



The eNewsletter

August 30, 2018

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

Looking Ahead...

August 31

Men's Proverbs Study

September 1

Youth at Covenant College
Soccer Game

September 2

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School

September 3

Church Office Closed

September 5

Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

September 6

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study

September 7

Men's Proverbs Study

September 8

Men's Breakfast
Youth and Family Hike

September 9

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting

September 10

Ladies' Monday Night
Prophets Study
Ladies' Monday Night
Hebrews Study

September 12

Wednesday Night Activities

September 13

Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study
Parent Council Meeting

September 14

Men's Proverbs Study

September 15

PCA Legacy Conference

September 16

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Ray Baby Shower
Dindoffer Bridal Shower
Daconate Meeting

September 18

Mother's Encouragement
Group

For all of us who are not heard-hearted elitists (which is all of us, I'm sure), it is impossible to listen to the Overture from Rossini's opera, *William Tell*, without thinking of The Lone Ranger. However, our respect for the Masked Man notwithstanding, his escapades never included liberating a small Swiss village from 100 years of Austrian occupation (at least, as far as we know). Yet, word associations and, apparently, music associations, are like this. A newer image handily displaces an older one.

For me, it is equally impossible to hear the slightly archaic word, "earnest," without thinking of Oscar Wilde's play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which debuted some 66 years after Rossini's masterpiece. And so it happens again, a later image thwarts the status of its predecessor. Hi ho, Earnest, ... away!

This word, *earnest*, recently made an appearance to me in an unexpected way. In John Piper's little book on preaching (*The Supremacy of God in Preaching*) he shares the preaching ministry of Thomas Chalmers, brilliant Scottish mathematician turned minister (and contemporary of Rossini). He became a preacher of legendary fame and established St. George's Tron church in Glasgow as a powerhouse of expository preaching (for example, Sinclair Ferguson). It was well known, however, that Chalmers stood completely still in the pulpit, preaching with a provincial accent, from a manuscript strewn with long sentences. Occasionally he would use a single finger to help keep his place. Piper tells the story of a New York Presbyterian minister, James Alexander, asking a friend who had just returned from a visit to Scotland, what it was that was so captivating about the preaching of Chalmers. His friend said, "It is his blood-earnestness."

When we listen to sermons, we may neglect to tune our ears to hear *earnestness* in the pulpit. Whatever else Chalmers was missing, or however unnatural his delivery, the hearers at St. George's Tron church knew that he was deadly earnest. When he preached, nobody doubted that he believed everything he was preaching, with dead seriousness.

The word, *earnest*, is actually used in the Bible, somewhat. There are a couple of Hebrew words and three or so Greek words that often get translated as earnest (or sincere, fervent, eager). As best as I can tell, however, earnestness is never used to refer specifically to the ministry of preaching, the blood-earnestness of Chalmers aside. However, the Bible is filled with earnestness as a part of the Christian life. There are particularly earnest people like Titus (2 Corinthians 8.16, 17, 22) and Paul (2 Corinthians 8.16). There is a lot of earnest prayer (Acts 12.15; 1 Thessalonians 3.10; Hebrews 13.19). There is earnest love (1 Peter 1.22; 4.8; 1 Thessalonians 5.13). Earnestness is, thankfully, something that we grow into (2 Corinthians 8.7).

We all agree that, among other things, the pulpit of Covenant to be a pulpit of blood earnestness, one in which ministers appeal for belief in the gospel because they themselves believe the Word of God. They themselves have been unmistakably transformed by the gospel, and it ought to show in their earnestness. Amen to that! But let's not forget to peer deep inside ourselves to the inner-pulpit of our own hearts. Is blood earnestness there, too? Are we earnestly preaching the verities of the gospel to ourselves? Are we manifesting before others our own *blood earnestness in the gospel of grace*?

~Pastor Jones



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule September 2

Front Desk
Josh Perrel

Worship

Infants
Sherry Baierl
& Carla Stevenson

Crawlers
Heather Harris
& Rachel Baierl

Toddlers
Camille Ambrose
& Kallie Arbuckle

Sunday School

Infants
Karen Crago
& Diane Lazor

Crawlers
Debby Gardner
& Madison Crago

Toddlers
Patty Liner
& Sarah Blackburn

YOUTH COVENANT COLLEGE SOCCER GAME

CPC Youth will be traveling up to Covenant College on Saturday, September 1 for a soccer game. Kickoff is at 2:30 p.m. Transportation is available from the church at 1:45 p.m. Contact Jeremiah for more information at jhill@covenantchattanooga.org.

JOINT MEN'S (AND WOMEN'S) BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men AND WOMEN of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 8 at 8:30 p.m. Ted Strawbridge will be speaking on *Church Planting in the Kingdom of God*. Nursery provided up to 36 months.

Ted Strawbridge is the TVP's Pastor of Church Planting and Renewal. Prior to moving to Chattanooga, Ted, his wife, Mary Lu, and their five children planted and then pastored a PCA church in Lakeland, FL for 20 years. Ted also led the charge for church planting there.

Come here 'why' and 'how' the committee has a vision for planting 20 churches in 10 years in the Tennessee Valley and explore how we, as a body, can engage in this Kingdom expansion work! The current church planters for Ooltewah, South Chattanooga, and Ringgold will also be attending.

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. Cost is \$65, through September 10, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Pastor Bennett for more information.

YOUTH & FAMILY HIKE & PICNIC

CPC Youth will be led by Tony Horton on a hike at the Chickamauga Battlefield. Bring lunch and friends to enjoy a hike, a picnic and games afterwards. Please meet at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 8, at the Wilder Tower.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

As your college students begin their fall semester, please send their name, school, and mailing address to the Church Office. If they are living at home, please make sure we have that information also. Send information to the Church Office at cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org.

LABOR DAY

The Church Office is closed on Monday, September 3. There will be no eNewsletter sent on Thursday, September 6.

THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Mullinax: On behalf of the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, we want to take a moment to acknowledge all that you do in your service to this church body and specifically, during this recent time of transition.

We want to let you know how much we appreciate your faithful service, your loving servant's heart, and the example you set for us in caring for this flock.

With your quiet leadership, willingness to stretch your comfort level in moderating the Session, and taking on additional responsibilities, you helped guide us through a significant period of change in the life of this church. You gently reminded us of how we should be conducting the Lord's business, and kept us focused on our important responsibilities as shepherds.

As we strive to be imitators of Christ, we thank the Lord for you, your gifts, and the example you set. Thank you Eric. Well done brother.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory:

John & Eva Herberich
10138 Meadowstone Drive
Apison TN 37302

CPC STAFF

We are pleased to announce that Emily Calloway is now an official member of the CPC Staff. She has helped out in the front office as needed, but she will now officially be on staff and working every Thursday and Friday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The suggested donation for adults \$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

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| Sept 5 | Philly Cheesesteak and Oven Fries |
| Sept 12 | Spaghetti and Caesar Salad |
| Sept 19 | Baked Chicken and Cheese Grits |
| Sept 26 | Butter Chicken |
| Oct 3 | Baked Potato Bar |
| Oct 10 | Chicken Enchiladas |
| Oct 17 | Lasagna |
| Oct 24 | Chicken Divan |
| Oct 31 | Pigs in a Blanket |