



The eNewsletter

September 28, 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...

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
Officer's Training Dinner

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

October 9

Ladies' Monday Night Peter/
James Bible Study

October 11

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

October 12

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

October 15

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Service Project

October 17

Mother's Encouragement
Group
Officer's Training Class

With the baseball season coming down its final stretch, I was reminded of some coach-speak. "Good eye!" That's a vocal commendation from coaches to batters for not chasing pitches far outside of the strike zone. (I rarely heard that from my coaches, because I was a sucker for those curve balls in the dirt!) It is also an expression meaning keen observation ...used to commend someone after they notice or discern a particularly subtle thing or detail. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 4.18, *fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*)

I especially appreciate stories that remind me to have a good eye, to carefully watch for all that can be seen, but can just as easily be missed. How we learn to see the world is profoundly important. Despite the perseverance of goodness, beauty, and truth around us, the collective wisdom of sociologists, philosophers, historians, and artists alike all indicate that contemporary culture is not tied to the transcendent (*what is unseen*). Learning to see with a good eye may well be a difficult feat without effort and practice. But could it not be a transformative exercise for both the observer and the world being seen?

Without such an effort, consider what may be lost. I read a newspaper column telling a glaring example of our propensity for this disengagement - seeing with eyes that are not really seeing, hearing but not hearing. The writer describes an experiment where one of the world's greatest musicians, violin virtuoso Joshua Bell, performed several

classical masterpieces on a dingy subway platform in Washington, DC, during the morning rush hour. Only three days prior to his performance in the subway, Bell had filled Boston's prestigious Symphony Hall, where the cheap seats sold for more than \$100 each. However, as he played that morning with the same fervor on his handcrafted Stradivari for nearly an hour, he took in a total of \$32 and change from the handful of people who noticed him. The other thousands hurried by unaware that musical mastery was only three feet away. It was noted there was never a crowd, not even for a moment.

The Bible seems to be replete with stories that remind us that it is always possible to pass over the gifts in front of us, whether a sign of grace, a moment of joy, a glimpse of beauty, or a lifetime of knowing the glory and presence of God.

There are times when God woos us slowly with beauty, truth, grace, and grandeur, moving among us in a manner that busy lives readily miss. (Do we "in the rustling grass hear him pass" as the hymn writer suggests?) Other times we find ourselves moved greatly, as we attempt to take in the glory of God in a startling moment like Moses or Isaiah. Sometimes, like commuters in a subway station oblivious to the work of art before us, we miss the signs of a many-splendored God entirely. But still other times, we labor intentionally to see with a good eye and find in the ordinary the One who first called the world good.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 1

Front Desk
John Pearce

Worship

Infants
Charlotte Pippin
& Karen Crago

Crawlers
Tammy & Mandy Bacon

Toddlers
Mandi & Drew Johnson

Sunday School

Infants
Kristie Brock
& Lois Crenshaw

Crawlers
Susan Close
& Sophia Cross

Toddlers
Eva Herberich
& Audrey Rushing

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 a drink to share.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

The High School Youth have the opportunity to serve at the Chattanooga Food Bank on Saturday, October 7. Please meet in the CPC parking lot at 8:00 a.m., parents, pick youth back up at 11:30. We are serving from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Let Abby know if you are participating (she needs a headcount) at cpcyouth@covenantchattanooga.org. Parents are welcome to help also. One dress requirement is no open-toed shoes.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Then Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, October 7, at 8:30 a.m. General B.B. Bell is speaking on *Is the Cold War with Russia Coming Back Hot?* Nursery provided.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

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
Dec 6	Spaghetti

CHURCH PICNIC

The annual Church Picnic is Sunday, October 22, at Heritage Park at 12:30 p.m. BYOPB (Bring Your Own Picnic Basket), drinks and desserts provided. Activities for everyone!

YOUTH RETREAT

Mark your calendars! The High School and Middle School Youth Retreat is November 10-12. Details to follow.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Labels are available at the Welcome Center to place on the boxes marking age and gender of the child. You can participate several ways:

- * **Fill a shoe box** for a specific gender/age child (2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14). OCC requests the use of Walmart or Dollar store's plastic boxes which are shoe box sized as they are more durable. Please write a note to that child as they have been known to prize things like letters and pictures well into adulthood. Collection points are in the Ladies Sunday School classroom or in the Children's Wing.
- * **Donate items** - items for shoe boxes. Sample items: soap, toothbrush, washcloths, small toys, combs, socks, school supplies, (no liquids or war toys or breakable items), bowls, spoons, flip-flops, t-shirts, flashlights/batteries, etc.
- * **Donate money** - OCC requests \$9 for shipping per box. Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, and put OCC on the memo line. Place your check in your box if you prepare one or drop your check in the offering plate no later than November 12.
- * **Wrap and stuff boxes** on Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom.
- * **2017 Changes** - OCC boxes can no longer include toothpaste, candy, or gum. Some nations are looking for anything to prevent this ministry from coming into their country. They randomly open boxes and if anything is out of date, they will reject the entire shipment. Therefore, we are asked not to include these items.