

The eNewsletter

June 27, 2019

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

The Centrality of Africa

We Americans tend to take a Western view of the history of the Church. And, as Reformed believers, our focus on the Reformation can cause us to view all of Church History through that lens. However, we need to remember the Protestant Reformation took place some 1,500 years AFTER the founding of the New Testament Church.

When we go back to early Church History, we do see something of a European direction to the Church's growth. Paul's missionary efforts moved from Asia Minor into Europe – through Macedonia and Greece and eventually to Italy. That familiar trajectory leads to Roman Catholicism, the Reformation, and the Puritans settling in America.

However, the gospel moved powerfully in other directions, as well. History and Church tradition teach us that the gospel moved east, as well as, west, traveling during the Apostolic Era through Syria, Persia, and at least as far as India. At the same time, the gospel quickly moved south into Africa. And, as a result, North Africa unexpectedly became the cradle of Western Christian theology.

Following the apostolic pattern, the gospel in Africa went first to the Jews. Alexandria in Egypt had a massive Jewish presence. For many years, it had been a key Roman city and a center for scholarship. The early church quickly established itself among the Alexandrian Jews and also had a significant following among the

Copts (native Egyptians). Soon, there was a catechetical school established in Alexandria that exercised strong influence upon early Christian theology.

The early church Fathers Clement, Origin, and Athanasius were all associated with this school and its influence extended both northward into Europe, and south as far as Ethiopia. The seminal Councils of Nicaea and Chalcedon were directly influenced by Alexandrian theology, making Africa a key player in the development of the doctrine of Christology. And in the fourth century, North Africa also produced the magisterial St. Augustine, bishop of Hippo (in present-day Tunisia), whose writings were the foundation of Reformed soteriology. (Both Luther and Calvin openly acknowledged their debt to Augustine.)

Western theology – our theology – finds many of its roots in Africa. So, it is only fitting that the westward movement of the Church has, through western missionaries, brought the gospel back to Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is now the epicenter of Christianity and the Church there is expanding at an astounding rate. God's ways are not our ways! (Isaiah 55.8)

~Pastor Steere

Looking Ahead...

June 28

General Assembly
Men's Proverbs Bible Study
MS Morning Bible Study
HS Game Night

June 29

Youth & Family CFC Soccer
Game

June 30

Morning Worship
Sunday School

July 1

HS Evening Bible Study and
Soccer

July 4

Church Office Closed -
Independence Day
No Swim Day at the
May's Pool

July 5

Men's Proverbs Bible Study
MS Morning Bible Study

July 6

No Men's Breakfast

July 7

Lord's Supper Celebrated
Sunday School
Diaconate Meeting

July 8

SHINE Camp
HS Evening Bible Study

July 9

SHINE Camp
Ladies' Morning Bible Study

July 10

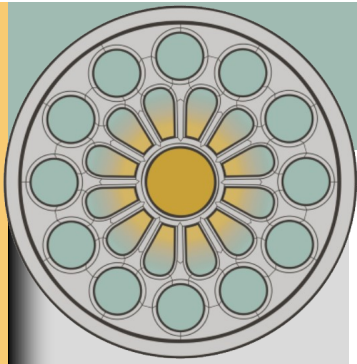
SHINE Camp
Ladies' Summer Prayer Group
GriefShare
Ladies' Evening Bible Study
MS Game Night
Prayer Group

July 11

SHINE Camp
Swim Day at the May's Pool

July 12

SHINE Camp
Men's Proverbs Bible Study



What's Happening?

Nursery Schedule June 30

Front Desk
Sherry Baiertl

Worship

Infants
Meg Wooten &
Tammy Knotts

Crawlers
Jonah & Isaiah Harris

Toddlers
Elijah & Ezra Harris

Sunday School

Infants
Stacy Collins &
Heidie Armao

Crawlers
Jeannie Hall &
Lauren Warren

Toddlers
Betty Varnell

BABY SHOWER

A baby shower in honor of Colleen (Murphy) Bailey is on Sunday, July 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Perseverers Classroom. Colleen is having a boy, and is registered at Amazon and Target.

YOUTH & FAMILY CFC SOCCER NIGHT

Join us this Saturday, June 29, for a fun night watching soccer and fellowshiping at Finley Stadium! The game starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are only \$10, and may be purchased online or at the gate. Contact Abby or Jeremiah for more details.

SOLOMON'S PORCH CLASS

Beginning this Sunday, June 30, Dr. Bill Higgins is teaching on American and Scottish Presbyterian History in the Solomon's Porch Class (which meets in the Fellowship Hall) for the Summer Semester.

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Starting Sunday, June 30, this class begins meeting in the Library.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. There is no eNewsletter sent out that day.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The July 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.

Mary Maurer
416 East Glenview Drive
West Grove, PA 19390

Mike and NiLyn Triplett
Miketrip9288@gmail.com

SHINE CAMP

For those registered, SHINE: Creative Arts Camp for Girls begins Monday, July 8, at 8:30 a.m. If you're interested in volunteering to help in the cooking and painting classes, please contact Rebekah Bennett at rebekahjennett@gmail.com.

HIKING KINSHIP GROUP

Ladies, come explore the outdoors with us! Saturday, July 13, at 12:00 p.m., we'll hike the Chattanooga Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is an amazing urban trail system that has become the recreational spine of the Scenic City. For more information, contact Breezy Atkinson at breezyatkinson@yahoo.com.

YOUTH GAME NIGHTS

~High Schoolers are invited to an impromptu game night tomorrow, June 28, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Jeremiah and Madeline's house. Join us for board games and fellowship. Contact Jeremiah for more info.

~Middle Schoolers are invited to a game night in the youth room at CPC on Wednesday, July 10. More details to come!