



The eNewsletter

December 20, 2012

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of the Senior Pastor...

Looking Ahead...

- 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.
- January 15**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- January 16**
Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday Night Activities
Session Meeting

As I write this article, there's one more week to go before Christmas finally arrives.

Remember as a child how unending that last week prior to Christmas could seem?

Well, think about it. When you're eight years old, a week of your life is proportionately the same as two months for a sixty-four year old. Got it? Well, at any rate, most of us remember how slowly the days passed as we counted down to that most special of all mornings.

In Luke 2.36ff Joseph and Mary are at the Temple in Jerusalem consecrating Jesus to the Lord in keeping with the command given by Yahweh to Moses in Exodus 13.1-2.

They've already been approached by a man named Simeon, who had long waited to see "the Lord's Christ" (v 26).

Now, an elderly woman named Anna waddles up to them. The Greek of verses thirty-six and thirty-seven can be understood in two ways. Either it is telling us that Anna is eighty-four years old, or its informing us that she has been a widow for eighty-four years. Either way, she's not young.

Luke tells us that Anna spent her days and nights in the Temple worshipping, fasting and praying for the coming of that day when God would redeem Jerusalem.

Six hundred years earlier, Jeremiah spoke repeatedly in just a few verses (31.27, 31, 38) about "the days [that] are coming," when God would bring to fruition His covenant promise of a Redeemer who would save His people, establish an everlasting Kingdom and reign for evermore as King.

Fourteen hundred years before Jeremiah (two thousand years before the birth of Christ), Abraham was promised that one day through his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed.

No one knows how far into the past we must look to hear God promise that one day a Man would be born of woman who would crush beneath his feet the head of the evil one.

That first Christmas was a long time coming. But it came at just the right time. As Paul tells us in Galatians 4.4, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of woman."

The Apostle Peter reminds us in 2 Peter 3.8, "that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

So, it's been more than two thousand years since Christ ascended back into heaven. We, along with countless generations before us, have been waiting a long time for His promised return.

From God's perspective, it's been but a couple of days.

Some day, for us, this present moment will seem but a wink in time compared to the millennia lived in a sinless world full of purpose and meaning.

Remember how as a child when Christmas morning finally arrived it all seemed so worthwhile? Just wait. It gets even better. In comparison, you haven't seen anything yet.

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

December 23

Worship

Infants

Lewis Reid
& Anna Reid

Creepers

Grace & Heather Morrison
& Anna Byrd

Toddlers

Boo Mullinax
& Kristin Sotelo

Floater

Jonah & Isaiah Harris

Sunday School

Infants

Nancy Cooper & Edyne Vatt

Creepers

Madeleine, Abigail &
Kelly Jennings

Toddlers

Shirley & Luther Allin

P.M.

No Evening Service

December Coordinator:

Gretchen Brown

FINANCIAL NEED - PLEASE PRAY!

After the gifts to budget this past Sunday, we still need \$246,000 to meet our annual budget by December 31. Please put this need before our Lord in your prayers these last few days of the month. Tom Lowe

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.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the church office or postmarked no later than December 31 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 the MTW 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.

PARENTS

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

Unless you have placed your children under the care of our nursery workers, Sunday School teachers or other children's ministry staff, please keep your young children in sight at all times.

KIDS, INC.,

Kids, Inc., our Sunday evening children's ministry, begins again on January 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Children ages 3 years through 12 years are invited to join us. We are studying the Old Testament.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you use Offering Envelopes weekly, monthly or quarterly, you may order yours for 2013 by contacting Carol Beatty at cpcbookkeeping@covenantchattanooga.org or by calling the church office. We provide these for your convenience, so do not feel obligated to order them.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

On Saturday, January 12, the Men's Ministry of CPC would like to invite men of all ages for the monthly Men's Breakfast. Pastor Dan Steere will be our speaker. This is a great opportunity for you to bring a neighbor or someone who needs discipling. But whether you bring someone or not, please join us for great fellowship, food, discussion and prayer. The breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. and we wrap up at 10:00 a.m.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is a time when we clearly realize how much we have been blessed. As we rejoice in God's goodness through the gift of His Son, please especially remember in prayer:

- Our soldiers and their families
- Our wounded soldiers (Go Team Andrew!)
- The families in Newtown, CT
- The persecuted church around the world
- Our missionaries
- Those who have lost loved ones who are especially missed during the holidays

The staff of Covenant Presbyterian Church wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas!