



# The eNewsletter

September 14, 2017

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## From the Pen of the Senior Associate Pastor...

### Looking Ahead...

#### September 17

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Diaconate Meeting  
Getty Choir Rehearsal

#### September 19

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
WM Craft Kinship

#### September 20

Ladies' Wednesday Morning  
Bible Study  
Wednesday Night Dinner  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### September 21

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch  
Ministry

#### September 23

Scott Memorial Service

#### September 24

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

#### September 25

Ladies' Monday Night Luke  
Bible Study

#### September 26

WM Book Club

#### September 27

Ladies' Wednesday Morning  
Bible Study  
Wednesday Night Dinner  
CVS Flu Shot Clinic  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### September 28

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

#### September 30

MS Youth Bonfire

#### October 1

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Instrumental Rehearsal  
HS Youth Bonfire

#### October 2

Ladies' Monday Night Luke  
Bible Study

While watching television coverage of Hurricane Irma's path through the Caribbean and Florida, I often heard those interviewed speak of hope. "I hope it goes further west into the Gulf." "I hope we've prepared adequately." "I hope the forecasters are giving the worst case scenario and things will be fine."

Hope, like many words today, requires clarification. The word is often spoken of as if synonymous with wishing. We use the term to denote a vague longing for something that we want, but find unlikely to happen. We hope all storms will pass us by. We hope our politician will remedy all national ills. We hope our bank accounts will multiply. We hope our children will turn out perfect.

Yet hope, as it is defined in Scripture, is more robust than a wish, more fixed and sure than mere longing. It carries the idea of delayed but guaranteed fulfillment. It is the kind of assurance that something set in motion will, in due time, come about. The farmer sows in hope that the seed, though buried, will produce a sure crop. Similarly, the Scriptures ground the concept of hope in the nature of who God is, what God has done, and what He has promised yet to do.

In the New Testament times, the Gospel dawned with a power and force that challenged the prevailing worldviews and burst in with a vision of life that transformed the world. If the Gospel is anything, it is a message and way of hope. Therefore, it's important that we explore the nature of hope and concentrate on the nurture of hope in our lives.

The apostle Paul and many other New Testament writers describe God as the *God of hope*. The word *hope* itself is used 85 times in the New Testament alone, and throughout the Scriptures it is stressed repeatedly that one's relationship with God is the ultimate ground of hope. In Romans 8 Paul declares, "For in this hope we were saved... And we know that in all

things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (8.24, 28). The apostle anchors us in the certainty of hope and in the need to wait. The end will come, and until then we trust in God and lean on the Holy Spirit and His promises.

The effects of our secular society are seen clearly in our inability to see beyond the immediate, to think outside of our own circumstances, or to believe God for sustenance or change. This life, this world - the now and the immediate - come to shape and control our focus, our wishes, and our concerns. Paul sets our earthbound lives beside the eternal purpose that should inform all we are and do. Becoming a people of hope means cultivating an eternal perspective, the ability to see God in the midst of storms, to persevere in the face of difficulties.

The point is not to undervalue life, property, or comfort in this world, but to set it in context. Afflictions should be weighed in the light of eternity. Our hopes and expectations are anchored in a greater and ultimate reality that is both certain and transforming. Loss, affliction, and heart-aches do not become less real, nor are they unimportant or less painful, but they are limited in their reach and possibilities by the knowledge that they, too, shall pass.

The triumvirate of the Christian life is faith, hope, and love. It seems we often tend to emphasize faith and love while minimizing biblical hope. Yet hope is essential and unyielding. As the writer of Hebrews proclaimed, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf" (6.19). Christian hope is infectious; it is real, and it can be a powerful witness to a world full of shallow wishes. So...be strong and take heart all you who hope in the LORD.

~Pastor Mullinax



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule September 17

**Front Desk**  
Sherry Baierl

### Worship

**Infants**  
Crystal Middleton  
& Charlotte Pippin

**Crawlers**  
Duncan & Patrick Joyner

**Toddlers**  
Justin Martin  
& Maggie Middleton

### Sunday School

**Infants**  
Brenda King  
& Catherin Pippin

**Crawlers**  
Luther & Shirley Allin

**Toddlers**  
Jerry King  
& Isaiah Harris

### JACK SCOTT MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Jack Scott, father of Susan Steere, is Saturday, September 23 at 12:00 p.m. A visitation with the family will be Schum Fellowship Hall prior to the service, at 11:00 a.m.

### CVS FLU SHOT CLINIC

CVS is offering a Flu Shot Clinic for CPC members and regular attendees on Wednesday, September 27, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the Frederick Room. They will file insurance for you. Be sure to pick up a form and put your name on a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Contact Gretchen Brown with any questions at 423.899.5377.

### YOUTH BONFIRES

Mark your calendars! Middle School Youth are meeting at the home of Adam and Leanna Cathey (270 Indian Mound Road, Ringgold, GA) on Saturday, September 30, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. High School Youth are meeting at the home of Tony and Tracy Horton (474 Cardinal Road, Ringgold, GA) on Sunday, October 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. Next Thursday, September 21, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please call or email the Church Office.

### 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.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory.

Landon & Andrea Gray  
1120 North Ocoee Street  
Cleveland TN 37311

### NEW MEMBERS

Please make the following additions to your CPC Membership Directory.

Tim Smith  
302 Rolling Ridge Drive  
Chattanooga, TN 37421  
Cell ..... 423.718.7833  
Email ..... Timperfi3@aol.com

### NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

Daniel Fowler  
Daniel (13) is the son of Jay & Bev Fowler.  
Will, Melissa, Macie, Westin, and Marie Horton  
Will (13), Melissa (11), Macie (10), Westin (8), and Marie (7) are children of Duane and Mindy Horton.

### 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.

For the month of September, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty: J. Coffey, K. Henry, T. Horton, B. Higgins, T. Lowe, M. Walker.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Sept 20	Breakfast
Sept 27	Sliders and Fries
Oct 4	Stromboli
Oct 11	Chicken Divan
Oct 18	Pork Pot Pie
Oct 25	Pigs in a Blanket (Hot Dogs)
Nov 1	Chicken Bacon Pasta
Nov 8	Enchiladas
Nov 15	Butter Chicken
Nov 29	Soup and Bread