



The eNewsletter

April 5, 2018

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of Elder Jason Coffey...

Looking Ahead...

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
Sunday Evening Service
Middle School Youth Group
High School Youth Group

April 9

Ladies' Monday Morning
Bible Study
Ladies' Monday Night *Faith*
Bible Study

April 11

Wednesday Night Activities

April 12

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study
Clothes Swap

April 14

MS Youth Game Night

April 15

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

April 16

Ladies' Monday Morning
Bible Study

April 17

Mother's Encouragement
Group

April 18

Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

April 19

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

April 22

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal
Youth Praise Team Practice

A year and a half ago, God called Ted Strawbridge to the vital role of Pastor of Church Planting and Renewal for the Tennessee Valley Presbytery (TVP). The church planting committee established a goal to plant 20 churches in the TVP geography (North Georgia to Knoxville) over the next 10 years. This movement is coined *Flourish 20/27*. Hopefully you are asking the question, "Why are we planting churches?"

Leslie Newbigin reflects on a church's mission: "The question that has to be asked about the church and about every congregation is not: How big is it? How fast is it growing? How rich is it? It is: What difference is it making to that bit of the world in which it is placed? Is it actually functioning as first-fruit, sign and instrument of God's new creation for that bit of the world?" Research also reveals that planting a church is the greatest evangelistic tool of the PCA.

That lends to a second question: "What type of churches are we planting?" The fact is, our current PCA churches reach a particular demographic, and even as we desire to welcome a diverse audience, our architecture, liturgy, rituals, and conversations scream over our words, "You don't belong here!"

Don't run too far yet. I am not asking us to change who we are, nor am I asking us to change our worship or style.

What I am suggesting is that there may be other ways to worship in truth in the PCA where other diverse groups might feel more welcomed. In our church planting work, we have identified 4 types of plants: multi-cultural-missional communities, rural churches, urban-center missional communities, and suburban churches. In all, there are currently 14 church plants in discussion over the next 5 years.

Why is this important to CPC? One of the first significant church plants will be in

Ooltewah, just 10 miles up the road from our location. The Ooltewah and East Brainerd areas include over 100,000 people. The Times Free Press ranked Collegedale as the 2nd fastest growing city in the state of Tennessee, and there is no PCA church between CPC and Trinity, a distance covering 25 miles.

The TVP church planting committee and First Pres were ready to plant, but they put the project on hold in order to ask the CPC Session to consider being a partner. In full trust of God's timing and provision, your Session voted to support the Ooltewah plant and approved financial support of up to \$25,000 in 2018. We will partner with First Pres and the TVP on this plant with the desire to see partnerships with other plants in the future. As a church plant from East Ridge, we have planted before, and we are helping to plant again. It's part of our heritage.

For the Ooltewah plant, we may need other resources. A few families may be part of that plant. Early meetings and trainings might even be on our campus. However, the goal is not to make this church a 'mini-CPC'. This new plant will start in neighborhoods with small groups in homes. The slotted church planter will, Lord-willing, be approved by presbytery in April, and his family will move to Chattanooga in June. The first official service would likely be around summer 2019, once the small groups and leadership team are established and healthy.

Please join with the Session in prayer support for this new church plant, and if you'd like to financially support that work, please let me know. May God continue to expand His church for His glory and the renewal of His world, and may He continue to use us.

~Jason Coffey



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule April 8

Front Desk
John Pearce

Worship

Infants
Grace Pippin
& Mary Kate Oldham

Crawlers
Heather & Ezra Harris

Toddlers
Capps Brown
& Volunteer Needed

Sunday School

Infants
Becky Pearce
& Selah Cross

Crawlers
Catherine Coffey
& Rachel Baierl

Toddlers
Sophia Cross
& James Arrington

WEDDING SHOWER

A wedding shower, for ladies and gentlemen, in honor of Annabelle Morris and 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.

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.

SUNDAY 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 discussion groups with various elders from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. On April 8, our service will focus on *Implications of the Resurrection*, led by John Southworth. The breakout sessions will be: *The Resurrection and Rest* with Jon Harris in the Frederick Room and *The Resurrection and Missions* with Howard VanderGriend in the Perseverers Classroom. Nursery is provided for children up to age three.

YOUTH GAME NIGHT(S)

High School Youth, please come enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and games in Youth Suite. We are playing on Saturday, April 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pizza will be served. Guys bring drinks, girls bring a dessert.

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

BULLETIN PDF

Each week, a pdf copy of the upcoming Sunday Worship Service will be available on the CPC website via the *Bulletin* tab. Please use this to help your family prepare for worship each week.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory:

Ken & Bev Mealor
Cell (husband)..... 423.580.9480
Cell (wife)..... 423.505.4048

LADIES' TEA

Ladies, you are invited to the Ladies' Tea on Saturday, April 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for girls (10 and under), with a family maximum of \$20. Nursery (for ages up to 36 months) and Childcare (ages 3 to 5) are available by registration only. Registration forms are available at the Women's Ministry table in the Lobby. Sign up by Sunday, April 22.

CLOTHES SWAP

The CPC Clothes Swap is Thursday, April 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Please contact Sarah Wade at sarahwade@catt.com with any questions.

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

April 11	French Dip Sandwiches and Fries
April 18	Chicken Divan
April 25	Baked Ziti and Caesar Salad
May 2	Taco Bar
May 9	Pigs in a Blanket and Baked Beans