

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)

Ezekiel was promised the coming of a shepherd-king. Daniel was told of the coming anointed one. Zechariah was promised the coming of a gentle king riding upon a donkey. Malachi was told of an Elijah-like prophet who would prepare the way for the Lord.

And two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, the town of David, Jesus was born. That night, prior to their visit to the stable, some shepherds keeping watch over their flocks were visited by angels who spoke to them words of peace and encouragement: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that is for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born; he is Christ the Lord! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to all on whom his favor rests."

Pastor Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

December 18

- 9:30 a.m.** *Infants:* E McEachern, T Bacon
Creepers: J & R Ray,
Toddlers: M & J Schleger, B Pearce
- S.S.** *Infants:* A Wooten, D Gaines
Creepers: S Close, A Creamer
Toddlers: J & J McNeely
- 6:00 p.m.** Adult Choir Christmas Program
Nursery Available

December 25

- 9:30 a.m.** *Infants:* E Herberich, B King
Creepers: D, O & MA Tawzer
Toddlers: T, M, & A Horton
- S.S.** No Sunday School - Christmas Day
- 6:00 p.m.** No PM Service - Christmas Day

Please note: If you are unable to find a replacement for your nursery duty, call Allison Millard at 423.296.3097.



THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 24, No. 32

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2011

From the Senior Pastor....

The Caesar needed money. To be sure of taxing all who inhabited the Empire, he ordered everyone to return to their ancestors' hometown to partake in a census. This demanded a long, arduous journey for many.

For one engaged couple, it was particularly burdensome. The young maiden was more than eight months pregnant. At least their trip south allowed her to escape prying eyes and wagging tongues. They were blue-collar workers from the backwaters of Nazareth in Galilee. Their destination was the village of Bethlehem, the birthplace of David, for they were both descendants of Israel's former king.

Upon arriving in Bethlehem they found no rooms available, so they took shelter in a barn. That night Mary delivered her firstborn, a son, whom they named Jesus.

Later that night, as morning approached, they were visited by shepherds. Many days or weeks later they would also be visited by magi from the East bearing lavish gifts for the boy.

Thirty years later Mary's son would walk throughout Galilee and Judea proclaiming the kingdom of God to be at hand. Some would find his teachings heretical and plot against him. After three years of ministry, Jesus was arrested, tried, condemned and crucified.

On the third day following his death and burial, he rose bodily from the dead. He met and spoke to his followers. He wanted them to understand that he wasn't a ghost, but flesh and bone. He showed them his hands and feet. He ate with them. He also demonstrated from the Scriptures that he was the promised one. In response, his followers worshiped him.

To them Jesus gave the responsibility and

privilege of going into all the world to proclaim the good news that he was the long-promised King. By grace through faith all who believed this gospel message, embracing Jesus as Creator, Savior and Lord, experienced the forgiveness of sins, were adopted into his royal family, and were declared citizens of his eternal kingdom.

Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, reign and promised return were the culmination of biblical promises extending all the way back to the beginning of time.

In the garden of Eden, following Adam and Eve's initial rebellion, God promised that one day a woman would give birth to a son, whom the evil one would attack, but who in turn would crush beneath his feet the evil one's head.

God promised Abraham that through his descendants all the families of the earth would be blessed.

To Judah, one of Jacob's twelve sons, was given the promise that from his tribe would come the one to whom all the nations would render obedience.

With King David, God made a covenant, promising his greater son would rule over a kingdom and upon a throne that would endure forever.

The prophet Isaiah was told this child's name would be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah was also told that this child, born of a virgin, would be the Lord's servant and would suffer horribly for the sake of his people. He would be pierced for their transgressions and crushed for their iniquities. Yet he would once more see the light of life.

(Continued on back page)

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

HS Ugly Christmas Sweater Progressive Party

The HS Christmas Party is Friday, December 16 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. All high school youth meet at the church at 5:45 p.m. and travel to various homes for an evening of food and fun. Remember to bring your worst Christmas sweater.

MS "Merry Christmas Charlie Brown!"

The MS youth will meet at the church Saturday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. and have an evening of adventure with a Charlie Brown-themed scavenger hunt around town. We will end at Matt & Amy Wooten's house for snacks, hot chocolate & roasted marshmallows and finish up by 8:00 p.m.

Winter Ski Retreat 2012

The Retreat is January 20-22., in Sugar Mt., NC for all youth and their parents. The cost is \$150. Registration and payment deadline is Sunday, January 8. Contact Chris Gregory for more information.

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.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The Session will meet with anyone desiring membership Sunday, December 18. Call the church office (899.5377) to schedule a time.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast At 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 7. Join us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion, and prayer.

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.



DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 21 at 5:30 p.m.
Caroling & Dessert

Saturday, December 24th at 5:30 p.m.
Candlelight Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 25
No Sunday School
No Evening Service

Sunday, January 1
No Evening Service

December 28, January 4
No Wednesday night dinner or activities

The Church Office is closed:

Friday, December 23 12:00 p.m.
Monday, December 26
Friday, December 30 12:00 p.m.
Monday, January 2

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.

THANK YOU

God always ministers to us through the Body of Christ the Church. I have been greatly humbled by the outpouring of God's love through many who have expressed concern, sent cards and prayed for me during my recent heart problems. Please accept my sincere thanks.
Huston Wade

Dear Precious Church Family,
Thank you all so much for the cards, calls, visits, meals, and prayers after my foot/ankle surgery. I feel so blessed and so loved by you all and, through you, by our wonderful Father. I will be non-weight-bearing until after Christmas so appreciate your continued prayers for God's merciful healing. May God bless you "every one!"
Judy Foster

END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31st to be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2011.

BUDGET REPORT

Gifts needed to meet December budget	\$276,128
Actual gifts given in December	\$ 64,917
Gifts still needed to meet December budget	\$211,211

LOOKING AHEAD



Dec 16	HS Christmas Party
Dec 17	MS Christmas Party
Dec 18	4th Sunday of Advent
Dec 18	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Program
Dec 20	No Mothers Encouragement Group
Dec 20	Youth Activity – Community Kitchen
Dec 21	Caroling & Desserts
Dec 23	Office Closes at Noon
Dec 24	Lesson & Carols
Dec 25	Christmas Day - AM Service Only
Dec 26	Office Closed
Dec 28	No Wed. night activities
Dec. 30	Office Closes at Noon
Jan 1	New Year's Day - No PM Service
Jan 2	Office Closed
Jan 7	Men's Breakfast
Jan 8	Baby Shower for Danielle Wilkie
Jan 8	Officer Installation
Jan. 11	Wednesday Night Activities Resume

CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER UTC GRADUATES



Sherry Baierl
Bachelors of Science in Nursing

Brient Hobbs
Masters of Business Administration

Charles Wykoff
Masters of Business Administration