

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

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www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page) immense! I also return home with a renewed appreciation for all the blessings we enjoy here in the US. Like mining gold, equipping church leaders in Africa is an act of faith. We teach and trust God for the results. But occasionally, we see a golden glimmer – an indication of what God is doing in the minds and hearts of those we teach. This past trip was just such a time. The leaders we taught in all three conferences seemed riveted by the truth of God's Word. The teaching flowed freely; their questions were insightful; the impact of the truth was clearly seen. It was a joy to experience! Just as working in that mine would be impossible without the fresh breeze that comes from above, so our ministry depends on the power of the Holy Spirit. He is always at work wherever God's Word is being taught, and during this trip we clearly experienced his presence. I will share more of this when I speak this Sunday.

Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Steere

NURSERY SCHEDULE

October 9

9:30 *Infants:* J Trask, S & R Baierl
Creepers/Toddlers: D & MA & O Tawzer
Toddlers: D & C Platt, D Trask

S.S. *Infants:* D & R Kemp
Creepers: J Gracy, R Bingham
Toddlers: T & Y Owens

6 PM *Combined:* C Wilkie, J Gaines

October 16

9:30 *Infants:* E McEachern, J Foster
Creepers: Toddler: S & M Hayward
Toddlers: N & J & O Bowers

S.S. *Infants:* L Caldwell, J Greer
Creepers: E & E Vatt
Toddlers: A & L Cathey

6 PM *No Evening Service - Church Picnic*

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Heather Harris at 706.891.8754.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 27

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

October 5, 2011

From the Associate Pastor....

The single richest gold mine in the world happens to be in Ghana. The mine in Obuasi illustrates why Ghana once was called the Gold Coast. During this last mission trip I was privileged to visit this mine and tour its underground operations.

In preparation for our descent into the mine our guide gave us bright orange jumpsuits festooned with reflector strips, knee-high rubber boots, and hardhats with carbide miner's lamps. Then disturbingly, we were fitted with an emergency oxygen supply that, should a collapse occur, would keep us alive for an hour. Finally, passing through elaborate security measures, we were loaded into the metal cage for our trip down into the mine itself.

I am mildly claustrophobic, so that dark drop into the very bowels of the earth was somewhat disconcerting for me. Although assured the trip was completely safe, we were warned that the pressure change might bother our ears. When we exited into the tunnel called Level XXII, we were approximately 1/2 mile below ground, but only less than halfway to the bottom of the mine!

The first thing we noticed was the heat. It is rather warm that far down – so warm that the mining operation requires air-conditioning! Even though cool air is constantly forced down from the surface, the temperature where we stood still hovered around 90°. I immediately broke out in a sweat – most of which had to do with the heat – as we followed our guide into the darkness. I learned a lot during the next 2 1/2 hours. I

learned mining is uncomfortable, it can be extremely dangerous, and to keep getting the gold out of the mine is a long and difficult process. I also learned it's important for your rubber boots to fit and it is unimaginably dark when the lights are turned off. I was amazed at the huge amount of equipment down in the mine: vehicles, pipes, generators, elevators, etc. – all of it necessary to keep the gold.

Much to my disappointment, I saw no gold anywhere! We were told that each ton of rock contains from 4 to 60 grams of gold and sometimes it's visible. However, even when studying a sheer wall of gold-rich ore, all I saw was dirty rock. Not quite what I had anticipated. I hope someday to visit the treatment plant and actually see the extracted gold. Until then, I'll just have to take their word for it.

Coming to the end of our tour, we seemingly had walked for miles. Frankly, we were unable to tell either distance or direction underground. Shuffling wearily toward the elevator on Level XXIV, we welcomed the cool breeze blowing down the shaft. As the metal cage transported us back into the delicious sunshine and fresh air, what a sense of release!

