



The eNewsletter

March 22, 2012

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

Looking Ahead...

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 4

Sanctuary Choir Practice Only

April 5

No Ladies Bible Study
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 12

Ladies Bible Study

April 13

Youth Provide Free
Babysitting

April 14

Men's Breakfast

April 15

Georgevich/Mason
Bridal Shower

From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

I ran 400 and 800 meter relays (though we called them the "440" and "880").

I clearly remember how nervous I felt as my teammate approached and prepared to pass the baton to me. I also remember how proud I was to represent my high school, and once handed the baton, how much I enjoyed running hard to try to win the five points awarded to the school finishing first.

If the baton is dropped while being passed from one runner to the next, that relay team is immediately disqualified. I've been in races where that happened. I've seen it happen. It's happened to my team.

As I shared Sunday morning, the newly elected president of Covenant College (who must yet be approved by the General Assembly), Dr Derek Halvorson, is forty years old.

Some would think that terribly young for a college president. It's not. History has been made and shaped primarily by individuals in their late twenties, or thirties, or early forties.

When CPC began in 1988 many of its leaders were in their mid thirties to mid forties. Now, some twenty four years later, the average age of those serving on the Session is over fifty.

At CC the torch is being passed to a younger administration and faculty. And now it is time to begin to identify those to whom the torch can be passed here at CPC.

I have our new pictorial directory before me. What I see as I turn the pages, is a wonderful mix of ages. I see lots of men and women who need to be prepared and challenged to assume positions of leader-

ship on the Session, Diaconate, and Women's Ministry Council.

In truth, the Women's Ministry and Diaconate is doing better at passing the baton than is the Session.

There are at least two problems.

One, the Session has not sought to identify those to whom the baton should be passed.

But two, few are reaching out their hand, eager for the baton to be passed to them so they can begin to run as leaders of God's church.

This is what Paul writes in 1 Tim 3.1: "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desire a noble task."

The word "overseer" is one of many used to describe the office of elder. Paul anticipates that there will be those who aspire for this office. For culturally reasons, we seem to think it improper for someone to speak up and say, "I feel called to be a ruling elder."

Of course, when I was a young man, everyone thought it good and proper for me to testify that I felt called to be a preacher, that is a teaching elder.

This is the bottom line. If you have any inkling of an idea that the Lord might be calling you to serve as a ruling elder, please tell me or tell your shepherding elder.

We need to know. Your church needs to know. We're to run hard until the Lord returns, and when that will be no one knows. So how much longer the race will be, no one can say. Therefore, we need to identify the next runners in this race to whom the baton can be passed.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

March 25

Worship

Infants

Lewis & Anna Reid

Creepers

Tammy Bacon
& Cayce Weekly

Toddlers

Tracy & Michael Horton

Floater

Abby Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

Creepers

Edyne & Emily Vatt

Toddlers

Adam & Leanna Cathey

P.M.

No Evening Service:
Shepherding Groups Meet

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

A Bible Study on Galatians began Wednesday, March 21. It is not too late to join this study, 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.

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.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to Babs Leach on the loss of her mother.

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:

Bethany Griffin	Vanderbilt
John Mark Griggs	Covenant College
Adam Roop	Dalton State
Emily Elwood	Lee University

EASTER LILLIES

If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter while honoring or remembering a friend or loved one, you may order an Easter lily. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center and need to be turned in to Carol by March 25. You may pick up your lily following the Easter service.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The STS Foundation is currently seeking families to host international students (15 – 18) who are planning on attending HS in Chattanooga and North Georgia. If you are interested in hosting a teen, please contact Thelma Fountain at 706-937-2311 or email: maidenapple2000@yahoo.com.

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 cpcof-fice@covenantchattanooga.org or calling 899.5377.