

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
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www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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providence and purposes, even when we can't see the end from the beginning. Only by such faith can we live content whatever our circumstance, free from wanting what we don't have, and free from fearing the future.

The title of this week's sermon will be "Freedom" (at least, so I think at this moment). Our text will be Romans 7.14-8.4. I would suggest, in preparation for this week's worship, and as a great preparation for Thanksgiving, that you read and then reread Romans chapters four through eight.

"Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit,
till the work on earth is done."

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

November 22

9:30 *Infants:* D & G Schreiner
Creepers/Toddlers: C, G & K Smith
Toddlers: K & D Lambeth, D Gardner

SS *Infants:* K & R Swanson
Creepers: L & E Brown
Toddlers: A Wagner, E Martin

6 PM *Combined:* Elwood Family

November 29

9:30 *Infants:* K & S Orthner
Creepers/Toddlers: M Collison, A Wooten
Toddlers: B & J Pearce, L Orthner

SS *Infants:* J Wilson, S Nicely
Creepers: E & E Vatt
Toddlers: B King, P Plücker

No Evening Service *Shepherding Groups Meet*

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Laura Spotts at 423.892.6475.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 45

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

November 18, 2009

From the Senior Pastor . . .

Next week we celebrate Thanksgiving. This week, I want to thank everyone who worked diligently to organize and oversee this year's Mission's Conference.

I thought the format worked well. From the presentations Friday evening, the prayer time Saturday morning, the sermons by Chaplain Messner, the reports given in various Sunday School classes, and hearing briefly from Sam Oppong Sunday evening — I found it all instructive, challenging and honoring to our Lord.

I was particularly impacted by Chaplain Messner's sermons. Sunday morning, preaching from Philippians 1.12-18, Rev. Messner reminded us that following Paul's example we are to be passionate about the advance of the Gospel (1) to lands far away, (2) to those near at hand, and (3) within those who believe. This passion should be ready to pay whatever the cost in comfort, freedom or reputation. As Paul says in Philippians 1.18, "The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached."

Sunday evening, Chaplain Messner examined all of Philippians in the light of chapter one, verses three through eight. God calls his people into a fellowship with one shared purpose — to know Christ and to make Him known. Therefore we are (1) to pray for one another, (2) to be there for one another, and (3) to provide for one another in whatever way possible.

And at this season of the year, I also want to thank the Lord for blessing me and my family with the gift of freedom.

In March of 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the American people in his first inaugural address that the only thing they had to fear, was fear itself.

In January, 1941, faced with the rise of tyrannical powers in both Europe and the far East, President Roosevelt spoke to a joint session of congress about his longing for a world "founded upon four essential human freedoms."

- Freedom of speech.
- Freedom of religion.
- Freedom from want.
- Freedom from fear.

I am grateful to live in a country where the freedoms of speech and religion are still protected. I am grateful to live in a land in which neither I nor my family have ever wanted for anything. *I didn't say we haven't ever wanted anything. I said, we've never wanted for anything.* There's a world of difference between those two statements.

I'm also grateful for the opportunity for me and my family to live lives free of fear. But such freedom is not the gift of human government. It is the gift from God to His people. Because of His grace, mercy and love, we are delivered from sin's curse and power. Therefore we are supernaturally enabled to rest with confidence in God's

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MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday our worship will focus on our **GOOD** God. We will sing *Now Thank We All Our God* (p. 98 TH) and *We Gather Together* (p. 363 TH).

YOUTH & FAMILY

Points to Ponder

- Service Project: November 21, 9AM—1 PM. The girls will be restocking the mercy ministry freezer while the guys serve our widows by doing yard work. Guys, please bring gloves, rakes and other equipment.
- Turkey Bowl II (Youth vs. Adults Flag Football) is on November 28 from 10:30 AM—12:30 PM.

HELP NEEDED

Nursery volunteers are needed for the Thanksgiving service on November 25 and for the WM Christmas Dinner (guys only) on December 10 from 6-9 PM. See Heather Harris if you are able to help.

EVERGREEN

The WM Christmas Dinner is Thursday, December 10. Cost is \$8 for ladies and \$4 for young ladies. Deadline to register is November 29. Our ministry focus this year is the Sage Center (formerly A+). We will be collecting money for the Sage Center to put towards the purchase of an ultrasound machine.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLEAN-UP

The following Shepherding groups have clean-up duty for the month of November: J. Gaither, K. Brown and Grant. Please contact your Shepherding Elder to let him know when you can help.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This year's Sanctuary Choir Christmas concert, *When Love Came Down*, will be presented Sunday, December 6, at 6 PM.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting following the morning worship service to vote on elders, deacons, and trustees.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

This wonderful evening of praise, singing and testimonials will take place in the Schum Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM. Don't miss this corporate time of declaring the goodness of our gracious God.

GRATEFUL GOBBLER

The 10th annual 5K walk/run/stroll is on Thanksgiving Day at 8:30 AM, beginning at Coolidge Park and benefitting the Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition. For more information and to register go to www.gratefulgobbler.org.

HAITI

Calling all short-term missionaries! A 9-day spring trip, March 10-19, is planned for the impoverished island of Haiti. We're looking to fill a 12 person team. The only prerequisite is a heart to serve. See Pastor Mullinax for a fact sheet.

FOREVER 39ERS

Join us for a evening of fine food, rich fellowship and edifying entertainment on Friday evening, December 4. Dinner (optional) is at 5:15 PM at The Epicurean in East Ridge. Concert with Ernie Haase & Signature Sound (as seen in Bill Gaither's Homecoming concerts and videos) begins at 7:30 PM at Highland Park Baptist Church. Concert tickets are \$16 (group rate). Registration is a must. See Pastor Mullinax for information sheet.

BUDGET REPORT

As we approach the end of the year, we are \$260,442 short of making budget. At this same time last year we needed \$233,263 to make budget – and by God's grace, we did. With six weeks remaining in 2009 we need to average \$40,407 a week if we are to finish the year in the black.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

The church office will be closed on November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving. Because of the office being closed there will be no newsletter next week.