



The eNewsletter

June 20, 2013

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

Looking Ahead...

June 20

Swim Day
Memorial Hospital Lunch

June 21

MS Youth Return from
The Edge Conference
Chicks 'n Chocolate

June 22

Prison Ministry Training

June 23

Emily Morris Bridal Shower
Deacons Meeting
Shepherding Groups Meet

June 25

Ladies' Summer Bible Study
Session Meeting

June 26

Mission: Chattanooga

June 27

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home
Swim Day

June 28

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home

June 29

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home

June 30

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home
Summer Schedule-No Evening
Activities

July 1

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home

July 2

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home
Ladies' Summer Bible Study

July 3

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home
Mission: Chattanooga

July 4

Building Andrew & Tori Smith
a New Home
Happy Fourth of July
Church Office Closed

July 7

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Summer Schedule
-No Evening Activities

I returned from my Haiti trip last week with grass cutting at the top of my to-do list. I began tackling the task in stages over a few days. My lawnmower is stored in a basement utility room on the back side of the house. Where, in my absence, an enterprising spider had woven her new dwelling across the entry door to the utility room. As I remember, I audibly told the spider that she (... that's right, she) would have to move someplace else.

The spider's webbing was admirably constructed, but anchored on the door ... the moving door. So each day as I pushed open the door to retrieve my tools her residence would collapse.

I tried to be patient. I took no joy in knowing that I destroyed her night's work just by opening the door. I even reminded her that anchoring her web to an object that moves is futile (and no doubt incredibly frustrating to the architect). Yet so it went each day. I opened the door, and she found herself needing to rebuild once again.

When Jesus spoke of well-built houses, it is interesting that he pointed out the obvious. Build a house on shifting sands and it, too, will move until it is destroyed. The illustration is as clear as it is true; a house is only as good as its foundation.

You would think that the persistent spider would have learned her lesson. But in fact she only slightly altered her house plans each time—attaching her web to a different part of the same moving door. But then, Jesus's obvious words confront me, and I find myself myself wondering: Have I learned?

When I build my life around pursuits that suddenly shift, do I pick up and redraw the plans, taking into account all that shifted? Or do I simply pick myself up, cut my losses, and start once again? When my longing for stuff creates indebtedness, when my hope for the next best thing is ever being replaced by the next best thing, when I have built my life upon the satisfac-

tion of a successful career or perfect kids or community status and suddenly life shifts with blows of uncertainties, what have I learned?

It is a lesson easier illustrated than understood. Far more often it seems I am like the spider, intent on making my dream house work, willing to alter my plans only slightly, concerning myself with the busy-work of building. It is easy to be so determined in the life we are constructing that a shifting foundation is viewed merely as a temporary setback. When, in fact, we are building our lives on that which is temporary—health, careers, houses.

Thankfully, God is not only more patient than I have been with my spider, but also more compelling than I have been in encouraging those He longs to see in the security of a well-built home. With long-suffering love for us, God picks us up when our dream houses have crumbled and shows us that we were meant to dream of unshakable fortresses. Christ stands at ground zero and gives us the grace and the strength to rebuild.

We are building well, He says, when we hear his words and put them into practice. To build on His enduring words is to build lives that model their Creator, trusting that God is the holder of the best plans for the house. God's words are like His character, lighting our way, standing forever, moving us to that place of refuge. The Father "does not change like the shifting shadows," writes James. He is, as David praised, and Hannah prayed, and saints continue to discover somewhere in the process of rebuilding, the Rock of Ages.

~Pastor Mullinax



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule June 23

Worship

Infants

Beth Griggs
& Kelly Orthner

Creepers

Brian & Holly Lehmann

Toddlers

Scott & Meg Orthner

Floater

Luke Orthner

Sunday School

Infants

Sandra Nicely
& Edyne Vatt

Creepers

Jeannie Hall
& Susan Close

Toddlers

Sarah & Maggie Wade

P.M.

