



# The eNewsletter

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A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
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## *From the Pen of our Training Pastor Dan Steere...*

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

#### **January 25**

Men's Proverbs Bible Study  
Men's Retreat

#### **January 25-26**

Men's Retreat  
WM Kinship Group: Craft  
(Painting)

#### **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  
Mission Focus Sunday School

#### **February 4**

Ladies' PM Bible Study:  
Hebrews

#### **February 5**

Mothers Encouragement  
Group

#### **February 6**

Wednesday Night Activities  
Communicant Class begins  
Session Shepherding Meeting

#### **February 7**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

#### **February 8**

Men's Proverbs Bible Study  
Valentine's Dinner

#### **February 10**

Morning Worship  
Sunday School

#### **February 11**

Ladies' PM Bible Study:  
Prophets

#### **February 13**

Wednesday Night Activities  
Communicant Class

#### **February 14**

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

*"Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching."* 1 Tim. 4.16

I'm headed back to Ghana at the end of this week for three weeks of ministry. As you might expect, my thoughts are mainly focused in that direction. I'm thinking not only of the preparations that need to be finished but also of the great privilege I have to teach God's Word. One of my great joys in this work comes from being able to teach Scripture to eager hearers. I consider myself blessed that this is true in both Ghana and Chattanooga.

Teaching is indeed a privilege, but it carries with it great responsibility. The familiar warning from James comes to mind: *"Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness."* (3.1) Paul refers to this truth when he exhorts Timothy in his first letter to this young pastor.

Paul wisely counsels Timothy (cited above) to look in two directions when considering his teaching. The first is to keep a watch on himself. This is a good word for all of us, whether we teach or not. Paul is not encouraging us to be self-absorbed, since Scripture elsewhere tells us to *"count others more significant than yourselves."* (Phil. 2.3) Rather, each of us should be watchful of our own spiritual condition. Although God has appointed elders in the church to keep watch over the souls of the congregation (Heb. 13.17), if we are wise, we will also keep a close watch on ourselves: monitoring our "internal spiritual temperature." Among other things, this requires us not to be ruled by our emotions, to be careful about what we feed our thought life, and to make sure we are being spiritually nourished through the wise and regular use of the means of grace.

Paul also speaks of watching *"the teaching."* If you aren't a Sunday School

teacher, elder, or pastor, you may be tempted to think you are exempt from this part of Paul's exhortation. But not so fast! Earlier in this chapter, Paul exhorted Timothy to set an example for the believers around him and clearly implied that this is an integral part of teaching. In other words, Timothy needed to be aware of the spiritual impact of his example on fellow believers. This is true for all of us. We all influence those around us, for good or ill. This is both a form of teaching and a means of mutual ministry. Our attitudes, our faith, our love of the brethren, our worship, these all have an often unstated, but always profound influence on others.

With this in mind, I ask for your prayers as I spend the next three weeks teaching in Ghana. This trip, I will be teaching on three separate topics to three different types of hearers. I will start by teaching two conferences on Biblical Marriage in the Volta region of the country. These conferences will include both leaders and congregants from a number of Baptist churches. The following week, I will be in Kumasi teaching both a conference on Biblical Leadership from 1 Timothy and a seminary class comparing African Traditional Religion with Biblical Christianity. This audience will be over 100 bishops, pastors, and evangelists from Pentecostal churches. In the final week, I will teach that same seminary class to a mixed-denomination group of students in Sunyani.

May God always grant all of us at CPC the grace to watch ourselves and our teaching—our influence—as together we engage in the work of expanding Christ's Kingdom.

~Pastor Steere



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule January 27

**Front Desk**  
Emily Calloway

### Worship

**Infants**  
Tammy Knotts

**Crawlers**  
Rachel Baierl

**Toddlers**  
Josh Cook &  
Josiah Cook

### Sunday School

**Infants**  
Diane Lazor

**Crawlers**  
Anna Steere

**Toddlers**  
Anna Yonkovski &  
Kansas Bradley

### MARRIAGE MAINTENANCE

Several spots are still available for the Marriage Maintenance Community Groups that will meet every other Saturday evening through the Spring. Please contact Heather Harris for details.

### 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.

### 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.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPERFLY EVENT

Take notice of a date change for the Middle School Superfly Event. It will be on February 15th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will meet at Superfly Chattanooga for a time of fun and fellowship! Cost: \$10. Please contact Jeremiah Hill for financial assistance.

### SUMMER YOUTH CAMP EVENTS

Parents, please mark your calendar for our Youth Summer Camp destinations and dates this year.

Middle School (*the Edge*): June 17-21

High School (*Generate*): July 15-19

More information on how to register will follow. If you have questions please contact Jeremiah Hill or Abby Horton.

### 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 baked chicken and cheesy grits.

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.

### LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found cabinet is in the stairwell across from the Parlor. It has filled up with bibles, jackets, and other items left behind. Please be sure to check this area for items you may have misplaced.