

## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)

But between those verses, we're told "the length of our days is seventy years - or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away (verse 10)".

And our life experiences show us that what Scripture teaches is true. I love life. I love God's good creation. But I'm also grateful to know that this is not as good as it gets.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that even as Abraham entered the Promised Land, "he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (11.10).

Pastor Caines

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### March 20

**9:30** *Infants:* E McEachern, S Knecht  
*Creepers/Toddlers:* C Stevenson, L Hobbs  
*Toddlers:* A & M Sanders, L Caldwell

**SS** *Infants:* R & B Roop  
*Creepers:* E Martin, R Bingham  
*Toddlers:* J & J McNeeley

**6 PM** *Combined:* Rahm Family

#### March 27

**9:30** *Infants:* S Schreiner, J Trask  
*Creepers/Toddlers:* J & M Logterman  
*Toddlers:* D Trask, B Pearce, A Schreiner

**SS** *Infants:* S Coffey, L Brown  
*Creepers:* S Close, R Bingham  
*Toddlers:* E Brown, A Griffin

**6 PM** *No Evening Service - Shepherding Groups*

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



# THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 10

Covenant  
Presbyterian Church

March 16, 2011

#### From the Senior Pastor...

The scale of the event captivates our attention, causing our minds to spin with questions whose answers still leave us uncomfortable.

I've never seen anything, in person or on tape, that compares to the scenes of water rushing ashore, smashing everything in its path, leaving in its wake scattered remnants of cars, boats, houses, and people.

Where is God? Is this His doing? Is this part of His plan?

Of course, if it isn't, we're really in trouble. For that would mean that we were caught in the grinding forces of blind chance, with God looking on from the outside hoping, along with the rest of us, that everything turns out for the best.

It is not easy to answer the question of how Japan's recent history is part of God's good, eternal plan. But to deny what Scripture clearly teaches — "I form light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things" (Isa 45.7) — is to be left with questions even more difficult to answer.

In truth, each of our lives are impacted by earthquakes and tsunamis. They may

not be talked about on Fox News, or commented upon by Brian Williams, but the intensity of the hurt, pain and confusion is greater than events unfolding in far away Japan.

My brother was run over by a truck and killed. Linda and I have lost a baby. Linda's sister carried her child for nine months, only for the child to be still-born. My Dad died of cancer. My cousin was murdered. My mother and in-laws are growing feeble. As a pastor I've known more heartache than I care to recite.

Each of you could tell your own story. It's the reality of living life in a fallen world. Scripture doesn't lie to us. Sometimes we lie to ourselves. Sometimes we're selective about the verses we choose to read and those we choose not to read.

For example Psalm 90 begins with a wonderful declaration of faith and confidence: "The Lord has been our dwelling place for all generations." It closes with this prayer: "O Lord . . . satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days."

(Continued on back page)

 **MUSIC NOTES**   
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

This Sunday, March 20, we will focus on our just God and will sing Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee (p. 80 TH).

**YOUTH INFORMATION**

All youth will meet this Sunday evening, March 20, 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Suite. Adam Sanders will be our guest speaker.

**THANK YOU**

*We gratefully thank you for your calls, visits, cards and meals. Your loving care is appreciated. Your prayers are evidence of God's love. Thank You. ~Lewis & Anna Reid*

**WEDNESDAY SUPPERS**

**SHEPHERDING GROUP** clean up duties for the month of March: Griggs, Lander, Owen, Smith and Grant. Please contact your shepherding elder to let him know you can help.

**CLOTHING SWAP**

It's time to clean out your closets again! Bring items you do not wear, like or that do not fit and swap them for something you can use. There are usually men's, women's, kid's, infant's and maternity clothes with the occasional household item thrown in. Even if you don't have anything to bring, come "shop." It will be Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Amy Wooten. If you want to donate items and don't plan to come, please email Amy at the address given below. Any items left will be donated to missions. Email Amy at mattwootenfam@comcast.net for directions.

**SHOWER/RECEPTION**

The entire church family is invited to a drop-in reception/shower for Ruth Caines and her fiancé, Gary Isaacs on Sunday, April 3 in Schum Fellowship Hall from 3:30-5:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for everyone to meet Gary. Ruth and Gary will be living in South Africa, so they will not be able to take purchased items upon their return.

Here are some ideas for gifts:

1. Visa or American Express gift cards.
2. Gary and Ruth are also registered at two stores in South Africa, but if you purchase a gift on the websites, the gift will be listed in South African money (if anyone is interested in doing this, please contact church office for websites).
3. Money would also be a very appreciated gift in helping to set up housekeeping in their new home.
4. Your cards and notes will be a huge blessing as well.

Finally, Ruth said she would love to have recipes from her church family. You may drop these off at the office or send your recipe with any note you might want to add AND YOUR NAME to Amy Wooten at [mattwootenfam@comcast.net](mailto:mattwootenfam@comcast.net). Amy will need these no later than March 23!!

**PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:**

- \* Jessica Duble
- \* Bobby Fugatt
- \* Kelly Close
- \* Justin Martin

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast Saturday, April 2, at 8:30 a.m. The speaker will be Bruce Spencer. Join us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion, and prayer.

**HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE NEWSLETTER?**

Email Susan or Carol no later than 10:00 a.m. Tuesday at [cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org).

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

A nurse is available between worship and Sunday School each Sunday in the office next to Pastor Mullinax's office to check blood pressure.

**CYAM RETREAT**

CYAM Spring Retreat is April 8-10 at the Flatt Farm. The retreat will cost \$40 and will start on Friday at 7 p.m. The speaker is Dr. Dan Steere. For information, contact Jason Coffey at 423.313.5125.

**CHURCH WORKDAY**

Please join us on Saturday, April 9 beginning at 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a church workday. This is a great time of service and fellowship. All ages are welcome. A continental breakfast will be provided before work begins that morning.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**INFORMATION**

What are the elementary school kids learning this Spring semester in Sunday School? Here is a brief view of the subject by age or grade.

*Toddlers:* God's Love Jesus' life, death and resurrection and our need to trust him.

*Preschool & Kindergarten:* Jesus Is God Encountering Jesus through his powerful signs and wonders.

*First and Second Grade:* Serving God Bible men and women who served God faithfully.

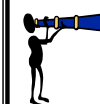
*Third Grade:* God's Growing Church The spread of God's earthly kingdom-a study of Acts.

*Fourth and Fifth Grade:* 1 Corinthians to Philemon Instructions for Christian living in the church.

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Please make these changes in your address books:

Reita Pierce: [pierce8345@bellsouth.net](mailto:pierce8345@bellsouth.net)  
Todd Smith: [Todd@inroommedia.com](mailto:Todd@inroommedia.com)



**LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC**

Mar 19-20	CPC WM Spring Seminar
Mar 27	Shepherding Groups Meet
Apr 2	Men's Breakfast
Apr 5	Mothers' Encouragement Group
Apr 8-10	CYAM Spring Retreat
Apr 9	Church Work Day
Apr 10	Diaconate Meeting