

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
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www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)

In Psalm 77, Asaph begins with emotions familiar to many of us: *I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted.*

And then, as He remembers God's grace and mercy to him and His people, he writes at the end of his psalm:

The clouds poured down water, the skies resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth. Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. . . . [But them you provided] your path through the sea, your way through the might water, though your footprints were no seen.

While often we cannot see His footprints, we always know that He has taken us by the hand, is leading us through the storm, and will not let go until He brings us safely out on the other side.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

April 3

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

SS *Infants:* Y Cornell, A Wooten
Creepers: S Spalding, D Gardner
Toddlers: B Fingerle, E Brown

6:00 PM *Combined:* Denkinger Family

April 10

9:30 *Infants:* S Helton, E Beatty
Creepers/Toddlers: M & S Haywood
Toddlers: M & J Schleger, L Rogers

SS *Infants:* D & R Kemp
Creepers: R Bingham, J Gracy
Toddlers: T & Y Owens

6:00 PM *Combined:* C Wilkie, A Gaines

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Shirley Allin at 706-935-6695.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 12

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

March 29, 2011

From the Senior Pastor. . .

Thank you for all your prayers.

It took two tries, but now all four cylinders are pumping. And except for a little soreness, I feel good. I'm ready and eager to get back to work. It's wonderful to be able to recuperate knowing that Eric, Mark, Jeremy and others have things covered. Thank you, gentlemen. And thank you to our new secretaries, learning their jobs in the midst of a less than normal working environment.

Being in the hospital humbles you. You're absolutely dependent upon others to do things for you because you either can't or you're not allowed to do certain things for yourself. It also gives you a clearer sense of what Jesus meant when He said that He had come to minister to the sick, and not to those who thought themselves well.

Almost no one wants to be sick. Few want to be dependent upon others to do for them things they ought to be able to do for themselves.

But Scripture teaches that none of us has the ability to do those things that would make us acceptable to God and merit for us His blessing. In fact, Scripture teaches that each and every one of us is deathly ill, with neither the knowledge, means nor where-with-all to get well.

But Scripture also teaches that He graciously and mercifully chooses to heal and release us from sin's curse and power, so that we are able to humble ourselves before the One by Whom and for Whom we were made. We can then acknowledge His to be the only Name given among men whereby we must be saved, as we embrace Jesus as our Savior, Lord and King, He heals and releases us from sin's curse and power.

And when, by God's grace we begin to appreciate and be awed by our healing and deliverance, we find ourselves filled with gratitude and a genuine desire to serve and please the One who healed us and blessed us with the gift of life.

Until we believe and understand the Good News, we find it inconvenient to acknowledge that we were made by Him and for Him. Since our eyes are still blind, we mistakenly, and yet deliberately, choose to worship and serve ourselves instead of the Creator. As a consequence, we soon discover that life is far harder than we ever expected, and that our wisdom is both limited and inadequate for meeting the realities of living in the real world.

Refusing to believe we are morally sick, we fail to find the healing that comes only through the saving touch of the Great Physician, and slowly we begin to die.

It is in the midst of such lives that the Spirit of God enters, providing eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to believe, minds to understand and wills to obey. By His enabling grace, and thru the gift of faith, we humble ourselves before our Maker, embracing Jesus as our Savior, Lord and King. In doing so, we begin to experience His healing touch, the gift of life, and the blessings that come from following hard after Him.

Of course, in this life, storms & tsunamis still threaten and loom. But God always brings us safely through to the place of safety and rest, be it in this world or in the one to come. But whatever God's plan, we rest securely, knowing that nothing can separate us from His love.

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MUSIC NOTES



SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday, April 3, our worship will focus on our *LOVING* God and we will sing *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!* (p. 535 TH).

YOUTH & FAMILY

The youth will meet April 3 and 10.

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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is this Saturday, April 2. Bruce Spencer is speaking on "Life changing experiences and how they changed my life." Men of all ages are invited to join us as Bruce challenges and encourages us by explaining how God can be depended on to bring His sons and daughters through tough times, even if it is in unexpected ways. Join us at 8:30 a.m. this Saturday for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion and prayer.

Sunday School Classes

The Kingdom Seekers Class is beginning a new topic this Sunday. Pastor Mullinax is teaching on the Fruit of the Spirit. If you are interested in learning more, feel free to join them.



CHURCH WORKDAY

Please join us on Saturday, April 9 from 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.

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.

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. Clean-up duties for the month of April: Walker, Wilkie, King and E. Brown.

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

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Please make these changes in your address books:
Geff Adams: gadams@textile-print.com
Mark & Cindy Donaldson: 423-645-6458
Alayne Griffin: jagbag4@catt.com
Babs Leach: babs.leach@yahoo.com(additional)
John & Debby Gardner: gard5@epbfi.com