

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

423.899.5377
www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)
We have needs for a greater working of the Spirit in our midst; for growth in our love for one another (...becoming that undeniable apologetic to a watching world [John 13.35]); and for the building of a greater sense of community. And we need to grow in the grace of giving: the giving of our time, our talents and our treasures.

The one thing, in reviewing this past year, that should leap forward in our thinking and should be constant on our lips is Jehovah Jireh! The Lord our Provider. For He indeed has been faithful at every turn and in every way.

And should the Lord tarry and we be given more opportunities to live and labor together in the days ahead, may they be times of great hope and expectancy. May we continue to be united in our calling of advancing Christ's kingdom in lives, hearts and minds here and around the world.

Pastor Mullinax

NURSERY SCHEDULE

December 13

- 9:30** *Infants:* J, K, & R Bingham
Creepers/Toddlers: T & D Holland
Toddlers: H, C & Jenny Armao
- SS** *Infants:* Y Cornell & D Gaines
Creepers: D & E Reynolds
Toddlers: Y & T Owens
- 6 PM** *Combined:* Paid Nursery Workers

December 20

- 9:30** *Infants:* E McEachern & J Trask
Creepers/Toddlers: E & R Sisemore
Toddlers: W & J Kesler, D Trask
- SS** *Infants:* A Millard & C Weekley
Creepers: A Creamer & S Evans
Toddlers: M & L Lander

No Evening Service *Shepherding Groups Meet*

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Gretchen Brown at 706.891.5968.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22, No. 47

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

December 9, 2009

From the Senior Associate Pastor. . .

Trying to remember all that God has done this past year in our lives as individuals and a church family can be a little tricky, because I'll recall and forget things that you may not. For those errors of omission, I am sorry.

In this past year there were anxious and confident times; sorrowful and rejoicing times; painful and refreshing times. To quote Solomon (and not the Turtles and their popular 60's hit) to *everything...there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...Eccl. 3.1-8.*

We've rejoiced at births and welcomed covenant sons and daughters: Blake, Aaron, Kasi, Caleb, Mayah, David, Faith, Sydney, Arianna, Abby...with a few more due by Christmas!

We've celebrated at the marriages of the Swan sisters, Sarah & Rebecca, Kristin Gardner, Donna Thurman, Shirley Jones, Tabitha Higgins, Laura Spalding, Allison Forrester and a blushing 81 year old bride, Suni Choi.

God brought 62 new folks to CPC, adding them to our rolls and quickly endearing them to our hearts. We've seen many graduate. Some have entered into military service. In these things we've rejoiced.

By God's enabling grace we've been encouraged by ministry expansion across the board. We've given more to missions in 2009 than ever before. We've seen exemplary lives modeled in our midst. We've seen members exercise gifts in countless ways to the glory of God and the good of others, from musical skills to manual labor,

from the publishing of books to the provision of funds, from nursery duty to nouthetic counseling. We've heard faith strengthening reports from our missionaries and mission teams. We've been the beneficiaries of godly leadership and capable teachers. We've enjoyed rich times of corporate worship. We've witnessed God's physical healing in many. We've seen saints maturing and sinners converted.

Our lives have become intertwined in Christian fellowship. We've played, prayed and praised together. And we've eaten and eaten and eaten until we have almost perfected it!

Neither, we nor our lives are perfect. We've known death, disease and sadness. We've been disappointed. We've disappointed one another. We've sinned against God and toward one another. We've fallen short of God's glorious standard.

We've experienced the heartache of separation as we've said goodbye to Irene, Waymon Gaither, Sally's mom (Jill), Jeannie's brother (Gerald), Gordon & June's son-in-law (Coleman), Joanna's sis (Pam), Danny's mom (Lilian) and Sandy's mom (Doris). Other dear ones have moved away the Kriegs, Gritters, Davises, Kitts, Gordon Mellencamp and Toombs.

We've been saddened by pathology reports. We've known pain and surgeries. We've grieved at the fracturing of families. Some of us have gone through dark valleys and have struggled to chart our way through murky waters.

(Continued on back page)

NO SUNDAY MUSIC MINISTRY Sunday Worship

This Sunday our worship will focus on our *HOLY* God. We will sing *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come* (p. 195 TH).

