

## CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*'Join us for a drink of Living Water'*



### From the Pastor's Desk...

DECEMBER 2015

Dear Cup family and friends,

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who prayed and supported the amazing teaching mission I was able to do in Tirana, Albania during the week of November 16-20. Many of you know that I needed to leave for the airport during our closing hymn following our all-church retreat. What I'm happy to report is that all of the items that you prayed for in my commissioning that day came to pass!

Despite the heightened security around the world following the ISIS attacks in Paris that week, my travel to (and from) Albania occurred without a hitch. In addition, I was able to hit the ground running, as I needed to teach for 3 hours the day I landed on Old Testament covenants, and the Intertestamental Period (the 400 years between the Old and New Testaments). In this part of the world, when you speak about these events you're talking about things that in some cases happened 'just down the road', so accuracy is particularly important.

I was co-teaching this course with another American, a fellow EPC pastor by the name of Austin McCaskill. Austin and his wife Beverly are moving back to the United States December 4 after a 9 year stay in Albania in order to care for Austin's aging father. He, his wife, and I hit it off immediately, which was another answer to prayer. We were able to work with each other very effectively as we taught through the ENTIRE New Testament from Tuesday through Friday. I covered the Gospels, Acts, the letters of Peter, James, and John, and Revelation. Austin covered the Pauline letters and the Book of Hebrews. We worked from a framework of slides translated into Albanian that Austin had done a couple of years ago; he graciously made numerous changes to accommodate me. Given Austin's impending move, the school was facing cancelling this class without my willingness to help; they had tentatively looked at getting an Albanian co-teacher to help, but that man's father passed away suddenly the week before class – it was God's grace to them that I was able to be there.

33 students were in this class. Most were in their 20s and 30s; some already had Master's Degrees in other fields. Finding developed Christian education in this country, however, is extremely difficult. Most of these students had worked all day before coming to class, yet they took notes vociferously and asked excellent questions. I was impressed that the women as well as the men were very good about digging into the Biblical text and staying with the discussion. Interest was particularly high in how to address Muslims and the Koran; I brought along several resources that I was able to pick up for a few dollars in the States that were extremely helpful to them, but unavailable in their country. As has been the case for me in Sierra Leone, I was deeply moved by the level of gratitude these students have for the gospel message that God has come searching for them in Christ, to offer mercy and assurance instead of wrath. My favorite part of the week occurred when one student asked for 'permission' to share my words about God's mercy being the 'engine' for our gratitude (Romans 12:1-4). 'It's such a beautiful way to put it,' she said. 'Don't thank me!' I responded. 'Thank the Apostle Paul!'

Thank you, as well, for your prayers. Through the Holy Spirit, we are connected to brothers and sisters in the faith all over the world. It meant a GREAT deal to them that someone was willing to travel from the U.S. to teach them. And, while I was thrilled to be there, I'm ESPECIALLY happy to be home again! Merry Christmas- and may we be humbled once again by the greatest news we can ever receive.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

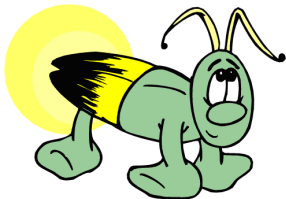




**LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA  
THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 6th  
4:00pm AT THE BIXLER'S**



**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16th  
CHRISTMAS CAROLING  
MEET AT THE CHURCH  
6:30pm**



**SHINE SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 13TH**

**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL:  
'DUDE, YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?'  
7:00PM**

**RECEPTION TO  
FOLLOW WITH PUNCH  
& COOKIES**

**The Newsletter is also  
available online at our  
website: [cupepc.org](http://cupepc.org)**

### **IN NEED OF PRAYER?**

***Members of the prayer team are available  
in the library immediately following  
worship each Sunday.***

*Please join us in the library and let us  
pray with you. If you know of family  
members or others in the community  
who are in need of prayer, please  
encourage them to join us on Sundays.*

***Prayer request cards are now available  
in the blue pew pads.***

*If you have a written prayer request,  
please fill out the card and drop it in  
the offering plate or church office and  
we will pray for you.*

***November 18, 2015***

***Dear Pastor Scott and CUP Church,***

*Carol and I were so blessed to enjoy last weekend with  
you. Your warm welcome, your love for God and His  
Word, and your love for one another deeply encour-  
aged us. Let us all live more God-centered lives for the  
glory of Jesus Christ!*

