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As 2008 ends, CPC has experienced God's grace. Why God should choose to so prosper us is beyond my reckoning. At the beginning of December we were further behind in our giving than at any time in our history. And 2008 was unlike any year we've ever known.

But God chose through you to meet and exceed our budgetary needs. As I write this Newsletter, giving to CPC has surpassed our budget for 2008 by nearly \$15,000.

There are other issues far more important than our budgetary needs. But in choosing to so bless us, God has reminded me — and I hope you — that He is able to do far more than what we might ask or imagine.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

January 11

- 9:30 *Infants:* J Foster, B Griggs
Creepers/Toddlers: H & C Armao
Toddlers: E & JM Griggs, E Vatt
- SS *Infants:* M Parker, S Choi
Creepers: M & L Lander
Toddlers: J & J McNeely, A Griffin
- 6 PM *Combined:* Elwood Family

January 18

- 9:30 *Infants:* E McEachern, G Brown
Creepers/Toddlers: D Bowers, O & J Bowers
Toddlers: P & L Spotts
- SS *Infants:* D Gaines, K Lambeth
Creepers: C Weekly
Toddlers: B Fingerle, J Mauroner
- 6 PM *Combined:* Fowler Family

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Judy Foster 423.645.1086.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 1

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

January 7, 2009

From the Senior Pastor . .

Who would have dared to suggest at this time last year that in the final six months of 2008 we, as a nation, would suffer on paper losses of more than one-third our material wealth?

Of course, for some, the past year has brought challenges of far greater significance than money. Family problems. Physical difficulties. Turbulent circumstances.

Living in a fallen world is hard. Scary. Troubling. Who knows what tomorrow may bring? At one moment the Dow is riding high at over 14,000 — and then, in a matter of weeks, falls to 7500. At one moment all is well, and then suddenly we are sick, heartbroken, knocked off kilter.

At such moments when the storm clouds form, the winds begin to howl, and the rains beat down in unrelenting fury, we are forcibly reminded that there is but one Place in which we can find shelter. That Place is in the Hands of the One by Whom and for Whom we were made; the One who loves us and always proves faithful to His promises.

He promises never to leave us or forsake us. We may not comprehend immediately or for years His plans or purposes, but we know that He will always do what is right and best, for the sake of His glory, our temporal and eternal welfare, and the good of others.

At times, God chooses graciously to provide for us a demonstration of His loving faithfulness.

Someone touches our arm, hugs our neck, kisses our cheek, and whispers in our ear words of compassion. And we know, it is God ministering to us through the voice and embrace of another.

We read His Word — for me, this happens most often as I read the Psalms — and He speaks to our hearts. We cry out to Him in prayer, and we experience His presence.

Our minds are quieted. Our emotions are calmed. And we rest in the wonder of His love.

At times, He does for us what we least expect. Oh, we've prayed for His mercy, we've begged for His grace, but we haven't expected to have our particular prayers answered.

It's not that we don't believe God answers prayer. It's more a matter of not being comfortable about what we've prayed. Surely God has more important matters to attend to than the requests we've put before Him.

And then, He answers our prayers. And we're stunned — stunned because we know that we are experiencing the unmerited favor of God. Yes, we know our theology. We know that God's grace is always unmerited. But then we experience that grace, and we're stunned by God's loving kindness. We believe, and by His grace, He has helped our unbelief.

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

(423) 899-5377
www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

YOUTH & FAMILY

Middle school & high school youth will meet this Sunday, January 11, following the evening service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

Dr. Dan Steere has been called by the congregation to serve as an associate pastor of CPC and Associate Pastor Eric Mullinax's title was approved to be changed to senior associate pastor. Dr. Steere's call is now contingent on the approval of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery.

OLD GEEZERS HOOP LEAGUE

Are you over 30 and on the out-of-shape side of things? You are just what we are looking for!! This basketball league will crank up Thursday, January 8. Join us at East Ridge Presbyterian from 7 until 9 PM each Thursday until March 12. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Mullinax.

