



# The eNewsletter

November 15, 2012

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
423.899.5377 [www.covenantchattanooga.org](http://www.covenantchattanooga.org)

## *From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...*

### **Looking Ahead...**

#### **November 16**

HS Mother/Daughter Retreat  
Talent/No Talent Show

#### **November 17**

Operation Christmas Child  
Shoe Box Packing  
Thanksgiving Pounding  
Donations Due

#### **November 18**

Arp Baby Shower  
Handbell Ensemble  
Instrumental Ensemble  
Evening Bible Study  
Kids, Inc.

#### **November 21**

Thanksgiving Service

#### **November 22**

Church Office Closed

#### **November 23**

Church Office Closed

#### **November 25**

Shepherding Groups Meet

#### **November 28**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities

#### **November 29**

Ladies Bible Study

#### **December 1**

Men's Breakfast

#### **December 2**

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Congregational Meeting  
Handbell Ensemble  
Instrumental Ensemble  
Evening Bible Study  
Kids, Inc.  
Youth Meeting

#### **December 4**

Mothers' Encouragement  
Group

#### **December 5**

Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities  
HS Youth Gift Wrapping  
MS Youth Caroling  
Session Meeting

#### **December 6**

Ladies Bible Study

#### **December 7**

WM Christmas Dinner

#### **December 8**

MS Youth Christmas Party

Parents teach, govern and serve their families.

At times, we look to others for advice, direction, or help. At other times, we are the ones advising, directing, or helping.

Scripture teaches that God gives to members of His Body (the church) "manifestations of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12.7). These "manifestations of the Spirit" are "spiritual gifts." Spiritual gifts are how God works in and through one's "natural" abilities to accomplish "supernatural" results.

I can pray aloud. So can most of you. But many of us will testify that when Pastor Mullinax prays aloud, our hearts are often stirred so that we sense a Holy Presence in a special way.

Likewise, Paul tells us in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, that God gives to some the spiritual gifts of teaching, of leading and of serving.

The Tennessee Valley Presbytery has recognized that your pastors have been particularly called and equipped by the Lord to serve you as teaching elders.

As a congregation, you have acknowledged those whom you believe to have been particularly called and equipped by God to serve as ruling elders. Likewise, you have acknowledged those whom you believe have been particularly called and equipped by God to serve as deacons.

To serve as teaching elders, ruling elders and deacons is a magnificent privilege and a great responsibility. Your teaching elders serve full time and are compensated for their labors. Your ruling elders and deacons put in

long hours in addition to their "regular" jobs.

Once ordained a teaching elder, a ruling elder or a deacon, a man remains in that office until he is honorably retired, voluntarily steps down or is removed by formal censure.

The Session is asking that at the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 2 to approve returning to the wording used in our constitution prior to 2003. This reversion will mean that ruling elders and deacons will not need to be "reappointed" to an active status by the vote of the congregation.

Now clearly, ruling elders and deacons will continue to need a year of sabbatical. The rotation of elders and deacons will be determined by the Session and Diaconate.

Such a reversion puts us more in line with the *Book of Church Order* and most importantly, I believe, with the spirit of Scripture.

The main difference will be that once elected an elder or deacon, a man remains a member of the Session or Diaconate until he honorably retires, voluntarily steps down from office or is removed by formal censure.

Furthermore, as I noted in this past week's bulletin insert, the Session believes this reversion will provide greater stability in the fulfillment of their shepherding responsibilities.

~Pastor Caines

I have also been asked by RE Tom Lowe, to inform you that as of the end of October, giving to the general fund is 16.9% (\$187,500) behind budget. At this time last year we were 16.7% (\$181,800) behind budget.



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule

November 18

#### Worship

##### Infants

Amy Wooten  
& Esther McEachern

##### Creepers

Brian & Holly Lehmann

##### Toddlers

Tracy & Michael Horton

##### Floater

Abby Horton

### Sunday School

##### Infants

Lynda Brown  
& Sandra Nicely

##### Creepers

Anna Byrd & Christine,  
Heather & Grace Morrison

##### Toddlers

Mike & Brenda Mason

#### P.M.

##### Combined

Clint Wilkie & Avery Gaines

##### November Coordinator:

Boo Mullinax

### BABY SHOWER

A baby shower for Meredith Arp is Sunday, November 18, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Meredith is registered at Babies R Us and Target.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collects shoe boxes filled with small gifts to deliver to needy children around the world at Christmas time. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus. Included are stickers to be placed on the boxes marking age and sex of the child. You can participate several ways:

