



The eNewsletter

February 9, 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 Pastor Emeritus...

Looking Ahead...

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

February 26

Morning Worship
Sunday School

March 1

Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

March 2

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

March 4

Men's Breakfast

March 5

Morning Worship
Sunday School

March 6

Ladies' Monday Night
Bible Study - Job

The police were at our door.

The last time a policeman knocked on our door was many moons ago when my three year-old son decided to walk down to the service station at the foot of our hill. The attendant became properly concerned and called the police. A patrolman quickly came. He asked my son who his parents were. He told them, "Linda and Render." The policeman then asked him if he knew where "Linda and Render" lived. My son told him, "At the top of the hill."

Soon afterward there came a knock on the door. There stood a policeman and our little boy. I immediately thought: "What had our three-year-old done to merit being escorted to our front door by a policeman?" When we learned the reason, we were a little embarrassed to appear to be parents who failed to keep careful watch over their son's whereabouts. But above all we were grateful for the patrolman's *rescue* of our wayward boy.

Now, once more, a policeman was knocking on our front door. This time it had to do with a neighbor's complaint about the antics of a stray dog. The dog in question was one of our *granddogs*. He had broken out of our backyard. Apparently, he had romped through our neighbor's yard, scaring their children and playing roughly with their dog.

My first response was irritation with our neighbor. They had already come over to complain. Their complaint was a case of misidentification. They had confused our *granddog* with another dog in the neighborhood that often roams free and looks somewhat like ours. But they didn't believe they were confused. They were convinced that our dog was the mutt with whom they had become

increasingly agitated. And therefore, not accepting our apology and explanation, and judging us insensitive to their concerns, they called the police. This marked the first time in thirty-four years of living on Larry Drive that we have ever had such tension with a neighbor.

As I said, my first response was one of irritation. But quite quickly, my irritation turned to concern for our relationship with our neighbor. They've only lived in our community for four or five years. What had we done, or failed to do, that could justify in their minds such distrust of us? I honestly don't know.

But this is what I do know: it is our responsibility to do what we can to *mend fences*. At the moment I'm not sure precisely how we will do that – but we will look for opportunities to express again our apologies for our *granddog's* romp through their yard.

So pray for us. It's important. We don't want to be on bad terms with any of our neighbors. They know we are *church* people. They know we call ourselves Christians. They know I'm a pastor. So for the sake of our Lord's good Name, we will seek opportunities to restore what appears to be a broken relationship.

The last time a policeman knocked on our door, we were grateful. We pray the day will come when we can look back and be grateful for the knock at the door that came this past Sunday. We pray that it will provide us with opportunity to show the patience and love of Christ to those who apparently distrust us and are profoundly upset with us.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule February 12

Worship

Infants

Diana Bowers
& Gretchen Brown

Crawlers

Allison Colberg
& Andrea Waldecker

Toddlers

Nathan & Alayna Bowers

Floater

Julia Bowers

Sunday School

Infants

Debby Gardner
& Bethany Firth

Crawlers

Sue Spalding
& Jonah Harris

Toddlers

Phil Spotts
& Isaiah Harris

February Coordinator:

Catherine Pippin

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.

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 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

COKE MACHINE MOVING

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

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 on Youth Suite bulletin board 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.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. On Thursday, February 16, we'll provide lunch to the families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please contact the church office.

BALLET

Andrea Gray is offering an *Introduction to Ballet and Creative Movement Class* for ages 3 years old to kindergarten, from March 15 through April 26. Class meets on Wednesdays from 4:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Sunday School Classroom. Cost is \$50. Sign-up deadline is March 8. Space is limited. Contact Diana Perrel for more information and/or to sign up at dianaperrel@gmail.com.