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I promise you, as you strive, in His strength, to follow hard after Jesus at home, at work, in school, at play – eventually someone is going to want to know what makes you tick.

Be bold. Tell them. Trust the Lord to give you the words to say. And be confident that no matter how humble your testimony or stumbling your response, God’s truth never returns to Him void. Words of truth will always accomplish what God intends.

I know what it is to stand before 500 people and be uncertain about what to say. But I also know the Lord is faithful, and if you are eager and willing, He will accomplish, in His time, in His way, more than you could ever ask or imagine.

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

September 28

- 9:30** *Infants:* L & A Reid
Creepers/Toddlers: D Misner, S Evans
Toddlers: B & H Lehmann
- SS** *Infants:* J & B Parker
Creepers: E Beatty, J Gracy
Toddlers: H & J Wade
- 6 PM** *No Evening Service:* Shepherding Groups Meet

October 5

- 9:30** *Infants:* J Ray, B Griggs
Creepers/Toddlers: T & M Bacon
Toddlers: E & JM Griggs
- SS** *Infants:* K Lambeth, M Parker
Creepers: C & D Platt
Toddlers: M & S Haywood
- 6 PM** *Combined:* Paid Workers
- Please note:** If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Amy Creamer at 706.965.3005.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, No. 38

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

Sept. 24, 2008

From the Senior Pastor...

I realize that not everyone who receives this newsletter was present for worship Sunday morning. What I’m about to write may not seem relevant to you who weren’t there, because I want to share with you my gratitude for what took place Sunday morning.

Those of you who were there know that I didn’t preach from the outline I had prepared.

As is normally the case, the first draft of my sermon on Luke 14.25-35 was written by Thursday. It was a reflection of much prayerful study and preparation. Friday and Saturday I rewrote it several times. Sunday morning I got up around five and reworked it again. But my soul was not quiet before the Lord.

The sermon didn’t minister to me. And, therefore, I was not at peace about how the Lord could use it to minister to anyone else.

Most weeks I am at least somewhat at peace about what I will preach, but not Sunday morning. My sermon was an acceptable academic rehearsal of Jesus’ teachings, but it was as dry as sand.

So when I approached the pulpit Sunday morning, I set it aside and looked to the Lord to use my study and preparation to give me the message that would honor Him and benefit you.

Throughout the week, that is constantly my prayer. And most weeks I sense the Lord has answered my prayer. But on Sunday I believe that prayer was answered after stepping into the pulpit.

I don’t know how this sounds, but I’ll say it anyway: I was blessed. And many indicated to me that was true for them as well.

Only time will tell if by His grace, God’s truth impacted our hearts, illuminated our minds, and reshaped our wills. If it has, it will be evidenced by our willingness to give up everything we think matters, so He can give us everything that does matter.

I’m telling you all this, because I want you to be encouraged by what the Lord did for me Sunday morning. He’ll do the same for you.

Read. Pray. Study. Take advantage of opportunities to be taught. Meditate upon God’s truth. Ask Him for understanding. Ask Him to equip and empower you with a holy boldness.

And then, by His grace and enablement may others seeing your good deeds be encouraged to ask you why your life and words seem so different from the actions and conversations of others. As you blaze like stars in the night sky, may He provide you with opportunities to hold out to others His word of truth (Philippians 2.15-16).

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road Chattanooga, TN 37421 (423) 899-5377
www.covenantchattanooga.org

Dr. J Render Caines, Senior Pastor
Rev. Eric Mullinax, Associate Pastor
Jeremy Gaines, Director of Music Ministries
Mark Wilson, Director of Christian Ed. & Admin.
Chris Gregory, Director of Youth & Their Families

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

YOUTH & FAMILY

High school & middle school youth will not meet this Sunday.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday, September 28, our worship focuses on our *TRUE* God. Two of the hymns we will sing are *We Come, O Christ, to You* (pg. 181) and *Like a River Glorious* (pg. 699).

If you would like to hear these hymns and use the words in preparation for worship, the website www.cyberhymnal.org may be helpful. The words, a recording and sometimes the history of the hymn and hymn writer can be found there.

PAID WORKER NEEDED

We need a paid worker on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month to help watch the kids for the mothers attending the Mothers Encouragement fellowship at the church. If you are interested, contact Heather Harris at 706-937-2603 or JEH1224@aol.com.

CPC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Please notify us of any address, phone or email changes for the new directory. If you have had ANY changes since the last directory was published, *please* make sure we have those corrections. Thank you. Email awalker@covenantchattanooga.org.

IRONMAN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Ironman's Breakfast Saturday, October 4, at 8:30 AM. The speaker is Will Kesler. Join us for a great time of food, discussion, fellowship and prayer.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- * **Nancy Henry** — Tufts (upper class)
- * **Chris Elwood** — Covenant College (upper class)
- * **Drew Lazor** — UTC (freshman)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Conversational Dinners

If you signed up for the conversational dinners, you should hear from your appointed host soon if you have not already.

If you did not sign up, it is not too late to get involved in this ongoing program. The hostess sets the date and provides the main dish. The guests provide sides, salad and dessert. Contact Boo Mullinax if you have questions or are interested.

IMPORTANT DATES

Special Men's & Women's Services

Sunday, October 5, is the date for the separate men's and women's evening services. Rev. Jim Suddath will speak to the men in the sanctuary. The women will meet in the fellowship hall. Ruth Sisemore will speak.

Reception

A reception for Chris and Reba Gregory will be given Sunday evening, October 12, in Schum Fellowship Hall following the evening service.

Church Picnic

Sunday, October 19, is the date for this year's church picnic at Camp Dixie. No evening service is scheduled.

Combined Service

Sunday, October 26, a combined service of the churches in the Tennessee Valley Presbytery will be held at CPC at 6 PM. Rev. Randy Nabors will bring the message.

HAITI RELIEF CAMPAIGN

If you plan to contribute to the Haiti relief fund ("Combat Clorox Hunger" campaign), please do so by this Sunday, Sept. 28, so those contributions qualify for the matching funds.

DEACONS MEETING

The deacons will meet Sunday, October 12, at 4:30 PM.