No Evening Service
Summer Schedule

June Coordinator:

Amy Creamer

BRIDAL SHOWER

There is a bridal shower for Emily Morris on Sunday, June 23, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Emily is registered at Target, Anthropologie, and Belk.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A few more nursery volunteers are still needed during Sunday School in the Creeper and Toddler Nursery to fill monthly and quarterly nursery slots. If anyone has any changes to their nursery volunteer status or would like to be added to the nursery schedule, please call or email Heather Harris.

CHICKS 'N CHOCOLATE

On Friday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. the women of CPC are invited to Caffeine Addicts in Ringgold on Nashville Street. Snacks will be provided so bring your favorite game and plan to have a good time with the CPC women. RSVP by June 20 to Leanna Cathey (leannacathey@gmail.com).

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

This summer, Mission: Chattanooga will meet each Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at CPC.

On-Campus activities: Crafts & Missions for Kids (a missions lesson and crafts for elementary age children); Caring Bee (Knitting/Crocheting); Cooking with a Purpose (meets June 26, July 10, July 24 and August 7); Missions Support (stamp ministry & letter writing); Prayer Group (7:00 p.m.).

Off-Campus: Weekly Visitation (at local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and with our shut-ins).

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome our New Members who recently joined us.

Carolyn Martin

6705 Ballard Road Apt. 153, Chattanooga, TN 37421
423.991.9964

Carolyn has recently moved into Hickory Creek Retirement facility and was a long time member at Chattanooga Valley PCA.

Michael Petersen

1207 Lakeshore Drive, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742
Cell: 803.322.5238
Email: m.w.petersen53@gmail.com

Mike is the father of CPC member Ryan Petersen and works for Chick-fil-A.

THANK YOU

My Dear Covenant Family,

For my entire family, I would like to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and cards. While it was still hard to let Mom go, we rest in the comfort of knowing that she is whole again and is with her Lord and Savior. Please continue to pray for us as we move my dad, Don Sullins, to Ringgold in July.

In His Love, Laura Fosgate

STEPS2HOPE - ANDREW & TORI SMITH

Construction of the Smith home is taking place from June 27 - July 4. There are many types of volunteer opportunities available, not just construction. However, due to insurance and legal reasons, we are not able to have children under age 18 on the worksite during construction. So if you are 18 or older and are interested in helping with this project, please go to the website steps2hope.com.

PRISON MINISTRY TRAINING

Orientation and training for ministry at Walker State Prison (WSP) is Saturday, June 22, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at CPC. Mark Casson will facilitate the session. If you signed up or would like to be a mentor at WSP, your attendance is required at this training.

FAMILY RAFTING WEEKEND

Grab the family and get ready to have a great weekend camping and rafting! CPC is putting together a group to go rafting on the Nantahala River in Topton, North Carolina, the weekend of July 26 and 27 for \$60 per family. Each family is responsible for their own camping equipment and a portion of the food needed for breakfast and lunch on Saturday. North Carolina law requires rafters to be at least 7 years old and to weigh a minimum of 60 pounds to go rafting. Plans are to leave the church parking lot around 5:30 p.m. Friday evening but your family is welcome to come at their leisure. Please contact Chris Gregory for more information.

WM SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

It is not too late to join either of the Summer Bible Studies this Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Brenda Mason, Dianne Cosby and Emily Calloway are teaching *Becoming a Woman of Strength* by Cynthia Heald in the Perseverers Classroom. Marla Neal is teaching a Precept study on 1 Peter in the Ladies Sunday School Classroom. There is a fellowship time at 9:30 a.m. and child care is provided.

CPC SWIM DAY

Swim day at the May's pool continues throughout the summer on Thursdays 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.

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Tim & Yvonne Owens..... No Landline
.....(Tim) 423.284.7141 (Yvonne) 423.284.7114

MARRIAGE MATTERS

CPC is having a Couples Retreat in the Smokies, September 20 - 22. Jon Harris is speaking on commitment, connection and conversation. The cost is \$200/couple with a non-refundable \$100 deposit due July 14 and final payment due August 11. Registration forms are available at the welcome center. Please contact Marty & Nancy Cooper, Jason & Catherine Coffey, Jon & Heather Harris or Eric & Boo Mullinax for more information.