



The eNewsletter

March 28, 2019

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
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From the Pen of our Youth and Young Adults Director...

Looking Ahead...

March 29

Men's Proverbs Bible Study

March 31

Morning Worship
Sunday School

April 1

Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Hebrews

April 2

Mothers' Encouragement
Group
WM Council Meeting

April 3

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class
Session Meeting

April 5

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
Middle School Game Night

April 6

Men's Breakfast

April 7

Lord's Supper
Mission-Focused Sunday
School
Diaconate Meeting
Instrumental Ensemble
Rehearsal

April 8

Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Prophets

April 10

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class

April 12

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
High School Game Night

April 13

TVP Spring Meeting
Cooking Kinship Group

April 14

Morning Worship
Sunday School

April 16

Mothers' Encouragement
Group

Question: What is the chief end of man?

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 1).

Those of you who know me well, already know I have been studying for ordination exams in our denomination, The Presbyterian Church in America. In our beloved denomination, this is not a short, simple, or easy process. That doesn't mean it isn't good, however. Last semester, our youth looked at the book of Exodus, and the testing God's people endured. Testing has a way of revealing two things. It reveals what we already know and what we still need to learn. To be tested is to be taught. This is true for the student, and it is true for the people of God. Suffice to say, my ordination exams are teaching me a great deal.

As a result of my examination process, I'm getting more and more acquainted with our standards of faith. As I do so, I'd like to confess to you a struggle I have in this process, and I think it's a struggle many of us share. It's often easy to elevate knowing *about* God above knowing *God*. This is a vice that the seminary-educated are certainly prone toward. Madeline and I often heard our professors say, "You're not here to get a Master of Divinity. You're here to be mastered *by* Divinity." However, this temptation doesn't discriminate between those who do or don't have degrees. We all like to "know stuff."

Knowledge, itself, isn't inherently bad, but our thirst for it can sometimes turn the Bible into a book, theology into a mental exercise, and the living God into a conceptual idea. Unfortunately, books are cheap, mental exercises get boring, and conceptual ideas cannot save. We

were not saved just by information, as if the God of the universe could be downloaded onto a hard drive in so many megabytes. We were saved by a person – the Lord Jesus Christ.

The catechism offers a beautiful reminder to those of us with this struggle. In relationship with God, we're not just seeking to glorify God by knowing more about Him. We're seeking a personal joy in that knowledge, as well. To enjoy God places demands on our hearts, our senses, our desires, and our affections. We don't just glorify God by declaring that He is good. We glorify Him first by tasting and seeing His goodness (Psalm 34:8). Goodness demands to be known and when known, to be savored. To be a Christian is to seek both knowledge and joy. Consequently, to share the Gospel with your neighbor is to share both your knowledge of God and your joy in Him. Do our neighbors see our joy?

Our session and our pastors have been lavishly kind to me in encouraging me to study, learn, and grow. I often remind myself that as knowledge grows, affection must grow, too. Friendships and marriages grow ever richer when knowledge and delight grow ever deeper.

As we read God's Word, catechize God's children, and hear God's sermons, let us never forget the chief end of it all – that God might be glorified, and we might enjoy him forever.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. - Psalm 16:11

~Jeremiah Hill



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 31

Front Desk
Becky Pearce

Worship

Infants
Joyce Trask

Crawlers
Lauren Warren

Toddlers
Brandon & Annabelle Cross

Sunday School

Infants
Karen Crago

Crawlers
Madison Crago

Toddlers
Matt & Kristy Arbuckle

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Beginning March 31, Dr. Render Caines will be teaching a series on the Covenants of Promise in the Solomon's Porch Sunday School Class.

MOTHERS' ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

The Mothers' Encouragement Group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month throughout the school year. Be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, April 2, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Connie Hildebrand at childebrand56@gmail.com.

YOUTH GAME NIGHTS

~Come enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and games. Middle School Game Night is Friday, April 5, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Youth Suite. Pizza will be served. Guys bring drinks, and girls bring dessert.

~High School Game Night has been rescheduled to Friday, April 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Youth Suite. Girls bring a sweet snack, and guys bring a salty snack.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Pastor Caines is speaking on "The Church and the Same Sex Culture" at the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, April 6, at 8:30 a.m. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, the breakfast will be open to men only, and fathers should decide if their sons are at an appropriate age to attend. We invite the men of the church to join us as we learn more about the issues and positions the PCA is wrestling with and trying to understand.

THANK YOU

I can't begin to thank you for your many prayers, both before my knee replacement surgery, during, and now afterwards in the journey to recovery. I'm so grateful for the sweet and encouraging cards, phone calls, and visits. You have truly shown how the body of Christ works together.

~Bev Roop

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Bob and Angie Elder
ang1bob21954@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Make plans to join us on Wednesday evenings for our fellowship meal. Cost is \$4 per adult and \$2.50 per child, with a family max of \$15. This week's entrée is Honey Mustard Chicken. Parents, remember to supervise your children until the children's wing opens at 6:50 p.m.

For the month of April, the following Shepherding Groups are responsible for clean-up duty: K. Henry, D. Hobbs, T. Smith, H. VanderGriend, M. Wilson, and J. Wykoff.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

April 10	Stromboli
April 17	Easter Week - No Meal
April 24	Grilled Chicken w/ Sesame Noodles
May 1	Taco Salad
May 8	Hot Dogs

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, while honoring or remembering a loved one or friend, you may order an Easter Lily for \$17.50. Order forms are located at the Welcome Center, along with a lockbox for money, and are due by Wednesday, April 10. You may pick up your lily following the Easter Service. If you have any questions, contact Carol Beatty at 423.899.5377.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The April Birthday/Anniversary Calendar is available for pickup at the Welcome Center.