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“The Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is the God of all the earth. . . . Therefore, enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtain wide, do not hold back; lengthen your stakes. . . . For in the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths . . . in the light of the Lord.’ ” (Readings from Isa 9, 53, 54, 2).
Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

December 21

- 9:30** *Infants:* E McEachern, L Rogers
Creepers/Toddlers: E & K Gaither
Toddlers: L Rogers, S Evans
- SS** *Infants:* S Nicely, D Lazor
Creepers: D & E Reynolds
Toddlers: W & J Kesler
- 6 PM** *Combined:* Paid Workers

December 28

- 9:30** *Infants:* E Herberich, J Trask
Creepers/Toddlers: D & J Bowers
Toddlers: J & D Herberich, D Trask
- SS** *Infants:* D Crawford, K Swanson
Creepers: T & Y Owens
Toddlers: M & L Lander, J Gracy
- 6 PM** *No Evening Service*

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



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, No. 49

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

Dec. 17, 2008

From the Senior Pastor . .

This is the final Newsletter before 2009. Therefore Linda and I would like to take this opportunity to ask the Lord to bless you with a wonderful Christmas season and another year of service to Him and to those to whom you are called to labor in His Name.

With two weeks left in the year, we keep receiving here at the church office requests from various worthy agencies asking for financial help. That’s understandable in today’s financial climate. CPC itself needs \$132,000 over the next two weeks to make budget for 2008. In our twenty years we’ve never failed to make budget. But in our twenty years, we’ve never experienced a year like 2008.

As you’ve heard me say many times before, I am not a prophet nor the son of a prophet — but I know who we are and Whose we are — and we will wait upon the Lord — eager to see what He will do in and through you, His people, to make His glory known, to provide for His ministry, to expand the borders of His Kingdom. As we wait upon Him, we will carry out faithfully the tasks He has given us to serve as beacons of light to those who live in darkness, gloom and distress.

This has been a year of transition. A number of our families have moved away to other locations. Others have left for various reasons. At the same time, God has given us many new members and families.

During 2008, CPC has experienced changes in its staff. Zack and Tennyson have followed the Lord’s leading to a new work. Chris and Reba have become a vital part of our ministry.

During this past year, He has chosen to use wonderfully the ministry of many of you to impact greatly the lives of others. You have served in various ways the people of our community. And some of you have been privileged to carry the good news of His Gospel, by your words and deeds, to people and communities of lands far removed from our shores.

What will the new year bring? As I have said, I am not a prophet nor the son of a prophet. But I will, along with many of you, put my shoulder to the plow, and wait to see how the Lord will bless us in the year ahead with encouragements and challenges.

I want to end the final Newsletter of 2008 with the words of Isaiah:

“For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. . . . He will be pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brings us peace will be upon Him, and by His wounds we will be healed. . . . And after the suffering of His soul, He will see the light of life and be satisfied.

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

YOUTH & FAMILY

Middle School Christmas Party is this Friday, Dec. 19 from 6 - 9:30 PM at the church.

Senior High Progressive Dinner is this Saturday, Dec. 20, from 5-9:30 PM. Meet at the church and bring a \$5 white elephant gift.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday, December 21, our worship focuses on our *PRESENT* God. Two of the hymns we will sing are *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (pg. 203) and *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* (pg. 207).

IRONMAN'S RETREAT

Men of CPC, mark your calendars for Jan. 23 & 24. Ken Henry & Dee Hobbs will lead our men's retreat, "No Man Left Behind," that weekend. Info sheets are in the lobby, or check with Will Kesler or Jason Coffey for details.

CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save those Christmas card stamps. Deposit them in the "mailbox" by Pastor Mullinax's office. These "used" stamps are processed and resold with all proceeds going to finance Sunday school curriculum for churches in Latin America.

CONVERSATIONAL DINNERS

If you signed up for the dinners and they are not what you expected, let Boo know and she will remove you from the list. Also let Boo know if you would like to participate. Please remember these dinners are for adults only and are scheduled every other month. You will be asked to take a turn at being a hostess as we are all trying to move around and meet different people in different settings. Contact Boo soon at 855.8851 before the Jan/Feb dinner groups are arranged.



OFFICE MEMOS



We will not publish the *Newsletter* the weeks of December 22 and 29.

Any year-end contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than Dec. 31 to be counted as tax-deductible for 2008.

If you do not wish to use offering envelopes for your contributions in 2009, notify Linda Brown by Dec. 18 at lbrown@covenantchattanooga.org.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- Adult Christmas Choir Concert is the 21st at 6 PM.
- The Candlelight Lessons & Carols service is Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM.
- No evening service on the 28th.
- No Wednesday night dinner or activities on the 31st.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

Pick up your copy in the lobby. They are labeled with each member family name.

COMMUNICANTS CLASS

This class for young people in preparation for making a public profession of faith by meeting with the Session, joining the church, and being admitted to the Lord's Table begins Saturday, January 10, at 10 AM. The course work, which is primarily self-study under parental guidance, is suitable for about age 10 and up. Contact Pastor Mullinax for more information.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

The deacons and elders will be installed during the Sunday evening service on January 4.

Women's Ministry officers will also be installed that evening.

BIBLE READING PROGRAMS

The new year is always a good time to begin a planned read-thru-the-Bible program. A very popular and time-proven aid is available in the lobby. Free.
