

(Continued from front page)

“Obviously your prayers and love mean so much to us. I think I am more concerned that my friends would hurt or be discouraged about this news. We don’t want anyone to grieve over this. . . . The need of the moment is to simply live this life God gave us. I want to enjoy everything God has given to me, and receive it with thanksgiving, while I try to be relentless for the sake of the Gospel, justice, mercy and love. . . .

“Our love to you all. Thank you for loving us so well. . . . Randy and Joan Nabors.”

I’ve shared this letter so that you might be encouraged, challenged and informed. As you pray for the Nabors, pray that you and all of us might enjoy what God has given us, receive it with thanksgiving, and be relentless for the cause of the gospel of the Kingdom.

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

April 26

1st half Infants: S & T Helton
Creepers/Toddlers: M & L Hobbs
Toddlers: E Brown, M Arbuckle

2nd half Infants: S Nicely, E Cary
Creepers: M & B Mason
Toddlers: P Plucker, J Mauroner

No Evening Service — Shepherding Groups Meet

May 3

9:30 Infants: D & G Schreiner
Creepers/Toddlers: P & L Spotts
Toddlers: P & L Jones

SS Infants: K & S Orthner
Creepers: D & E Reynolds
Toddlers: S Wade, L Orthner

6 PM Combined: Tracy Brown Family

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Peg May at 423-894-1538.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 15

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

April 22, 2009

From the Senior Pastor...

One of the joys of Presbyterian government is the close ties that make separate, individual congregations one church. I have often suggested that the correct name for our particular congregation should be “The Tennessee Valley Presbytery meeting at Covenant in Chattanooga.” While not being catchy, it conveys more accurately our identity.

One of the consequences of our “connectionalism” is that when one congregation rejoices, we rejoice; when one weeps, we weep; and when one catches its breath, we catch our breath.

As I announced Sunday morning, our good friend, Randy Nabors, senior pastor of New City Fellowship, has been diagnosed with cancer. Specifically, Randy has B-Cell Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia.

Randy and Joan sent out a letter to the members of NCF, as well as “friends and the curious.” Assuming you to be one or the other, I want to share with you a small portion of what they have written.

“As far as I know this disease takes a very long time to cause trouble. . . . It may take years before any symptoms arise. . . . Right now there is no cure for the disease, and they don’t know how I got it, and since I am not sick there is nothing to do but ‘watch and wait.’

“Obviously to be told you have cancer is troubling, but so many others have gone through so much worse that I have nothing to complain about. That I will die someday is not news, but now I know of at least one thing I will die from if something else doesn’t get me.

“What should it mean for me to know that I will die except to be more passionate about preaching ‘as a dying man to dying men?’ That is what I have always been, and what I have been trying to do anyway.

“I want to finish well, and I don’t want to try and cut myself some kind of a break because of this disease. There is so much to do for the Kingdom and glory of God. I don’t want to live in any state of panic, but only in the same dilemma as the Apostle Paul who didn’t know if it was better to depart and be with the Lord, or to stay and minister to the Saints.

“Joan is one of the calmest, most practical, and realistic people I know. . . . She trusts in the Lord, and she loves me, and I imagine it will take some developments to see how we both react to things. I couldn’t have married anyone better for the life I have already put her through, and what awaits us in the future.

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YOUTH & FAMILY

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

TATERS & TUBE STEAKS

Join us Friday evening, May 22, for a night of food and fun. Meet at Coolidge Park between 5:45 and 7 PM for a grilled hotdogs and sausages dinner, then to AT & T field for a Lookouts game with the Carolina Mudcats. The cost is \$5 per person with a \$15 family maximum . . . best entertainment value in town! Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board by the church's main lobby.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Starting in June we need a Sunday School teacher and two helpers for the 3-year-old class. You can commit for a year, a semester or just the summer. This is a great opportunity to minister to our children. Please contact Mark Wilson for more information.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the folks who helped with the church workday on Saturday. Huston Wade, Len Williams and the other deacons who led us in repairs and cleanup were thankful for the positive attitudes and quality of work done by the volunteers. Thank you for giving to the ministry of CPC in this way. If you missed and still can help, contact Len or Huston for on-going needs here at CPC.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLEANUP

The Ernie Brown, Greg Duble & Clint Wilkie shepherding groups are responsible for after-supper cleanup May 6, 13 & 20.

