

## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

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www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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great deal of my day off is spent reading, because that's relaxing for me.

Of course, added into this schedule are various Staff, Sessional, Presbytery and Covenant College Board responsibilities. At times, the demands of Presbytery and the Board can become heavy. But most often, Staff and Sessional responsibilities demand more of my time, energy and attention. We have a scheduled staff meeting on Wednesday mornings. Also during the school year the Session meets on the first and third Wednesday evenings, as well as on the third Sunday evening of each month.

While I cannot pretend to spend hours in concentrated prayer, I can tell you that I spend a good deal of time thinking about you, and as I do, lifting you up before the Lord.

This will give you a rough idea of my week in preparation for preaching and teaching. And then, there's always Cardinal baseball. If you have any further questions about my use of time, please feel free to ask.  
Pastor Caines

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### July 24

**9:30** *Infants:* J Ray, R Pierce  
*Creepers/Toddlers:* M Johnson, T Bacon  
*Toddlers:* K Sotelo, K Gaither, K Fisher

**11:00** *Infants:* D Crawford, J Wilson  
*Creepers:* J Bowers, R Bingham  
*Toddlers:* A & L Cathey

**6 PM** No Evening Service

#### July 31

**9:30** *Infants:* G Brown  
*Creepers/Toddlers:* S & M Haywood  
*Toddlers:* N & O Bowers, C Gaither

**11:00** *Infants:* K Gaither, B Parker  
*Creepers:* S Evans, C & G & H Morrison  
*Toddlers:* A & K Liner

**6 PM** No Evening Service

**Please note:** If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Kay Gaither at (423) 883-1488.



# THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 22

Covenant  
Presbyterian Church

July 20, 2011

#### From the Senior Pastor....

My Uncle Tom once told me that if a pastor didn't tell his people what he did during the week, they'd never know.

So I thought I'd let you know.

A "normal" day for me usually begins with looking at the next portion of Scripture that I'm planning to preach from - except for this morning, I am using the time to compose this article for the newsletter.

Monday is my day off. By Tuesday morning, I will have repeatedly read the portion of Scripture from which I will be preaching or teaching. In doing so, I normally read several chapters prior to and following Sunday's text, to be confident that I understand somewhat the context of the passage we're focusing upon. Though I am not proficient in either language, I have at least looked at the Greek and Hebrew. Also, I'll have read several commentaries and scanned whatever articles I find on the web related to the text or topic.

Then I'll attempt to identify the "focus" for that week's sermon. Almost any text has several foci. So what I'm trying to decide is which of these is most significant for us at this moment in time.

I'm embarrassed to write how many hours I can spend doing all this before I remember to pause and deliberately ask the Lord for help. I believe I am always conscious of a dependence upon the Holy Spirit, but I am not always deliberate about looking to Him for illumination.

Now, it gets tricky. I ask the Lord for illumina-

tion, but I'm not blaming the Lord for the sermons I preach, or presuming to give Him "credit" for the things I say. I hope and pray that He uses me to communicate to you, and through you to others, eternal truths that impact, change and shape your immediate and future experiences. If He does, the Lord be praised; however I'm fully accountable for whatever I say.

I've never heard a Voice. I've never had a vision. I've experienced what I believe to be strong impressions about the direction I should take in handling a passage of Scripture, but I would never dare either to credit or blame the Lord for what I've said or failed to say.

I then begin to write. Usually, I don't begin with an outline. That doesn't seem to work for me. I begin to write, and the outline emerges (by God's grace) from what I write. A typical sermon will be some 2200 words in length. But to arrive at those 2200 words, I will often write anywhere between 3000 and 5000 words. Even then often what I preach on Sunday morning may not reflect precisely what I've written.

The rest of my week can include counseling sessions usually around 11:00 a.m., afternoon visits to the hospitals (when necessary), as well as any other business demanding immediate attention.

I will spend the afternoons at home, reading Scripture, commentaries, theologies, biographers, and both historical novels and books of history. Many times I return to my reading following supper. Linda will also tell you that a

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## YOUTH INFORMATION

**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. to 9 p.m. July 21 and August 11. Contact Chris or Reba for more information.