FOREVER 39ERS ROAD TRIP

On Tuesday, January 20, you are invited to join us for dinner and a concert by the Harlem Gospel Choir. Plan to meet and leave from CPC at 4:30 PM for dinner at The Countryside Cafe. The concert begins at 7:30 PM at the Dixon Center at Lee University. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for age 60+). For more information see posted flyers or contact Pastor Mullinax.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The session will meet with anyone desiring membership Sunday afternoon, January 18. Call the church office (899.5377) to schedule a time.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Fellowship Groups

- The East Brainerd Fellowship 1 will meet Monday, January 12, at 7 PM at Linda Lander's home. If you would like more information, contact Eva Herberich at 894-6013.
- Acts of Service Fellowship will meet Tuesday, January 13, at 10 AM at the church. If you would like more info, contact Lynda Brown at 499-0848.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday, January 11, our worship focuses on our *OMNIPOTENT* God. Two of the hymns we will sing are *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* (pg. 119) and *The Spacious Firmament on High* (p. 117).

COMMUNICANTS CLASS

This class for young people in preparation for making a public profession of faith by meeting with the Session, joining the church, and being admitted to the Lord's Table begins this Saturday, January 10, at 10 AM. The course work, which is primarily self-study under parental guidance, is suitable for about age 10 and up. Contact Pastor Mullinax for more information.

AED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Dr. Larry Swan will offer hands-on training in the use of our church's AED on Saturday, January 31, beginning at 8:30 AM at the church. This training is open only to those with current CPR certification who would be willing to respond to an emergency on CPC's campus. Contact Polly Henry if you have questions. Contact Mark Wilson if you plan to attend.

For Your Information...

NEW MEMBERS

Listed below are the names of those who joined CPC in December. Add their names and addresses to your membership directory. Check out their snapshots on the New Member Bulletin Board outside the Visitors Classroom. Help make these new folks feel welcome at CPC!

Andrew & Moriah Bond
Drew, Madeline, Adelaide
4911 Alabama Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37409
423.946.7121
423.504.2763

bondandrewbond@gmail.com
moriahbond@gmail.com
Andrew & Moriah are Covenant College graduates. They moved back to Chattanooga this past summer and live in the St Elmo area.

Grant & Lauren Caldwell
Copeland
1081 Meeting Place
Chattanooga, TN 37421
423.9334676
706.247.2563

grant@milnergroup.com
laurenmcaldwell@gmail.com
Grant is an insurance broker, and Lauren is a stay-at-home mom. They live near the church in the Reunion neighborhood.

Bennett Kesler
Bennett is the oldest son of long-time members Will & Julie Kesler.

NURSERY NEEDS

Nursery coordinators are needed for April and May. The coordinator is responsible to call and remind everyone on the schedule and to check the nursery on Sunday morning to make sure that the workers are there.

Would you be willing to volunteer in our nursery 3-4 times a year? Contact Heather Harris by January 12 at jeh1224@aol.com or call 706.937.2603.

STAMPS, CELL PHONES & EYEGLASSES

We continue to collect postage stamps to assist in raising money for new Spanish language curriculum for Sunday schools in Latin America. Cell phones are also being collected to assist with the ministry of A+ Women's Care. And now we are accepting donations of old eyeglasses. These will be sent to HAFF to assist with their ministry to the people of Haiti. You may drop off any of these items at Pastor Mullinax's office. Thank you!

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please make the following change in your membership directory:

Jim & Edie Martof
191 Houston Valley Road
Ringgold, GA 30736
706.937.4090

Lewis & Anna Reid
334 Carmack Road
Flintstone GA 30725
706.820.2458

BIBLE READING PROGRAMS

The new year is always a good time to begin a planned read-thru-the-Bible program. A very popular and time-proven aid is available in the lobby. Free.

LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC

Jan. 23-24	Ironman's Retreat
Jan. 25	Shepherding
Jan. 31	AED Training
Feb. 1	Lord's Supper
Feb. 7	Ironman's Breakfast
Mar. 28	WM Spring Seminar