



# The eNewsletter

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A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
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## *From the Pen of the Associate Pastor...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

**October 28**

Getty Concert

**October 29**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
TVP Reformation Service

**November 1**

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

**November 2**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

**November 3**

Autumn Golf Fellowship  
High School Pumpkin Carving

**November 4**

Men's Breakfast  
Daylight Savings Ends

**November 5**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Instrumental Rehearsal

**November 6**

Ladies' Monday Night Luke  
Bible Study

**November 7**

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
Officer's Training Group

**November 8**

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

**November**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

**November 10**

Youth Retreat

**November 11**

Youth Retreat

**November 12**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Youth Retreat  
Missions Committee Meeting  
Turnbull/Schreiner Bridal  
Shower

### ***Semper Reformanda***

While in Cochabamba Bolivia this month, I had the privilege of preaching at a conference celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and one of the topics I was asked to address was *Semper Reformanda*, or *Always Reforming*. I'd like to share some of those thoughts with you.

The Reformation was clearly a revival of Biblical Christianity in the midst of great spiritual ignorance and darkness. Thousands of God's people were called to faith in Christ and began to use their God-given abilities for His glory. In many ways, the Reformation was the beginning of the modern age with all of its achievements in technology, science, education, art, music, humanitarianism, and economics. The destiny of whole nations was changed.

In the realm of theology, the Reformation was an especially gracious work of God. It restored the Biblical teaching on salvation through the rediscovery of justification by grace through faith in Christ. It also reaffirmed the sovereignty of God over all things. And one of the Reformation's key results was the realization that, because the glory of God is man's chief goal, all of life is worship.

However, the Reformation was not perfect. There was a lack of unity and charity among various Protestant groups. And as those movements developed, certain unbiblical teachings crept in. For example, some of the Reformed taught God's sovereignty in a way that negated man's responsibility to believe and obey, resulting in a view called "hyper-Calvinism." Also within the Reformed camp, there was a growing conflict with Arminianism, which resulted from unbiblical views on original sin and man's free will.

The Reformation was also incomplete. There were areas of theology and practice that the Reformers did not specifically address. It remained for subsequent generations to more clearly articulate the

Biblical teaching on Covenant Theology, eschatology, evangelism, gifts of the Spirit, and missions.

The church today is faced with challenges from Post-Modernism in the West while the Majority World struggles with an ignorance of the Bible and Church History that enables heresies and false gospels like the Prosperity teaching. In other words, there is a need for continuing Reformation as we corporately seek to bring all of life under obedience to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10.4-5)

*Semper Reformanda* does not mean change (or even growth) for its own sake. There must be a governing principle that guides all we do. As Paul explains in Philippians 3.7-14, that governing principle is knowing Jesus Christ as He is revealed in the Scriptures. Paul wants to know Christ in all His fullness, and so should we.

This perspective characterized the Great Reformation as believers fought to recover and teach what it meant to follow Jesus Christ. It will also characterize every individual and church that seeks to follow Christ today. Knowing and following Christ is the heart of *Semper Reformanda*.

The Reformation was a wonderful work of God, and many heroes of the faith took part in that movement. But while we look back and thank God, we must also look forward and ask, "Where is reformation needed today?" We cannot rest in what has already been accomplished, but must continue to follow Jesus Christ.

Here is how Paul expressed this truth: "I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL..." (3.14) Notice that Paul was focused: "One thing I do..." He openly admits that he had not yet reached the goal of knowing Christ. There were still areas in his life that needed reformation. We also must "Press on," always reforming; always conforming to the image of Christ: transformed by Scripture; constant in prayer; abounding in God's work.

~Pastor Steere



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule October 29

#### Front Desk

Emily Calloway

#### Worship

#### Infants

Brandi Siler  
& Heather Harris

#### Crawlers

Audrey Rushing  
& Abby Horton

#### Toddlers

Jonah & Ezra Harris

#### Sunday School

#### Infants

Anna Yonkofski  
& Lucy Cleveland

#### Crawlers

Sarah Blackburn  
& Bonnie Schoap

#### Toddlers

Casie Runkle  
& Heather Morrison

### 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 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Combined Choir Rehearsal starts at 4:15 p.m. Please plan to join us for this wonderful evening of worship.

### GETTY CONCERT TICKETS

The Getty Concert at the Memorial Auditorium, honoring the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation is Saturday, October 28. Tickets can be purchased at [www.tivolichattanooga.com/events](http://www.tivolichattanooga.com/events).

The Church Office still has a few discounted student and children tickets, if you are interested, please contact Gretchen Brown.

### HIGH SCHOOL PUMPKIN CARVING

PLEASE NOTE A DATE CHANGE: The High School Youth are invited to carve pumpkins with Abby at her house (474 Cardinal Road, Ringgold, GA) on Friday, November 3, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Abby will supply the carving tools, be sure to bring your own pumpkin! Bring a snack to share!

### 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 is required. Contact Eric Mullinax, Tony DeMarco or the Church Office with questions or to register.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Then Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 4, at 8:30 a.m. Duane Horton is speaking on *It's More Than Just Business*. Nursery provided for 36 months old and younger.

### BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The November calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

### 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.

### 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 to 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.

### THANKSGIVING POUNDING

We are collecting staples and canned goods to help those in need. Please place items on the table outside of Pastor Mullinax's office. If you are going through a hard time this year, or if you know someone who is, please contact an Elder or the Church Office. The Pounding is an encouragement to those experiencing hard times and a great witness to a watching world when we love and support on another, and minister to those whom God brings into our paths. Delivery date is November 18. For details, please contact Joyce Trask at [futurejoyce@gmail.com](mailto:futurejoyce@gmail.com).

### YOUTH RETREAT

The High School and Middle School Youth Retreat is November 10-12 at Ponderosa Bible Camp. If you have registered but have not turned in your full payment yet, please turn that in to Gretchen Brown.

### NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP

New City has invited us to join their *Benefit Concert for Anam* (Agape National Academy of Music in the Republic of Liberia) on Thursday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. at New City Fellowship (2424 E 3rd Street). The admission is free and a Love Offering will be collected.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT

Ladies, mark your calendar! The CPC Women's Ministry Retreat is February 23-25 at the Oak Haven Resort. Bev Mealor is leading a study *From Fear to Faith: Allowing God's Word to Transform Your Life*. Registration forms are at the WM table in the Lobby. Registration deadline is December 10. Cost is \$85 for a 2-person room or \$140 for 1-person room (\$50 deposit due with registration). Contact Dory George or Catherine Coffey for more details. Contact Heather Harris or Becky Pearce for available scholarships.

### 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.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

- Nov 1 Chicken Bacon Pasta
- Nov 8 Enchiladas
- Nov 15 Butter Chicken
- Nov 29 Soup and Bread
- Dec 6 Spaghetti