

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)

Cardinals, and promptly hit the game winning home run over the center field fence (only the fourth walk off homer in the history of the World Series).

Tom Lowe insists that he watched me die and come back to life three times during the game. Probably so. It was fantastic.

The seventh game would be a cake walk for the Cardinals, who claimed their eleventh world championship in 2011. It would have been great to have been there. But we had witnessed what many are calling the greatest game in World Series history.

It was a gift. A gift from a friend. And, for me, it was a gift from God. Obviously, it was not of any world shaking significance. But for me, the game, the time spent with friends, and a stroll down memory lane were the icing on the cake.

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

November 20

9:30 *Infants:* E McEachern, R Getz
Creepers/Toddlers: B & H Lehmann
Toddlers: A & M Sanders, C Gaither

S.S. *Infants:* A West, S Nicely
Creepers: J Hall, R Bingham
Toddlers: J & L Bowman

6 p.m. *Combined:* Rahm Family

November 27

9:30 *Infants:* K Orthner, G & M Brown
Creepers/Toddlers: J & C & J Armao
Toddlers: S & L & M Orthner

S.S. *Infants:* K & J Bingham
Creepers: E Martin, R Bingham
Toddlers: S Allin, M Jennings

6 p.m. *No Evening Service-Shepherding Groups Meet*

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Cayce Weekley at 423.843.5008.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 30

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

November 16, 2011

From the Senior Pastor....

She was alone. There were no other cars in the church parking lot. Four men in an SUV pulled up alongside her. I don't know what her initial thoughts may have been, but I quickly jumped out of the car, and walked toward her to say hello. Seeing me, she stepped out of her cars and called out, "Render!" (She claims it was the eyes that immediately identified me!)

It's embarrassing to tell you that I got her name wrong. I called her "Betty," but she quickly corrected me: "No, I'm Marilyn." Marilyn has been the organist of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Sparta, Illinois, since I was the pastor back in the 70s. It was just one of many special treats the Lord had for me during a three day trip to St. Louis with three good friends.

Tom Lowe had six tickets to the sixth and seventh games of the World Series. Two of them were for a business associate and his son from Springfield, Illinois. The other three were for Tom May, Mack Lonas, and . . . ME!

As we approached St. Louis we learned that the sixth game was rained out. That was terribly disappointing. I had to be back in Chattanooga by Friday evening so I could fulfill a Presbytery responsibility in Knoxville on Saturday. That meant we wouldn't get to attend the seventh game. All we'd get to see was game six.

Knowing we weren't going to a game that evening, we took a slight detour to drive through Sparta, some fifty miles south of St. Louis. And that's when we just happened to "run into" Marilyn. It was delightful. I got to catch up

on some of my former members, we took the time to take a quick tour of Bethel church, and I got to show off the town of 4300 where my family had lived for seven years, and three of our children (Philip, Gretchen and David) were born.

We then headed on to our motel. The next day Tom showed us some of his business interests in St. Louis, we drove past a few PCA churches, and visited Covenant Seminary.

And then we headed for the ballpark.

I'm an avid baseball fan. I'm a fanatical Cardinal fan. I've never even dreamt of attending a World Series game.

I have to admit I was still feeling disappointed about not getting to attend game seven, but by the seventh inning of game six my disappointments were gone. The Rangers were winning and it didn't seem as if there'd be a game seven.

The Cardinals were trailing four runs to seven. In the bottom of the eighth the Cardinals scratched out a run, to trail five to seven. In the bottom of the ninth, with two out, David Freese, down to his last strike hit a two run triple. In the top of the tenth, Josh Hamilton of the Rangers, one of my favorite non-Cardinal players, hit a two run homer. But in the bottom of the tenth, Ryan Theriot drove in a run, and then Lance Berkman, with two outs and down to his last strike drove in the tying run. The Rangers did not score in the top of the eleventh. David Freese led off the bottom of the eleventh for the

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Mark your calendars for
Cookin' Up Christmas
Sunday, December 11
6:00 p.m.

