

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

January 18, 2012

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN 2012!

"Fight the good fight of the faith!" (I Timothy 6:11-21)

Since all human beings are first and foremost spiritual beings, we must understand that we live in a time of intense spiritual warfare! *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces in the heavenly realms."* (Ephesians 6:12)

In this war there are two opposing forces: (1) the God of this world who desires every person to be saved; and (2) the god of this world who desires every person spend eternity in hell!

In a pastoral letter to his protégé Timothy, the apostle Paul passes on to us five action points on how to handle ourselves in *"fighting the good fight of faith!"*

First, run away from evil! (I Timothy 6:11a... *"flee from all these things..."*)

Run from sinful temptations, desires, and actions! There is a time in battle when running is the best way to fight for your life. Run from anything that pulls you away from God!

Second, run to God! (I Timothy 6:11b... *"pursue a Godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance and gentleness..."*) Run toward Godly belief and behavior, deeper love for God, deeper faith and trust in God; pursue patience, find in God the power to press on, even in difficult, trying circumstances; pursue gentleness and kindness toward difficult people!

Third, take hold of eternal life! (I Timothy 6:12b... *"take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses..."*) Eternal life is God's gracious gift to everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We have His life in us, but we struggle on a daily basis to experience the fullness of that life! We must hold tightly to the reality that God is sovereign, that He is always with us, that we have nothing to fear and everything to look forward to!

Fourth, give away material things! (I Timothy 6:18... *"command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share..."*) As long as we live in a materialistic culture, we have to fight to be free from the pursuit, desire, and craving for earthly things that have little meaning and don't last! Instead, we must pursue *"great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world..."* (I Timothy 6:6-8). The best way to fight extravagant materialism is to give things away extravagantly!

Fifth, guard all spiritual truth! (I Timothy 6:20... *"guard what has been entrusted to your care..."*) Guard the word of God, the Good News, the Gospel. Do not dilute or compromise the spiritual truths of the Bible. Fight for the Gospel outside the church so that lost people can hear and be saved. Fight for the Gospel inside the church so no one will be led astray through false teaching and theology!

We will be able to *"fight the good fight of the faith"* if we follow these action steps in 2012! Paul concludes his letter to Timothy by affirming that it is by God's grace in Jesus Christ that the ultimate victory in this spiritual warfare has already been won! As the hymn says: *" 'tis grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home!"*

SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12!



First Church is looking forward to our annual "Scout Sunday" worship celebration Sunday, February 12, 10:45 a.m. The service will include Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and American Heritage girls, their leaders, families, and friends! All of the wonderful scouting organizations who meet in our facility will be well represented and will participate in all parts of the service!

This is also your opportunity to invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and classmates to meet the congregation and enjoy the outstanding partnership we share with scouting!



NEXT 'NIGHT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP!'

Sunday, February 12, 6:00 p.m.

"God's Radical Love!"

featuring

Our Outstanding Praise and Worship Team
and the Pastor's Message

Everyone is Invited!!!

~Pastor Kevin

Knoxville First Cumberland
Presbyterian Church, Inc.
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919
Return Service Requested

Join Us For Worship this
Sunday!
And bring a friend!

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Tennessee



Happy Birthday

January
28-Kevin Wood



Activities for January 22-28, 2012

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Weds., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for January 8, 2012

Sunday School.....	44
Worship.....	70
Offering	\$1,505.25
Capital Improvements Fund	160.00

Senior's Day

The next Senior's Day is scheduled for February 25 at noon in the gym. There will be a pot dinner followed by games. Call Maxine Curtis to let her know that you are coming and to suggest any games you want to play. Invite your friends to come with you.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW ELDERS!

Phil Bridges, Dianne Pipkin and Steve Summers were installed as our newest elders at the conclusion of worship last Sunday. They will serve three-year terms beginning this week. God bless you as you serve with us!

