

The eNewsletter

May 23, 2019

A publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.899.5377 www.covenantchattanooga.org

From the Pen of our Senior Pastor...

It's Good for You That They Are Better Than You.

On Sunday, I shared I had just returned from a visit in Southern California and caught myself thinking of the poem of Suzanne Lummis, "Shangri-La," in which she contends that Los Angelinos are always young, always suntanned, and always "real," that LA is inside a plastic snow-globe that never snows. Apart from this, my purpose in LA was to spend time with some very godly people, people more holy than I am. Let me tell you what I mean.

My visit had to do with being a part of a ministry called Lighthouse Medical Missions. This is a ministry, directed by Dr. Robert Hamilton, that gathers skilled physicians to travel to places like Sierra Leone and The Gambia and setup *ad hoc* medical clinics and pharmacies. Their hope is to bring medical services to those who otherwise would have virtually no access to these services. The event I attended in Los Angeles (Beverly Hills, no less), was to help this ministry encourage Christians to give to it financially.

Now, all joking aside regarding Southern Californian culture, I spent four days with people who so encouraged me by their holiness. As I thought about my own spiritual growth while standing amidst this illustrious crowd, I was humbled. The depth of reach into my own heart from which to extract generosity for others felt shallow. My own care and support for this ministry over the past decade or so seemed empty by comparison. I had the pleasure of spending time with men and women who have given so much for this ministry, touching so many lives. My own weaknesses stood out. Author H. H. Munro tells of a woman who was "rich, as the world counted wealth" and hoped to one day be rich by "her own computation." I was surrounded by people wealthy by anybody's

computation, yet generous beyond imagining.

We know the measurement of our holiness is really tricky business. In truth, measurement of personal holiness ultimately belongs before the sight of God alone. Eric preached on this reality just weeks ago from the beginning of 1 Corinthians 4. A component part to believing God is our Judge is believing we are not (see Romans 14.10). The healthiest sense we have of our ability to measure our own holiness is our sense of humility (Ephesians 4.2), our sense of contented faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4.17), and our sense that inclines us to assume others are far better than ourselves (Philippians 2.3; Romans 12.10).

I had the honor of spending time last week with extremely generous Christians. Their great regard for impoverished people without medical care, and their disregard for their own time and wealth, was striking to me. Alexander Whyte says that many "serious-minded" people take pains to produce a "true holiness for themselves out of their own corrupt hearts," which is a lot like "squeezing oil out of flint." He adds, "measuring holiness is an act of noting the spiritual nature of hearts having been filled with the fullness of that new spiritual nature that is in Christ."

Here, then, is the key to being around people who may be more holy than you. Look to their "interests" (Philippians 2.4). Help them grow and move forward in holiness. Without "rivalry or conceit" (Philippians 2.3) promote their holiness. Measuring your holiness against their holiness seems small-minded in comparison to praising God for the fullness of the Spiritual nature of the Christian life being revealed right before your eyes!

~Pastor Jones

Looking Ahead...

May 24
Men's Proverbs Bible Study

May 26
Morning Worship
Mission-Focused Sunday School
Graduate Recognition and Reception

May 27
Memorial Day
Church Office Closed

May 29
GriefShare
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Prayer Group
Ladies' Evening Bible Study

May 31
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
MS Morning Bible Study
11th and 12th Breakout Games

June 1
Men's Breakfast

June 3
Music Camp
HS Evening Bible Study and Soccer

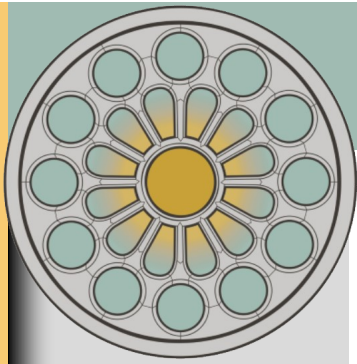
June 4
Music Camp

June 5
Music Camp
GriefShare
MS Parent Meeting
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Prayer Group
Ladies' Evening Bible Study

June 6
Music Camp
Swim Day

June 7
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
Music Camp
HS Mother/Daughter Cook Night

June 8
Youth and Family CFC Soccer Game



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule May 26

Front Desk
Volunteer Needed

Worship

Infants
Anna Reid

Crawlers
Elisabeth Cook

Toddlers
Matthew Beatty

Sunday School

Infants
Sherry Baierl

Crawlers
Vangie Wykoff

Toddlers
Kansas Bradley

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

This Sunday, May 26, is Graduate Recognition Day at CPC. A graduate reception will be held in the Courtyard during the Sunday School hour.

MISSION-FOCUSED SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us in the Fellowship Hall this morning as we welcome Reverend Dan Gilchrist (ELI), who is speaking in our corporate Mission-Focused Sunday School class, along with our own Pastor Steere.

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Thanks to all the youth who participated in the Car Wash Fundraiser. Please turn in any pledge sheets to Jeremiah or Abby, and we will be happy to contact your sponsors. Trip payments for summer camps are due this Sunday, May 26.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Please note, no eNewsletter will be sent on May 30.

BREAKOUT GAMES

All 11th and 12th graders are invited to Breakout Games next Friday, May 31, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Be sure to bring money for dinner afterward. Contact Abby or Jeremiah for more information.

LADIES' SUMMER BIBLE STUDIES

~Wednesday evenings, beginning May 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the Frederick Room. Emily Calloway is teaching on *Son of David* by Nancy Guthrie. Hope you all can join us!

~Tuesday mornings, beginning June 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Visitors' Classroom. Lynda Brown is teaching on *The Holy Spirit* by Sinclair Ferguson. Nursery and Childcare are available for children age 7 and younger. Hope you all can join us!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry invites men, women, and teens to their monthly Men's Breakfast next Saturday, June 1, at 8:30 a.m. Reverend Robert Row, Student Ministries Coordinator for See Jesus Ministry, is speaking on *Falling in Love with Jesus in Today's Culture*. Nursery is provided for children through age seven.

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 are in the Welcome Center, or you may register online at cpchatt.org. Online registration ends on June 1, but you can also register in person the first day of camp. Volunteer Registration forms are in the Welcome Center, and volunteer registration ends this Sunday, May 26.

SWIM DAY

Swim Day at the May's pool begins Thursday, June 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This invitation is open to anyone at CPC. Parents, please remember you are personally responsible for the supervision of your children and cleanup.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

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

A FAREWELL

With the passing of my dear husband, Eric, I have decided to relocate to Chester County, PA to live closer to my sons and their families. It's been a blessing to have been a part of this wonderful community, participating in singing His praises with our choir. Having been a member of CPC since 1990, I will miss you all and want to thank you for the love and concern you have shown me over the years.

~ Mary Maurer