



The eNewsletter

August 17, 2017

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

Looking Ahead...

August 18
Fri-yay Sunday

August 19
WM Cooking Kinship

August 20
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Kick Off

August 21
Nursery Staff Training

August 22
Nursery Staff Training

August 23
Wednesday Night Dinner
Mission Trip Reports
Wednesday Night Activities

August 26
Women's Council Meeting

August 27
Morning Worship
Sunday School

August 29
WM Book Club

August 30
Wednesday Night Dinner
Wednesday Night Activities

September 3
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

September 4
Church Office Closed - Labor
Day

September 5
Mother's Encouragement
Group

September 6
Wednesday Night Dinner
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

September 7
Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

September 9
Men's Breakfast
Youth Family Hike

"Immediately they left their nets and followed him." Matthew 4.20

Family of Covenant Presbyterian Church, thank you for your warm welcome and many encouragements, especially at my Installation Service. This first month of service at CPC has been a wonderful experience for me and my family. You have been gracious, open, and understanding as we have started the process of getting to know you all. It is a great joy and privilege for me to serve the church as the Assistant Pastor of Discipleship. Pastoral transitions are typically very challenging, especially in the PCA. The process requires months of planning, including interviews, transition plans, an hour-long Presbytery committee exam, and ends with a final Presbytery exam for approval.

Since I had to allow my previous ministry time to find a replacement, I had to resign before I could be examined by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery for final approval to serve at CPC. Pragmatically, this meant that before I had a position I was technically unemployed. There was no guarantee that the Presbytery would approve me to serve. In addition to this, we had to list our house for sale before moving. When our house received a contract and began the closing process it dawned on me that I was about to become both unemployed and homeless.

Some of you may have experienced this feeling. Some of you may be experiencing this feeling right now. The fear and insecurity of being unemployed and/or homeless is overwhelming. My identity was challenged. I found my heart wondering, "who am I if I am not a pastor?" In these moments of fear and doubt the Lord remained faithful. His Word kept pressing me to trust that I belong to Him and my primary identity is *beloved*, His child. Over these hectic few weeks of leaving St. Louis and getting

settled in Chattanooga the Lord kept growing me to experience His love in a new light.

In reading through the Gospel of Matthew I was amazed with how quickly the disciples were willing to leave their nets behind to follow Jesus. What was their motivation? Perhaps they dreamt about prestige or wealth but their identities quickly became homeless and unemployed as they followed this itinerate preacher who had no place to lay his head (Matthew 8.20). This must have been exhausting for these disciples because towards the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, in Matthew 19.16-30, He speaks to them about how difficult it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. Peter, who left his nets and boats behind, cries out, "We have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" A question to which I could sympathize. "But Lord, what about me! Where are the riches when I have sought to be faithful? Where is the ease when I have been obedient?" Jesus replies, "many who are first will be last, and the last first."

In this response Jesus is not making a trite, unsympathetic remark. He is drawing us to the real reward of being a part of the kingdom of God - Himself. He is challenging their perception of the world and comparing them to the principles of the kingdom. The value of the kingdom of God far exceeds anything and everything we have in our lives and we see the value most clearly demonstrated in Jesus. Peter gave up his nets and left his wife behind yet Jesus left Paradise and the inestimable value of Life in His Father to step into our darkness. The owner of the universe became homeless so that we might have a home with Him for eternity.

~Pastor Bennett



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule August 20

Front Desk

Bethany Firth

Worship

Infants

Esther McEachern
& Sandi Schreiner

Crawlers

Heather Morrison

Toddlers

Volunteers Needed

Floaters

Mary Kate Oldham

Sunday School

Infants

Selah Cross

Crawlers

Sue Spalding
& Julia Gracy

Toddlers

Sophia Cross
& Dory George

YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF

CPC Youth and Parents, please plan to attend our Youth Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, August 20, at 6:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Ice cream and toppings will be served.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Night Bible Studies available from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. this fall:

Revelation Study - A study of Revelation taught by Pastor Caines in the Perseverers Classroom.

Ladies' Bible Study - A study of *Becoming a Women of Simplicity* by Cynthia Heald, taught by Mandi Johnson and Donna Armes in the Parlor.

Prayer Group - A concentrated time of intercessory prayer for the needs of the church. This group meets in Pastor Mullinax's office.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Rehearsal in the Choir Room for men and women of all ages.

Covenant Corps - Our Children's Ministry for 3 year olds through 5th grade. Covenant Corps classes meet on the Second Floor of the Education Wing.

Youth Ministry - Middle School and High School Youth meet in various small groups.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers resume August 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Barbecue Shish-Kabobs will be served. During this first meal, there will be a Missions Report given, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., from various trips taken over the summer. All activities resume at 7:00 p.m.

Suppers are served weekly from 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 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.

COVENANT CORPS

SLIDE back into Covenant Corps (for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade) on August 23, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fun water games, including a giant slip 'n slide, will be enjoyed during Covenant Corps' first session. Bring a towel and a change of dry clothes.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The CPC Children's Choir will begin on August 30, meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday night. The 4-5 year olds will meet in the Library and the 1st - 5th grade choir will meet in the Ladies' Classroom.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory.

Nathan & Betta Cook

267 Townsend Circle, Ringgold GA 30736

(Jesse) & Elizabeth Estes

1892 Holcomb Road, Ringgold GA 30736

Heather Harris

Email heather.c.harris73@gmail.com

Chris & Amber Robertson

7448 Red Poppy Drive, Ooltewah TN 37363

Maureen Shipp

Phone (cell) 423.903.2267

SWIM DAY

Today is the last CPC Swim Day at the May's for the summer. Thanks Tom and Peg!

PAID NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

The Nursery is seeking paid workers, ages 14 and up, for Thursday mornings and biweekly Tuesday mornings. Additional hours may be available throughout the year. If you are interested in applying, please email Joanna Watne at cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org. Applicants must be able to attend training the evenings of August 21 & 22.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY COUNCIL

The following CPC ladies will be serving on our WM Council and will be installed on Sunday, August 27:

- President: Heather Harris
- Vice President: Sandy VanderGriend
- Secretary: Colleen Murphy
- Treasurer: Becky Pearce
- Christian Growth: Rachel Kemp, Mandi Johnson
- Hospitality: Nicky Lewin, Rebekah Gernhard
- Special Events: Dory George, Catherine Coffey
- Historian: Karen Crago
- Welcome Committee: Pat Kelley, Susie Fisher

CPC PRISON MINISTRY

Thank you to our Prison Ministry for commissioning a *Prodigal Son* painting that is now hanging in our coffee station next to the Youth Suite.