***May God Bless you!***

***Scott and Carol***



**GRIEF SHARE—MONDAYS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2015 -  
FEBRUARY 22, 2016  
7:00 - 9:00pm**

**Your journey from Mourning  
to Joy—**

**Help and encouragement  
after the death of a spouse,  
child, family member or friend**

### **Weekly Meetings...**

**Monday 1:00pm Bible Study** (Resumes in January)  
**7:00pm Grief Share**

**Wednesday Youth Small Groups 7:30pm**

**Youth Girls at the Manse & Youth Boys in the Youth Room**

**Second Wednesday 12:00pm Game Day** (Dec. 9th Grand Valley Inn)

**Wednesday Morning Woman's Small Group 9:00am**

**3rd Thursday at noon Lunch Bunch** (December 17th @ Shakespeare's)

**Friday Night Small Groups 6:00pm** (@ The Hughes')

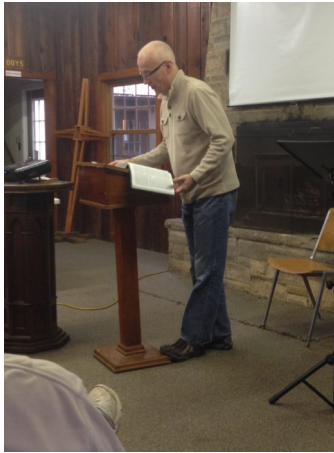
**Saturday Morning Men's Group 7:30am** (@ Eat 'n Park)



## ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Pastor Scott Boerckel and his wife Carol joined 35 of us at Camp Frederick in Rogers, OH for a tremendous weekend retreat on the theme 'The God-Centered Life'.

Scott and Carol examined the lives of Jonah, Moses, and Naomi and Ruth in very illuminating ways. Carol also brought her tremendous artistic skills with her to teach many of us how to do a winter scene water-color, while many of the rest of us enjoyed a brisk Fall walk on the gorgeous grounds. A great time was had by all!



## **FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS 7:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE Communion and Candlelight Service Everyone is Invited to Join Us!**



### **DECEMBER Calendar**

<b><u>DECEMBER 1</u></b>	6:00pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<b><u>DECEMBER 3</u></b>	4:00pm OUTREACH
<b><u>DECEMBER 6</u></b>	6:00pm LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA
<b><u>DECEMBER 9</u></b>	12:00pm Christmas Game Day (at Grand Valley Inn)
<b><u>DECEMBER 12</u></b>	9:00am Shine Dress Rehearsal
<b><u>DECEMBER 13</u></b>	7:00pm Shine Musical
<b><u>DECEMBER 15</u></b>	7:00pm SESSION
<b><u>DECEMBER 16</u></b>	6:30pm Christmas Caroling
<b><u>DECEMBER 17</u></b>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch (at Shakespeare's)
<b><u>DECEMBER 19</u></b>	9:00am Cantata Dress Rehearsal
<b><u>DECEMBER 20</u></b>	10:30am Cantata
<b><u>DECEMBER 24</u></b>	7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

**Mondays** 1:00pm Bible Study (*RESUMES IN JAN.*)  
6:00pm College & Young Adult Study @ Cline's  
7:00pm Grief Share

**Wednesdays** 9:00am Women's Small Group  
3:30pm "SHINE" After School program  
followed by Family Dinner @6pm  
(LAST SHINE 12/16/15 - RESUMES 1/27/16)  
7:30pm Youth Small Group

**Thursdays** 7:00pm Choir Practice (followed by Praise Team)

**Fridays** 6:00pm Small Group Study @ Hughes'

**Saturdays** 7:30am Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park

**Sundays** 5:30pm Confirmation (**NO Class 12/27**)

7:00pm Crosscurrent (**NO Mtg. 12/13, 12/27**)

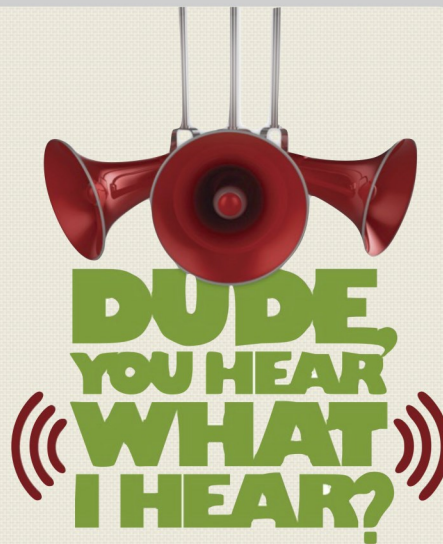




# CHILDREN & YOUTH



Shine Sunday with "Superhero skit"



Preparing for  
**"Dude, You Hear What I Hear?"**  
**December 13, 7pm**



Confirmation  
 Class



Youth Lock-in

