



The eNewsletter

January 10, 2019

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

Looking Ahead...

January 11

Men's Proverbs Bible Study

January 12

Men's Breakfast

January 13

Morning Worship
Sunday School

Board of Directors Meeting
Missions Committee Meeting
Triplett Bridal Tea (off site)
Diaconate Meeting

January 14

Ladies Titus Bible Study (off site)

January 15

Mother's Encouragement Group
Women's Ministry Council Meeting

January 16

Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

January 17

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

January 18

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
High School Ice Skating

January 19

Marriage Maintenance

January 20

Morning Worship
Sunday School
VanPuffelen Baby Shower

January 23

Wednesday Night Activities

January 24

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

January 25

Men's Proverbs Bible Study

January 25-26

Men's Retreat

January 27

Morning Worship
Sunday School

January 23

Wednesday Night Activities

January 31

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

I am tremendously honored to work at Covenant and serve alongside our wonderful staff. I am also very humbled because many people do not have what I have. For many, going to work means being greeted with politics, conflicts, underappreciation, and frustration. I am thankful to God that I get to work in a place of mutual encouragement, friendship, and spiritual edification. It really is an honor to work with the Pastoral Staff and Support staff of CPC.

Over these past few months our Pastoral Staff, in particular, has really come together as a team. Each week I meet with Dan Steere, Eric Mullinax, Jake Bennett, Jeremy Gaines, and Jeremiah Hill to spend time in prayer and study together, and also to coordinate our efforts so that we serve the church body well. With this in mind, I want to introduce two updates to the way our staff is organized.

First, Pastor Dan Steere will officially serve as the Training Pastor of CPC. Though a part of the Pastoral Staff for several years, he will now play a more prominent role by helping us deliberately train emerging leaders and by providing instruction to strengthen our current elders. Pastor Steere will continue to travel and teach with Equipping Leaders International (ELI). As a church with a large number of people new to Reformed doctrine and Presbyterian church government, a Training Pastor will be an extraordinary gift to CPC and an important part of our pastoral team moving forward.

Second, Pastor Jake Bennett will begin serving as the Executive Pastor of CPC. An Executive Pastor supervises and pastorally cares for the entire Support Staff. This person promotes the efficiency of our church by organizing processes and policies, and by equipping staff in their ministry to the church body. He will ensure that all operational functions of the church (admin, communications/IT, legal, finance, facility) are able to efficiently deliver the vision of the Pastoral Staff. Pastor Bennett is a trained counselor, a consultant to our denomination, and has many years of experience managing a large staff in a large organization. The entire church body will benefit from a fluid relationship between the objectives of the Pastoral Staff and the structure and work of our Support Staff.

There will be kinks along the way as our Pastoral Staff becomes better organized. With the ordination of Jeremiah Hill later this year, however, CPC is preparing for good pastoral coverage: congregational care, counseling,

worship and music, youth and young adult discipleship, ministry vision, and staff organization. In the near future, we want to deepen this coverage by adding someone to lead evangelism and outreach into our community.

Please know that all of our pastors and staff are committed to working well together to serve you. Each of the pastors are available to meet with you for prayer, encouragement, and assistance; you should never hesitate to ask any of us to meet with you. In God's grace, we desire to serve our church family to the very best of our ability.

I also want you to be aware of your active elders in 2019. With a new website coming soon, it will be far easier to communicate this to you. We are grateful to have three nominees in training right now, one as an elder and two as a deacon. They are preparing for election in the summer. Elder Mark Stevenson will be leaving the office of elder to join in this nominee training process before standing for re-election as deacon.

This month elders Jon Harris, Nick Lazor, and Mark Griggs have returned from their Sabbaticals. However, four men will be either entering or continuing a Sabbatical year: Dean Elwood, Jeremy Gaines, Tony Horton, and Tom Schreiner.

Also, for their many years of service, we are grateful to confer the status of Elder Emeritus to three elders: Tom Lowe, Mark Lander, and Tim Owens. This honorable status means that they are always welcome to attend session meetings, but they will no longer be permitted to vote.

Your active elders for 2019, including myself and Pastors Mullinax, Bennett, and Steere, are Ernie Brown, Jason Brown, Kent Brown, Jason Coffey, Tony DeMarco, Todd Gaither, Danny Grant, Mark Griggs, Jon Harris, Ken Henry, Jim Hildebrand, Dee Hobbs, Nick Lazor, Adam Sanders, Todd Smith, Jay Spalding, Howard VanderGriend, Mike Walker, Mark Wilson, Tracy Wright, and John Wykoff.

Finally, please keep in mind that at Covenant we practice a shepherding model in which members and regular attendees are each assigned an elder. The Bible calls elders to not only watch their own lives (1 Tim. 4.16), but also the lives of those in the church (Heb. 13.17). Please receive these men as they lovingly reach out to you, both to get to know you and to learn how we, as elders, can be praying for and supporting you.

~Pastor Jones



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule January 13

Front Desk
John Pearce

Worship

Infants
Sherry Baierl

Crawlers
Sally Forrester

Toddlers
Jonah Harris &
Isaiah Harris

Sunday School

Infants
Connie Hildebrand

Crawlers
Lori Rogers

Toddlers
Vangie Wykoff &
Edie Martof

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men of all ages to their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 12, at 8:30 a.m. **Pastor John Jones** is speaking on *A Preacher's Biography...* Nursery is provided.

BRIDAL TEA

There is a Bridal Tea honoring NiLyn Triplett, bride of Mike Triplett this Sunday, January 13, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Cathy Smith's home. Come and welcome NiLyn to our church family.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL LUNCH

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. On Thursday, January 17, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please call or email the church office.

HIGH SCHOOL ICE SKATING

High schoolers are meeting on Friday, January 18, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Ice on the Landing (at the Choo Choo) for ice skating. Cost is \$10. Please contact Jeremiah Hill for financial assistance.

MARRIAGE MAINTENANCE

The Marriage Ministry Committee will kick-off a series called Marriage Maintenance on Saturday, January 19 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. They will be going through a series entitled, *Love and Respect*. Please join them for this meeting.

BABY SHOWER

There is a baby shower for Christian-Emilee VanPuffelen and her expected baby girl Sunday, January 20 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers classroom. Christian-Emilee is registered at babylist.com.

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Ministry welcomes all men 16 and over to join them at Johnston Woods Retreat Center near Cleveland for the Men's Retreat January 25 at 5:00 p.m. through January 26 at noon. The title of the retreat is Sincere Joy vs. Counterfeit Joy, and Pastor Jones is leading the study. Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast are included. The retreat is free. Please register in the church lobby.

VALENTINE DINNER

This year's Valentine Dinner is Friday, February 8. The theme is *Swing, Swing, Swing!* A cake auction is also taking place, and all proceeds are going to fund choir mission efforts in Belarus. Signups are in the church lobby.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining the church, you may meet with the Session on Sunday, January 20. Please call or email the church for an appointment.

COMMUNICANTS CLASS

Fourth through sixth graders are invited to come to a communicants class Wednesday evenings beginning February 6. The class is from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Pastor Jake Bennett will be teaching this class. Parents, come to the first meeting for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Please join us on Wednesday evenings for our fellowship meal. Cost is \$4 per adult, \$2.50 per child and a max of \$15 per family. This week's entrée is pork smothered burritos.

BUDGET REPORT

With all of 2018 gifts received, givings surpassed our budget by \$77,320.24. Praise the Lord for His provisions!