



The eNewsletter

September 21, 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 Assistant Pastor of Discipleship...

"...and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness," - Exodus 34.6

Do you remember the days when a deal was struck with a handshake? There was a time when you could trust the word of a telephone salesperson, when contracts were not needed to be signed in triplicate, and the liability of an agreement was not in a miniscule font. The value of the integrity of an individual's words is a bygone memory in the business world. Sadly, this attitude has become common place in many areas of our lives. About a year ago I received news of an old friend who abandoned his college sweetheart and their precious children to run off with another woman and start a new life. In lamenting this situation, I sadly realized many of us know personally that such abandonment is a growing trend.

Yet, before we can pluck the tender speck out of problems out of the eyes of those who have been public in their unfaithfulness, we must examine the log of unfaithfulness in our own eyes. While we may not have broken a contract or committed adultery, we have neglected our complete faithfulness to the Lord. We have lived in fear, doubt, complaint, and sin. From the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains that a lustful intent is the same covenantal violation as adultery. Too often our fleeting thoughts feel so miniscule that we easily dismiss them as less than public sin. This is until we think of the miniscule font on those contracts and remember the weight they hold on the signer's life. We must remember that even seemingly small acts of unfaithfulness will still foster separation in our hearts from others and from the Lord.

In the face of the private and public worlds of unfaithfulness, it is refreshing to turn to the One who is always faithful. The core identity of the Lord is steadfast love and faithfulness. In one of Dr. Ward's last sermons to us he referred to the Hebrew word *Hesed*. *Hesed* does not really have a good translation in our English, but the concept is the persistence of faithfulness with the disposition of love. Some of us

know a form of faithfulness that serves out of rigorous duty or responsibility. It is the daily routine of going to work because you have to earn a living. This is not *hesed*. Conversely, at times we have experienced a desire to support someone but forget about their needs once we leave the conversation. This is love without faithfulness, it also is not *hesed*.

Hesed is the binding faithfulness that flows out of a deep, selfless love. If you relentlessly labor in a garden that blooms for only part of the year, then you know a bit of *hesed*. If you have raised children who have spurned you and yet you continue to pray for them, then you know *hesed*. If you weep with those who are weeping, then you know *hesed*.

The Lord repeatedly describes Himself as one who lives out *hesed* towards His beloved children. In what ways is God faithful to His people? It is not to keep us from suffering, but to preserve us through the suffering. The Apostle Paul tells us that while we are afflicted in every way, we are not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed. The Lord is faithful to preserve us through the external struggles of life.

God is also faithful in the way that He grows us. In the face of persistent losses, we may be tempted to ask: "how could possibly God grow me?" Yet, our growth does not depend on our strength, it depends on His *hesed*. He is faithful in the face of our personal darkness to draw us closer to Him.

Most of all, God is faithful to demonstrate His salvation and His restoration to us. The Lord does this with Himself in the Atonement. The demonstration of *hesed* led God to be completely cursed on the cross, bearing our sin, shame, and unfaithfulness. The *hesed* of God also led Him to raise Jesus from the dead so that our future would be assured. God's *hesed* gives us a confidence and desire to draw closer to His abounding steadfast love and faithfulness.

~Pastor Bennett

Looking Ahead...

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

October 3

Mother's Encouragement
Group
Women's Council Meeting

October 4

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

October 5

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

October 7

Men's Breakfast
HS Service Project

October 8

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule September 24

Front Desk
John Pearce

Worship

Infants
Carla Stevenson
& Emily Calloway

Crawlers
Kansas Bradley
& Millie Sanders

Toddlers
Brandi Siler
& Cami Calloway

Sunday School

Infants
Donna Armes
& Peg May

Crawlers
Craig & Susan Miller

Toddlers
Boo Mullinax
& James Arrington

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. If you do not have insurance and are interested, please contact Gretchen Brown. 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

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. Hot dog dinner is provided. Girls, please bring a dessert to share and guys, please bring drinks to share.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The October Birthday/Anniversary Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory.

Howard & Sandy VanderGriend
8011 Plaxco Drive, Chattanooga TN 37421

David Herberich
1845 Wells Drive SW, Atlanta GA 30311

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mark your calendars for some CPC church wide activities coming up. Details to follow.

- Church PicnicOctober 22
- TVP Reformation ServiceOctober 29
- CPC Golf OutingNovember 3
- OCC Packing DayNovember 18
- Thanksgiving Pounding.....November 18
- Thanksgiving Service.....November 22
- Sanctuary Choir Program December 3
- Children's Choir Program December 10
- Caroling & Dessert..... December 20
- Lessons & Carols..... December 24

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 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