



The eNewsletter

March 7, 2019

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

Looking Ahead...

March 8

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
WM Tasters' Dinner
High School Lock-In

March 9

High School Lock-In

March 10

Daylight Savings Time Begins
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Missions Committee Meeting
Brauer Bridal Shower

March 11

Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Prophets

March 12

Swap Kinship Group

March 13

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class

March 14

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

March 15

Men's Proverbs Bible Study

March 17

Morning Worship
Sunday School

March 19

Mothers' Encouragement
Group

March 20

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class
Session Meeting

March 21

Ladies' Thursday Bible Study
Memorial Hospital Lunch

March 22

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
Middle School Bowling

March 24

Morning Worship
Sunday School

March 27

Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class

Flurry

For the past several months, I have been reading (and rereading) a very short book called *Reset: Living a Grace-Paced Life in a Burnout Culture* by David Murray. This book shows how to apply the spiritual habits God has provided for us in the Bible. The author may sound familiar because many of the men of CPC have been reading David Murray's book, *The Happy Christian: Ten Ways to be a Joyful Believer in a Gloomy World*. Two of my favorite theologians, Derek Thomas and Michael Reeves, are responsible for my interest in David Murray.

It was during the spring of last year when Karen and I began visiting with the CPC Search Committee and making trips to Chattanooga. It seems like ages ago that we mobilized as a family to prepare our house for sale while working and spending time with as many friends as possible. We packed our belongings into the back of a moving trailer in June, and July was spent mostly apart, as I made our family's Chattanooga preparations. In the emotional flurry of it all, I hardly remember what happened (Did we celebrate the kids' birthdays, at all?). Our final three months in Alaska were a blur. Likewise, our first three months in Chattanooga kept the flurry going with a new job, new city, new school, new church, and new friends.

Those six months had an impact on our spiritual habits as a family. Frantic busyness does that, which we all know. Even amidst the hectic demands of the day, we still try to stay in-tune with our spiritual care through reading the Bible, prayer, meditation, rest, solitude, fellowship, and worship. We try.

British author, Saki (aka H. H. Munro), tells the story of Reginald, an urbanite invited to a grand estate to participate in a hunt. After the hunt, Reginald noted that "there's such a deadly sameness about partridges; when you've missed one, you've missed the lot." Yet, to prove his hunting skills, Reginald awoke early the next morning (he could tell it was early because "the grass looked as if

it had been left out all night") to do some hunting on his own, bagging a large bird and instructing the gardener-boy to bring it into the hall for everyone to see before breakfast. Their reply was that it was a "tame bird," which he knew was "simply silly, because it was awfully wild at the first few shots." After an uncomfortable breakfast, which Reginald felt was "tinged with a very unchristian spirit," he reflected, "I suppose it's unlucky to bring peacock's feathers into a house anyway, there was a blue-pencilily look in my hostess's eye when I took my departure."

Nourishing ourselves through the means of grace in the Bible is not easy. When life is incessantly busy, it becomes even harder. For the Joneses, we are just beginning to settle into a less-frantic routine. However, the fast-paced demands of life *never* rest, do they? As Christians, our Father calls us to be a people who rest, reflect, pray, fellowship, read, and a myriad of other things that we seem to willingly neglect. We're too busy. We only have just enough time to walk into the driveway, shoot the peacock, and return for breakfast. There's simply not enough time for anything else!

David Murray's book, *Reset*, reminds me this realization is an excellent starting point. Jesus said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." This completely set Paul's heart at ease, and he was free to "boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses," knowing that it was not his own power that enabled him to rest, but "the power of Christ" taking up residence with him (2 Cor. 12.9). For the Christian, the ability to pause amidst busyness is, itself, an act of dependence upon God. We need God's grace to "grow" as a Christian (2 Peter 3.18), and we need God's grace to stop what we're doing. Even before the growing, we need God's grace to help us simply...stop. Pray for growth, indeed, but don't forget to also pray for the ability to stop. Yes, we are that *weak*!

~Pastor Jones



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule March 10

Front Desk
Tammy Bacon

Worship

Infants
Emily Calloway

Crawlers
Heather Harris

Toddlers
Tim & Will Sotelo

Sunday School

Infants
Jay & Susan Helton

Crawlers
Heidie Armao

Toddlers
Colleen Murphy

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower in honor of Katie Brauer (bride-elect of Jacob Fulton) is this Sunday, March 10, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Perserverers' Classroom. Katie is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Amazon.

PRISON MINISTRY

Are you interested in joining other CPC men in a rewarding one-on-one mentoring ministry at Walker State Prison? The next training session takes place at First Presbyterian Church this Saturday, March 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Alan Bonderud 423.903.3700 or arbonderud@gmail.com.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour this Saturday night, as Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10.

PRAYER CALENDAR

The updated Prayer Calendars are now available at the Welcome Center.

BUDGET REPORT

A copy of the approved budget for 2019 is available at the Welcome Center.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining the church, new members may meet with the session on Sunday, March 17. Please call or email the church office for an appointment.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL LUNCH

Our church has the privilege of being a part of a luncheon ministry at Memorial Hospital. On Thursday, March 21, we'll provide lunch to families in the surgery waiting room. If you are able to contribute sandwiches, chips, snack cakes, or fruit, please call or email the church office.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Mark Donaldson
midonaldson@epbf.com

Jeremiah and Madeline Hill
7600 Meadow Stream Loop, Apt. 105
Chattanooga, TN 37421

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

~Middle School Summer Camp, The Edge, registration is OPEN! It's located at Covenant College June 17 - June 21. Cost is \$295. We have a limited number of spots reserved for our church, so be sure to act fast!

~High School Summer Camp, Generate, registration is OPEN! It's located at Covenant College July 15 - July 19. Cost is \$350. Please return registration forms to Abby Horton or Jeremiah Hill.

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 Creamy Cajun Style Pasta. Parents, remember to supervise your children until the children's wing opens at 6:50 p.m.

For the month of February, the following Shepherding Groups are responsible for clean-up duty: J. Coffey, J. Hildebrand, J. Jones, D. Steere, and M. Walker

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

March 20	Philly Cheesesteak & Bacon Potatoes
March 27	Beef Shepherd's Pie
April 3	Honey Mustard Chicken

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

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