



The eNewsletter

June 22, 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...

June 23

The Edge Concludes
Fri-Yay Funday

June 25

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Fisher 50th Anniversary
Reception

June 26

Belarus Trip Concludes

June 27

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

June 28

Nursery Committee Meeting
Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Ladies' PM Bible Study

June 29

Swim Day

June 30

HS Girls Night Out

July 2

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

July 4

Office Closed - Fourth of July

July 5

Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Ladies' PM Bible Study

July 6

Swim Day

July 7

Fri-yay Funday

July 9

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Mission Committee Meeting

July 11

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study
Women's Council Meeting

July 12

Nursery Committee Meeting
Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Ladies' PM Bible Study

July 13

Swim Day
Youth Skate Night

Those near my age or older remember when only *whites* could use certain public facilities. One such example was the deli counter of the Woolworths in Greensboro, NC. At that counter, in February of 1960, four black students staged a sit-in, refusing to move until served. They stayed peacefully seated and unserved until the store closed. The next day they were joined by some 300 more black students from a local college. This peaceful sit-in protest helped further cause of civil-rights.

Last week the General Assembly (GA) of the PCA met in Greensboro. On Tuesday evening the GA elected Alexander Jun (PhD) moderator. Dr. Jun, a Korean-American, became the first member of a *minority* to serve our denomination as Moderator. He was one of the founders of New Life PC in Fullerton, CA, where he serves as a Ruling Elder. In keeping with his Korean culture, he also became, to the delight of the commissioners, the first Moderator to have a *man-bun*.

RE Tony DeMarco and I served as your commissioners to the Assembly. Tony sat between me and my son, Philip, pastor of Trinity PC in Cleveland. He was *privileged* to listen as Philip and I discussed and debated particular motions pending before the GA. If I'm not mistaken, I think Tony tended to listen more to Philip than to me.

While there are always lots of *house-keeping* details, the most important issue before the Assembly was a lengthy paper present by the committee appointed last year to study the role of woman in the ministry of the church. The paper is available on-line at the PCA Administrative Committee website.

The paper did not suggest any new changes in the present practices of many local churches throughout our denomination. Interestingly, it does encourage Sessions to consider the possibility of commissioning women to

serve the church in various roles, such as assisting the Diaconate in its works of mercy. Commissioning is not the same as ordaining. For example, we recently commissioned several of our members, male and female, to serve as our representatives in Belarus. By commissioning individuals to serve in a particular activity they are recognized before the congregation and the Lord is asked to bless their service on His behalf and for the temporal and eternal welfare of those they serve.

The paper provoked a long and lengthy debate spreading over two days. Despite the fact that the paper makes it clear that only men may be ordained as Elders and Deacons, there was a minority of commissioners who feared that acceptance of this paper placed us on a slippery slope toward the day when we would ordain women to church offices.

I found that argument unpersuasive. The paper encourages nothing that isn't already the practice of various congregations throughout our denomination. Furthermore, no one has ever thought such practices to so threaten our biblical understanding of ordination that they've brought judicial charges against these churches. As a congregation, we are not obligated to do all that this paper encourages. Like all such papers presented to the GA, its conclusions are not binding. They serve us as *pious advice* that we should prayerfully consider.

I would judge this year's GA to be historic. The election of a Korean-American moderator and the GA addressing the issue of the role of women in the ministry of the church were both significant mile markers.

Again, if you want to read the paper for yourself, go the PCA website, highlight the *Administrative Committee*, and click on *Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church*.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule June 25

Worship

Infants

Lewis & Anna Reid

Crawlers

Tammy Knotts
& Mark Watne

Toddlers

Mandi & Peyton Johnson

Floater

Drew Johnson

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Crawlers

Sarah & Maggie Wade

Toddlers

Betsy & Fiona Wade

THE EDGE CONFERENCE

Parents, please pick up your Edge campers from the church at noon on Friday, June 23.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration in honor of Joe and Susie Fisher is Sunday, June 25, starting with a renewal of vows in the Sanctuary at 2:30 p.m. There is a reception afterwards in Schum Fellowship Hall until 5:00 p.m.

FRI-YAY FUNDAY

The Mother's Encouragement Group's next *Fri-Yay Funday* is Friday, June 23, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Griggs' home. Bring your own food and drinks. Contact Beth Griggs with any questions at bwgriggs@comcast.net.

TAKE ME OUT

TO THE BALLGAME

CPC is sharing (with First Pres) a chartered bus to the Atlanta Braves vs Chicago Cubs game, on July 19, a Wednesday afternoon, at the new SunTrust Park in Atlanta. Price is \$30 per ticket, with a maximum of two tickets per order. Price includes round trip transportation and a game ticket. Tickets are limited (25). Registration must accompany payment. Bus leaves First Pres at 9:30 a.m. and returns around 6:00 p.m. Contact Eric Mullinax or the church office to reserve your seat.

SWIM DAY

Swim day at the May's pool is Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and for cleanup.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please keep us informed of any address, phone, or email changes. Send changes to cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.

BELARUS TRIP

Please remember to pray for our CPC team in Belarus: Jeremy Gaines, Domekia Gaines, Ellie Gaines, Susan Close, Alayne Griffin, Tammy Higgins, Stan Armes, Dan Steere, Dusty Kemp, Melissa Ferrel, Morgan Ferrel, Maddie Ferrel, and James Creamer. Along with some First Presbyterian members, these CPC members are sharing the gospel through music in Belarus. They return Monday, June 26.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS NIGHT OUT

The High School Youth Girls are invited to join Abby Horton for pizza and pottery on Friday, June 30, 6:00 p.m. Meet at River City Pottery on Jenkins Road, pick up is at Lupi's (a few doors down), at 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$15 to \$20, depending on painting choices.

CALENDARS

The July birthday/anniversary calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE

Be sure to get your tickets for the *Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation American Heroes Dinner* on July 14, at 7:00 p.m., at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Lt. Col. Oliver North is the featured speaker. For tickets or more information please visit www.honoringthesacrifice.org.

THANK YOU

Ellen and Dick Donovan express their love and gratitude to the CPC community and their excellent support during Dick's lengthy (4 months) hospitalization and rehabilitation. All the prayers, visits, calls, cards, and meals were much needed and appreciated. Dick is home now and is making good progress. Praise the Lord.