

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8451 East Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

423.899.5377
www.covenantchattanooga.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(Continued from front page)
us the opportunity and privilege to serve you in
His Name. We love you.

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This coming Sunday we will look, one last time during Advent, at the prophecy of Jeremiah. We'll be in chapters 32-33. We'll consider quickly the strange story of Jeremiah 32, look for a moment at the end of Jeremiah 52, and then focus particularly on Jeremiah 33:15-16.

Christmas is about a righteous Branch that sprouted from the stump of Jesse, from David's line, to save us that we might live in safety. His name? "The LORD our Righteousness."

This precious Branch is, indeed, the reason for the season.

Paster Caines

NURSERY SCHEDULE

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*

December 27

9:30 *Infants:* J Ray & R Pierce
Creepers/Toddlers: Kate & E Gaither
Toddlers: H & B Lehmann, E Beatty

SS *Infants:* T Higgins & D Gaines
Creepers: S Close
Toddlers: H & J Wade

No Evening Service

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. 48

Covenant
Presbyterian Church

December 16, 2009

From the Senior Pastor.

How do you thank everyone who has diligently prepared, the last few months, to lead us in the celebration of our Savior's birth?

First, let's give thanks to the Lord for blessing us with individuals that have great abilities and hearts eager to honor Him and lead us in worship. They are, in truth, God's gift to us.

Jeremy, Alayne, Melissa and Mindy have shouldered the greatest responsibilities for the past two Sunday nights. In addition, there are many others who also deserve our gratitude.

- The members of our choir and the musicians who joined us the first Sunday evening in December.
- The parents and teens who worked with our children throughout the fall to prepare for the program this past Sunday evening.
- And our dear children.

I say to all of you on behalf of the congregation: "Thank you, and may God bless you for your diligent and faithful service."

I also want to thank our secretarial staff who prepared the programs to assist us in following the adult choir's cantata and the children's pageant.

I'm confident there are others that I should mention, so forgive me if I have temporarily overlooked your contribution.

Of course, what is of greatest significance is the reason for all these special times of worship each December. . . .

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It still boggles my mind to try to comprehend the idea that it is a fact of human history that somewhere between 6 and 4 BC, God became a man. Born of a virgin, He grew to become a man. And then, having no sin became sin for us. At Calvary He died to pay the penalty for our transgressions. On the third day He rose victorious over sin, death and the grave so that, by grace through faith, we might be delivered from sin's curse and power.

Often you'll hear someone say, "He is the reason for the season." And that's true.

But always remember, it is also true that "You are the reason for the season." If by grace through faith He is your Savior, Lord and King, it was for you that He came, lived, died and rose again. For He has loved you since before the foundations of the world were set into place.

Think about that.

Talk about an idea nearly impossible to comprehend! But, as my friend and fellow pastor Bob Drake often says, "That's why we call it good news."

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This will be the final newsletter prior to 2010. Linda and I extend to you our prayers for a wonderful Christmas and a blessed new year. Please know (and believe): You are God's gift to us. We are amazed by His goodness in allowing

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NO SUNDAY MUSIC MINISTRY

Sunday Worship

This Sunday our worship will focus on our **FAITHFUL** God. We will sing *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (p. 203 TH).

YOUTH & FAMILY

Points to Ponder

- Last Wednesday for Youth clean up and gift wrap. Let Chris know when you will help.
- 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).
- January 22-24, our youth along with the youth from East Ridge Presbyterian Church will travel to Banner Elk, NC for the Winter Retreat. Cost: TBD.

OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!

- If you are able to serve in the nursery during our Christmas Eve service, please contact Heather Harris at 706-891-8754 or je-h1224@aol.com.
- A helper and a teacher are needed for a combined 1st & 2nd grade Covenant Corp class beginning in January. Contact Mark Wilson if interested.

BUDGET REPORT

With two weeks remaining in 2009, we need \$157,410 to make the budget. This time last year, we needed \$149,011.

ITEMS NEEDED

Burundi & Rwanda Christmas

Non-food: Air Mattresses, pillows, and sleeping bags. Suggested food contributions: Large bags of potatoes, onions and white rice, any type of uncooked beef or chicken, jugs of vegetable oil and cans of diced tomatoes. For other information regarding this event call 423.867.7295 or email jrcaines@gmail.com.

OLD GEEZERS HOOP LEAGUE

From January-March, come join the league every Thursday 7-9 PM at East Ridge Presbyterian Church. If you have questions, contact Pastor Mullinax.

DECEMBER/JANUARY 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 20 & 27.
- No Wednesday night dinner or activities on the 23rd & 30th.
- The Ordination & Installation service will be Sunday Evening January 3.
- Men's Breakfast will be held Saturday morning, January 9.

OFFICE MEMOS



We will not publish *The Newsletter* the weeks of December 23 and 30. The offices will be closed December 24, 25, 31 & January 1.

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Listed below are the names of those who joined CPC this month. Add their names and addresses to your membership directory. Check out their snapshots on the New Member Bulletin Board outside the Visitors Classroom. Help make these new folks feel welcome at CPC!

Scott & Lisa Morris, Emily, Amy & Anderson*
346 Old Country Road
Ringgold, GA 30736
706.935.4056

Scott is Maurice Bandy's nephew. In the summer he & his family moved here from Atlanta.