



The eNewsletter

June 28, 2018

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

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth...that they may all be one, just as you, Father are in me and I in you, that they may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17.17, 21

Last summer, I had a wonderful conversation with a 109 year old woman, Ruth. A godly woman who loved God and delighted to love her dying neighbors by wheeling herself to their death bed and praying for them all throughout the day. She was a woman who sought to fulfill God’s call in her life: “to be a blessing.” Our conversation was around the contemporary struggles of the world. I remember her saying, “Jake, this world is so crazy and mixed up. I can’t believe the craziness that people are doing these days. But God is in control, and God is love. Jake, you need to tell them about God’s love. That’s the only thing that will change lives and change the world.” Ruth was a wise woman, wiser beyond her 109 years.

We do live in a world that is so backwards. The values and privileges that we, as Christians, have lived under for so many years appear to be slowly degrading as our culture sweeps us under the rug – seeing our *traditional values* as a forgotten remnant of an old, repressive order. Today, Christians are fortunate to be laughed at for holding their convictions. Subtle discriminations have begun with labels of being “phobic” or “bigots” or “idiocy.” All around we see the not-so-subtle shift of our culture, and we want to cry, out “Foul ball!” We become angry at the injustice of business owners who close their shops over their convictions or the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court ruling that makes no sense to us.

To add to our frustrations, we see denominations not only embrace such shifts but twist Scripture to justify their positions. They place a thinly-veiled cloth over their arguments with a redefinition of love. Further, friends and family members have begun to become weary of the struggle, frustrated with being labeled, and appear to shift their views. It is hard for us to determine whether they are shifting out of fear, frustration, or lack of faith. And feelings of isolation, anger, and fear begin to seize our hearts.

This is where we must realize that the greatest challenge facing the Church today is not the capitulation to our culture; it is our faith to rest in the Lord’s faithfulness to sanctify His Church in the truth. It is of great importance to listen and love our brothers and sisters who are confused and struggling with our culture. It is to remember that God did not call us to convict our neighbors of sin but to share with them the victorious news that leads to Life.

Today is not a day for the Church to live in fear of what is to come. The Church knows what is to come – Jesus reigns, He wins! Today is a day to love the struggling sinner, to proclaim the coming Day of the Lord, and to show the world a confidence in the truth that allows us to humbly serve and truly love our neighbor. Because of Christ’s victorious work, I can listen to those to whom I disagree. Because of His Sovereign providence, I can trust that even as our culture shifts away from His Word, He will still work good for His people. Because of His promises, I know that the gates of Hell cannot stand against the growth of His kingdom. He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. Do not be afraid! Remember the reality of God’s sovereignty that the psalmist records in Psalm 2: “He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.” The sovereign reign of our God enables us to remain, humbly and confidently unmoved in our union with Him.

Ruth went home to be with the Lord last year. Her words ring true. Here is how we live in the world. We start by confronting our fears before the Lord. We have no ability to speak truth from a fear of what is to come. From our confidence and convictions of our Lord, we listen. Listening is not validation; it is a first act of love. From listening, we gently dialogue and clearly articulate our disagreements. In our disagreements, we pray for wisdom, clarity, and growth from the Lord. Lastly, in our prayers, we entrust ourselves and others to the living Lord who is faithful to sanctify His people in the truth. Sometimes it can take a lifetime, but we can have full confidence in this: that He who began a good work in us will bring it to completion at the Day of Jesus Christ.

~Pastor Bennett

Looking Ahead...

June 28

Swim Day at the May’s Youth and Family Skate Night

June 29

Men’s Proverb Study

July 1

Lord’s Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

July 3

Ladies’ Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
Ladies’ Oasis Fellowship
Group

July 4

Office Closed - Fourth of July

July 5

Swim Day at the May’s

July 6

Men’s Proverbs Study
Mother’s Encouragement
Fri-Yay Funday
Middle School Bowling Party

July 8

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting

July 10

Ladies’ Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
Ladies’ Oasis Fellowship
Group

July 11

MS Boys’ Bible Study
Prayer Group
6th Grade Parents meeting
Women’s Chorus Rehearsal

July 12

Swim Day at the May’s

July 13

Men’s Proverbs Study
High School Swim Night at
UTC

July 15

Morning Worship
Sunday School

July 17

Ladies’ Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
Ladies’ Oasis Fellowship
Group
Session Meeting



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

July 1

Front Desk

Sandy VanderGriend

Worship

Infants

Joyce Trask
& Volunteer Needed

Crawlers

Rachel Baierl
& Cami Calloway

Toddlers

Boo Mullinax
& Emily Calloway

Sunday School

Infants

Debby Gardner
& Volunteer Needed

Crawlers

Rachel Baierl
& Tammy Higgins

Toddlers

Josh & Diana Perrel

YOUTH AND FAMILY

SKATE NIGHT

CPC Youth and their families are invited to meet at Hamilton Skate Place tonight from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday nights are Christian Music Skate Night. For more information, contact Abby at cpcyouth@covenantchattanooga.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS'

BIBLE STUDY

This summer a Bible Study is available for Middle School boys. The study will take place at CPC on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., beginning Wednesday, June 27. The study will be led by Jeremiah Hill, Duncan Joyner, and Carl Simakoff.

SPECIAL CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES

Ladies, from middle school through 99, you are encourage to join a special Ladies' Choir as they singing praises to God on Sunday, July 15. You don't have to be able to read music or have a great voice, just come to rehearsal on Wednesday, July 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Men, you are encouraged to join a special Men's Choir on Sunday, July 22, with rehearsal on Wednesday, July 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please keep us informed of any address, phone, or email changes. You may email us at cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPC, please contact the Church Office by phone or email to set up an appointment.

FOURTH OF JULY

The Church Office is closed Wednesday, July 4. There will be no eNewsletter sent on Thursday, July 5.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE

Be sure to get your tickets for the *Honoring the Sacrifice Foundation American Heroes Dinner* on July 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Former U.S. Navy Seal Rob O'Neill is the featured speaker. For tickets and more information, please visit www.honoringthesacrifice.org.

LADIES' WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, you are invited to a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings during the summer (June 20 through August 8) at 7:00 p.m. in the Frederick Room. Emily Calloway will be leading the discussion on *Good News for Weary Women: Escaping the Bondage of To-Do Lists, Steps, and Bad Advice* by Elyse Fitzpatrick.

LADIES' OASIS FELLOWSHIP GROUP

All high school young ladies and women of all ages, you are invited to join in Schum Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., starting June 26 through mid August. Come hear the Word, encourage your sisters in faith, pray with each other, and look to God as he provides an oasis for us in the Bible. Contact Diane Lazor for more information.

SWIM DAY

Swim Day at the May's is Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This invitation is open to anyone at CPC each week until August 16. Parents, please remember that you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and cleanup.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

BOWLING PARTY

The Middle School youth are invited to meet us at Spare Time Entertainment on Friday, July 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person which can be paid to Abby directly, now or at the time of the event. Please plan to arrive by 5:30 p.m. in order to be ready to begin bowling at 6:00 p.m.