YOUTH & FAMILY Points to Ponder

- Youth clean up and gift wrap every Wednesday this month.
- The Junior High Christmas Party is Friday, December 11, from 6-8 PM at the Armao home.
- The Senior High Progressive Dinner is Friday, December 18, from 6-10 PM. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:45 PM. Be sure to bring a White Elephant gift (\$5 or less).

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

This year's Children's Choir will present *Christmas Hang-ups* this Sunday, December 13, at 6 PM.

BUDGET REPORT

As we approach the end of the year, we are \$187,863 short of making budget. With three weeks remaining in 2009, we need to average \$62,621 a week if we are to finish the year in the black.

HELP WANTED!

- A helper and a teacher are needed for a combined 1st & 2nd grade Covenant Corp class beginning in January. Contact Mark Wilson if interested.
- Volunteers are needed in the nursery for the Christmas Eve service. Contact Heather Harris if you are willing to help.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

All the men who were on the ballot this past Sunday were elected or re-elected to the offices of deacon, elder or board of directors. Congratulations to those who have agreed to serve and have been elected. Please pray for them in their respective tasks.

BURUNDI & RWANDA CHRISTMAS

A large group of folks from these nations will be gathering at East Ridge Presbyterian from December 24-27. ERPC is accepting any food donations to assist in making this Christmas a memorable one.

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.



OFFICE MEMOS

We will not publish *The Newsletter* the weeks of December 23 and 30.

Any end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31 to be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2009.

If you do not wish to use offering envelopes for your contributions in 2010, please notify Linda Brown in the church office by December 17 at lbrown@covenantchattanooga.org.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- The Candlelight Lessons & Carols service is Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM.
- Shepherding Groups will meet on the 20th.
- No Sunday Evening Services December 20th & 27th.
- No Wednesday night dinner or activities on the 23rd & 30th.



PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- * Drew Lazor — UTC
- * Bethany Miller — FSU
- * Will Musto — Montreat

For Your Information...

MEN'S MINISTRY

Please note that the Men's Breakfast is December 12 at 8:30 AM. General B.B. Bell will be speaking on "My Journey across the Big River."

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLEAN-UP

The youth of CPC are responsible for clean up after Wednesday night meals for the month of December. Please let Chris or Reba know when you can help.

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.

Also if you have old cell phones no longer in use, you may drop them in the "mailbox" and these will be donated to Sage Center.

POUNDING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who was able to help with food donations for our annual Thanksgiving pounding. Through our pounding this year, we ministered to 14 families in our church and community.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The session will meet with anyone desiring membership this Sunday afternoon, December 13. Call the church office (899.5377) to schedule a time.

MISPLACED BIBLES

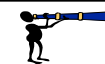
If you have lost your Bible, check the bottom shelf of the Book case next to the Coke machine. We have a large number of unclaimed Bibles.

SERMONS ON THE WEB

If you would like access recent sermons in .mp3 format, use the following web address: www.covenantchattanooga.org/sermons.aspx.

WORSHIP THROUGH DANCE

An Original Story Ballet based on the family Advent Devotional written by Zack Carden, *The King in the Corner*, will be presented on December 15 at 7:00pm. Doors open for seating at 6:30. Suggested Donation: \$3



LOOKING AHEAD AT CPC

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Dec. 10 | WM Christmas Dinner | Dec. 27 | No Evening Service |
| Dec. 12 | Monthly Men's Breakfast | Dec. 31-Jan. 1 | New Year's - Office Closed |
| Dec. 13 | Children's Choirs Christmas Program | Jan. 2 | Monthly Men's Breakfast |
| Dec. 13 | Diaconate Meeting | Jan. 22-24 | Youth Winter Retreat |
| Dec. 16 | Session Meeting | Jan. 29-30 | Men's Retreat |
| Dec. 20 | Shepherding Groups | March 6 | WM Spring Seminar |
| Dec. 24 | Lessons & Carols | Apr. 1 | Seder Dinner at The Colonnade |
| Dec. 24-25 | Christmas - Office Closed | Apr. 17 | Mercy Ministry Seminar |