

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

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www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)

should be weighed in the light of eternity. Our hopes and expectations are anchored in a greater and ultimate reality that is both certain and transforming. Afflictions do not become less real, nor are they unimportant or less painful, but they are limited in their reach and possibilities by the knowledge that they, too, shall pass.

The triumvirate of the Christian life is faith, hope, and love. It seems we often tend to emphasize faith and love while neglecting hope. Yet hope is essential and unyielding. As the writer of Hebrews proclaimed, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf" (6:19). Christian hope is infectious; it is real, and it can be a powerful witness to a world full of shallow wishes or no hope. So ... be strong and take heart all you who hope in the LORD.

Pastor Mullinax

NURSERY SCHEDULE

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 Boo Mullinax at 423.313.7534. (March)

April 3

9:30 *Infants:* L & A Reid
Creepers/Toddlers: J & R Ray
Toddlers: T & M & A Horton

SS *Infants:* Y Cornell
Creepers: S Spaulding, D Gardner
Toddlers: B Fingerle, J Mauroner

6 PM *Combined: Dekingers*

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Shirley Allin at 706.935.6695. (April)



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 11

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

March 23, 2011

From the Senior Associate Pastor...

I recently saw a video clip of candidate Bill Clinton's acceptance speech at the 1992 Democratic National Convention. Mr. Clinton concluded the speech with these words, "I still believe in a place called hope." This catchy phrase then became a regular theme throughout his presidential campaign.

Hope, like many words today, requires clarification. The word is often spoken of as if synonymous with wishing. We use the term to denote a vague longing for something that we want but find unlikely to happen. We hope our candidate will remedy all national ills. We hope our bank accounts will multiply. We hope our children turn out perfect.

Yet hope, as it is defined in Scripture, is more robust than a wish, more fixed and sure than a vague longing. It carries the idea of delayed but guaranteed fulfillment. It is the kind of assurance that something set in motion will in due time come about. The farmer sows in hope that the seed, though buried, will produce a sure crop. Similarly, the Scriptures ground the concept of hope in the nature of who God is, what God has done, and what He has promised yet to do.

In the New Testament times, the Gospel dawned with a power and force that challenged the prevailing worldviews and burst in with a vision of life that transformed the world. If the Gospel is anything, it is a message and way of hope. Therefore, it's important that we

explore the nature of hope and concentrate on the nurture of hope in our lives.

The Apostle Paul and many other New Testament writers describe God as the "God of hope." The word "hope" itself is used 85 times in the New Testament alone, and throughout the Scriptures it is stressed repeatedly that one's relationship with God is the ultimate ground of hope. In Romans 8 Paul declares, "For in this hope we were saved... And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (8:24, 28). The Apostle anchors us in the certainty of hope and in the need to wait. The end will come, and until then we trust in God and lean on the Holy Spirit and His promises.

The effects of our secular society are seen clearly in our inability to see beyond the immediate, to think outside of our own circumstances, or to believe God for sustenance or change. This life, this world—the now and the immediate—come to shape and control our focus, our wishes, and our concerns. Paul sets our earthbound lives beside the eternal purpose that should inform all we are and do. Becoming a people of hope means cultivating an eternal perspective - the ability to see God in the midst of trials, to persevere in the face of difficulties.

The point is not to undervalue life in this world but to set it in context. Afflictions

(Continued on back page)

 **MUSIC NOTES** 
SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday, March 27, we will focus on our infinite God and will sing *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (p. 1 TH).

YOUTH INFORMATION

There will be NO youth activities this Sunday evening due to Shepherding groups meeting. Enjoy the time with your shepherding family.



Breakfast & Egg Hunt for Missions

This annual event to raise money for the youth summer mission trip is Saturday, April 23. A full breakfast is served from 9-10:15 a.m. at the church. The cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Donations will be accepted.

The egg hunt follows at 10:30 a.m. for children age 2 through the fifth grade. The egg hunt will be set up in separate areas designated for differing age groups. Prior to the egg hunt there will be a story explaining the reason we celebrate Easter. You do not need to bring eggs, just a basket.



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.

NEW MEMBERS

Listed below are the names of those who joined CPC this month. 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!

Josh & Teri Akovenko

Ava, Laney
9639 Pecan Springs Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37421
423.710.3229

Josh & Teri moved here from Charlotte, NC where they were members of Christ Covenant (PCA) Church. Josh works for Cigna, and Teri is a stay-at-home mom. They have two daughters and are expecting their third child this summer.

Adam & Jill Hodge

Landry, Ruthie, Jebb, Silas
3125 Mountain Pointe Dr. W.
Cleveland, TN 37312
Adam's Cell: 601.466.3966
Jill's Cell: 601.466.2292

This family moved here from Hattiesburg, MS in January of this year. Adam is an anesthesiologist in Cleveland. They have four children, two of which they adopted from Uganda.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- * Micah Schreiner
- * Kevin Cooper
- * Daniel Trask
- * Ellen Gaither

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. This is a great opportunity for the younger men to better prepare for life's struggles by hearing about an older brother's life and how he felt as he went through those struggles. Every life has its own challenges and our men need to know and be encouraged that God is in those challenges. God can be depended on to bring His sons and daughters through even if it is in unexpected ways. Join us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion and prayer.

CHURCH WORKDAY

Please join us on Saturday, April 9 beginning at 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 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.



WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

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

After you read this Newsletter, pass it to another member of your family

EASTER LILIES

Would you like to honor and/or remember a friend or loved one as well as help decorate the sanctuary for Easter?

Please complete the Easter lily order form and return it to the church office or place it in the box located in the Church Lobby by Wednesday, April 12th. The cost for each lily is \$15. Make the check payable to CPC with "lily" on the memo line and turn it in with your request form.

At the close of the Easter Service on April 24 you may pick up your lily. If you have questions, contact Carol or Susan at 423.899.5377



LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC

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|----------|--------------------------------|
| Mar 27 | Shepherding Groups Meet |
| Apr 2 | Men's Breakfast |
| Apr 3 | Caines/Isaacs Shower Reception |
| Apr 5 | Mothers' Encouragement Group |
| Apr 8-10 | CYAM Spring Retreat |
| Apr 9 | Church Work Day |
| Apr 10 | Diaconate Meeting |
| Apr 16 | Caines/Isaacs Wedding |
| Apr 17 | Shepherding Groups Meet |
| Apr 19 | Mothers' Encouragement Group |
| Apr 19 | Colors of Grace Concert |
| Apr 20 | NO Wednesday Night Supper |
| Apr 21 | Memorial Hospital Lunch |
| Apr 21 | Maundy Thursday Service |
| Apr 23 | Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast |
| Apr 24 | Easter - no SS or PM Service |