



The eNewsletter

June 28, 2012

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

From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

July 1

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Chambers/Spalding
Bridal Shower
Crawford/Johnson
Wedding Shower
No Evening Service

July 2

HS Youth Leave for RYM

July 3

WM Summer Bible Studies

July 4

Office Closed for
Independence Day
No Evening Activities

July 5

Swim Day

July 6

HS Youth Return from RYM

July 7

Men's Breakfast

July 8

Mission Committee Meeting
Deacons Meeting
Youth Leave for Mission:
Camp Macon
No Evening Activities

July 10

WM Summer Bible Studies

July 11

Mission: Chattanooga

July 12

Swim Day

July 14

Youth Return from Mission:
Camp Macon

July 15

Donahue/Whittier
Bridal Shower
Handbell Ensemble
Instrumental Ensemble
No Evening Activities

July 17

WM Summer Bible Studies
Session Meeting

July 18

Mission: Chattanooga

July 19

Memorial Hospital Lunch
Swim day

July 20

Chicks 'n Chocolate

On June 2, I spoke to the men about *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* - describing what I learned about my parenting from conversations with my sons.

I've shared with you *The Ugly* and *The Bad*. Now, with gratitude to a gracious and merciful God, let me share with you what my sons found good about my fathering.

They never doubted my love for the Lord, their mother, our family, the people we served, or each of them individually.

I often verbally expressed my love for my children, for you, for our family, for Linda and for the Lord. There were lots of hugs and kisses. Perhaps, most importantly, I was there for them.

They heard (from others) about my first sermon at ERPC, when I told the congregation that they would be third on my list of priorities, for my Lord would be first, and my family second.

As our family grew, Linda and I gave quantity of time to our children. I read (and reread) to them Catherine Vos' *Children's Bible*, as well as C. S. Lewis, and other works of fictions. Our daily conversations followed the pattern of Deuteronomy 6.4-9. I spent a great deal of time playing with them (which is why God gives us our children while we're still young), as well as being there when they participated in various athletic events.

Whenever I had the opportunity, I let them know how proud I was of them. They tell me this added to their sense of being loved and valued.

I also disciplined them when needed. The style of discipline we followed was almost always immediate and of short duration. We almost never used *time outs*. When they were disobedient, they were spanked and then hugged until they stopped crying.

As they grew older they were *invited* to the bedroom, where I asked them a series of question before administering discipline. "Why am I going to discipline you?" "Do you love me (or your mother, or your

brother or sister)?" "Then why would you do what you know displeases us?" "Do you love the Lord?" "Then why would you do what you know displeases Him?"

Following discipline, I would hug them, tell them I loved them, pray with them, have them pray and assure them that they were forgiven, and then move on. That event was over and finished. It was not relived. It was not rehashed. It no longer hung over their head (or ours).

I can't remember the moment, but as they reached double figures in age, physical punishment lessened and then ceased. By the time they were fifteen or so, the only *rule* they were asked to follow was *common courtesy*. Just as Linda and I would, when they left the house they told us where they were going, who they would be with, and when they would be home. If their return home was delayed, they called to tell us.

Of course there were times when things were not good. We never compromised, but we also never deserted them. We stood beside them during the good times and the not so good, expressing to them either our pride or disappointment, but never giving them any reason to think we loved them any less.

Most importantly, there were occasions when I gathered the family around the kitchen table to confess how I had wronged them, to ask their forgiveness, and to pray together. I tried (not always successfully) to be honest with them, and in return, I believe they were usually honest and open with me.

There you have it. *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*. I've shared these things for your encouragement. This is one father's story. It's not always a good story, but by God's grace and mercy, it's my story, according to my grown sons' conversations with their Daddy.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

July 1

Worship

Infants

Sherry & Rachel Baierl
& Emily Calloway

Creepers

Josh & Terri Akovenko

Toddlers

Tracy & Michael Horton

Floater

Abby Horton

Sunday School

Infants

Jim & Connie Hildebrand

Creepers

Rachel Ely & Julia Gracy

Toddlers

Patty, Alexis & Kristen Liner

P.M.

Summer Schedule
No Evening Service

July Coordinator:

Kay Gaither

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for Rebecca Chambers, bride-elect of Stephen Spalding, is this Sunday, July 1 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Rebecca is registered at Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

WEDDING SHOWER

A wedding shower for Ronnie and Diana (Crawford) Johnson is this Sunday, July 1 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. In lieu of gifts, a money tree will be set up to help the new couple with recent expenses from Ronnie's illness.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed in the nursery the following Sundays, please notify Heather Harris if you are available.

July 15: Infant room during Sunday School
July 22: Toddler room during Sunday School

SWIM DAY

Swim day at the May's pool continues throughout the summer on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember that you are responsible for the supervision of your children and for clean up.

MISPLACED BIBLES

If you have misplaced your Bible, check the bookcase next to the Coke machine. We have a large number of unclaimed Bibles. Any Bibles left will be donated soon.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

A nurse is available between the Worship Service and Sunday School each Sunday to check blood pressures in the office next to Pastor Mullinax's office.

DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation to the Andrew Smith fund, please designate it on the memo line of the check or on the outside of an envelope. These funds are tax deductible.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast Saturday, July 7 at 8:30 a.m. Dee and Brient Hobbs will be this month's speakers. Plan on joining us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion and prayer.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please keep us informed of any address, phone or email changes. You may either call or email the church office with the changes.

PRAYER REQUEST POLICY

The Session would like you to be aware of our policy regarding publishing church-wide prayer requests. Our policy is to send requests only on behalf of the immediate family of church members, longtime attenders and our missionaries.

Therefore, we are not able to include requests for extended family members (cousins, etc.), close friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. When you have such a prayer request for friends or extended family, we recommend that you share it with your shepherding group, Sunday School class and your circle of friends.

Occasionally, we may publish the urgent needs of pastors or other folks within our presbytery.

You may contact the church office if you would like to receive a printed prayer list weekly. These lists are also available in the church lobby each week.

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

Mission: Chattanooga takes place every Wednesday night during the summer from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate. Weekly projects include Amani Ya Juu (building renovation), visitation, crafts & sewing, cooking, prayer group, stamp ministry and letter writing to our missionaries. For more information, contact Eric Mullinax.

SOLES FOR SOULS CAMPAIGN

We are collecting shoes to help the Homeless Health Foot Clinic in Chattanooga. Please bring used (in good condition) or new gym shoes, sandals, or any kind of shoe that fit young and old. Foot supplies such as socks, bleach, foot powder, triple antibiotic ointment, Band-Aids, nail files, and bottles of shampoo are also being collected. You may also make donations to purchase these items. There are two collection boxes outside Mark Wilson's office. Contact Sherry Baierl if you have any questions at 423-580-4376.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Starting Sunday, July 1 there will be no evening activities for the summer months. All regular Sunday evening activities will resume September 9. There will be a special meeting August 19 for reports regarding Mission Trips taken this summer.

CPC PRAYER CALENDAR

This devotional/prayer tool covers all CPC members, family concerns, ministries, missionaries, personal growth in grace and the world in a one-month cycle. You may pick up a copy of the *CPC Prayer Calendar* in the lobby.