



The eNewsletter

October 5, 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...

October 7

Men's Breakfast
HS Service Project

October 8

Morning Worship
Sunday School

October 9

Clothing Swap
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

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Mother's Encouragement
Group
Officer's Training Class

October 18

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

October 19

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Ministry

October 21

WM Cooking Kinship
WM Hiking Kinship

October 22

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Church Picnic
Getty Choir Rehearsal

October 24

Officer's Training

[Note: This recycled article (also on perspective) may serve as a book-end to last week's article (Cf. "Good Eyes", 9-28-17)]

I was rather spent as I stepped on the plane returning from my mother-in-law's memorial service in Florida. I was dreaming of a uninterrupted nap before I even found my seat. Of course, as is usually the case in situations like these, when one is intent on being anti-social and insistent on having earned the right to be so, I found myself by an animated, first-time traveler. The young woman had been a child as she watched the events of September 11th unfold and had determined then never to travel by airplane; that is, until today, when family events presented a need to break her own rule. She was anxious, excited, and inquisitive all at once. She also noticed things I'm fairly certain I have never noticed in travel experience, commenting with elation, curiosity, or confusion on every single one of them. Her excitement eventually became refreshing to me. By the time we landed, I not only had a new friend, but was awakened to things I fail to see around me.

It would seem that repetition has a way of lulling us to sleep; monotony a way of robbing us of sight, or else leaving us disinterested. Real life examples are readily available. How many news stories do we need to hear about violence or suffering, racial oppression or injustice, before we fail to hear them at all? For that matter, how many stories about something small but positive do we really take in before we respond in boredom? How many times do we need to sit on an airplane or see the bird outside our window before the marvel of flight simply goes without notice? Like most adults, we learn to tolerate the repetitious by learning to operate on auto-pilot.

And yet, I am certain, even among the most skilled of auto-pilots, there was a time when we found ourselves, like every child, delighting in the routine, longing for another minute with grandpa, another page of the story, another trip down the slide. The incongruity is unmistakable. How can our failure to see be blamed on monotony, unconscious living attributed to the repetitive, when at one point monotony and repetition

were not only tolerated but invigorating? Blindness can easily be blamed on the world around us - and there is a sensory overload - but perhaps this is too easy an answer. Perhaps the scales on our eyes are thickened not by the many repetitions in life, but by our failure to see life in the many repetitions around us.

Jesus spoke of the kingdom as belonging to the likes of little children, and many have speculated the child's ability to see the world with wonder as one of the reasons for it. The children's cry for more could be a quality of the very God who created them. Doesn't the Lord command the sun every day and the moon every night, "Do it again"?

For the child on the slide or the toddler with a story, "Do it again!" is far from a cry of boredom or routine, but a cry for more of life itself. This is likewise the joy of the psalmist, the cry of the prophets, and the call of Christ: "Consider the lilies, how they grow...if God so clothes the grass of the field...how much more will he clothe you?" (Luke 12.27-28). Jesus asks the world to consider the kingdom around us like little children, and thus, something more like God - finding a presence in faithful recurrences, grace in repetition, rumors of another world in the ordinary world around us. Here, even those within the most taxing of life's repetitions - the daily care of an aging parent, the constant burden on the shoulders of those who fight against injustice, the labor of hope in a difficult place - can find solace. "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope," said Jeremiah in the midst of deep lament. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; *they are new every morning...*'The Lord is my *portion*,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him'" (Lamentations 3.22-24, emphasis mine).

Morning by morning, the daily liturgy of new mercies comes with unapologetic repetition to all who will see it, the gift of a God who revels in the creation of yet another sunrise, the encore of another starry night, the discovery of even one lost soul.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 8

Front Desk

Catherine Coffey

Worship

Infants

Judy Foster & Anna Reid

Crawlers

Mark Watne & Betta Cook

Toddlers

Sylvia Mills & Casie Runkle

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Crawlers

Diane Lazor & Jeannie Hall

Toddlers

John Southworth
& Sandy VanderGriend

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.

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, up to 36 months.

CLOTHING SWAP

Don't forget the Fall Clothing Swap is next week! You can bring gently used clothes of all kinds and "shop" from other's items. Even if you don't have anything to bring, you are welcome to come. The Clothing Swap is Monday, October 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Amy Wooten's house (4739 Sussex Lane, Chattanooga TN 37421). Please do not bring any children under the age of 12 due to space limitations. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Wade at 706.937.5951.

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!

TVP REFORMATION SERVICE

Sunday evening, October 29, at 6:00 p.m. the churches of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery are meeting together at Covenant Presbyterian Church to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Combined Choir Rehearsal starts at 4:15 p.m. Please plan to join us for this wonderful evening of worship.

AUTUMN GOLF FELLOWSHIP

Join your CPC family members at The Canyon Ridge Club on Friday, November 3. Consecutive starts, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$30. Fee includes green fees, cart, prizes, and post-play barbeque. Limited space, so registration required. Contact Eric Mullinax, Tony DeMarco or the Church Office with questions or to register.

YOUTH RETREAT

The High School and Middle School Youth Retreat is November 10-12 at Ponderosa Bible Camp. The speaker for the weekend is Rev. Travis Hutchinson, the Chaplain at CCS. Cost is \$65 per person, with a family maximum of \$150. Registration forms available outside of Youth Office. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 25. Please turn forms in to Abby Horton or Gretchen Brown.

PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED

The Nursery has an ongoing need of your plastic grocery bags which will be recycled as diaper disposal bags. Please drop your surplus under the Nursery bulletin board.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts (no liquids, candy, gum, toothpaste, or war toys) to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Please write a note the child to include with the gifts. Boxes will be packed on Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom.

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 October, the following Shepherding Groups have clean-up duty after dinner: D. Elwood, J. Gaines, J. Harris, J. Hobbs, J. Wykoff, and T. Smith.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

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