



# The eNewsletter

February 1, 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 the Pastor Emeritus...

### Looking Ahead...

#### February 2

Valentine's Dinner

#### February 4

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Sunday School  
Instrumental Ensemble  
Rehearsal  
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal  
Waldecker Wedding Shower  
Missions Conference  
PM Service

#### February 5

Ladies' Monday Morning  
Bible Study  
Ladies' Monday Night Luke  
Bible Study

#### February 6

Mother's Encouragement  
Group  
Women's Ministry Council  
Meeting

#### February 7

Wednesday Night Activities  
Session Meeting

#### February 8

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### February 10

WM Cooking Kinship

#### February 11

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Mission Committee Meeting  
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal  
Middle School Youth Group  
High School Youth Group

#### February 12

Ladies' Monday Morning  
Bible Study  
Ladies' Monday Night Bible  
Study

#### February 14

Wednesday Night Bible Study  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### February 15

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study  
Memorial Hospital Lunch

#### February 18

Morning Worship  
Sunday School  
Youth Praise Team Rehearsal  
Middle School Youth Group  
High School Youth Group

By the time I was seventeen, I never struggled with the question: "What am I to do with my life?" I was strongly convinced the Lord wanted me to pursue the role of being a preacher of the Gospel. I was initially drawn to this idea as a boy because of the impact of my pastor, Dr John Buswell, upon my life, thinking, and understanding of God's Word. His life and ministry challenged, encouraged, and planted within me the seed of the idea that I wanted to spend my life doing what he did.

I never heard the Lord speaking to me. But at the age of 14, one of the elder's wives, elderly Mrs Hoogstrate (who I thought must have been a hundred years old) spoke to me following worship one Sunday morning to tell me, "Render, the Lord is calling you to preach."

I didn't really know her all that well, but her words hit home. Then, once I settled upon the idea of being a preacher, and made known to others my sense of calling, there were many others who encouraged me to *go for it!*

Such encouragement came, not only from Mrs Hoogstrate, but also from my pastor, my parents, several of the elders, and one other wife of an elder. She was my piano teacher. Mrs Becker was an intimidating German lady who, with her husband, had fled from Germany when Hitler came to power. She prayed with me, asking the Lord to confirm me for my calling. And then, just prior to my graduation from Seminary, she took me aside and gave me *a piece of advice*. She said to me, "Render, when you preach be sure your people understand what you are saying, and be sure they don't misunderstand what you are saying." I responded with a reverent, "Yes Ma'am."

But long before that conversation with

Mrs Becker, before I had graduated from High School, gentle words of encouragement and support from fellow members of my home church confirmed for me my sense of *calling*. So, at the young age of 17, I stood before the New Jersey Presbytery, shared with them my testimony of faith and sense of calling, and was taken under their care. (Being *taken under care* is the first step in our denomination in becoming an ordained minister. It is followed by being licensed to preach, as I was in my second year of Seminary; of receiving a call, as I did just prior to graduation from Bosun Bay Presbyterian Church in West Bay, Grand Cayman; and of finally being ordained, as I was following graduation from Westminster Seminary in July of 1972.)

Now, why am I telling you all this? To challenge you. Who among our young men do you at times think should consider the possibility of being a preacher of the Gospel? You may be right. You may be wrong. But that's not important. What is important is that there may be a young man (or two, or three) that you think may have the love for the Lord and the gifts needed to proclaim God's unchanging truth. And perhaps what they need is to hear from you a word of encouragement. Who knows, your encouragement might be the seed the Lord plants in their hearts to consider the possibility of pursuing the ministry.

We need young men, who love the Lord and are gifted by Him to carry the torch into the next generation. I'll always being grateful for those who encouraged me. Now, who would you encourage to think about whether the Lord might be calling him to preach?

~Pastor Caines



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule February 4

**Front Desk**  
Becky Pearce

### Worship

**Infants**  
Joyce Trask  
& Anna Reid

**Crawlers**  
Charlotte & Grace Pippin

**Toddlers**  
Katherine Fisher  
& Mindy Horton

### Sunday School

**Infants**  
Tim & Susan Gunter

**Crawlers**  
Catherine Coffey  
& Catherine Pippin

**Toddlers**  
Katherine Fisher  
& Mindy Horton

### WEDDING SHOWER

A wedding shower, for ladies and gentlemen, in honor of Andrea Waldecker and Andrew Mace, is Sunday, February 4, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Andrea and Andrew are registered at Amazon, Williams-Sonoma, Honeyfund, and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

### MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2018

Our 2018 Missions Conference, *A Clear and Compelling Call*, began January 31. The Valentine's Dinner on Friday, February 2, will be funding Belarus missions. On Sunday, February 4, Dr. Ward is preaching in the morning. During the Sunday School hour, Christine Harrison (Wycliffe - The Seed Co) and John Mark Scruggs (RUF - UTC) will be sharing. Sunday evening, February 4, at 6:00 p.m., we will gather in Schum Fellowship Hall to hear from Gary Waldecker regarding information from around the world and concerts of prayer.

### YOUTH SUNDAY NIGHTS

Beginning February 11, Middle School and High School Youth will meet at CPC, in separate locations, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month from February through May. Details to follow.

### SUMMER DATES

For all of those planning their Summer schedules, here are some dates to consider:

- Music Camp - June 4-8
- MS The Edge Conference - June 18-22
- HS Generate Conference - July 7-11

### REMODELING

Please be aware the restrooms next to the old Nursery entrance will be closed for a few weeks.

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Ken Mealor  
Email .....mealor068@gmail.com

### VALENTINE'S DINNER

The 6th annual CPC Valentine's Dinner is Friday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. for those with reservations. Contact Jeremy Gaines for more information.

### NURSERY ADMINISTRATOR

As of today, February 1, Joanna Watne is stepping down from her Nursery responsibilities to have her third child in the next few weeks. Crystal Middleton is assuming the position of Nursery Administrator. Be sure to thank Joanna for all her hard work and welcome Crystal to the CPC staff.

### 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

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 7  | Chicken Bacon Pasta                      |
| February 14 | Butter Chicken                           |
| February 21 | Baked Potato Bar                         |
| February 28 | Spaghetti and Caesar                     |
| March 7     | Chicken and Biscuits                     |
| March 14    | Mexican Lasagna                          |
| March 21    | Fettuccine Alfredo                       |
| March 28    | French Dip Sandwiches<br>with Oven Fries |