



# The eNewsletter

December 13, 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...*

- December 15**  
HS Youth Christmas Party
- December 16**  
Membership Sunday  
Children's Christmas Program
- December 19**  
Caroling and Desserts
- December 20**  
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- December 22**  
Youth Volunteer at Soup  
Kitchen
- December 23**  
No Evening Activities
- December 24**  
Office Closed  
Lessons and Carols
- December 25**  
Merry Christmas  
Office Closed
- December 26**  
No Evening Activities
- December 30**  
Shepherding Groups Meet
- December 31**  
Office Closed at Noon
- January 1**  
Happy New Year  
Office Closed
- January 2**  
No Wednesday Activities
- January 6**  
Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Officer Installation Service
- January 8**  
WM Council
- January 9**  
Wednesday Night Supper  
Wednesday Night Activities
- January 10**  
Ladies Bible Study
- January 12**  
Tennessee Valley Presbytery  
Men's Breakfast  
McCrary Baby Shower
- January 13**  
Mission Committee Meeting  
Diaconate Meeting  
Handbell Ensemble  
Instrumental Ensemble  
Evening Bible Study  
Youth Group  
Kids, Inc.

It was always exciting — and still is to a lesser degree — to find beneath the Christmas tree a package with my name on it.

It was always somewhat disappointing to discover that the present beneath the tree was soft.

As a child, I always assumed that I knew best the kind of gifts I should be receiving, and my list did not include anything soft. Because, obviously, any soft package had to contain a sweater, a shirt, or even worse, socks or underwear. Clearly, those were not the kinds of presents for which I was hoping.

Like most children, I assumed *I was the reason for the season*. Therefore, since I was the center of the known universe, I ought to receive on Christmas morning the kinds of gifts I wanted. What I wanted did not come in a soft package.

This morning I drank my coffee from a cup on which are printed the familiar words: "Jesus is the reason for the season."

That sounds better. At least, it sounds more pious.

Because in one sense, I am the reason for the season, just as are all of you who name the Name of Jesus.

This is what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8.9. They are words Paul could have sent as Christmas greetings in first century AD:

"For *you* know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for

*your sake* he became poor, so that *you* by his poverty might become rich."

Believer, *you are the reason for the season*. In 2 Corinthians 9.14 Paul describes the gift you receive from your heavenly Father as being "the surpassing grace of God."

As Paul thinks about this gift, like a child who on Christmas morning has been given the best present imaginable and is unable to contain his happiness, Paul bursts forth with these words: "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"

The gift is Jesus. The child to whom is given the Name: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9.6).

The child Who for *our sake* took upon Himself our sin, paid the penalty for our transgressions, so that by grace through faith in Him as Savior, Lord and King, "*we* might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5.21).

Along with the other presents beneath our tree, we usually have a manger scene nearby, because it serves as a visual reminder that for *our sake* He became poor so that *we* might be made rich.

~Pastor Caines



## What's Happening?

### Nursery Schedule

December 16

#### Worship

##### Infants

Esther McEachern  
& Rachel Getz

##### Creepers

Adam & Millie Sanders

##### Toddlers

Debbie & Becca Duble  
& John Pearce

##### Floater

Scott Beatty

#### Sunday School

##### Infants

Peggy Bandy & Peg May

##### Creepers

Sue Spalding  
& Alayne Griffin

##### Toddlers

Patty, Alexis & Kristin Liner

#### P.M.

##### Combined

Children's Christmas  
Musical - Nursery Staffed

#### December Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

### BUDGET REPORT

After the gifts to budget this past Sunday, we still need \$266,000 to meet our annual budget for the year. We are thankful for the above average gifts the first two Sundays in December and look to our Lord for what He will do through His people the rest of the month.

Tom Lowe

### YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31st to be counted as tax-deductible contributions for 2012.

### 2012 WOMEN'S MINISTRY LOVE GIFT

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. Their 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 WIC Love Gift* in the memo line.

### CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save those Christmas card stamps. Deposit them in the "mailbox" by Pastor Mullinax's office. These used stamps are processed and re-sold with all proceeds going to finance Sunday School curriculum for churches in Latin America.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. with a service of Lessons and Carols.

### MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. The third Thursday of each month (December 20), we provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you can contribute one of the following items this week, please call or email the church office.

Sandwiches: Ham and Cheese, Turkey, Chicken Salad or Pimento Cheese

Chips: individually packaged  
Snack Cakes: individually packaged  
Fruit: Bananas, Apples or Oranges

### PARENTS

Now that it is getting dark earlier, please keep a close eye on your children in and around the parking lot.

### 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.

### YOUTH HAPPENINGS

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

All youth are invited to serve at the Community Kitchen on Saturday, December 22. Space is limited so if you are at least 13 years old or accompanied by a parent please contact Chris Gregory to save a spot. We will meet at church by 9:30 a.m. and return between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

### CAROLING AND DESSERTS

The entire church family is welcome to meet at the church Wednesday, December 19, at 5:30 p.m. We will break up into small groups to go caroling at local retirement homes and various neighborhoods. Bring a dessert to share with everyone as we will meet back at the church for desserts and hot drinks when finished.

### Thank You

Lynne Swan would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her nephew. The Lord's hand was on her nephew and all went well. He was headed toward atheism but may be coming to the Lord.

### DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Children's Choir Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Caroling & Dessert

Sunday, December 23

No Evening Service

Monday, December 24

Church Office Closed

Monday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

Tuesday, December 25

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

No Wednesday night dinner or activities

Thursday, December 27

No eNewsletter

Sunday, December 30

No Evening Service

Monday, December 31

Church Office Closed at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

No Wednesday night dinner or activities

Thursday, January 3

No eNewsletter