

The eNewsletter

May 2, 2019

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

Looking Ahead...

- May 3**
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
- May 4**
Youth Car Wash
Men's Breakfast
- May 5**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- May 6**
Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Hebrews
- May 7**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- May 8**
Wednesday Night Activities
Communicants Class
- May 10**
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
- May 11**
Ladies' Tea
- May 12**
Mother's Day
Morning Worship
Sunday School
- May 13**
Ladies' PM Bible Study:
Prophets
- May 15**
Session Meeting
- May 16**
Memorial Hospital Lunch
- May 17**
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
- May 19**
Morning Worship
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting
- May 21**
Mothers' Encouragement
Group
- May 24**
Men's Proverbs Bible Study

Home

I've been thinking about "home". Several things seem to be prompting these thoughts: recently reconnecting with life-long friends in planning our 50th High School Graduation Reunion, yesterday's conversation with my 95 year old Aunt Martha (the only living sibling of my folks' 13 siblings), the 60's Motown music playing in the background and just a curious desire to be transported back to the nostalgic days of my youth. I still consider "home" to be a small community in upstate South Carolina. My wife really doesn't like for me to refer to Lyman as home because we have never lived there together. In fact, I've lived away from that place for the vast majority of my life. Still, it's a place that has my heart.

In more recent times, I've returned there for sad duties: burying both of my parents, selling the family home, and attending other loved ones' funerals. Yet, there has always been a sweetness about being there, sweet because I was home. Home, as Garrison Keillor would say of his mythical hometown of Lake Wobegon, where "all the women are strong, the men good looking and the children above average". Home, where the air is a little fresher, the water a touch tastier, and the conversations more engaging. That place has always felt more natural, familiar, and comfortable.

My love for my old stomping grounds sometimes puzzles me. Is it so alluring because of its innate qualities, or are those qualities alluring because they are home? I wonder if those born and raised in Lincoln or Lamarie or Lewiston could possibly feel about their home as I do about Lyman. Or, is it more likely there are many sad souls

out there for whom a love of home is nothing but a place to escape from and never a place to escape to?

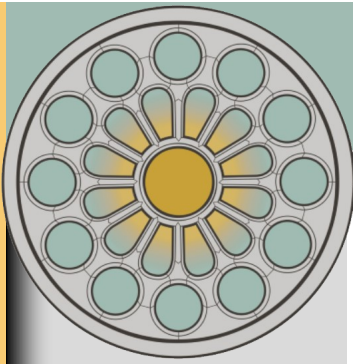
In the wonderful little book of Ruth in the Old Testament, Ruth left everything and everyone familiar to her in her homeland of Moab to go to Israel. What must have been in her thoughts? Was she nervous, or had Naomi enticed her with stories of her pre-famine life there? Did Ruth wrestle with the relative merits of a known discomfort over an unknown future? The text really doesn't tell us, but I can only imagine that Ruth looked at the prospect of leaving home with some ambiguity.

What must have sealed her decision was her love for the LORD and His covenant people (although she most probably only knew one on the face of the earth...her mother-in-law, Naomi). She had confidence that a future with the Lord, His people, and Naomi in a strange land was better than being home alone.

We sometimes suffer from a very similar ambiguity. The knowledge that death awaits us fills us with an odd combination of anticipation and expectation, along with reluctance and dread. The dread, however, is unwarranted. He who told us of the glory of the land to which we will one day go is, like Naomi to Ruth, tender and caring. Yet, He is more. He is altogether trustworthy. He is neither lying nor remembering through rose colored glasses. When He promises He is going to prepare a place for us (John 14.2), we can rest assured that it is a place indescribably lovely. And there, where He is, we will finally be home.

~Pastor Mullinax

What's Happening?



Nursery Schedule May 5

Front Desk
Catherine Coffey

Worship

Infants
Carla Stevenson

Crawlers
Gretchen Brown

Toddlers
Mollee & Tavis Brown

Sunday School

Infants
Karen Jones

Crawlers
Leanna Cathey

Toddlers
Adam Cathey

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men, women, and teens to their monthly Men's Breakfast this Saturday, May 4, at 8:30 a.m. in Schum Fellowship Hall. Dr. Joe Kickasola, Professor of Film and Digital Media at Baylor University, will be speaking on *Cult and Culture: Religion at the Movies*. Nursery is provided for children through age seven.

YOUTH CAR WASH

The CPC youth are hosting a Fundraiser Car Wash this Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are hosting the event at the church this year as a way to reach out to our community and highlight our church. The car wash is free, so please help by planning to get your car washed and/or by sponsoring a CPC youth. Contact Abby Horton or Jeremiah Hill for more details.

LADIES' TEA

Ladies, you are invited to the Ladies' Tea on Saturday, May 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for girls (age 10 and under), with a family maximum of \$20. Nursery and Childcare (children up to age 8) are available by registration only. Please register by this Sunday, May 5, at the Women's Ministry Table in the Lobby.

LUNCH AND LAWN PARTY

CPC Children's Ministry would like to invite parents, along with their children, to a Lunch and Lawn Party on Saturday, May 18, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. We have so many fun activities for you to enjoy with your children, including Dunk a Pastor! Lunch will be provided, and children will receive a new t-shirt! Be sure to invite a friend and bring a chair or blanket! For more information, contact Crystal Middleton at cmiddleton@cpchatt.org.

BRAVES BASEBALL

CPC/First Pres charter bus trip to SunTrust Park is Thursday, June 13. Tickets are limited. Contact the Church Office to reserve a seat.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The May birthday and anniversary calendar is available for pick up at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following update to your CPC Membership Directory.

Tom & Sandy Lowe
7129 Beacon Lane
Chattanooga, TN 37421

James Creamer
jcreamers@catoosa.k12.ga.us

GRIEF SHARE

CPC will host a 12 week grief support group beginning Wednesday, May 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. GriefShare will help and encourage those who have experienced the death of a loved one. To learn more, visit www.griefshare.org or contact Eric Mullinax at emullinax@cpchatt.org.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Sunday, May 26, is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. Please let us know if you are graduating or have a graduate in your family. We are recognizing graduates from high school, college, trade school, masters, and doctorate programs. Please email the Church Office with the name of the graduate, degree earned, name of school, and graduation date.

MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp is June 3-7, with the performance on Sunday, June 9. The camp is \$30 per child, and is open to children entering Kindergarten through those entering Sixth Grade. This year's musical is *Here for the Gold*, centering around 5 parables. Registration forms may be found in the Welcome Center, or you may register online at cpchatt.org.

SHINE CAMP

July 8-12, CPC is launching SHINE: A Creative Arts Camp for Girls. The camp is open to girls who have completed Third through Eighth Grade. The camp costs \$50, and there are only 30 spots available. Contact the Church Office for more information.

LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

Make plans to join us next week for our last Wednesday fellowship meal until August. Cost is \$4 per adult and \$2.50 per child, with a family max of \$15. The entrée is Hot Dogs.