



The eNewsletter

February 2, 2017

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- 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
- February 21**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- February 22**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
- February 23**
Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
- February 25**
HS Youth Game Night

Our daughter, Leigh, was a bi-centennial baby. That is, she was born in 1976, two hundred years after the founding of the United States of America in 1776. Knowing that she was a bi-centennial baby helps me to remember her age. She turned forty this past September. I'm still trying to come to grips with that!

When I think of the year 1776, other things come to mind. I think of those who risked life and fortunes by placing their names upon a *treasonous* document. John Hancock may have been, at least by his signature, the boldest in his stand for freedom.

If you ask almost any American about the most historically significant event of 1776, you will most certainly hear about the signing of the *Declaration of Independence* from Great Britain and the birth of our nation. But, 1776, also significantly marks the publication of Adam Smith's influential *Wealth of Nations*, widely considered (I'm told) the first modern work in the field of economics and a work that remains widely influential today. Both the *Wealth of Nations* and our *Declaration of Independence* are publications that have certainly shaped the world in ways beyond even what the original authors imagined.

All the same, Christian historian, Mark Noll, suggests there is a third publication of 1776 that may have been even more historically influential than both of these momentous options. He says, "with calculated awareness of what else was going on in Philadelphia [the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*], and in Scotland, where Adam Smith published his *Wealth of Nations*, that of all world-historical occurrences in that year, I would say that the publication of August Montagu Toplady's hymn [*Rock of Ages*] may have been the most consequential."

By casual glance this seems a surprising choice - particularly when many of us with fireworks, barbeques, and parades annually remember 1776 and its role in forming our national identity. But, I think, Noll's suggestion asks that we look beyond

national citizenship, perhaps even beyond our identities as citizens of the world. Toplady's hymn is one of the two most reprinted hymns in protestant history, but its words remind us of a history far beyond even this:

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.
Not the labours of my hands,
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone:
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy Cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.*

(Personally, I've become very fond of the New City Fellowship tune for this hymn, written by Chattanooga, James Ward.)

Beyond denomination, beyond nation, we are creatures in need of God's redemptive plan and the freeing sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. Like many confessions throughout the history of the church, Toplady's hymn calls us to identify with the great cloud of witnesses described by the writer of Hebrews, the one holy catholic and apostolic church we confess in the Nicene Creed.

History is filled with the ebb and flow of influences and events, but of the Father James writes, "[God] with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (1.17). He is, as David praised (Psalm 18.2), and Hannah prayed (1 Samuel 2.2), and saints will continue to discover, the Rock of Ages. Hidden in Him, clinging to the Cross, cleansed by the Son whose blood removes the penalty and power of sin, we are free indeed.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule February 5

Worship

Infants

Kansas Bradley
& Amy Wooten

Crawlers

Meg & Lilly Wooten

Toddlers

Mindy & Macie Horton

Floater

Will & Melissa Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Peggy Bandy
& Bethany Firth

Crawlers

Sue Spalding
& Jonah Harris

Toddlers

Phil Spotts
& Isaiah Harris

February Coordinator:

Catherine Pippin

VALENTINE DINNER

For those that registered, the 5th Annual Valentine Dinner and Cake Auction benefitting the choir mission trip to Belarus is tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Jeremy Gaines with questions at jgaines@covenantchattanooga.org.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 11, at 8:30 a.m. Dee Hobbs is the speaker. Nursery provided.

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.

The Youth are in charge of clean-up after dinner for the month of February.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU*

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 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

ATTENTION

On Wednesday nights, please do not take food throughout the building.

COKE MACHINE MOVING

Please note the coke machine was moved to the bottom of the stairwell across from the Nursery entrance.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT(S)

Middle School Youth, please come enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and games, in our newly remodeled Youth Suite. We are playing on Saturday, February 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pizza will be served. Please bring a snack to share.

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

MARRIAGE RETREAT

The Marriage Retreat is scheduled for April 21-23 at the Oak Haven Resort. The speakers, Ed and Margaret Killen, who are 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.

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

We have registered our CPC Youth for two summer camps. Both camps are hosted at Covenant College and space is limited. To reserve your spot, you must fill out a form (forms in Youth Suite and in the box outside the Youth Office) and pay a \$50 deposit. All registrations must be turned in to Gretchen Brown.

The Edge, camp for 6th to 8th graders, is June 19-23, and the cost is \$285. *Generate*, the camp for 9th to 12th graders, is July 17-21, and the cost is \$309. For more information contact Gretchen Brown or Tracy Horton.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please keep us informed of any address, phone, or email changes. You may email us at cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPC, please contact the church office by phone or email to set up an appointment.