



# The eNewsletter

March 15, 2012

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church 8451 East Brainerd Rd. Chattanooga, TN 37421  
[www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## Looking Ahead...

- March 16-18**  
Women's Retreat
- March 20**  
Mother's Encouragement
- March 22**  
Ladies Bible Study
- March 24**  
Nimmer Bridal Shower
- March 25**  
Shepherding Groups Meet
- March 29**  
Ladies Bible Study
- March 31**  
CPR/AED Training
- April 1**  
Henry Bridal Shower  
Peterson Baby Shower
- April 3**  
Mother's Encouragement  
WM Council
- April 5**  
Passover Seder Service
- April 6**  
Church Office Closed
- April 7**  
Missions B-fast & Egg Hunt  
Baker Bridal Shower
- April 8**  
Easter Service (no SS)
- April 14**  
Men's Breakfast

## From the Pen of the Director of Music Ministry...

Isaac Watts' hymn, *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*, has had a lasting impact upon the Church throughout the ages. Reflecting upon the preciousness of Christ and our unworthiness to receive His ultimate sacrifice, Watts paints a picture that helps give a deeper understanding of grace.

*Alas! and did my Savior bleed  
And did my Sovereign die!  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I!*

*Was it for crimes that I have done  
He groaned upon the tree!  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!*

*Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
And shut His glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died  
For man the creature's sin.*

*Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears;  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt mine eyes in tears.*

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away,  
'Tis all that I can do.*

Beginning with the first stanza, Watts wonders at the mystery of Christ dying for such a worm as he. To understand how precious grace is, one must understand how much it is needed by them. When that is understood, the question then becomes one of why God in all of His fullness and perfection would make such a sacrifice on behalf of someone like us.

The need for Christ's suffering and death is explored in the second stanza: *Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned upon the Tree?* Christ died to pay the penalty for real sin. He died for the sins that you and I have done and will do, not an imagined ethereal sin that sits out there in an abyss and gets no one dirty. We were and are the reason for the groanings upon the tree. *Love beyond degree* is an appropriate exclamation for this realization of grace in action.

Our response to our understanding of grace is an important one. We cannot ever do anything to earn one ounce of the grace that the Lord has shown us. Yet our response to that grace should compel us to live our lives for Him. This is what Watts conveys in his final stanza: *But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe; here, Lord, I give myself away, tis all that I can do.*

As we prepare ourselves for the reflection upon the arrest, trial, suffering, crucifixion and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as the celebration of His Resurrection, let us not lose sight of the cost of grace and the need of grace in our lives.

We have several services and activities over the next few weeks that will help us highlight and ruminate upon God's grace to His people. This year we are having our Seder Service on Thursday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Colonnade in Ringgold. In 2010 we also had the Seder Service at the Colonnade with 400 attending. This service is a great time of food and fellowship that shows God's redemptive plan of salvation and His dealing with His people with grace and mercy from the beginning of time through the symbolism of the traditional Jewish seder meal. The meal is free and we encourage you to bring friends and family. Register soon, however since we are optimistic that we will reach the maximum number of 450 participants. You can register by signing up in the lobby or by emailing the church at [cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcoffice@covenantchattanooga.org).

Our Easter Service is the highlight of the year for our church. This year we will highlight the events leading to and following the crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ through Peter's eyes. Many celebratory songs will be offered to the Lord, and the Gospel will be clearly presented.

On Easter Sunday be even more welcoming to the visitors; this may be the first time they have heard the Gospel. Pray that God will give them the same realization he gave Isaac Watts of what grace truly is. Pray that He will give us the unction to give *ourselves* away to Him in all we do.

*Jeremy*



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule

March 18

*Worship*

#### *Infants*

Esther McEachern  
& Eva Herberich

#### *Creepers*

Denys, Olivia & Michael  
Ann Tawzer

#### *Toddlers*

Gerald & Donna Schreiner

#### *Floater*

John Pearce

*Sunday School*

#### *Infants*

Amy Wooten & Domekia  
Gaines

#### *Creepers*

Christine, Heather, Grace  
Morrison & Anna Byrd

#### *Toddlers*

Becky Fingerle & Becky  
Pearce

*P.M.*

Clint Wilkie & Boo

Mullinax

### 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 and are due by March 21. For questions, contact Polly Henry at pollyhenry@gmail.com.

### MOTHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

This Tuesday, March 20, the Mother's Encouragement Group meets in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join this group for a time of learning, sharing and growing as mothers.

### UGANDA TRIP

A small group of our members head to Uganda on Friday, March 16. Please pray for Chris Gregory, Frank May, Bev Fowler and Kelsey Fowler as they travel and serve the people of Uganda.

### BRIDAL BRUNCH SHOWER

A Bridal Brunch Shower for Dani Nimmer, bride-elect of Dwight Sell, is Saturday, March 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the home of Christine Morrison, 7319 Kenmoor Lane, 37421. Dani and Dwight are registered at Belk and Bed, Bath and Beyond. Since a gift registry is not available at IKEA, gift cards from IKEA would be greatly appreciated as well.

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

A Bible Study on Galatians begins Wednesday, March 21. See Bev Mealor with questions.

### BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT FOR MISSIONS

Our annual breakfast and egg hunt is Saturday, April 7. This event raises money for the youth summer mission trip. A full breakfast is served from 8:30 until 9:45 a.m. A story explaining the reason we celebrate Easter will begin at 9:45 a.m. followed by the egg hunt for children, ages 2 through the fifth grade. Bring a basket only, the eggs are provided.

### EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 8, our Easter Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. will be an extended time of worship and celebration of our Lord's resurrection. There will be no Sunday School or Evening Service.

### PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Remember our college students as you pray. Here are a few of the many we have:

Daniel Trask	UTC
Kevin Cooper	Full Sail University
Ellen Gaither	GCSU
Jamie Martof	Berry College

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulation to Josh and Diana Perrel on the birth of their son, Samuel Levi Perrel, on Tuesday, March 13.

### 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 [cpcfice@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:cpcfice@covenantchattanooga.org) or calling 899.5377.