



The eNewsletter

July 26, 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 Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

July 26

Swim Day at the May's

July 27

Men's Proverbs Study
Youth and Family Lookouts
Game

July 29

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal

July 31

Ladies' Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
Ladies' Oasis Fellowship
Group

August 1

MS Boy's Bible Study
Ladies' Wednesday Night
Bible Study
Prayer Group
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 2

Swim Day at the May's

August 3

Men's Proverbs Study
Mother's Encouragement
Prayer Group
Fri-Yay Funday

August 4

Men's Breakfast
Youth Soccer Tournament

August 5

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

August 6

Nursery Staff Training

August 7

Ladies' Oasis Fellowship
Group

August 8

MS Boys' Bible Study
Youth Group
Ladies' Wednesday Night
Bible Study
Prayer Group
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

August 9

Swim Day at the May's

August 10

Men's Proverbs Study

After departing Anchorage, my family travelled to San Antonio, TX to visit parents and to recollect ourselves after many weeks of moving preparation. Relocating from Alaska is no small task. Managing all of the logistics in addition to the sadness associated with every relocation, made this move especially challenging. During our refreshment in Texas I spent a lot of time reading from the Psalms. I enjoy the *The ESV Reader's Bible*, a Bible stripped of all notes and references. I love footnotes and annotations, but this uncluttered edition helps me take-in God's word in a very natural way. Leaving our city and church and neighborhood and school brought us into a whirlwind of emotions, but a close reading of the Psalms has been a settling breeze after our Alaskan departure.

Do you remember when roadmaps were printed on large, impossible-to-fold sheets of paper? As a kid, I remember following our road trips on a large state map inset with smaller maps that gave street-level details of individual cities. I think of those inset maps in Psalm 138 as King David provides a street-level view of his own soul. He shows us not just what it looks like to be generally thankful, he also illustrates detailed ways in which thankfulness travels around the lesser-known roadways of his heart.

It's clear from the psalm that David's immediate thankfulness, perhaps even his motivation for writing the psalm, is that God has listened to his prayer. Without fanfare he says in verse 3 that on one day he called out to God and, on that same day (apparently), God answered his prayer. Like any one of us, he praises God for answered prayer and his heart is filled with thanks. Each of us know what this feels like.

Yet, almost like a map that provides greater detail, David tells us more. At the end of that same verse we marvel that there is more to a thankful heart than a response to an answered prayer. David tells us that God has strengthened his very soul. This is a

bold expression. God has given David an assurance that defies any and all circumstances of life, He has enlivened his very soul!

Notice what this verse teaches us. First, it shows us that David knows what it feels like to have a strengthened soul because he knows what it's like to have a weakened soul. If your soul is weak, David knows this sensation and he reminds you that God's care is able to strengthen weakened souls. Second, this verse shows us that there is something more valuable than our every prayer being answered. In the psalms we read of saddened souls (Ps. 135.12) and praising souls (Ps. 119.175), longing souls (Ps. 42.2) and satisfied souls (Ps. 103), troubled souls (Ps. 6.3) and restored souls (Ps. 23.3). Sometimes God "crowns our prayers with success," as Calvin says, but sometimes He doesn't. Even so, God is able and willing to strengthen our soul apart from any of our circumstances.

I truly miss my church and friends in Alaska and yet, even as I reflect upon this significant move, and even as I peer into an uncertain future, God has strengthened my soul! Though not every logistical detail unfolded as planned (as with any relocation), and though my first few days in the office have been a blizzard, please know that my soul is richly encouraged by God's steadfast love. I am so honored to be a part of the staff at CPC. My family has been warmly received by you, our new family. We have been touched by your prayers and kind words and many gifts. Thank you so very much! Looking at verse 8 of the psalm, however, I am certain that your affection for the Jones family is nothing less than the work of the Lord's hand. Reflecting on that same closing verse, I also believe that our sovereign God has gathered the Jones family from Alaska in order to "fulfill His purpose" for the body of Christ at CPC and, for that, I am especially thankful!

~Pastor Jones



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule July 29

Front Desk

Emily Calloway

Worship

Infants

Alyssa Gaither
& Betsy Wade

Crawlers

Sarah & Maggie Wade

Toddlers

Sarah & Thomas Blackburn

Sunday School

Infants

Judy Foster
& Bethany Firth

Crawlers

David & Rebekah Gernhard

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

The CPC Instrumental Ensemble begins rehearsals on Sunday, July 29 at 5:00 p.m. Contact Jeremy Gaines for more details.

YOUTH AND FAMILY LOOKOUTS GAME

Youth and families that signed up for the Chattanooga Lookouts Game on Friday, July 27, please meet at the ticket entrance at 6:45 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, August 4 at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Herb Ward is the speaker. Nursery provided.

CALENDAR

The August Birthday/Anniversary calendar is available at the Welcome Center.

COVENANT KIDS

SLIDE back into Covenant Kids (for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade) on August 22. Fun water games, including a giant slip 'n slide and sprinklers, will be enjoyed during Covenant Kids' first session. Covenant Kids need to wear clothes that can get wet, bring a towel, and bring a change of clothes in a bag with their name marked on it. Parents, please bring your children to the Children's Wing to meet their teacher at 6:45 p.m. Class starts at 7:00 p.m. Parents can pick up at 8:00 p.m. from the classroom.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The CPC Children's Choir will begin on September 5, meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday night.

NURSERY

CPC members willing to volunteer to serve in the Nursery, please make sure you are on the Nursery Volunteer List, as schedules for the Fall will be produced soon. To be added to the schedule rotation schedule, please contact Crystal Middleton at cpcnursery@covenantchattanooga.org or call the Church Office.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory:

Jake & Rebekah Bennett

809 Windy Hill Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Angela Heisig

1009 Reunion Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421

LEGACY CONFERENCE

The PCA's CDM Ministry is hosting a *Legacy Conference* on September 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at CPC. Join us in learning how to serve God's purpose in older adult ministry. Sign up at pcacdm.org/legacy-conference. Contact Pastor Bennett for more information.

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. 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.

July 31 - Sorrow or Great Challenge

August 7 - Remaining Faithful

August 14 - Waiting

Contact Diane Lazor for more information.

SWIM DAY

Swim Day at the May's pool is Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The 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.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please keep us informed of any address, phone, or email changes. We will be printing a new directory in the next week, so we want it to be as updated as possible. You may email changes to cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.