I have strong opinions about how we should be governed. But I also know the Lord commands us to be submissive to the governing authorities (Romans 13.1). The Lord commands us

to show respect and honor to those who govern (Romans 13.7).

In Romans 13.3-4 the Lord also tells us that the governing authorities are ordained by Him to approve of that which is good and to punish that which is wrong. Clearly, history repeatedly demonstrates that governing authorities far too often fail horribly to follow the Lord's instructions. So what are we to do as believers when those in authority fail to adhere to the Lord's standards of right and wrong? We are to obey them unless they require us to do what is wrong. For example, if like Peter and John in Acts 4 we were told we could no longer preach the Gospel (and all its implications), we must obey God rather than man.

Someday, we may confront such a situation. But, by God's grace, that day has not yet come. So as free citizens, we proclaim the truth, campaign for those we believe will most clearly uphold these truths, vote for such legislators, and then humbly and respectfully submit to those elected. We do so knowing the One Who rules over all, confident that His purposes for us are sure and certain.

Most importantly, we pray to the King of kings for those in *high positions*, as we strive in God's strength to live peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way (2 Timothy 2.1-2).

So let your speech be godly and dignified. Speak prudently. Show respect and honor for our governing authorities. And do not hesitate to speak the truth out of love for the Lord, out of love for those to whom you speak, out of love for those who govern.

~ Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule January 22

Worship

Infants

Jay & Susan Helton

Creepers

Tara Rimondi
& Emma Newman

Toddlers

Adam & Millie Sanders

Floater

Daegan Brown

Sunday School

Infants

Sandy Coffey
& Sarah Wade

Creepers

Betsy & Maggie Wade

Toddlers

Boo Mullinax
& William Higgins

January Coordinator:

Catherine Pippin

MEN'S RETREAT

The CPC Men's Retreat is this weekend, starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday. Pray for our men as they meet together.

VALENTINE DINNER

The 5th 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 if you have any questions at 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 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

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Save the date! The Marriage Retreat is scheduled for April 21-23 at the Oak Haven Resort. The speakers, Ed and Margaret Killen, marriage counselors from St. Louis, MO, will be discussing *Love and Marriage: Cultivating Deeper Connection and Intimacy*. Registration required. Cost: \$215, a \$50 deposit required with registration by February 19.

GUBA

The next HS and MS Youth GUBA meeting is Sunday, January 29, at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Parents and families welcome. Please bring a dessert to share.

YOUTH GAME NIGHTS

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and games, in our newly remodeled Youth Suite.

Middle School Game Night is Saturday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m. High School Game Night is Saturday, February 25, at 6:00 p.m.

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.