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without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

Not making every effort to live in peace with all men, which is what you are doing when you refuse to forgive those who have sinned against you, is to encourage the "root of bitterness" (KJV). Like the roots of our two maples, such a root system will eventually cause great damage. It will trouble you and defile many.

For many years our trees looked good. But then they began to become grotesque. But even worse, their roots were growing, and now they are threatening to do great harm. It's time to make every effort to be rid of them.

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

February 22

- 9:30 *Infants:* G & D Schreiner
Creepers/Toddlers: C, G, & K Smith
Toddlers: B & H Lehmann
- SS *Infants:* S Nicely, L Brown
Creepers: D & E Reynolds
Toddlers: J & A West
- 6 PM *No Evening Service:* Shepherding

March 1

- 9:30 *Infants:* R Pierce, L Rogers
Creepers/Toddlers: D, O, & MA Tawzer
Toddlers: K Fisher, M Horton, L Rogers
- SS *Infants:* B & K Smith
Creepers: T Higgins, L Caldwell
Toddlers: J & M Logterman, J Gracy
- 6 PM *Combined:* B Mullinax, J Gaines

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Gretchen Brown at 706-891-5968.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 7

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

February 18, 2009

From the Senior Pastor...

I've been waiting most of today, Monday, for the tree guys to show up.

We've lived in the same house for the last twenty-six years. When we moved in, there were four beautiful trees planted across our front yard.

To the right of the driveway is a magnificent oak. It's a glorious tree, and we hope we'll never be deprived of it's beauty.

In front of our house and to the left were three different varieties of maples. A couple of years ago we had to have the red maple cut down. And now, we're about to lose the other two.

Over the years these two trees grew so tall that they began to interfere with the power lines. The power company has trimmed them back repeatedly over the years, until they've become grotesque imitations of their former selves.

So, we've decided to have them cut down and replaced with trees whose height will not threaten the wires passing over head.

Saturday, Linda and I talked with the gentleman who is going to remove them for us. He loves trees. He reluctantly agreed that they needed to come down, but not because of their ugliness.

It was because of their roots. They're everywhere. Many of them have protruded above

the ground, sometimes threatening to trip you if you're not paying attention while walking across the front yard. But even more significantly, many of them have begun to bump up against the house.

Mr. Raby explained to us that eventually those roots would damage our house's foundation. In his opinion the trees needed to be taken down not because they were ugly but to keep them from harming our house.

They've been growing for years. We've loved those trees. They've provided the front of our home with wonderful shade, have housed countless families of birds, and have been lovely just to look at.

But while things looked good, just beneath the surface, their roots have been growing, and now they're threatening to become destructive.

I preached Sunday morning about forgiving those who have sinned against us even if they don't repent and ask forgiveness. To fail to do so, as I attempted to demonstrate by referring to several verses in Romans 12 and 13, is to live in disobedience to the Lord. It is also destructive both to you and others.

As I've been thinking about our trees and their roots, my mind has run to this passage in Hebrews 12.14-15: "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy;

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YOUTH & FAMILY

Middle school & high school youth will not meet this Sunday due to shepherding.

Saturday, January 21 — An all youth service project is scheduled for Saturday. Meet at 10:30 AM at Chick-Fil-A for brunch.

Looking Ahead — Mark your calendars for the Girls Lock-in / Guys Lock-out, March 20-21. More details at a later date.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday, February 22, our worship focuses on our *OMNISCIENT* God. Two of the hymns we will sing are *Praise the Lord: Ye Heavens Adore Him* (p. 17) and *How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place* (p. 469).

If you would like to hear these hymns and use the words in preparation for worship, the website www.cyberhymnal.org may be helpful. It has the words, a recording and sometimes the history of the hymn and hymn writer.

Upcoming Concerts

On Sunday, March 15, an all-men's group, *Brethren*, will present a concert for our evening service. Todd Gaither is a member of this group. Please make plans to attend and invite others.

Children's Choirs

The children's choirs will sing during morning worship on Sunday, March 8.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The session will meet with anyone desiring membership Sunday afternoon, March 15. Call the church office (899.5377) to schedule a time.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WM Spring Seminar

Ladies, make plans now to attend the Spring Seminar scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Our speaker, Dee Brestin, has authored several study guides. Her topic is "The God of All Comfort." Please plan to invite a neighbor or coworker. Register this Sunday in the lobby. The deadline for registering is February 28. The cost is \$20, and seating is limited.

SHEPHERDING GROUPS

Our shepherding groups meet this Sunday, February 22, at various locations and times. If you are not assigned to a shepherding group and would like to participate, call the church office at 899-5377. There will be no Sunday evening service this week.

MARRIAGE, FAMILY & COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Covenant College is pleased to welcome Dr. Bryan Chapell, president of Covenant Theological Seminary, as guest speaker for the annual Marriage, Family & Community Conference, February 25-27. For more details, visit www.covenant.edu.



PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- * **Brient Hobbs** — Sewanee (upper class)
- * **Suzanna Ker** — UT (upper class)
- * **Will Musto** — Montreat (freshman)

For Your Information...

NEW MEMBERS

Listed below are the names of those who joined CPC this month. 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 when you see them!

Michael Coffey
423.313.5120
mikec86@aol.com
Michael is the son of longtime members Bill & Sandy Coffey.

Ricardo Gilbert
1185 Mountain Creek Road Apt. 1609
Chattanooga, TN 37405
423.802.6214
rigilbert@tva.gov
Ricardo works for TVA, and he is single.

Steven & Rebecca James
Emily, Claire, Will & Ephraim
517 Carriage Parc Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421
423.313.4774
Steven.james@gmail.com
Steven is a computer technician for an engineering firm and Rebecca is a full time mom to their four children. They have recently moved to East Brainerd.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEWSLETTER?

Call the church office no later than
Tuesday at 10 AM.
Or you may email Ann at awalker@covenantchattanooga.org.

CPC PRAYER CALENDAR

This devotional/prayer tool covers all CPC members, family concerns, ministries, missionaries, personal growth in grace and the world in a one-month cycle. You may pick up a copy of the *CPC Prayer Calendar* in the lobby.

FCA BANQUET

The 2009 Fellowship of Christian Athletes "Road-to-Victory" Banquet featuring Olympic gold medal swimmer, Josh Davis, and local coaches and students will be held at the Chattanooga Trade Center on Monday, March 2, at 7 PM. FCA (Jay Fowler) is a CPC-supported ministry to student athletes and coaches throughout Chattanooga and southeast Tennessee. Contact Pastor Mullinax if you'd like to be a part of the evening. This is a fundraising event, and you'll be asked to consider monetarily supporting the ministry.



LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC

Feb. 22	Shepherding Groups Meet	
Mar. 7	Ironman's Breakfast	
Mar. 15	<i>Brethren</i> Concert PM	
	Bridal Shower - Laura Spalding	
Mar. 22	Bridal Shower - Kristin Gardner	
Mar. 27-29	CYAM Retreat	
Mar. 28	WM Spring Seminar w/ Dee Brestin	
Apr. 5	Palm Sunday	
	CCS Select Ensemble Concert PM	
Apr. 8	No Wednesday Activities	
Apr. 9	Maundy Thursday Service	
Apr. 10	Good Friday—Office Closed	
Apr. 12	Easter—No SS or PM service	
May 27	Mission: Chattanooga Kickoff	
June 8	Music Camp	