PRESBYTERY OF EAST TENNESSEE DENOMINATIONAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Shiloh C. P. Church in Greeneville will be host church for our annual Denomination Day birthday celebration Sunday, January 29, 3:30 p.m. A called meeting of the presbytery will follow the service. Pastors and elders who attended the regular meeting of presbytery last October will automatically serve as delegates to this called meeting.

PROGRAM HELP

We are looking for persons to help in all areas of our church's ministries. We are looking to expand our reach in the areas of: Seniors, Youth, Women, Men, Consignment Sale, Charity Sale, Silent Auction, Talent Shows, Advertising, Fund Raising, Cooking, Kitchen, Bulletin boards, Liaison to each facility user group, etc. Many other things to do can be found for you if you want to volunteer.

Do you have any event that you would like to suggest that we try? Like ~ Ice Cream supper, a Valentines dinner, etc. If you do let Tom know. ~~~ Thanks, Tom Witmer

REBECCA'S CIRCLE

Meeting Saturday January 21 at 10:00 a.m. for breakfast at Perkins on Kingston Pike. Join us if you are out that way.

Prayer Concerns



In the Hospital On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

CP Missionaries; Mary Jane & Gordon Blaylock; Reba Smith; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Mary Cregger; Bonnie Holbert; Otis Clinton Shelby; Gladys Stone; Mildred Acuff (in Brakebill); A. R. Wood; Maxine McGuire; Ada Ladd; Nancy Anthony; Bud & Betty Hickman; Jackie Turbbeyville (Jim Curtis's niece); Carl Overstreet (friend of Cliff Parrott); Jessie Black, Shannondale (Ann Bachman's mother, cancer); Jonathan Migas; Peggy Bradshaw (Dianne Fielder's mother); J.B. & Nora Derreberry (Maxine Curtis parents); Ann Redding (Andrea Gollither's mother); Marlene Ritchey; Brian Migas; Richard H. Zimmerman (Richard Zimmerman's father); Marlena Live-say, daughter of Sara Woodcox (Pastor's neighbor); Tom Holbert (Bonnie Holbert's son, cancer); Ann Jennings (friend of Greg Beeler, terminal cancer); Colonel Bob Long, USAF (retired), cancer and Colonel Bud Day, USAF (Ret). POW VIETNAM (friends of Cliff Parrott); Dick Booher; Tara Null (friend of Lindsay Hammill Duncan); Taylor Ford; Sue Jenkins (friend of Judy Gammon); Tom Parrott (Cliff's son); Richard Congdon; John Hall (friend of the Congdons).

Please keep the Church Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list. Call 588-8581 or email firstcpc@earthlink.net.

LAY CORNER

God Going Postal

Last week, I took my Bible study of Acts in with me to read while I was waiting in line at the post office. I wasn't trying to make a statement, just multi-tasking in anticipation of a 30-minute wait in line. When I finally got toward the front of the line, the man in front of me suddenly ask me, "Do you think Paul had a clue?" I stared at him blankly, dumbfounded, without a clue what he was talking about. He apologized and explained that He was bored and had noticed the ladies behind me reading over my shoulder and had joined in out of curiosity. He also said that he really liked what the lesson had to say, but wondered if Paul knew how many people were going to read his letters to the churches that were included in the New Testament. I said no, I didn't think he did. The lady on the other side of me joined the conversation and said that she didn't think he had a clue either. To make a long story short, by the time we got to the front of the line, five of us were standing there discussing Paul's letters and their significance to modern times. After leaving, I couldn't help but ponder the mystifying nature of God working in something as mundane as a postal line, and the intensity of focus I must have possessed to not notice three people standing around me, reading along at the time. It just goes to show that God can use us in spite of ourselves sometimes.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LORD'S TABLE!



Sunday, January 29, 10:45 a.m. we will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in 2012.

Come prepared to experience God's forgiveness and grace through the broken body and shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Elders who will be serving Communion are asked to be present in the sanctuary by 10:30 a.m. to complete preparations.