



The eNewsletter

July 27, 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...

July 28

Fri-yay Sunday

July 30

Morning Worship
Sunday School

August 1

Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study
Women's Council Meeting

August 2

Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Ladies' PM Bible Study
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 3

Swim Day

August 4

Fri-yay Sunday

August 5

Men's Breakfast

August 6

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

August 8

Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study

August 9

Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Ladies' PM Bible Study
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 10

Swim Day

August 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Pastor Bennett Installation
Service

August 15

Session Meeting

August 16

Prayer Group
Search Committee Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 17

Memorial Hospital Lunch
Last Swim Day

August 18

Fri-yay Sunday

Prefacing remark: This original newsletter article was written in February, 2010. Boo and I had just returned from Haiti, where we sought to assist long-time missionary friends dealing with the aftermath of that island nation's devastating earthquake near Port-au-Prince. An estimated 250,000 people were killed in the January 12, 2010 earthquake. EM

I have heard this statement spoken, "God gives us the strength to bear what happens, not what might happen."

I need this reminder and I need it often, because I have a proclivity to worry early and avoid the rush. I am more likely to worry about what may fall on me years from now like retirement and health issues rather than something I may face tomorrow. The perils of the future are a part of my imagination...but, because they exist only in the realm of the imagination, the only comfort available to me is just as imaginary.

On our recent trip to Haiti, Boo and I were regularly forced to view other's tragedies and say aloud to one another, "I don't think I could handle that." Well, we were accurate in our assessment. God has not given us the grace to handle what He has not yet asked us to bear.

The grace promised to us in Scripture is available only in the present, and only when it is needed.

After reminding us that Christ can sympathize with our weaknesses, the writer of Hebrews 4.16 invites, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help

us in our time of need." A literal, albeit awkward, rendering of this verse from the Greek promises the Christian grace for a well-timed help.

What does a well-timed help look like? Does it look like Superman sweeping out of the sky to rescue the endangered one from peril? Ordinarily it does not.

If anyone deserved to be removed from suffering it was Jesus, but God in His perfect purposes chose for Jesus to endure through suffering rather than avoid it. More often than not, He chooses to help us endure rather than remove the trial.

I find it interesting that the same Greek word translated as *help* in Hebrews 4.16 is translated as *ropes* in Acts 27.17. In this scene, Paul travels on a ship that gets caught in a violent storm. The wind and waves are so fierce that the sailors fear the ship will split apart. They pass ropes (*helps*) under and around the creaking vessel in order to hold it together like a supportive net.

Sometimes, the well-timed help that God provides doesn't calm the waves, but it holds us together until the storm dies down. The psalmist describes God as "a very present help in trouble" in Psalm 46.1. He will not give us the help before we need it, and He may not remove us out of trouble, but He will be there with us to hold us together. When the troubles do come, we can approach His throne with confidence, fully expecting to receive the grace of His well-timed help.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule July 30

Front Desk
Stacy Collins

Worship

Infants
Sandy Coffey

Crawlers
Holly & Ava Lehmann

Toddlers
Brian & Liam Lehmann

Floater
Matthew Beatty

Sunday School

Infants
Jim & Connie Hildebrand

Crawlers
Kansas Bradley
& Debby Gardner

Toddlers
Jean Mauroner
& Patty Liner

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, August 5, at 8:30 a.m. Mark Whitacre is speaking on *From the Penthouse, to the Jailhouse, to Jesus*. Mark's life is the subject of *The Informant* movie. Come hear his story! Nursery provided.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Pastor Bennett's Installation Service is August 13 at 6:00 p.m. A reception will follow in Schum Fellowship Hall.

FRI-YAY FUNDAY

The Mother's Encouragement Group's next *Fri-Yay Funday* is Friday, July 28, 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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Do you like delicious ice cream and super fun water slides? Then you would really enjoy working with our Covenant children? We would love for you to consider helping in our Children's Ministry on Wednesday nights. Classes start on August 23, for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade. We have a need for teachers and helpers for our kindergarten through 5th grade classes. Working with our Covenant children will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Contact Holly Lehmann at cpckidsministry@covenantchattanooga.org or 423-667-2582 for more information.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory.

Diane Lazor
Email dlazor7@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

Please make the following additions to your CPC Membership Directory.

Dr. Dale & Nancy Knutson
5303 Tennessee Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37409
Cell (husband)..... 562.412.8494
Cell (wife)..... 423.305.8873
Email (husband)..... dale.knutson@gmail.com
Email (wife)..... nan.knutson@gmail.com

NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

Charlie Wright
Charlie is the 12-year old son of Matt & Lisa Wright

Sophie Wright
Sophie is the 10-year old daughter of Matt & Lisa Wright

Ellie Wright
Ellie is the 9-year old daughter of Matt & Lisa Wright

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.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

CPC members willing to serve in the Nursery, select your volunteer date(s) at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/X8FTK>. If you need help signing up, sign up at the Nursery table in the Lobby on Sunday or contact Joanna Watne by email at cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org