Come join in as the children bake up some good news to share with their friends and neighbors. Who knows? Maybe a celebrity or two will show up along the way!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

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.

Youth Group:

During the next three months, the Youth Group will only meet November 20, December 4, January 8 and January 15.

BUDGET REPORT

As of Nov 14, 2011

General Budget Giving	\$ 946,083
Budget Requirement	\$1,189,247
Shortfall	(\$ 243,164)

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It is time to order the Offering Envelopes for 2012. Please notify Carol Beatty at cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org if you would like offering envelopes printed for 2012. Please specify weekly, monthly or quarterly use.

PRAYING FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Justin Martin	Will Musto
Micah Schreiner	Daniel Trask
Kevin Cooper	Ellen Gaither

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmastime. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. *Brochures about OCC will be in the bulletin and in the lobby this Sunday.* These include stickers to be placed on the boxes marking age and sex of the child. You can participate several ways:

- **Fill a shoe box** for a specific sex/age child (2-4, 5-9, 10-14). OCC requests the use of Wal-Mart or Dollar store's plastic boxes which are shoe box sized as they are more durable. Also, if you are able to write a note to include in your box, it would be a great blessing to that child as they have been known to prize things like letters and pictures well into adulthood. Collection point is the Ladies Sunday School classroom across from the Coke Machine.
- **Donate items** for shoe boxes and empty shoe boxes. Sample items: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloths, small toys, combs, socks, school supplies, hard candy (no chocolate - it melts), etc.
- **Donate money** - OCC requests \$7 for shipping per box. Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, and put OCC on the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate no later than November 13.
- **Wrap and stuff boxes** on Saturday, November 19, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom. *November 19 is the deadline for boxes and items.*

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed the following days:

Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving
Friday, November 25	Thanksgiving

ADVENT CALENDAR

The Advent Calendars for the children will be available for pick up on Sunday, November 20 and Wednesday, November 23 in the lobby.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and is served until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation is \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11 and children under 4 eat for free. The maximum family donation is \$15. There will be no meal November 23 due to the Thanksgiving Service. The entree for November 30 is Lasagna.

The following shepherding groups have clean-up duty for the month of November: Ernie Brown, Jerry King, Ken Henry, Jeff Gaither. Please contact your shepherding elder to let him know you can help.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sign up now for the Ladies' Christmas Dinner! This year's theme is "Coming Together to Seek Christ" as the wisemen who saw His star and came together to worship Him. The dinner will be Thursday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. Seating and hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 (\$4 for 12 and under). A nursery will be available for those pre-registered. The deadline for all payments/registrations is November 30.

SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Arise, Shine!
Sunday, December 18
6:00 p.m.

Come join choir and orchestra as together we celebrate the Light of the world coming to a people in darkness. Invite friends and family to this highlight of the Christmas season.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nov 19	Youth Rake & Bake
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Praise Service
Nov 24-25	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 27	Shepherding Groups Meet
Nov 30	Wed. Night Activities Resume
Dec 1	Ladies Bible Study
Dec 3	Men's Breakfast
Dec 4	Lord's Supper Celebrated
Dec 6	Mothers Encouragement Group
Dec 6	WM Council
Dec 7	Session Meets
Dec 8	Ladies Bible Study
Dec 8	WM Christmas Dinner
Dec 11	Children Christmas Program
Dec 14	Covenant Corp Party
Dec 15	Ladies Bible Study
Dec 15	Memorial Hospital Lunch
Dec 18	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program
Dec 20	Mothers Encouragement Group
Dec 21	Caroling & Desserts
Dec 21	Session Meets

THANKSGIVING POUNDING

It's time again for our annual collection of nonperishable food items to share with those in need. Please bring your donations of canned goods and staples and place them in the box outside Mark Wilson's office by November 19. Monetary donations are always welcome and are needed to purchase perishable items (turkey, ham, etc.) on the day of delivery. If you know someone in need, or if you yourself could use a hand this year, please contact the church office or an elder. As a church body, we are abundantly blessed. 2 Corinthians 9:12 "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." May God lead us to share generously and cheerfully according to the abundance with which He has blessed us.