



The eNewsletter

January 26, 2017

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

Looking Ahead...

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

February 15

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

February 16

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

February 19

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal

Perhaps it was an episode from *The Red Skelton Show* of my youth. It's the classic comedy routine that begins with a scene that is pitch-black except for a large circle of light coming from a lone street lamp. In the spotlight, a man is on his knees, crawling with his hands in front of him, searching for something. After a few moments a policeman walks into the scene. Seeing the man on all fours, he poses the obvious question: "What'd you lose?" The man replies. "I lost my keys."

The police officer joins the search, and two figures now circle the lighted area on hands and knees. After some time, the officer inquires, "Are you certain this is where you lost your keys? We've covered every inch." "Why no," the man replies, pointing to a darkened corner, "I lost them over there."

Frustratingly, the policeman exclaims, "Well, then why in the world are we looking for them over here?" The man responds, "The light is better over here!"

This classic sketch enacts a subtle point. It's easier to limit our examining of life's missing keys to easy, comfortable places. Searching dark and difficult corners - where the keys may have in fact been lost - is far less desirable.

For me, the current political climate and the over-the-top fascination with celebrities has, once again, proven that we live in a world of cynicism. We are encouraged by all facets of the media to examine the flaws of everyone, to search for the scandal in every story, and to pour over everything that divides us, offends us, or otherwise differs from us in any way.

But more than this, we are encouraged to opine and criticize regardless of whether we know anything about the subject or the person whatsoever. The comment section of online news stories invites readers to put their own responses in writing. And comment they do! For many (most?), it simply offers pointless ground for inflammatory heckling, like a high school locker room except anonymous and worse. Carrying this one step further, they also

invite anyone to comment on these comments, to vote on whether or not the commenters themselves need to be critiqued. Everyone is now an expert deserving of a voice and a platform at once.

And this is where the man in the sketch seems so familiar. How easy is it to search where the light is strong, to examine transgressions of others as if it were the best way to spend our time? As the glaring light shines on an individual or the latest gossip draws our attention like searchlights to a movie premier, how easy is it to declare this particular spot the place we will fully scrutinize? How readily do we prefer to be critics of those in the spotlight rather than fumble over our own flaws in the dark?

In our Christian walk, it is helpful to know that Jesus was aware of just how tempting the easier option is. "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ... hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck from your brother's eye." (Matthew 7.3-5) The flaws we see in others seem so startlingly clear to us. The critiques we can so readily offer about which we actually know little all may seem innocent enough. But might there not be a better place to spend our energy searching? Maybe we are looking where the light is strong, but not where keys are really lost.

"The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning." (Proverbs 14.6) Perhaps this is true because the mocker spends his time searching the comfortable places of life, the easy targets where light and company will always be found. The difficult, dimly lighted places require much more of us, and often we are left to search on our own. But the discerning know that wisdom comes with the kind of seeking that pulls us thoughtfully inward, into places where there is actually something to find, and before a merciful throne that compels transparency.

~Pastor Mullinax



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

GUBA

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

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU*

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

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Please make the following additions to your CPC Membership Directory.

Ken & Lois Anderson

195 Shirley Drive
Ringgold GA 30736
Cell (husband)..... 423.463.9491
Cell (wife)..... 423.987.4276
Email (husband)...kenwanders@gmail.com
Email (wife).....andersonlois52@gmail.com

Kent & Ceci Goodner

1181 Chippewah Drive
Chattanooga TN 37412
Cell (husband)..... 423.309.2859
Cell (wife)..... 423.309.8283
Email (husband).....kgoodner@epbfi.com
Email (wife).....cgoodner@epbfi.com

Landon & Andrea Gray

3925 Adkisson Drive NW Apt. 2723
Cleveland TN 37312
Cell (husband)..... 423.605.9321
Cell (wife)..... 423.802.8180
Email (husband) landongray11@gmail.com
Email (wife).... andreagray13@outlook.com

Victoria Evans

Victoria is the 14 year-old daughter of Kelly & Susan Evans.

Anna Evans

Anna is the 12 year-old daughter of Kelly & Susan Evans.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

John Spalding

1208 Elfin Road
Lookout Mtn GA 30750

MARRIAGE RETREAT

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.