The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919 ~ E-mail: FirstCPC@KFCPC.comcastbiz.net ~ (865) 588-8581

Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

January 4, 2017



During the sermon last Sunday, I mentioned how difficult it is for most of us, myself included, to keep the New Year's resolutions that we have made. In fact, many of us have failed to keep these resolutions so many times that we no longer bother making them. With that in mind, instead of

Making resolutions for the new year, I want to encourage each of us to cultivate lifelong spiritual habits that will draw us closer to God and will help us become the person God desires for us to be. Here are five habits that I would like for you to prayerfully consider pursuing in your life. Habit #1: Set aside time each day to read God's Word. This is a common commitment for Christians to make, but it is a hard one to keep; days can easily slip by without you setting aside time to open your Bible. In order to make this a habit, start small; begin with a plan that is workable. Perhaps this means reading a chapter each day, or perhaps it means reading a few verses. Perhaps you will need to get up ten minutes earlier or set ten minutes aside on your lunch break. Whatever you decide to do, remember that any habit takes time to develop, so if you find yourself missing a day or two, do not give up. Habit #2: Make time for prayer everyday. This habit is closely related to the first; you will need prayer to help you truly understand God's Word and remain committed to reading it. Again, start small; a prayer does not have to be long and drawn-out for God to hear it. Habit #3: Invest in God's Kingdom by faithfully giving to His work. This habit can be a tough one because we know that God does not want us to give grudgingly, and keeping resolutions can often feel like a chore, but making giving a habit will likely allow you to experience the blessings that follow when you are more focused on giving than receiving. Habit #4: Be more aware of the needs of others. This habit can be a way for you to get your focus off yourself and onto the Lord and how He is calling you to reach out. And Habit #5: Make getting actively involved in the life of this congregation a priority. It is so easy to settle for small talk on Sunday morning, but try to make it a priority to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ on a deeper level. Invite a family from church over for dinner. Get together during the week to share your struggles and where you are in your Christian walk. Attend Sunday School and support our outreach efforts. Taken together, these five habits will gradually make us more and more like Christ, which is God's ultimate goal for each of us.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting to elect, ordain, and/or install the *Elder Class of 2019* will take place at the close of our Worship Service this coming Sunday, January 8th; at that time, our *Session* will nominate **Phil Bridges**, Chrissy Collins, and Dianne Pipkin to serve as the next *Elder Class*; additional nominations can be made from the floor providing the nominee meets the biblical and constitutional qualifications to serve as an Elder and is present at our Congregational Meeting to accept the nomination.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **West Circle** of our ladies' ministry will meet next Tuesday, January 10th, at 11:00 a.m., in the Keene Room. (This is a week later than usual.) Please bring a sandwich lunch – drinks and dessert will be provided. All the ladies of the church are invited.

Holiday Ministry Update

All of the "Mitten Tree" items will be taken by **Donna Walker** and **Betty Hammill** to the **Coalition for Appalachian Ministry** (CAM) Mission House in Townsend this coming Thursday, January 5th. Thank you to all who contributed to this worthy cause – helping the children and adults in Appalachia to stay warm this winter.

Denomination Day Celebration

First Cumberland will host the *Presbytery of East Tennessee*'s **2017 Denomination Day Celebration** Sunday afternoon, January 29th, at 3:30 p.m. Following the celebration, a meal will be served in our Gym; donations for the meal will be accepted. This special musical Worship Service will feature a Presbyterial Choir, as well as various church choirs, and soloists. For those interested in joining the Presbyterial Choir, meet at the Talbot Cumberland Presbyterian Church for practice Sunday, January 8th, and Sunday, January 15th; both practices will start at 3:00 p.m.

Water Angel Ministry

First Cumberland is beginning a new ministry – that of providing bottled water and men's and women's winter coats to the homeless. We will be working with **Water Angel Ministry**, an organization who distributes these things to the homeless and needy; they are based at 907 University Avenue. We will begin this collection in January, collecting on the last Sunday of each month, throughout the year. **Aaron Mynatt**, the volunteer who heads up **Water Angel Ministry**, will pick up our donations monthly. Please bring your cases of water and coats to the hallway off the side entrance of the church. The cases of water are rather heavy, so assistance will be provided to help carry them into the church, if needed. Thank you, congregation, for helping the "least of these" in our community.

For the glory of God, Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church exists to **worship** Christ, **evangelize** the lost, **love** one another and our neighbor, and **learn** more about our God.



First Cumberland,

where you belong!





Happy Birthday January 4th-10th

6th ~ David Collins

Our Faithfulness	Record	<u>for</u>	January	1 ^{s1}
Sunday School			-	3

Sunday School	34
Worship Service	
Offering	\$17,348.57
Youth Fund	\$37.00
Memorial Fund	\$65.00
Disaster Fund	\$150.00

Activities January 4th-10th

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. West Circle Meeting

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

(See our web site for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Maxine Curtis is now at Westmoreland Health and Rehabilitation Center (Room 113) undergoing therapy following surgery to repair her broken hip. ~ Amelia Hinkle, granddaughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, is doing well following her recent fall. ~ Jewell Kerr continues to have a heart-rhythm issue.

Special Guests

It was great having **Rebecca Wilkinson**, daughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, worshiping with us on Christmas Sunday (Rebecca's name was inadvertently left out of last week's newsletter.) ~ It was also great having **Jamie Bachman**, recent bride of Eric Bachman, worshiping with us last Sunday.

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, January 18th, at **The Lunch House** (3816 Holston Drive), at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club**, **P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, January 12th, at **The Original Louis Drive-in Restaurant** (4661 Old Broadway), at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.

Church's Website

The church's website, <u>www.first-cumberland.org</u>, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four Worship Services.



Prayer List In the Hospital



No one connected to First Cumberland is known to be in the hospital at this time.

Health and Prayer Concerns

Mildred Acuff; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Gordon Blaylock; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Charlotte Byrd; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries, Maxine Curtis; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); THE FAMILY OF NORA DERREBERRY (mother of Maxine Curtis); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; Kim Halbert; Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Amelia Hinkle (granddaughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson); Jewell Kerr; our Kids Hope USA ministry, Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrott (son of Cliff Parrott); persecuted Christians around the world; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); Amanda Roberts; John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Jean Stapleton (mother of Elaine Stapleton); Shane Thompson (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Codee Weaver (son of Elaine Stapleton); Lee Wells (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Rose Wilkinson (mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); BOB WITMER (uncle of Ton Witmer); Lois Witmer; Theola York (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards)

Please keep the Church Office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list.

Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is expended to the **Family of Nora Derreberry**, the mother of Maxine Curtis, who passed away last Thursday, December 29th. Please keep this family in your prayers.

From Our Mailbox

Dear Pastor Mike and ALL our Church Family,

We appreciate all your prayers and concerns for our family during my sister's illness. Thank you for the cards and caring thoughts and for those who came to the funeral. It meant so much.

Our love to a wonderful Church family,

Jin and Jack Gaston