In my thoughts, this tour has become a metaphor for my ministry with ELI in Africa. The travel to and from Africa is not particularly pleasant. Mild claustrophobia also finds airplanes confining. The conditions are sometimes hot and uncomfortable, and it's demanding work. But I love the teaching, the rewards are

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CHURCH PICNIC

The church picnic will be October 16 following the Sunday School hour at Camp Dixie. Bring your own picnic, blankets, games and lawn chairs. Drinks, ice, desserts and ice cream will be available throughout the day.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Fall Retreat:

When? October 28-30

Where? Ponderosa Bible Camp
Mentone, Alabama

Who? MS & HS from Hixson PC and CPC

Speaker? Bill Reif

Meet? CPC at 6:30 p.m.

How Much? \$55 due by Oct. 14

Something special? Costume Party!

Bill Reif's messages communicate the power of grace-filled relationships with a depth that comes from his many years of pursuing Christ and teaching teenagers the good news of hope in Him. There will be good food, lots of snacks, a Saturday night costume party and much more. See Chris or Reba for more information.

Rake & Bake Bowl:

Saturday, November 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the youth will be "raking" up leaves for the elderly and "baking" for the needy in our community. Be sure to bring a rake and gloves.

Support One Another!

October 21 at 7:30p.m. CCS will be playing Marion County at CCS. Come and join the fun!

*You are invited to a program
of sacred duets and solos by
soprano Patty Wilson
and
mezzo-soprano Gretchen Hamm Hanks,
accompanied on the piano by
Alayne Griffin
on Tuesday, October 11, 2011
at 7:00 p.m.
at Covenant Presbyterian Church.*

*Some of the composers
represented in the program include:*

J.S. Bach

G. F. Handel

F. Mendelssohn

A. Copland

H. Johnson

REVELATION STUDY

MP3 recordings of the Revelation Study on Sunday Evenings have been uploaded to the website. Please find the information under Studies on the Home page. You may also find supporting handouts and CDs at the Welcome Center.

LOOKING AHEAD

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|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Oct 7-8 | PCA Women's Conference in Atlanta |
| Oct 11 | Patty Wilson Concert |
| Oct 13 | Session |
| Oct 15 | Church Work Day |
| Oct 16 | Church Picnic |
| Oct 18 | Mothers' Encouragement Group |
| Oct 20 | Ladies Bible Study |
| Oct 20 | Memorial Hospital Lunch Ministry |
| Oct 27 | Ladies Bible Study |
| Oct 27 | Clothes Swap |
| Oct 29 | SAWS Brunch |

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Please make these changes in your directory:

Email/Phone Numbers:

Mary Maurer:

marymaurer325@gmail.com

Ken Mealor: ken.mealor@airgas.com

Bev Mealor: bmealor@precept.org

Ken & Bev Mealor: 706.935.2847

New Address:

Thomas & Jennifer Covington

1101 Volunteer Parkway

Suite 5-200

Bristol, TN 37620

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. and is served until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation for adults is \$4, for children ages 5 to 11 is \$2.50, and children under 4 eat for free. The maximum family donation is \$15. The next weeks' entrees are listed below:

Oct. 12 Heidie's Surprise

Oct. 19 Pot Roast

Oct. 19 Pot Roast

The following shepherding groups have clean-up duty for the month of October: Smith, Gaines, Wilkie, and Owens. Please contact your shepherding elder to let him know you can help.

CHURCH WORKDAY

Please join us on Saturday, October 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a church workday. This is a great time of service and fellowship. All ages are welcome. A continental breakfast is provided before work begins that morning.

CALENDARS

The church birthday/anniversary calendar is available at the Welcome Center.

CLOTHING SWAP

It's time to clean out your closets again! Bring items you do not wear, like or that do not fit and swap them for something you can use. There are usually men's, women's, kid's, infant's and maternity clothes with the occasional household item thrown in. Even if you don't have anything to bring, come "shop". It will be Thursday, October 27 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m and Friday, October 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Wade at 706.937.5951.

SAWS BRUNCH

A brunch and small program is provided for single women and widows Saturday, October 29. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Schreiner at 423.838.0548.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL LUNCH

Thursday, October 20 is the day we provide lunch for the surgery room at Memorial Hospital. Please contact the office if you can help provide sandwiches and/or fruit. Thank you.

PRAYING FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENT:

Abby Lyons
Sam Roop
Megan Toombs

Stephen Mason
Meredith Toombs
Josh Adams