

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

(423) 899-5377

www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)

To understand and appreciate the message of Romans 6 in the light of Romans 1-8, and Paul's purpose in Romans 7, is terribly important to being the people whom God declares to be His own.

I've seldom preached from these passages, because I find myself trembling when I read them and mediate upon them. Please pray that I will handle properly God's Word of Truth for your sake, the sake of others, and, most importantly, the sake of the One Who has freed us from sin's curse and power, that we might serve the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

October 4

9:30 *Infants:* S & C Knecht
Creepers/Toddlers: E & R Sizemore
Toddlers: T, M, & A Horton

SS *Infants:* J & C Hildebrand
Creepers: S Close, A Creamer
Toddlers: J & J McNeely

6 PM *Combined:* M & E Rahm

October 11

9:30 *Infants:* J Foster & J Ray
Creepers/Toddlers: M & S Haywood
Toddlers: H & B Lehmann, E Beatty

SS *Infants:* S Nicely, D Crawford
Creepers: M & B Parker
Toddlers: J & H Wade

No Evening Service Church Picnic

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Judy Foster at 423.645.1086.



THE NEWSLETTER

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Covenant
Presbyterian Church

September 30, 2009

From the Senior Pastor . . .

At the end of Romans 5, Paul teaches that while sin reigns in death, the reign of grace brings eternal life. This is the Gospel. The Good News. As Paul writes at the beginning of Romans 8: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

No condemnation. Both now and forevermore. For this freedom from sin's curse and power profoundly impacts, changes, and shapes the lives we live in this present world.

In Romans chapters 6 and 7, Paul discusses at great length the implications of this great salvation that frees us from sin's curse and power.

Paul teaches in Romans 6, that as believers we have died *and* have risen with Christ. Therefore, we are free from sin's curse and power. Where once we were slaves to sin, now we are (willingly) slaves of God. Eagerly we have changed Masters. For we know that the mastery of sin leads to death, while our heavenly Master grants us the free gift of life abundant and eternal.

This is Paul's summary of the Gospel: "For the WAGES of sin is death, but the GIFT of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6.23).

Therefore, having been so blessed by God, we freely and eagerly choose, by God's enabling grace, to live for the glory of our gracious, merciful and loving God. Freely we offer

ourselves to Him. Eagerly we seek to do what is right in His sight.

In Romans 7, Paul remembers his struggles as a Jew with the Mosaic law. He knew it was holy, righteous and good (v 12). But instead of leading him to life, it killed him, because what he wanted was what God denied, and what he resented was what God commanded.

He was like a little child, told by his parent not to play in the puddles and to eat all his vegetables. All he wanted was to go outside and splash in the filth of rebellious behavior. The last thing he wanted was to eat those nasty greens pushed to the side of his plate.

Remembering the horror of those days, Paul cries out in Romans 7.24, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" And then, in the opening sentence of verse 25, Paul answers his own question: "Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Which leads to the opening verse of chapter 8: "Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

The sermons I will preach between now and Thanksgiving will focus upon Romans 6.1-8.17.

As some of you know, there is much discussion about how Romans 6 and 7 fit into the flow of Romans 1 through 8, and great debate about how the 6th and 7th chapters of Romans relate to one another.

(Continued on back page)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday our worship will focus on our **TRUE** God. We will sing *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (p. 1) and *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (p. 521).



BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for Alison Forrester is scheduled for October 18 in the Perseverer's classroom from 3:30-5:30 PM.

YOUTH & FAMILY

October 30-November 1 is the Fall Retreat at Camp Vesper Point for both Middle & High School.

CONVERSATIONAL DINNERS

There will be no conversational dinners for the months of November and December. They will begin again in January. These dinners are a great time of adult conversation without the kids. It's also an excellent way to get to know others at CPC. If you would like to be added to this list or taken off please contact Boo Mullinax.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE



CPC's annual Missions Conference is November 13-15. Some of the missionaries that are attending are Jean Sharpe (Partners in Asian Mission), Lee Leadbetter (RUF International UTK) and Aaron Messner (Covenant College Chaplin).

BABY SHOWER



A baby shower for Sarah Knecht is to be held on October 18 in Schum Fellowship Hall from 4-5:30 PM. Chris and Sarah are expecting a little girl.

CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic is scheduled for October 11th following Sunday AM services. BYOPB (bring your own picnic basket). Beverages, ice cream & desserts will be provided. Join us from 1-5 PM for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Camp Dixie. No evening services that day.

Directions: Camp Dixie is located 21.4 miles from the church. Head north on 153 for 8.2 miles and exit onto Hixson Pike. Go 8.9 miles and turn right on Dallas Place Road. After .1 miles turn right on Old Hixson Pike and go .4 miles and turn left on Schooner Circle and continue on Buffalo Lane and turn left into Camp Dixie.

COMMUNION / DIACONATE OFFERING

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated during the morning worship service this Sunday. Please prepare your hearts.

This is also a time when a special diaconate fund offering is received. The funds supply the financial resources for the ministry of mercy conducted by our deacons, primarily assisting CPC family members who are in need.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLEAN-UP

The following Shepherding groups have clean-up duty for the month of October: Hildebrand, E. Brown, Hobbs, Steere/Gaines, and Walker. Please contact your Shepherding Elder to let him know when you can help.

NURSERY

Volunteers are needed for the nursery for the following dates: October 18- Worship hour, October 25- Worship hour, and November 15- SS hour. Please contact Heather Harris if you are able to help.
