



The eNewsletter

August 9, 2012

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

From the Pen of the Director of Music Ministries...

Looking Ahead...

- August 11**
Men's Breakfast
- August 12**
Mission Committee Meeting
Garner/Ray Bridal Shower
Handbell Ensemble
Instrumental Ensemble
Youth-Parent Kick Off
- August 14**
WM Summer Bible Study
(Mandi Johnson)
- August 15**
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- August 16**
Memorial Hospital Lunch
Swim Day
- August 17**
Chicks 'n Chocolate
- August 19**
Gardner/Walden
Bridal Shower
Handbell Ensemble
Instrumental Ensemble
Membership Sunday
Evening Service:
Mission Trip Reports
- August 21**
Session Meeting
- August 22**
Wednesday Night Supper
Resumes-Supper Only
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- August 23**
Last Swim Day
- August 26**
Joe & Linda Barnes
50th Wedding Reception
Shepherding Groups Meet
- August 29**
Wednesday Night Supper
All Wednesday Night
Activities Resume
- August 30**
Ladies Bible Study
- September 2**
Lord's Supper Celebrated
- September 3**
Labor Day
Church Office Closed
- September 4**
Mother's Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting
- September 5**
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

Watching the Olympics has been a pleasant diversion for me this year until the high and holy days of college football take over my idle thoughts this fall. Some of the things I have seen athletes accomplish over the past fortnight have been amazing. I watched men's high bar the other day-I swore this gentleman from the Netherlands was actually going to lose his arms. Usain Bolt is crazy-fast! I have also seen four years worth of work seemingly for nothing due to silly false starts, the drop of a weight or baton, or the trip of a hurdle. Through it all, I feel I have been next to them for the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

But I haven't been beside them. I haven't even been in the same time continuum as most of it. The networks of NBC have decided to show us the Games of the Thirtieth Olympiad on tape delay. This means that Usain Bolt is seven or eight hours faster than anyone ever thought he was! He can complete his race, take a victory lap, get a shower, have a nice dinner, go to bed and get a full night's rest before he even starts the race! Amazing, yet true. So, for me, the most important advancement of these Olympic games has been time travel. It was possible on Wednesday for Alison Felix, 200 meter sprinter for the USA, to run her gold medal race, get on a plane from London to Chattanooga and ruin the result of her race for me in person before it airs on NBC.

But I digress...

Swimming has been very fun to watch as well. I know we have several Covenant children who participate regularly in swim meets. I wonder how many of them have watched these Olympic relays in wonder with the thought in their mind that this one day could be them. To pretend to be Michael Phelps racing down the lap pool has to have been the dream that put a couple of these kids to sleep recently.

Sadly, we all do not have the speed in the pool of Phelps, or the flexibility, bal-

ance or skill of the Fab Five in gymnastics, or the ability to jump seven feet in the air over a bar as some can. We can, however, emulate almost every one of these acts that are celebrated on this world stage. Almost all at some age were able to run. I can even envision our Andrew Smith someday running again in a Paralympic competition. All of us have attempted to swim...or at least float. We have all jumped so as to touch the clouds in the sky. Basketball, volleyball, rowing and even badminton are events that at some point in our lives we either have participated or have had the ability to participate.

I am in awe when I see these ladies and gentlemen excel at these athletic events. It reminds me of what the writer of Hebrews (Pastor Caines knows who wrote it, but won't tell me) tells us as believers about running our race. Hebrews 12.1-2 *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* The cloud of witnesses referenced is of much greater significance than Michael Phelps, Usain Bolt or Alison Felix. Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, John, Peter, Paul...the list goes on and on. These saints accomplished more for the faith than we could ever imagine accomplishing. It is easy to feel insignificant in the comparison.

But...

We are called to run the race set before us, keeping our eyes on the Prize. In our being faithful to run the race, it's as if our race has been "tape-delayed" for thousands of years, because *spoiler alert* the race has already been won. Be faithful and run!

~Jeremy Gaines



What's Happening?

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Nursery Schedule

August 5

Worship

Infants

Joyce Trask & Sandy Coffey

Creepers

Joey & Michelle Logterman

Toddlers

David & Kate Lambeth

Floater

Avery Gaines

Sunday School

Infants

Russ & Bev Roop

Creepers

Susan Close

& Eunice Martin

Toddlers

Grant & Lauren Caldwell

P.M.

Summer Schedule

No Evening Service

August Coordinator:

Peg May

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for Leah Garner, bride-elect of Kendall Ray is this Sunday, August 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Leah is registered at Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

A bridal shower for Lindsey Gardner (daughter of John and Debby Gardner), bride-elect of Andrew Walden is being given Sunday, August 19 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Lindsey is registered at Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

TENNESSEE VALLEY PRESWIC 2012 FALL RETREAT

This year's retreat is in Fall Creek Falls, TN with Tara Barthel of *Peacemaker Ministries* speaking on *Fear Not: Finding God's Comfort for my Fearful Soul*. The conference opens at 4:00 p.m. CDT Friday, October 12 with dinner from 5:00 p.m. CDT to 6:30 p.m. CDT. The first session begins at 6:30 p.m. CDT and the closing session will end at 3:00 p.m. CDT on Saturday, October 13. Please register by August 10, any registration received after that date will be placed on a waiting list. Registration forms can be found on the WM table in the lobby. For more information contact Mandi Johnson or Leanna Cathey.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast Saturday, August 11 at 8:30 a.m. Tom Lowe is speaking this month on *Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice*, his experience with daughters. Plan on joining us for a great time of fellowship, food, discussion and prayer.

YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

All Middle School and High School parents and students are invited to the *Back to School Bash!* Come find out the plans for the youth this year. The *Back to School Bash* is Sunday, August 12 from 6:00 p.m. with food, games, inflatables and more. See Chris Gregory for more information.

CHICKS 'N CHOCOLATE

This month CPC women are invited to a game night at the church Friday, August 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Bring your favorite snack and have a fun filled evening! Please RSVP to Mandi Johnson or Leanna Cathey.

CHATTANOOGA AREA FOOD BANK

Our church is participating in a food drive for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. This organization provides food for over 20,000 people every week. Our Mercy Committee works with this ministry regularly. There are barrels located outside Mark Wilson's office for your donation of all types of non-perishable items.

SOLES FOR SOULS CAMPAIGN

We are collecting shoes to help the Homeless Health Foot Clinic in Chattanooga through the end of August. 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 liquid 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.

SWIM DAY

Swim day at the Mays' pool will end on August 23. Please enjoy the last few Thursdays at the pool 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.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

There are no Sunday evening activities during the summer months. All regular Sunday evening activities will resume September 9. There is a special meeting August 19 for reports regarding mission trips taken this summer.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The Session will meet with anyone desiring church membership on Sunday afternoon, August 19. Call the church office to schedule a time.

HELPERS NEEDED

The Children's Ministry needs a couple of helpers, not teachers, this fall. Kids, Inc. meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Covenant Corp Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you are available to help on either night, please contact Holly Lehmann or Mark Wilson.