



The eNewsletter

March 22, 2018

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of the Associate Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

March 22

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

March 25

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Smith Bridal Shower
Youth Praise Team Practice

March 26

Ladies' Monday Morning
Bible Study

March 28

Seder Dinner

March 29

Seder Dinner

March 30

Office Closed - Good Friday

April 1

Easter Sunday
Lord's Supper Celebrated

April 2

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

April 3

Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting

April 4

Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

April 5

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

April 7

Men's Breakfast
Women's Ministry Teacher
Training
HS Youth Game Night

April 8

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Morris/Cross Bridal Shower
Diaconate Meeting
Youth Praise Team Practice
PM Evening Service
Middle School Youth Group
High School Youth Group

I have been asked to give a brief report on my most recent ministry trip to Ghana. For 2 of the 3 weeks of ministry, I was joined by our own Dr. John Southworth, who taught OT Prophets in the two MINTS seminaries ELI has established in country. Here are some selected portions from the weekly field reports:

"How have we missed this? How have we failed to teach these things? Are we just hypocrites talking about marriage but not doing what God says?"

Our first week in Ghana, we taught a conference on Biblical Marriage at the headquarters of the Baptist Conference. The response was very encouraging. As you can see from the comments, God's truth regarding marriage had a stunning impact on many of those attending. Fellow ELI staffer, Ray Warwick, and I spoke about marriage from Genesis, and the Biblical roles of husband and wife from Ephesians 5. We then discussed patterns of communication from Ephesians 4. As do most of us, Ghanaians tend to view marriage through the lens of their culture, but the applications and illustrations God gave us convicted them of their need to change. Thank God for His blessing on His truth! As a result, I have been invited to return in July and teach two more marriage conferences in separate regions.

Our second week we taught in Kumasi, a large city located in the central part of the country. Mike Harper (from Grace Presbyterian in Fort Payne) and I worked through I Timothy with over 100 students at Shiloh Bible Training Center. The students – who are already involved in ministry of some sort – were attentive and enthusiastic. They eagerly received God's Word, responding with joy and thankfulness to us as we taught. In this letter, Paul was particularly concerned about the prevalence of error that existed within the Ephesian church and he repeatedly exhorts Timothy to identify and silence false teachers. According to Paul, one of clear marks of false teaching is "imagining that godliness is a means of financial gain." (6.5) These *prophets of profit* were a plague upon the church then, and they remain so today. The so-called Prosperity

Gospel is very popular in Ghana, and we went to great pains to both identify it as false teaching and to point out its dangerous errors.

We had the privilege during our final week of ministry (February 12-14) of teaching a conference to the annual assembly of the Apostles Continuation Church (ACC). The ACC is an African-initiated Pentecostal denomination. Over the past five years or so, ELI has had a significant impact on the ACC, and some of its key leaders are now students in the Sunyani MINTS seminary (and sat under John Southworth). That growing trust resulted in this opportunity to address their annual assembly on the topic of Biblical Church Leadership.

Over 200 ACC leaders – both men and women – listened intently as we explained and applied Paul's apostolic teaching – especially as it directly applies to the false teaching on prosperity that has permeated so much of the African church. The obsession with health and wealth misrepresents both God and the Christian life. God has not promised to do away with all our problems, nor does the Bible teach all our problems come from either Satan or our lack of faith.

Thank the Lord! These leaders received our instruction and applications on this and many other topics from I Timothy. We were blessed by their attentiveness – especially since our teaching was through a translator! We were also blessed by their hospitality, evidenced by fresh pineapple and bananas in such quantities that we could never hope to consume it all!

In addition to those already mentioned, two other men accompanied me on this ministry trip: Dan Gilchrist, the pastor at Chattanooga Valley PC, and Terry Mudder, a church elder and friend from college. Between the six of us, we taught three conferences and four seminary classes in three weeks. We thank God for the opportunity, and thank you for sending us and prayerfully supporting us.

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 25

Front Desk
Jason Collins

Worship

Infants
Anna Reid
& Charlotte Pippin

Crawlers
Sally Forrester
& Heather Morrison

Toddlers
Josiah Cook
& Volunteer Needed

Sunday School

Infants
Bekah Gernhard
& Joanna Watne

Crawlers
Eva Herberich
& Mark Watne

Toddlers
David Gernhard
& Phil Spotts

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Gracie Smith is Sunday, March 25 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Gracie is registered at Amazon, Pottery Barn, and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Annabelle Morris, bride-elect Brandon Cross, is Sunday, April 8, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Annabelle is registered at Amazon and Target.

SEDER DINNER

CPC is celebrating a Seder Dinner in Schum Fellowship Hall. To accommodate the expected in-house attendance, this year's Seder is being served both Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. and Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. Registration is full, but if you would like to be on the registration waiting list, please call the Church Office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Then Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, April 7, at 8:30 a.m. Doug McEachern is speaking on *Every Day is a Holiday*. Nursery provided.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT(S)

High School Youth, please come enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and games in our newly remodeled Youth Suite. We are playing on Saturday, April 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pizza will be served. Please bring a drink to share.

Middle School Game Night is Saturday, April 14, at 6:00 p.m.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory:

NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

J. T. Cathey

J.T. (12) is the son of Adam & Leanna Cathey.

Vera Sanders

Vera (13) is the daughter of Adam & Millie Sanders.

James, Etienne, Sebastien, & Christian Lewin

James (12), Etienne (10), Sebastien (9), and Christian (7) are sons of Steve and Nicky Lewin.

PM EVENING SERVICE

Please plan to join us on Sunday, April 8 for our monthly Sunday Evening Service. These services are the second Sunday of each month with a time of praise and worship from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall, followed by break-out discussion groups with various elders from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Nursery is provided for children up to age three.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed on Friday, March 30. Please note, no eNewsletter will be sent Thursday, March 29.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Marriage Conference is scheduled for November 2-4. The speaker is Dr. Dan Zink, professor of practical theology at Covenant Theological Seminary. Please plan to attend! More details to follow.