**Back to School Bash:** Parents, find out what the 2011/2012 youth program has to offer! An informative meeting will be held Sunday, August 14 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. There will be food, fun, games and more. Please don't miss this event!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast Saturday, August 6, at 8:30 a.m. The speaker is Chris Gregory who will be discussing *Fishers of Youth for All Ages of Fishermen*. Join us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion, and prayer.

**Looking Ahead:** On September 17, BB Bell is scheduled to speak on current issues during the 10th anniversary of the 9/11.



## BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for Brandi McBryar, bride-elect of Christian Siler, will be held Sunday, August 21, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Perseverer's Classroom. The couple is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Fischer Evans. Gift cards from IKEA or World Market would also be appreciated since neither of those stores have registries.

## MUSICAL NOTES

**Choir Begins Again:** Looking for a way to minister in the body? Come join the choir on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning August 3. This is a great time to join as we are all starting fresh with new music. No experience is necessary. Fun guaranteed.

**Handbell Ensemble:** CPC's Handbell Ensemble resumes Sunday, August 7 at 4:30 p.m. this is a great opportunity to develop and enhance music skills while having lots of fun. For more information, see Jeremy.

## CHURCH LIBRARY

Looking for something to read? Good books are available in the CPC library located near the Perseverer's Classroom. The library is open on Sundays and during business hours through the week. You may check out any book by following the instructions on the desk.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Aug. 2	WM Council
Aug. 6	Men's Breakfast - Chris Gregory
Aug. 14	Back to School Bash
Aug. 16	Session Meets
Aug. 18	Memorial Hospital Lunch
Aug. 24	First Wed. Night Meal
Aug. 28	Shepherding Groups Meet
Aug. 31	All Wed. Night Activities Resume
Sept. 1	Ladies Bible Study Begins
Sept. 5	Labor Day - Office Closed
Sept. 6	Mother's Encouragement Group
Sept. 6	WM Council
Sept. 7	Session
Sept. 8	Ladies Bible Study
Sept. 11	Deaconate Meeting
Sept. 15	Memorial Hospital Lunch
Sept. 17	Men's Breakfast - B.B. Bell

## CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Please make these changes in your directory:

**E-mail Change:**

Bev Middleton:  
middletonbeverly5@gmail.com

**Address Change:**

Phil & Laura Spotts  
2048 N. 162nd Drive  
Goodyear, AZ 85395  
Phil: (623) 826-8637  
Laura: (423) 488-1150

## SWIM DAY

Swim day at the May's pool is each Thursday from 11 a.m. to 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.

## BABYSITTING

July 27 is the LAST day for free babysitting for moms from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. here at CPC. Space is limited and fills up fast so RESERVATIONS are necessary. 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.

## CPC PRAYER CALENDAR

This devotional/prayer tool has been updated. It covers all CPC members, family concerns, ministries, missionaries, personal growth in grace and the world in a one-month cycle. You may pick up a copy of the *CPC Prayer Calendar* in the lobby.

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

*Mission: Chattanooga* is happening each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. throughout the summer. Everyone is welcome. Each Wednesday projects include: home repair, grounds keeping, visitation, childcare, kids Bible clubs, prayer group and clerical support for a missions organization. If you would like more information, contact Pastor Mullinax.

## PRAYER REQUEST POLICY

The Session would like you to be aware of our policy regarding publishing church-wide prayer requests. Our policy is to send requests only on behalf of the immediate family of church members, longtime attenders and our missionaries.

Therefore, we are not able to include requests for extended family members (cousins, etc.), close friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. When you have such a prayer request for friends or extended family, we recommend that you share it with your shepherding group, Sunday School class and your circle of friends.

Occasionally, we may publish the urgent needs of pastors or other folks within our presbytery.

You may contact the church office if you would like to receive a printed prayer list weekly. These lists are also available in the church lobby each week.

## BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

A nurse is available between worship and Sunday school each Sunday in the receptionist's office to check blood pressure.