- \* **Fill a shoe box** for a specific sex/age child (2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14). OCC requests the use of Walmart or dollar store plastic boxes which are shoe box sized as they are more durable. If you are able to write a note to include in your box, it would be a great blessing to that child as they have been known to prize things like letters and pictures well into adulthood. Collection point is the Ladies Sunday School classroom across from the coke machine.
- \* **Donate** - empty shoe boxes or items for shoe boxes. Sample items: bowls, spoons, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloths, small toys, combs, socks, school supplies, hard candy (no chocolate since it melts), etc.
- \* **Donate money** - OCC requests \$7 for shipping per box. Make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, and put OCC on the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate no later than November 11.
- \* **Wrap and stuff boxes** on Saturday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Perseverers Sunday School classroom.

**November 17 is the deadline for boxes and items.**

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and is served until 6:40 p.m. The suggested donation for adults is \$4 and \$2.50 for children ages 5 to 11. Children 4 and under eat for free. The maximum family donation is \$15.

The following shepherding groups have clean-up duty for the month of November: E. Mullinax, T. Schreiner, and T. Smith. Please contact your shepherding elder to let him know when you can help.

### LADIES' CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year's Ladies' Christmas Dinner is Friday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. Our own Cathy Smith will speak on "Serving Those That Serve." The cost is \$8 (\$4 for 11 and under). A nursery will be available for those pre-registered.

### ADVENT CALENDAR

The Advent Calendars for the children will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 18 and 25, and Wednesday, November 21 and 28, in the lobby.

### OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed the following days:  
Thursday, November 24                      Thanksgiving  
Friday, November 25                         Thanksgiving

### THANKSGIVING POUNDING

It's time again for our annual collection of nonperishable food items to share with those in need. Please bring your donations of canned goods and staples and place them in the box outside Mark Wilson's office by November 17. Monetary donations are always welcome and are needed to purchase perishable items (turkey, ham, etc.) on the day of delivery. If you know someone in need or if you yourself could use a hand this year, please contact the church office or an elder. Following 1 John 3: 17-18, may God lead us to share generously and cheerfully according to the abundance with which He has blessed us.

### YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Youth Small Groups will NOT meet on November 21.

HS Gift Wrapping Wednesday, December 5 & 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the high school small groups will offer FREE gift wrapping to our church members. Whether you have one or 100 gifts, we are ready to wrap! Donations of wrapping paper and ribbon would be appreciated.

MS Christmas Caroling Wednesday, December 5 & 12, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the middle school small groups will be visiting local retirement homes to sing Christmas Carols to the residents.

### TALENT/NO TALENT SHOW

The CPC Music Department proudly presents the first ever (and maybe the last) Talent/No Talent Show! Prepare to be dazzled as you join us Friday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. Desserts will be served and donations taken to assist choir members who are going on a mission trip to Belarus in June 2013. Invited guests are: Frank Sinatra, the nuns from Sister Act, Diana Ross, Father Gander (husband of Mother Goose) with special guest...Render Caines! Make plans now not to miss this once in a life time event!

### GRATEFUL GOBBLER

People from all walks of life will gather together for the three-mile Grateful Gobbler Walk held on Thanksgiving Day at 8:00 a.m., beginning and ending at Coolidge Park. Proceeds from the event are distributed to groups such as the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and the Chattanooga Homeless Coalition to help the needy in our community. For more information or to register, visit [gratefulgobbler.org](http://gratefulgobbler.org).

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

It is time to order the Offering Envelopes for 2013. If you use Offering Envelopes weekly, monthly or quarterly and would like to continue using them in 2013, please Carol at [pcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org](mailto:pcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org). This is for your convenience only, so do not feel obligated to order them.

### Hurricane Sandy Clean-Up

The Tennessee Valley Presbytery and R3 International plan to have a team go to Atlantic City, New Jersey to help with cleanup in the areas damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The current plan is to leave Chattanooga early Monday (November 26) and return Saturday or Sunday (December 1 or 2), though there is some flexibility. Please email Brian McKeon ([brian@r3international.org](mailto:brian@r3international.org)) if you are interested in joining this team!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

November 28	Chili
December 5	Lasagna
December 12	Baked Potato Bar