



# The eNewsletter

January 11, 2018

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 Senior Associate Pastor...*

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

#### **January 13**

Youth Ice Skating

#### **January 14**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

Missions Committee Meeting  
Walker/Forrester Shower  
Diaconate Meeting  
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal  
Officer's Installation

#### **January 16**

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
WM Swap Kinship

#### **January 17**

Wednesday Morning Bible  
Study  
Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### **January 18**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch

#### **January 21**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal

#### **January 24**

Wednesday Morning Bible  
Study  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### **January 25**

Ladies' Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

#### **January 26**

Men's Ministry Conference

#### **January 27**

Men's Ministry Conference

#### **January 28**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Youth Praise Team Practice

#### **January 31**

Wednesday Morning Bible  
Study  
Wednesday Night Supper  
Mission Conference Seminar

#### **February 1**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **February 2**

Valentine Dinner

I spoke with my Aunt Martha a few times over the recent holidays. Now, well into her 90s, she is the lone living sibling of my mother. Our conversations prompted a revisit to a box of old family pictures and archives I have kept.

Many of the old newspaper clippings and photographs reminded me of the major changes that have taken place in the century since the birth of my mother. Sociologists, anthropologists, and historians of every stripe have documented and commented on the head-spinning pace of these changes.

Even greeting card companies track the changing dynamics of culture and its effects on their industry. Today there are categories and identified-groups that would never have crossed card-makers' minds decades earlier.

But, I think, mothers have been adapting to shifts all along; they just haven't always had an entire line of cards that focused on it. Despite the growing number of targeted relationships, there are still a great number of us (...I've been doing an informal survey), who find card-shopping an exercise in futility. Often, standing before a large aisle of cards, I've not only been unable to find the right card capturing the relationship, but, have thought myself outside the confines of a greeting card sentiment. It's not that the things said on a Mother's Day card I might choose aren't real; it's just that my mom was so much more real than anything a card could ever articulate for me.

Scripture's unadorned images of motherhood do not fit neatly into categories either. Naomi was embittered by the death of her husband and her two young sons. Rebekah conspired with her son to trick her ailing husband. Sarah, Hannah, Michal, and Elizabeth - among others - suffered the despair and scorn of barren wombs. Mary sang with hope when she learned she would have a son. Later, she would watch him die an agonizing

death. Like those we celebrate on Mother's Day, the women we find in Scripture tell their stories from a vast array of settings and situations. They come to us scheming or flourishing or despairing, silenced or prayerful or with strength we can hardly fathom, but the confrontation is always real.

The authentic humanity found in the Bible is not often something we stop to consider. Maybe it is more comfortable to try to line up with images of life on greeting cards than with these stories of struggle and desperation, mystery and bravery. And yet, it is in this very story weighted with every complexity of our *humanness* that God became human himself. To real and wanting people, a God in real flesh came near.

Hannah's hopeful voice comes as she finds the courage to express her grief and position, and it is here that she finds God. The story imparts: "In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord. And she made a vow, saying, 'O Lord Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life.'" In tearful honesty, she sought God. And Hannah's pain in childlessness became her child's link to God.

The images of motherhood in Scripture give us insights into ourselves, into our mothers, into the pain of lost hope, the ache of longed-for identities, the startling gift of prayer, and the beauty of faith. Many of these women describe what it's like to feel abandoned by God, to cry out as with nothing - and everything - to lose. Their lives encourage us to seek God where God can be found, even along much unexpected paths. Their real and trying stories are given a place in Christ's story, and this speaks volumes into our own.

~Pastor Mullinax



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule January 14

**Front Desk**  
Kim Collins

### Worship

**Infants**  
Miranda & Clyde Haywood

**Crawlers**  
Stephen & Iris Haywood

**Toddlers**  
Rebekah Bennett  
& Lucy Haywood

### Sunday School

**Infants**  
Volunteers Needed

**Crawlers**  
Luther & Shirley Allin

**Toddlers**  
Volunteers Needed

### BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Beth Walker (bride-elect of Andrew Forrester) is Sunday, January 14, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Beth is registered at Target, Pottery Barn, Crate & Barrel, Williams-Sonoma, and myregistry.com.

### YOUTH ICE SKATING

The High School and Middle School Youth are invited to the *Ice on the Landing*, at the Choo Choo, on Saturday, January 13 at noon. Cost is \$8.

### OFFICER'S ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE

New Elders and Deacons are being installed during an Evening Worship Service on Sunday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m.

### MEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

The Men's Ministry 2018 Conference is January 26-27, in Schum Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the Lobby. Cost is \$15. For more details, contact Tony DeMarco or Doug McEachern.

### VALENTINE'S DINNER

The 6th annual CPC Valentine's Dinner is Friday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is *Do You Remember - A Covenant Prom*. Make new memories with your sweetheart. Wear an outlandish outfit and get your picture made under a balloon arch. The cost is free. Donations will be received to help assist the choir in its ongoing effort to partnering with our brothers and sisters in Belarus. The world famous cake auction will also take place. Space is limited, so please reserve your prom tickets as soon as possible. Nursery registration required. Contact Jeremy Gaines for more information.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Jason Coffey  
Email..... jason@canaangroup.com

Duane Ferrel  
Email.....dferrel@sceniclandcompany.com

### PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please remember to pray for our college students as they start another semester.

### NURSERY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

CPC members willing to serve in the Nursery, select your volunteer date(s) at [www.volunteersignup.org/CCQKC](http://www.volunteersignup.org/CCQKC). If you need help signing up, please contact Joanna Watne at 423.667.7347 or [cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org)

### 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 January, the Youth Group has clean-up.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

January 10	Chili and Cornbread
January 17	Baked Chicken and Cheesy Grits
January 24	French Dip Sandwich with Oven Fries
January 31	Chicken Bacon Pasta
February 7	Soup and Bread
February 14	Butter Chicken
February 21	Baked Potato Bar
February 28	Spaghetti and Caesar Salad