



The eNewsletter

October 25, 2018

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

Looking Ahead...

- October 26**
Men's Proverbs Study
- October 27**
Middle School Bonfire
- October 28**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
TVP Reformation Service
- October 31**
Wednesday Night Activities
Reformation Celebration
- November 1**
Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study
- November 2**
Men's Proverbs Study
Marriage Retreat
- November 3**
Marriage Retreat
Daylight Savings Ends
- November 4**
Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Marriage Retreat
Instrumental Ensemble
- November 5**
Ladies' Monday Night
Hebrews Study
- November 6**
Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting
- November 7**
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting
- November 8**
Ladies' Thursday Morning
Bible Study
- November 9**
Men's Proverbs Study
Youth Retreat
- November 10**
Men's Breakfast
Youth Retreat
Hiking Kinship Group
- November 11**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Youth Retreat
Missions Committee Meeting

We look back at the Protestant Reformation as a great example of God bringing new life to Christ's Church through the rediscovery of the gospel of God's sovereign grace. It is right that we do so. We live gratefully in the light cast by that world-changing event. But our focus on the past sometimes can cause us to forget the reformation that is needed in every generation. God's truth never changes, but our understanding and application of that truth must be always growing.

Not only does reformation continue in the lives of God's people, but reformation also moves the Church geographically as God calls out His covenant people.

Early on, as the Church in Jerusalem suffered persecution, the center of God's work moved to Antioch (Acts 11.19ff). Paul's missionary labors moved the center from Antioch to Asia Minor and into Europe. Controversy over Christology moved the center again as the Bishop of Rome became the chief defender of orthodoxy. The rediscovery of the gospel in the 15th century moved it to Wittenberg. And as Central Europe was laid waste by religious wars, the center moved in the 16th century to England and Scotland (and later, the American continent).

From there, the gospel went out to all the world, and the modern missionary movement began. Areas of the world that had never heard the gospel were evangelized for the first time, and the Church began its remarkable expansion – an expansion prophesied in Scripture and increasingly realized in our day.

I once erroneously believed that Africa was one of those areas where the gospel had never before penetrated and that the remarkable growth of the Church there was a new flower. However, the truth is even more encouraging. For, you see, large portions of Africa were once firmly Christian, and many of the central doctrines of Christianity - our inheritance from the early church fathers – were initially proposed and defended by Africans.

At the same time that Christianity moved northwest from Jerusalem, the gospel also marched southwest into North Africa. Tradition tells us that John Mark founded the church in Egypt during apostolic times. Very quickly, Alexandria became the epicenter for Christian theology and education. It was there that the foundational doctrine of the Trinity (a word first used in Latin by Tertullian, an African) was hammered out. As the centuries passed, Africans were vitally involved in most of the early doctrinal affirmations of the Church. And it was an African, Augustine of Hippo, who first articulated what we now call the Reformed doctrines of total depravity, predestination, and salvation by the sovereign grace of God.

The barbarian invasions and Muslim conquest eventually destroyed much of the African Church. Yet, it continues to this very day in Egypt and Ethiopia. The temporary ascendance of ignorance and false religion cannot eclipse the glorious heritage of the African Church. And God's purposes are not stymied by such events.

So, the fact that Africa is now the global center of Christianity and the astonishing reality that over 30,000 Africans A DAY are coming to faith in Christ should not surprise us. It is, in fact, a **re-formation** of the African Church. God has returned His grace and His gospel to African soil, and the re-flowering of the Church there is an encouraging example of God's covenant faithfulness.

Paul teaches us in Romans 11 that "the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11.29). The African Reformation we are privileged to witness in our day ought to encourage us that our covenant God is not done with Christ's Church in the West either. Times of decline – however long they may be – are followed by times of refreshing and revival because our reigning Lord has promised to be faithful to His covenant people, and He will build His Church.

~Pastor Steere



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule October 28

Front Desk
Diana Perrel

Worship

Infants
Gretchen Brown

Crawlers
Daegan & Capps Brown

Toddlers
Mollee & Tavis Brown

Sunday School

Infants
Jim Hildebrand

Crawlers
Heather Morrison
& Meg Ferrel

Toddlers
Thomas Blackburn

30 DAYS OF PRAYER

Mission to the World (MTW), the PCA's foreign mission arm, has produced a *30 Days of Prayer for World Missions* calendar. This helpful prayer tool is available at the Welcome Center. Please commit to pray for our missionaries and ministries throughout the month of November. The calendar highlights the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on November 1, giving you the opportunity to join the worldwide body of Christ in prayer.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BONFIRE

The Middle School Youth Group is meeting at the home of Adam and Leanna Cathey (270 Indian Mound Road, Ringgold, GA) on Saturday, October 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A hot dog dinner will be provided. Girls, please bring a dessert to share, and, guys, please bring a drink to share.

TVP REFORMATION SERVICE

The churches of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery are meeting on Sunday, October 28 at 6:00 p.m. at New City Fellowship to celebrate the Reformation.

REFORMATION CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, October 31, the Covenant Kids Classes will celebrate our Reformation heritage with fun-filled and informative activities. Supper is at 5:30 p.m. and the activities are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Costumes are optional.

YOUTH RETREAT

The High School and Middle School Youth Retreat is November 9-11 at Ponderosa Bible Camp.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 10 at 8:30 a.m. Mark Wilson will be speaking on *God's Search and Rescue Operation*. Nursery provided for up to 36 months old.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The November Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.

GRATEFUL GOBLER

Annually, people from all walks of life gather together for the *5k Grateful Gobbler Walk, Run, Stroll* held on Thanksgiving Day at 8:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Coolidge Park. Proceeds from the walk will benefit the Maclellan Shelter for Families, an emergency homeless shelter located on site at the Community Kitchen. To register, please visit www.gratefulgobbler.org.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OCC collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts (no liquids, candy, gum, toothpaste, or war toys) to deliver to the needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Please write a note to the child to include with the gifts. Boxes will be packed on Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Perseverers Classroom.

Collection boxes are outside of the Parlor and outside of Pastor Mullinax's office.

THANKSGIVING POUNDING

We are collecting staples and canned goods to help those in need. If you are going through a hard time this year, or if you know someone that is, please contact an Elder or the Church Office. The Pounding is an encouragement to those experiencing hard times and a great witness to a watching world when we love and support one another. Delivery date is November 17. Please contact Joyce Trask at futurejoyce@gmail.com for details.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Wednesday Night Suppers are from 5:30 p.m. to 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.

For the month of October, the CPC Youth are responsible for clean-up duty.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Oct 31	Pigs in a Blanket
Nov 7	Chili
Nov 14	Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta
Nov 21	Thanksgiving - no meal
Nov 28	Soup and Bread
Dec 5	Chicken Pot Pie
Dec 12	Beef Burgundy

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Each Wednesday, through the month of October, a table will be set up outside Schum Fellowship Hall for *WREATHS across AMERICA*. The goal is to honor our veterans by laying wreaths on their graves at the local National Cemetery during December. If you are willing to sponsor a wreath, please contact Carey Calloway.