IRONMAN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Ironman's Breakfast Saturday, April 2, at 8:30 AM. Chris Gregory will speak on "The Age of Opportunity." Join us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion, and prayer.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies Tea

Be sure to register this Sunday for the Ladies Tea, May 9. The registration deadline is May 3. The cost is \$6 and \$3 for girls under age 12.

BABY SHOWER

The drop-in baby shower for Laurie (Elwood) Ritzema has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 3 from 4:00 - 5:30 PM in the parlor. She is registered at Target and Babies R Us.

GRADUATES

If someone in your family is graduating or has graduated since last May from high school or college, contact the church office as soon as possible. We would like to have the names of each so we can properly recognize them.

Parents of Graduates

Parents of high school, college and grad school graduates: Picture boards and instructions may be picked up in the narthex after the service. Turn in by May 10. Thanks!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday our worship focuses on our *Wise* God. One hymn we will sing is *O Jehovah, Hear My Words* (p. 51).

MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp is scheduled for June 8-12. Early pre-paid registration is \$20 per child. The deadline is April 30. After that date the cost is \$25 per child. Registration forms are available on the church website, www.covenantchattanooga.org.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- * **Kenton Martin** — UTK (upper class)
- * **Matt Mason** — GA Tech. (upper class)
- * **Erin Sisemore** — Bryan College (freshman)

For Your Information...

CALENDAR CHANGE

Sunday School promotion and graduate recognition Sunday has been moved to May 31.

VIM BANQUET

The Volunteers in Medicine 2nd Annual Band-Aid Banquet is Monday, April 27, at the Brainerd BX at 6 PM. Live music will be provided and sportscaster Randy Smith is the featured speaker. VIM provides health care to low income, uninsured citizens of Hamilton Co. at no cost to the patient. Local physicians and other support personnel volunteer their time to provide services. VIM is a non-profit ministry and depends totally on the financial support of individuals, churches and businesses. During this time of financial crisis we have seen a significant increase in the number of folks needing help. Please consider taking a place at the table sponsored by CPC. You can look forward to a lovely evening with fellow church members while you learn more about VIM and consider giving of your time or money. Contact Polly Henry at 718-8047 or pollyhenry@gmail.com to reserve your place at the table as soon as possible.

SPRING GOLF—LAST CHANCE!

This CPC golf outing is planned for Friday afternoon, May 1, at the Canyon Ridge Club, atop Lookout Mountain. The spaces are filling up! Registration is required. Please only one guest per CPC member. The cost is \$40. See Pastor Mullinax for details and to reserve your place.

RUN FOR THE BORDER

Interested in a short-term mission trip this summer along the border of Texas and Mexico? CPC is putting together a group to travel to El Paso to work with our supported missionaries, Jeff and Heather Vaughn. The Vaughns minister with BEAMM (Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries) in El Paso and Juarez. Trip dates are June 19 through June 28. See Pastor Mullinax for a fact sheet.

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!

Jerry & Jill Finley
339 White Eagle Trail
Ringgold GA 30736
706-891-5259
jbfmley@comcast.net
southernjill@comcast.net

This newly-wed couple live near the church in Council Fire. Jerry is an engineer with TVA.

Ron & Karen Fullam
1210 King Arthur Rd
Chattanooga TN 37421
423-892-3179
ron@fbright.com

Ron is recently retired from CBL. They have grown children.

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE CHANGE

Last week we published the schedule for the CPC softball team. Since then there has been a change. The games scheduled for May 18 have been moved to April 30 at 8:15 & 9:15 PM.

LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC

Apr. 26	Shepherding Groups	
May 1	Canyon Ridge Golf Outing	
May 2	Ironman's Breakfast	
May 3	Baby Shower—Laurie Ritzema	
May 10	No Evening Service	
May 17	Deacons Meeting	
	Baby Shower—Camille Platt	
	Bridal Shower—Tabitha Higgins	
May 27	Mission: Chattanooga Kickoff	
May 31	SS Promotion & Graduate Recognition	
June 7	Bridal Shower - Laura Spalding	
June 8	Music Camp	