

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

(423) 899-5377

www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)

the supernatural power that comes from the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, today and in lives right now!

God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we would want Him to. Oftentimes, we feel we are being given a scorpion instead of an egg, or a snake instead of a fish. Perhaps as we wrestle with unanswered prayers for healing, for help, and for deliverance, God's grand promise to send the Holy Spirit is the only answer we could hope for: the good gift of God's abiding presence, the power to live a resurrected life, and the promise of God's creative work to make something beautiful from the chaos of our lives.

Pastor Mullinax

NURSERY SCHEDULE

June 19

9:30 *Infants:* E McEachern, S Knecht
Creepers/Toddlers: C Stevenson, B Pearce
Toddlers: T & M & A Horton

11:00 *Infants:* K & J Bingham
Creepers: A Griffin, S Close
Toddlers: D & A Heisig

6 PM No Evening Service

June 26

9:30 *Infants:* D Nimmer, S Coffey
Creepers/Toddlers: J & M Logterman
Toddlers: A & M Sanders, L Caldwell

11:00 *Infants:* A Wooten, Y Cornell
Creepers: S Close, D Gardner
Toddlers: J & J McNeeley

6 PM No Evening Service

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Amy Creamer at 423.605.2638.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 20

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

June 15, 2011

From the Senior Associate Pastor....

Father's Day is this Sunday, June 19. I really don't know what to give my dad. He doesn't need or probably want another tie, shirt or book. In thinking about Father's Day gift giving, I remembered some passages from the gospels.

In Matthew 7 and Luke 11, Jesus indicates that like our earthly fathers, God longs to give us what is good in response to the asking, seeking, and knocking of prayer. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?" (Luke 11.11,12)

In the face of such a grand promise, what are we to do when we experience the opposite? What do we do when we receive a snake instead of a fish and a scorpion instead of an egg? When a friend's wife files for divorce while he's fought for his marriage? Isn't the "good" thing for the marriage to be restored? Another friend watches helplessly as the paramedics attempt to resuscitate her lifeless child. She had prayed for his life. Wouldn't the "good" thing have been for her baby to live?

All of us have experienced the pain of unanswered prayer. Experiences in which prayers for God's protection, God's healing, or God's intervention have gone unanswered. Most of us have experienced the force of the answer "no" as we have pleaded and prayed for God to say "yes" to our need. We felt Him answer the negative aspect of whatever situation we are facing with a positive outcome.

Given our experience with unanswered

prayer, what is the "good gift" promised by Jesus that the Father longs to give to His children? Matthew and Luke present parallel teachings on this promise of prayer except that what Matthew implies, Luke makes explicit. In Matthew's account Jesus tells His disciples that "your Father in heaven (will) give good gifts to those who ask Him!" In Luke's account, Jesus defines what is good and tells us that God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

How are we to understand the Holy Spirit as God's abundant answer (gift) to our prayers - even those prayers that go unanswered? Well, what God promises to us through the answer of the Holy Spirit is His presence with us in and through all the circumstances of life. The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter, the One who comes alongside of us. The promise of God's presence with us sustains us, even when God says "no" to specific requests. The Holy Spirit is our reassurance in the face of unanswered prayers. The assurance that God indeed listens to us, hears our concerns, and gifts us with His abundant presence.

This "good gift," the Holy Spirit, hovered over the chaotic waters and created the world filled with beauty and blessing. This same "good gift" raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and raises us to newness of life. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the depository of hope that we too can rise from the ashes of the most crushing events and circumstances. In the face of unanswered prayers, God longs to give to each one of us

(Continued on back page)

YOUTH INFORMATION

MS Edge Conference: Youth attending the Edge Conference (June 25-29) must fill out a registration form and a Hiwassee release form. Forms are on the bulletin board outside Chris's office. Turn completed forms in to Chris Gregory.

Youth Yard Sale/Bake Sale: The youth will be sponsoring a HUGE yard sale and bake sale Saturday, July 10 from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. - rain or shine. They would love your old clothes, furniture, books, electronics and anything else you are willing to part with! Donations are accepted the week of July 5-9 and can be dropped off in Schum Fellowship Hall at the church. If any of the church ladies would like to donate to our bake sale, all desserts, breads, muffins, cookies and other goodies are accepted. If you are interested in renting a table for \$20 to sell your own things or have further questions, please contact Reba Gregory.

