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instinctively to know this and feel this strongly. Too bad that moms and dads often forget it.

Promises (words) that honor the Lord are made cautiously, but kept conscientiously once made, knowing that failure in this area is no slight error. How hard it is for us to learn this. And yet, how much we need to understand that our word is to be a sacred trust.

Pastor Mullinax

NURSERY SCHEDULE

March 8

- 9:30 *Infants:* R Getz, J Trask
Creepers/Toddlers: H & C Armao
Toddlers: D & A Heisig, D Trask
- SS *Infants:* J & K Bingham
Creepers: J & K Gaither
Toddlers: D & T Holland, D Thurman
- 6 PM *Combined:* E & M Rahm

March 15

- 9:30 *Infants:* E McEachern, E Herberich
Creepers/Toddlers: E & K Gaither
Toddlers: J & D Herberich
- SS *Infants:* D Lazor, B Parker
Creepers: S & K Close
Toddlers: T & Y Owens
- 6 PM *Combined:* L Grant, P Henry

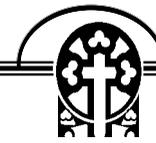
Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Tammy Higgins at 706-820-0491.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 9

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

March 4, 2009

From the Senior Associate Pastor . . .

I was watching a television sitcom recently and the question “Are you serious?!?” kept coming up again and again in the dialogue. “Betty went to the movies with Billy . . . are you serious?!?” “Afterwards they went for pizza . . . are you serious?!?” “Billy’s ex heard about it and was not happy . . . are you serious?!?”

Really! That’s how lame the dialogue was. In this sitcom the question didn’t seem to be a genuine inquiry as much as some sort of exclamation. However, “Are you serious?” is a good question that we need to regularly and honestly ask ourselves. Because often when we should be speaking seriously, we are not.

I once heard a politician cynically say, “the purpose of words is to conceal thought.” As an observation on how we sometimes talk, this comment is too true to be good! Don’t we regularly talk for effect, often saying things we don’t really mean and could not defend? Are we not often guilty of casually giving assurances which we have little-to-no thought of fulfilling?

A reluctance to value our word as our bond — to count ourselves committed by what we’ve actually said — is no slight error

and can eventually destroy our integrity. Why are business contracts, marriage vows and even ordinary pledges — to do this, to see to that, to be here, to go there — so frequently broken? Why are our lives littered with promises we failed to keep, whether from malice, bad management, self-seeking or sheer carelessness? Isn’t it because we frequently fail to take our own words seriously?

The Bible, however, takes words and promises seriously. Why? Because trustworthiness is part of God’s indelible image pressed upon us. He desires that aspect of His image be faithfully reflected in us. And without such fidelity, relationships — indeed all of society — disintegrate.

When Jesus rejected the idea that one can break a promise sworn by any sacred object, so long as God’s name has not been explicitly mentioned, He was teaching that you cannot keep God out of any promise, pledge, or transaction. He is everywhere and all promises are made in His presence and involve Him, whether His name is mentioned or not (cf. Matthew 5:33 ff). So all promises are sacred, in that sense, and should be kept. Our kids seem

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YOUTH & FAMILY

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

Girls Lock-in / Guys Lock-out— March 20-21 are the dates for this event. It begins Friday at 6:30 PM until 9:00 AM on Saturday morning. Bring a friend for the fun!

Breakfast & Egg Hunt for Missions — This annual event designed to raise money for the youth summer mission trip is scheduled for Saturday, April 11. A full breakfast will be served from 9 - 10:15 AM at the church. The egg hunt at 10:30, for children age 2 through the fifth grade, will feature different age-appropriate areas for "hunting." You do not need to bring any eggs. Prior to the egg hunt we will have a story explaining the reason we celebrate Easter.

Parents Conference — "Parenting on Purpose" is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, from 10 AM - 2 PM. It is free and will include a lunch. If you are a parent with a child in the 0-18 age range, this is for you. Topics include: discipline, communication and fueling your child's passion for Christ. Speakers will be Pastor Caines, Ken Henry and Tony Soudner.

IRONMAN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Ironman's Breakfast this Saturday, March 7, at 8:30 AM. The speaker is Jim Hildebrand and his topic is "Be Intentional." Join us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion, and prayer.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- * **Caleb Haynes** — Bryan College (upper class)
- * **Ginny Henry** — College of Wooster (upper class)
- * **Tyler Smith** — Covenant College (freshman)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Fellowship Groups

- The East Brainerd Fellowship group 2 will meet Monday, March 9, at 7 PM at Kathleen Borchers' home.
- Acts of Service will meet Tuesday, March 10, at 10 AM at the church.

BRIDAL SHOWER

A drop-in bridal shower will be given in honor of Laura Spalding on Sunday, March 15, in the Perseverers' Classroom from 4:00 until 5:30 PM. Laura is registered at Target, REI and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday our worship focuses on our **MERICFUL** God. Two of the hymns we will sing are *Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder* (p.172) and *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (p. 528).

If you would like to hear these hymns and use the words in preparation for worship, the website www.cyberhymnal.org may be helpful.

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.

Palm Sunday, April 5, Chattanooga Christian School's Select Ensemble will present a concert during the evening service.

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

On the second Sunday of the month look for a special bulletin insert highlighting one of the missionaries we support as a church. This month our featured missionary is Heidi Meiners.

For Your Information...

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Saving Time before going to bed this Saturday night.

Spring Forward

5K RUN

Gateway Bank's 10th Annual Run/Fun Walk for Communities in Schools (CIS) is scheduled for Saturday, March 21. Proceeds from this race benefit the school children of Catoosa County. The purpose of CIS is to bring resources to schools and families to help reduce the drop-out rate in Catoosa County. As a school nurse I call on CIS every year to help fund eye exams and glasses for at-risk students. This is a worthy cause. The course is certified by the Chattanooga Track Club and is described as relatively flat through beautiful Ringgold, Georgia. Registration opens at 6:30 AM; the run begins at 8:00; the one mile walk begins at 8:05. You can register on line at www.active.com. Thank you.

Polly Henry

BUDGET REPORT

Year-to-Date as of 2/28/09

General Budget Giving	\$124,531
Budget Requirement	174,039
Shortfall	(49,508)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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

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.

MISPLACED BIBLES

We have quite a collection of Bibles. If you have misplaced your Bible, please check the bookcase next to the Coke machine in the education wing. Thank you!



LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC

Mar. 7	Ironman's Breakfast
Mar. 15	Brethren Concert PM
Mar. 22	Bridal Shower - Kristin Gardner
Mar. 27-29	CYAM Retreat
Mar. 28	WM Spring Seminar w/ Dee Brestin
Mar. 29	Shepherding Groups Meet
Apr. 4	Ironman's Breakfast
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. 11	Missions Egg Hunt & Breakfast
Apr. 12	Easter—No SS or PM service
May 1	Canyon Ridge Golf Outing
May 27	Mission: Chattanooga Kickoff
June 7	Bridal Shower - Laura Spalding
June 8	Music Camp

