



The eNewsletter

March 8, 2012

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church 8451 East Brainerd Rd. Chattanooga, TN 37421
www.covenantchattanooga.org

Looking Ahead...

March 16-17

Women's Retreat

April 5

Passover Seder Service

April 7

Missions B-fast & Egg Hunt

April 8

Easter Service (no SS)

Nursery Schedule

March 11

Worship

Infants

Joyce Trask & Sally Forrester

Creepers

Josh & Renee Ray

Toddlers

Michael & Jennifer Schleger

Floater

Daniel Trask

Sunday School

Infants

Brenda King & Bev Parker

Creepers

Susan Close & Reese Bingham

Toddlers

Jason & Jennifer McNeely

P.M.

Eddie Rahm Family

From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

In an attempt to save money while maintaining weekly contact, we've decided to use the electronic media. The Newsletter will also be mailed to those who don't have access to a computer.

Many have encouraged us to do this. Our slowness in making this change is my responsibility. It probably says something about my age and lack of comfort with modern forms of communication.

But ... here we go.

I've spent a lot of time these last few months serving on the Presidential Search Committee of Covenant College. After ten years as President of CC, President Nielson will be stepping down June 30 to work with the Maclellan Foundation in starting up Christian schools throughout the world.

The Search Committee's nominee for CC's new president will be placed before the Trustees in mid-March. With their approval, the appointment will be announced during chapel on Friday, March 16.

Four centuries ago, Harvard University was looking for a new president. They offered the position to a Czech educator named John Amos Comenius. He turned them down. In the March 2012 issue of *Christianity Today*, Keith Negley (Baylor University) comments that Dr. Comenius believed that education's main objective was to teach students to be wise. His motto may well have been James 3.13: "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom."

Scripture teaches that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov 9.10). No longer fearing God, the objective of education for our secular colleges and universities has become providing students with technical expertise in their particular discipline.

For example, *New York Times* columnist David Brooks writes that Princeton University does not go "to great lengths to

build character." A dean of PU is quoted as saying, "We've taken the decision that these are adults and this is not our job.... there's a pretty self-conscious attempt not to instill character."

That's understandable. Secular universities no longer recognize a unifying core of knowledge. They have, in truth, become "multi-versities." They have no sure foundation from which to provide students with moral wisdom for life, which is tragic.

Dr. Negley comments that in his interviews with students he found their main concern is how to make decisions in areas of their lives other than their expertise. Dr. Negley writes: "Students are interested in acquiring wisdom relevant to life."

CC, a liberal arts institution, believes that all wisdom is God's wisdom. Students are instructed in the various philosophies and ideas of this age and ages past. Their students are well prepared to excel in their area of expertise (medicine, law, business, education, ministry, etc.). But in all things, Covenant's faculty strives to demonstrate to their students that Christ is preeminent over all, for in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col 1.18; 2.3). The goal of CC is to graduate students who are wise in their understanding of both the world and God's eternal, unchanging truths.

My Lord, my family, my people and CC have been the great passions of my life (and of course, the St. Louis Cardinals!). The Session has granted me great liberty over the past twenty-seven years to serve CC as a trustee, as adjunct faculty, and as a member of two search committees.

I encourage you who are thinking about college, to consider prayerfully CC. The good fruit of its faithful efforts are found throughout our congregation. Thank you for the privilege of serving you by serving the college of our denomination.

Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

CPR/AED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

We will offer hands-on training in CPR and the use of our church's AED on Saturday, March 31 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration forms are available in the Welcome Center. For questions, contact Polly Henry at pollyhenry@gmail.com.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new Sunday School class for young married couples has started. It is led by Greg Duble and Jason Coffey. The class is meeting on the second floor of the Office Wing, in the classroom at the end of the hall, Room O-207.

TIME CHANGE

Remember to set your clocks forward by one hour before going to bed this Saturday evening.

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

The Women's Spring Retreat is March 16 - 18 at Oak Haven Resort in Sevierville, TN. The guest speaker is Pauline McLemore, a counselor at CBI Counseling Center; she is speaking on "Becoming Godly Women through Faithful Change."

BABY SHOWER

A "money basket baby shower" is being given for Ruth (Caines) and Gary Isaacs. The basket is available on the Women's Ministry table only between Worship and Sunday School Sunday, March 11. For many long-distance and international reasons, only monetary gifts are being collected. Please place your gift in a sealed envelope with your name and email or mailing address on the envelope. Make checks out to Ruth Caines Isaacs. If you have questions, please contact Gretchen Brown, Michelle Brown or Christine Morrison.

SEDER SERVICE

Thursday evening, April 5, we will gather as the family of God to eat a meal. We will celebrate a Seder (Sa-der) service, commemorating the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. This was the meal eaten together by Jewish families the first night of Passover. This wasn't a meal they ate simply because they were hungry. They ate this meal to remember the blood by which they had been saved and safely delivered out of the land of slavery. Likewise, we will gather not simply because we are hungry -- though we do anticipate a delicious meal -- but because of the blood of the Lamb of God shed for us.

In I Corinthians 5.7 Paul tells us that "Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." What we will do Thursday evening, April 5, is a reminder of how important it is for us to recall what took place in Egypt, the significance of the events of that night, how they anticipated events that would occur at Calvary, and the great salvation that is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It will be a family meal. Our focus will be on remembering what God has done. Hopefully God will use our time of celebration to encourage us in our faith and "to spur (us) . . . toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10.24).

Again, this year, the Colonnade in Ringgold will be the venue for this service. Registration is required. You may register by using the sign-up sheet in the church lobby, by emailing cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org or calling 899.5377.