



The eNewsletter

December 6, 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...

December 7

Men's Proverbs Study
Middle School Christmas Party

December 8

WM Hiking Kinship

December 9

Morning Worship
Missions Conference
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting

December 10

Ladies' Monday Night
Prophets Study

December 11

WM Swap Kinship

December 12

Wednesday Night Activities
Covenant Kids' Christmas
Party

December 14

Men's Proverbs Study
Women's Ministry Christmas
Dinner

December 15

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
High School Christmas
Progressive Dinner

December 16

Morning Worship
Sunday School
Sanctuary Choir Christmas
Program

December 18

Mother's Encouragement
Group

December 19

Caroling & Dessert
Prayer Group
Session Meeting

December 20

Memorial Hospital Lunch

December 23

Morning Worship
Combined Sunday School
Celebration

December 24

Church Office Closed-
Christmas Eve
Lessons & Carols

December 25

A newsletter article is a fine place for a pastor to speak with a little less discretion than what he finds appropriate for the pulpit. I think that my church family knows that football illustrations from the pulpit are not quite my forte. However, you should know that I was very aware that, last Saturday, there was a significant football game that probably made it to many pulpits in our area. With honesty, and sincerity, I don't begrudge my ministerial brothers their football illustrations.

I have been thinking, however, about our upcoming Men's Retreat in January in which I will be speaking about the Christian man's heart. I'll need to define my terms, but the subject matter of the retreat has to do with a man's affection for his Lord and how this affection carries him through hardship, sustains him in his ordinary activities, and propels him into the future with hope and joy. Men, I hope you'll be able to attend (January 25-26).

In my preparations, something interesting happened in the world of soccer. Here's where I speak with a bit less discretion. Last Sunday, Everton ("The Blues") played Liverpool ("The Reds"). Both teams are located in Liverpool. Everton FC was formed in 1878. Liverpool FC was formed in 1892. Their stadiums are about a half mile apart. On Sunday, in stoppage play, Divock Origi scored the winning goal for Liverpool. In the excitement of the moment, Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp, ran across the pitch and hugged a player in jubilation. In the world of soccer, this is outlandish behavior, a scandalous act. Jurgen Klopp had to account for himself and pay a fine of £8,000.

What's interesting to me, however, is the justification for his egregious behavior. Klopp says, "I couldn't avoid it." He also pondered, "If I could describe how I felt

when the goal went in, then I would have control over it. We don't want to look for excuses but that's how it is." The opposing coach, Marco Silva, favorably commented that "it's the emotion of the game...it's a normal situation - he's celebrating," and he added, "It's something you cannot stop."

I do wonder what kind of testimony the world sees from the followers of Jesus. Perhaps we ought to at least consider that if the cosmic battle for the restoration of creation has truly been won in Jesus and if Jesus personally abides with the recipients of that victory, well, perhaps a few people ought to run out "onto the pitch" every now and then.

I think of Paul's reflection on David in Acts 13.22 as a man after God's own heart, evidenced not merely for his contemplative psalm-writing but by his willingness to do God's will at any cost (citing 1 Samuel 13.14). I also think of Ephesians 1.18 where Paul says that the "eyes" of our hearts are enlightened that we may make "melody to the Lord" with our hearts (Ephesians 5.19), but only this. Those with hearts enlightened will also "walk in a manner worthy" of our calling as Christians (Ephesians 4.1). The Spirit's work is not merely heart-energizing, but it is an internal heart-energizing that leads to an external life-energizing engagement of the world.

The uncontrollable exuberance of Jurgen Klopp may be an illustration too trite for the pulpit. However, the image of Klopp charging beyond the prescribed chalk-line of coaches and beyond the expectations of fans around the world, seems to me a captivating image to make us ponder when, if ever, the follower of Jesus carries into the world euphoric glee because of the victory that Jesus has won, for us!

~Pastor Jones



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule December 9

Front Desk

Volunteer Needed

Worship

Infants

Beth Griggs

Crawlers

Iris Haywood

Toddlers

Joanna Watne
& Ezra Harris

Sunday School

Infants

Eva Herberich

Crawlers

Debby Gardner

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

This Sunday, December 9, will be a Mission Conference Sunday. During the Sunday School hour there will be four classes meeting with different missionaries. Please choose a class to attend:

- Fellowship Hall - Mr. and Mrs. Marc Athley with MTW
- Choir Room - Quentin Lawrence with Hope for the Inner City
- Perseverers Classroom - Lover's Arms
- Foundation Builders Class - Pete Vaughn from Amani

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

We are looking forward to seeing all CPC ladies and guests for a festive evening on Friday, December 14. Wassail and hors d'oeuvres will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for girls (10 years old and younger), with a \$20 family maximum. Please register at the Women's Ministry table in the Lobby. Registration deadline is December 9.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Middle School Youth are invited to a MS Christmas Party on Friday, December 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Suite. Pizza will be served. Boys, please bring a drink to share, and girls, please bring a dessert to share. Fun will be had by all with a Gingerbread House making contest.

HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

High School Youth are invited to a Progressive Dinner Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15. Bring a \$5 white elephant gift. Please meet in the church parking lot at 5:45 p.m. for initial instructions. Please plan to pick up your youth at church at 9:30 p.m.

BUDGET REPORT

Through December 2:

Budget:	\$1,579,529
Actual:	\$1,312,482
Shortfall:	\$267,047

CAROLING AND DESSERTS

The entire church family is welcome to join together at the church on Wednesday, December 20 at 5:30 p.m. We will break up into small groups to go caroling in various neighborhoods and at local retirement homes. Bring a dessert to share with everyone as we will meet back at the church for desserts and hot drinks after caroling.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. with a service of Lessons and Carols.

CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save those Christmas card stamps. Deposit them in the mailbox by Pastor Mullinax's office. These used stamps are processed and re-sold with all proceeds going to finance Sunday School curriculum in Latin America.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

This year, the Church Office is closed on December 31; all end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the offering or locked offering box in the Lobby by noon on Sunday, December 30 to be counted as tax-deductible for 2018 contributions. Checks mailed and postmarked by December 31 will also be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2018. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carol Beatty, the Church Bookkeeper.

RESIGNATION

With a heavy heart we announce that our own Gretchen Brown will be resigning her post at Covenant Presbyterian. Since April 2015 Gretchen has served as Church Administrator and Executive Assistant to the Pastor. Please extend a thanks to her for keeping our church organized and efficient. Her last day in the Church Office will be Friday, December 14.