



# The eNewsletter

January 17, 2019

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## *From the Pen of our Executive Pastor Jake Bennett...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

#### **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 30**

Wednesday Night Activities

#### **January 31**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **February 1**

Men's Proverbs Bible Study

#### **February 3**

Lord's Supper  
Sunday School

#### **February 4**

Ladies' PM Bible Study:  
Hebrews

#### **February 5**

Mothers Encouragement  
Group

#### **February 6**

Wednesday Night Activities  
Communicant Class begins  
Session Shepherd Meeting

#### **February 7**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **February 8**

Valentine's Dinner

*The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might. He says in his heart, "God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it." Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.*

-Psalm 10:10-12

Have you ever felt completely helpless? So hopeless that it even felt that God had forgotten about you? Times do come when we feel discouraged and overwhelmed, and we wonder if God has abandoned us in our pain and suffering. This was the feeling of Charlotte Elliot in 1835. In this newsletter I would like to share a bit with you about God's amazing love towards her. At the age of 13, Charlotte became a follower of Jesus. Her family had invited a minister into their home to visit, and he asked Charlotte directly about her faith at the dinner table. Unsure of what she believed, she dismissed his question and asked not to talk about religion at the meal. Days went by, and Charlotte began to consider her relationship with God. Not knowing how to begin, she returned to the minister and asked him how one might approach the Lord. His reply was simple, "Just come to Him, as you are." And so she did.

For the next six years Charlotte grew in her understanding of and devotion to the Lord. Yet, at the age of 19, Charlotte went through a series of excruciating pains and quickly became an invalid. She remained disabled and unable to leave her bed until her death at the age of 82. Her afflictions affected her tremendously as she was completely helpless throughout the majority of her life. The medical technology of the day had no solution that could comfort or restore her. Charlotte sank into a deep depression.

We can only imagine the despair and pain of this poor young 19 year old. No real hope existed. Doctors could not offer her anything that would improve her physical condition. Nothing could fix her situation. We can speculate that she may have even wrestled like the psalmist in Psalm 10 – had God forgotten her? But God had not abandoned or forgotten her. The Lord knew Charlotte Elliot's pain and was preparing to meet her in the midst of it.

Thirteen years later, at the age of 32, Charlotte was lying beside a second story window of her brother's house. Her brother had been preparing

a charity bazaar to raise funds to send women to higher education. As she was overlooking the busyness of the street, the energy of people bustling all around below overwhelmed her with sadness. She wanted so desperately to contribute but felt so completely useless and helpless. She doubted God and doubted His love and provision. She was frustrated and overwhelmed with her condition. Even in this lowest point of her life, with her doubts and struggles, God had not abandoned her.

That night, Charlotte began to process her faith and the words of the clergyman from her youth who had told her "Just come to Him, as you are." The following morning she wrote the following lines, "Just as I am – without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God I come." Shortly after she would write six more verses to the hymn *Just as I Am*. Two verses would reflect Charlotte's renewed hope in God: "Just as I am – though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God I come... Just as I am – poor, wretched, blind; sight riches, healing of the mind, Yea all I need in Thee I find, O Lamb of God I come."

God had not abandoned Charlotte in the midst of her suffering. He had acted! He pursued His creation through the incarnation. The Lord Jesus remembered Charlotte's afflictions as a man of sorrows. Immanuel even endured a pain that she, despite her frailties, would never be able to know. The Lord God gave value and tender love to Charlotte. As she began to see the Lord's faithfulness in a renewed light, Charlotte drew strength and purpose from her suffering. While she was seemingly helpless, the Lord put a new song in her heart and used her to write over 150 hymns for the Church. Her dependence now brought her joy. She could see her heavenly Father's deep and abiding love with greater clarity because of her inability. The Lord is always faithful, and there is not a place He cannot bring healing into our hearts and hope into our lives.

~Pastor Bennett



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule January 20

#### Front Desk

Emily Calloway

#### Worship

##### Infants

Esther McEachern

##### Crawlers

Lilly Wooten

##### Toddlers

Justin Martin &

Abby Horton

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Connie Hildebrand

##### Crawlers

Mark Watne

##### Toddlers

Joanna Watne &

Patti Liner

### 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 is launching 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.

### 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.

### Directory Update

Please make the following updates to your CPC Membership Directory:

Josiah & Christian-Emilee VanPuffelen  
160 Durance Drive  
Flintstone, GA 30725

### 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 soup and bread.

Please remember to keep your children from entering the children's wing until 6:50 p.m.

### MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining the church, please call or email the church for an appointment.

### A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH STAFF

The church staff immensely enjoyed the various gifts and goodies that the congregation shared with us during the Christmas season. Your kind thoughtfulness was encouraging. We would also like to thank the congregation for their generous and loving gift. It is a blessing to work with you and for you each and every day.

### A NOTE FROM JUDY SOUTHWORTH

Dear CPC family,

I want to thank each of you for upholding me and my family in your prayers since John went to be with our Lord. Your kind words, cards and prayers have meant so much to us. Our Lord has been ever faithful in comforting us and giving us peace in this difficult time.

Gratefully yours, Judy Southworth