Coffee Talk: There are no youth group meetings during the summer, but there will be Coffee Talk! Join Chris and Reba at their home for coffee and conversation from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. on these three evenings: June 23, July 21 and August 11. Contact Chris or Reba for more information.

Mission Camp Macon: All adults and youth going to Camp Macon (July 10-16) need to fill out a registration form which is on the bulletin board outside of Chris's office. In addition, all youth need to attach a written/typed copy of their testimony to the registration form. Turn completed forms in to Chris Gregory ASAP.

SWIM DAY

Swim day at the May's pool is each Thursday from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember that you are responsible for the supervision of your children and for clean up.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your retrieval work at our home site after the tornado. It was a wonderful expression of Christian love and service. You did what we were not physically able to do. May He bless you as He has blessed us by your kindness.
Dennis & Sandra Self

ANNIVERSARY/BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Due to limited space in our newsletter for the announcements of an active church, we are now providing the birthday and anniversary calendar as an independent publication, which is at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

BABYSITTING

Free Babysitting for Moms: Each Wednesday through June and July, some of our young ladies are offering free babysitting from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. here at CPC. Space is limited so RESERVATIONS are necessary each week. If you would like to take advantage of this ministry, please contact Diana Bowers at 423-718-0366 by 7 p.m., Monday of each week. Children crib to age 10 are welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD



June 19	Father's Day-No Evening Service
June 20	Samson Society
June 21	Session Meets
June 23	Mission: Chattanooga
June 22	Free Babysitting Services
June 23	Ladies Summer Bible Study
June 23	Youth Coffee Talk
June 24	Ladies Game Night
June 25-29	The Edge Conference
June 26	Shepherding Groups Meet
July 4	July 4th - Office Closed
July 10	Youth HUGE Yard Sale
July 21	Youth Coffee Talk

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members to our CPC family.

Ben & Teri Bracy
749 Black Creek Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37419
h (423) 987-1177 w (423) 326-8000

Ben owns a carpet company in Murray Co. and Teri is the Office Manager at a dental clinic in Dalton. They live in the Black Creek community.

Ellie Bowman

Ellie is the daughter of Jason & Lyndsey Bowman. She is a rising 4th grader at CCS and is 9 years old.

Jeremy & Emily Fitzsimmons
Josh (12), Natalie (11), Autumn (9), Maggie (4), Emma (2) and Zion (1)
3210 Easton Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37415
(423) 260-1891

Jeremy works with Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise and Emily is a stay-at-home mom. They live in the Red Bank area and are expecting a child in September.

Michaela Gregory

Michaela is the daughter of Chris & Reba Gregory. She is a rising 1st grader at CCS and is 6 years old.

Josh & Diana Perrel
6474 Vinings Lane
Ooltewah, TN 37363
h (423) 315-1818 w (423) 580-2421

Josh and Diana have been attending CPC for a little over a year. Josh works at TVA and Diana is a nurse in Dalton. They live in the Ooltewah area.

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Please make these changes in your directory:

E-mail Changes:

Lewis & Anna Reid: l.g.reid@epbf.com
Kyle Mullinax: mullinaxkyle@yahoo.com
Dale Wykoff: dalewykoff@gmail.com
Lucy Wykoff: lucywykoff@gmail.com
Mindy Horton: Horton.melynda@gmail.com

Address Changes:

Jason & Lyndsey Bowman
328 Pitts Road
Hixson, TN 37343

SHOES FOR SOULS MINISTRY

We're collecting shoes to help the Homeless Foot Clinic on 11th St. Please bring used (in good condition) or new shoes, new socks (even diabetic socks/ and summer and/or winter socks) of all sizes, and foot supplies (powder, lotions, emery boards, large nail clippers, etc.) in order to assist the homeless. There are two collection boxes outside Mark Wilson's office. Contact Sherry Baiertl if you have any questions at sherry_baiertl@memorial.org.

LADIES' GAME NIGHT

The Women's Ministry is sponsoring a Ladies' Game Night. Friday, June 24, the ladies will meet in Schum Fellowship Hall from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Please bring snacks to share with others when we get the munchies. Drinks will be provide. Contact Emily Calloway for more information at (423) 432-1743.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all teachers, helpers, parents and staff for making music camp 2011 a success. Pray that God will cultivate and grow the seeds that were planted in the minds of these 180 children. Soli Deo Gloria.

Jeremy Gaines