



The eNewsletter

June 27, 2013

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...

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

July 4

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

July 7

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Special Speaker in Sunday
School-Teresa Snow
Summer Schedule-No Evening
Activities

July 9

Ladies' Summer Bible Class

July 10

Mission: Chattanooga

July 11

Swim Day

July 14

Mission Committee Meeting
Hannah Porcella Baby Shower
Deacon Meeting
Summer Schedule-No Evening
Activities

July 16

Ladies' Summer Bible Study
Joint Session/Deacon Meeting

July 17

Mission: Chattanooga

The issue is clear. The answer to the question(s) is a given. The challenge is in the details.

During WW2, the issue for the Allies was the defeat of the Nazis. The answer was obvious: Europe would have to be invaded. But it took more than four years to work out the details of D-Day.

In Acts 15, the issue is obedience to the Lord's great commission. The answer is clear: the Gospel must be proclaimed to both Jews and Gentiles. But how best to do so, without giving unnecessary offense to both Jews and Gentiles, led to the gathering of apostles and elders in Jerusalem seeking answers.

For the PCA, the issue is still adherence to the Great Commission. The answer is still clear: the Gospel must be proclaimed to all peoples. The details debated at this year's General Assembly (GA) were how best to meet the challenge of proclaiming the Gospel to followers of Islam without giving unnecessary offense.

The debate is provoked by what is called "the insider movement" - those on the "inside" attempting to evangelize followers of Islam.

In an attempt not to offend Islamic culture, some "insiders" appear to compromise the deity of Christ and His status as the Son of God, ideas highly offensive to a culture that boldly proclaims that Allah is ONE, the only god.

A lengthy report addressing these issues was presented to the GA. There was also a minority report written by one who has spent his life in the Near East evangelizing Muslims. Defending his report, he insisted that the wording of the majority report was unnecessarily offensive to Muslims.

Since most commissioners to the GA had not had sufficient time to properly read and study these reports, this individual's plea persuaded the GA to replace the majority report with his minority report.

The minority report properly argued the word "Allah" is simply an Arabic word for

God. So, for example, John 3.16 would begin with these words: "For Allah so loved the world . . ."

But the minority report also stated that "the Allah worshiped by followers of Islam" is the God we worship. Allah is the generic Arabic term for God. But the god Muslims worship is not the God we worship.

Therefore, the minority report was sent back to committee so that its language could be "perfected." This "perfected" report will be before the GA next year in Houston.

I don't pretend to have answers to all the questions raised about how to best proclaim the Gospel to Muslims, which many do at the risk of their lives.

But I do know that Paul proclaimed to Jews the highly offensive and unthinkable truth that the long-promised Messiah, instead of conquering militarily Israel's enemies, had been crucified.

Furthermore, Paul proclaimed to Greek philosophers that Jesus was risen from the dead, a ridiculous idea for those who could not understand why anyone whose spirit had been freed from the "prison" of his physical body would want to resume a physical existence.

To our own pluralistic culture, Jesus' claim to be THE way, THE truth and THE life, is highly offensive.

The Gospel is radical. It does give offense. We are to deal gently with those who oppose it, but we can never compromise its message.

As a GA we need to provide the "insiders" with wisdom on how to respect Islamic culture while not watering down the Gospel. By God's grace, knowing the issue, knowing the answer, may we also, like those in Acts 15, be given the wisdom to encourage and advise the "insiders."

~Pastor Caines



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule

June 30

Worship

Infants

Sandi Schreiner
& Becky Pearce

Creepers

Jon & Heather Harris

Toddlers

Katherine Fisher
& Mindy Horton

Floater

Andrew Schreiner

Sunday School

Infants

Dusty & Rachel Kemp

Creepers

Tammy & Will Higgins
& Eunice Martin

Toddlers

Sarah & Maggie Wade

P.M.

No Evening Service
Summer Schedule

June Coordinator:

Amy Creamer

MISSION: CHATTANOOGA

All Mission: Chattanooga efforts are being folded into Steps2Hope home build for Andrew and Tori Smith next Wednesday, July 3. Regular Mission: Chattanooga activities will not take place again until Wednesday, July 10. Hopefully, this will encourage greater participation in the concentrated building effort.

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.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

New nursery volunteer schedules are at the Welcome Center. Please go by and pick up your schedule as soon as possible.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please keep us informed of any address, phone or email changes. You may either call or email the church office with the changes.

CPC PRAYER CALENDAR

This devotional/prayer tool covers all CPC members, family concerns, ministries, missionaries, personal growth in grace and the world in a one month cycle. You may pick up a copy of the *CPC Prayer Calendar* at the Welcome Center.

SOLES FOR SOULS CAMPAIGN

We are collecting shoes to help the Homeless Health Foot Clinic in Chattanooga. Please bring new or used (in good condition) gym shoes, sandals or any kind of shoes that fit young and old. Supplies such as socks, bleach, foot powder, triple antibiotic ointment, Band-Aids, nail files and liquid shampoo are also being collected. You may also make donations to purchase these items. There is a collection box outside Mark Wilson's office. Contact Sherry Baierl at 423.580.4376 if you have any questions.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

A nurse is available between the Worship Service and Sunday School each Sunday to check blood pressures in the office next to Pastor Mullinax's office.

MISPLACED BIBLES

If you have misplaced your Bible, check the bookcase next to the Coke machine. We have a large number of unclaimed Bibles.

STEPS2HOPE - ANDREW & TORI SMITH

Construction of the Smith home is taking place starting today thru next Thursday, 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. Please continue to pray for God's blessings on this amazing project. He has been so faithful, and we pray He receives the glory for the great work He is doing for Andrew and Tori!

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.

CPC SWIM DAY

There will be no swim day at the May's pool on July 4, but it will continue throughout the rest of 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

Mike Fingerle mfingerle74@gmail.com
Amy Young hutchyoung@catt.com

STAMPS SUPPORT MISSIONS

Did you know that stamps from letters can be used as revenue for missions? Please place your saved foreign and domestic stamps, in good condition, in the collection container outside Pastor Mullinax's office. These stamps are sent to a Christian retirement community in Florida for processing. The money from the sale of these stamps is then used to fund new Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools in Latin America. These stamps are being sorted and prepared to mail to Florida during Mission: Chattanooga, so please remember to bring them in as soon as possible!