



The eNewsletter

November 29, 2012

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- 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
- December 9**
Mission Committee Meeting
Diaconate Meeting
Adult Choir Christmas
Program
- December 12**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Children's Choir Rehearsal
No Covenant Corp
HS Youth Gift Wrapping
MS Youth Caroling
- December 13**
Ladies Bible Study
- December 15**
Children's Choir Rehearsal
HS Youth Christmas Party
- December 16**
Membership Sunday
Children's Christmas Program
- December 19**
Caroling and Desserts
Session Meeting
- December 20**
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- December 23**
No Evening Activities
- December 24**
Office Closed
Lessons and Carols

Thanksgiving '12 is over. This Sunday we enter the season of Advent. In less than five weeks the new year will begin. For most of us, it will be a busy month.

In the midst of your busyness, take time to reflect upon the stunning truth that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary conceived a child, whom she would name Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins.

Many find this "story" to be clearly unscientific. To a world facing profound problems and challenges, they think it irrelevant, of no real use, when dealing with the realities of life. Which, of course, was exactly what King Ahaz in the 8th century B.C. thought. His capital city of Jerusalem was besieged by the invading armies of Syria and the northern kingdom of Israel.

The prophet Isaiah came to King Ahaz and told him: "Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint" (v 4). In verse 9 he told him: "If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

Isaiah then told King Ahaz to ask the Lord for a sign to validate what the prophet had said. King Ahaz protested that he was unwilling to put the Lord to the test. His answer sounds good but it wasn't an expression of faith. Instead, it indicated King Ahaz's lack of patience with what he considered to be the prophet's religious mumbo-jumbo.

In response to King Ahaz's refusal to ask for a sign, Isaiah said to the King (verse 14): "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name 'God with us.'"

Try to imagine King Ahaz's response to such a promise. "A virgin will conceive? Ridiculous. If 'God is with us,' then let him do something about these

armies besieging my city."

I understand King Ahaz. He wanted immediate deliverance from his circumstances. We've all been there. Some of you are there right now.

I have to wonder what King Ahaz would have said if he had understood that the sign promised by Isaiah wouldn't be fulfilled for another 700 years?

Two thousand years ago, Jesus was born to the virgin Mary. He came to deliver us from Satan's tyranny. He promises to never leave us or forsake us. He promises that nothing can separate us from His love.

If in this faith we stand firm, then we will stand - for this is the rock upon which we build our house so, no matter how hard the wind blows or how deep the waters flow, we will stand.

By grace through faith in Jesus as Savior, Lord and King, we have been delivered from our enemy. The winds will, at times, still blow. The waters will, at times, still run deep. But we will stand. We are overcomers because of Him Who overcame the world.

Furthermore, He has given us a promise similar to the promise given to Ahaz: "Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14.1, 3).

When? I don't know. Neither do you. But together, this is our prayer: "Come quickly, Lord Jesus. And until you do, give us the supernatural strength to stand firm in our faith. May we be as salt retarding the spoilage around us. May we be as light in a sin-darkened world. Work in and through us to glorify Yourself, expand the borders of Your Kingdom, and bless others."

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

December 2

Worship

Infants

Kay Gaither & Susan Helton

Creepers

Dawn & Emilia Reynolds

Toddlers

Stephen & Mindy Haywood

Floater

Lucy Haywood

Sunday School

Infants

Lyndsey & Ellie Bowman

Creepers

Jason & Crystal Middleton

Toddlers

Becky Fingerle
& Ernie Brown

P.M.

Combined

Polly Henry & Linda Caines

December Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

BUDGET REPORT

In order to meet budget for 2012 we need \$323,791 in gifts to the general fund in December. This amount compares to the \$275,577 we needed in December 2011. Actual gifts given in December 2011 were \$346,971. If the Lord leads our members to give like last year we will make budget. I believe last year's giving was the most we have ever received in any December.

Elder Tom Lowe

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting will immediately follow the worship service Sunday.

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 Who Serve." The cost is \$8 (\$4 for 11 and under). A nursery will be available for those pre-registered. Registration ends this Sunday, December 2.

Eight place settings of Christmas china and homemade desserts are needed for the dinner. If you can provide either of these, please contact Renee Ray.

Please remember to bring a gift card from iTunes, Subway or Dunkin Donuts to send to Andrew and Tori, who will pass these out to the soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital. Any money donated will be used to purchase additional gift cards.

SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sure on This Shining Night will be presented Sunday evening, December 9, at 6:00 p.m. Come join choir and instrumentalists as together we celebrate the birth of our Savior and King.

2012 WOMEN'S MINISTRY LOVE GIFT

The 2012 WM Love Gift video will be shown in the sanctuary this Sunday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. Each year the Women's Ministry of the PCA collects an offering for a special designated project, rotating through different agencies of the denomination. This year's gift will support MTW's children's home in Gonaives, Haiti. The dream of this children's home is unlike others in Haiti. The goal is to change lives, families, culture and one day a nation. With your help we can begin to make this dream a reality. You can give to this project by writing checks to CPC with *2012 WM Love Gift* in the memo line. Preview the video at www.mtw.org/pages/LOC_Haiti.aspx.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Pastor Caines would like to encourage all middle school, high school, and adult men to attend the Men's Breakfast this Saturday, December 1, at 8:30 a.m. He is speaking on "Who are we and where are we going?"

SHOWER THE MUTUBWAS

The Mutubwa family is receiving the key to their new home Saturday, December 8 and expecting a little girl in January. We, as a church family, would like to honor them by showering them with needed items. If you are able to donate any of the following items (new or used), please contact Boo Mullinax who will be coordinating.

Baby Items: baby crib (mattress, bumper pads and bedding), infant car seat, baby swing, high chair, stroller, bouncy seat, baby clothes (for a girl), and diapers. Gift cards to Walmart, Target, Babies R Us or anywhere else are appreciated too.

Home Items: two sets of bunk beds/mattresses and bedding and 2 small dressers are needed. Gift cards for Home Depot, Lowes or grocery stores are great too.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

High School:

Gift Wrapping on 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.

Christmas Party is Saturday, December 15, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Chris & Reba Gregory.

Middle School:

Christmas Caroling on 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.

Christmas Party is Saturday, December 8, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Chris & Reba Gregory.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Pounding so generously this year! We amply provided for 15 families and individuals in our church and community. God is so good! Thank you for your open hearts and open hands.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

For the Glory of the King will be presented by our Children's Music Ministry on Sunday evening, December 16, at 6:00 p.m.

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Tracy Brown:

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Paige Brown:

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Sam & Lindsey Gutierrez:

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Lindsey's cell: 423-618-5587

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Sarah (Knecht) McCurry:

Jared & Sarah McCurry, 52 Pintail Drive, Ringgold, GA 30736

John & Allison Millard:

no landline, use Allison's cell: 423.443.8852

Susan Perrin:

Susan Mobley (maiden name)

Thomas & Maureen Shipp:

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