

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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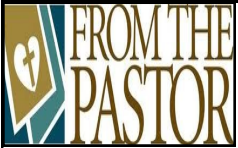
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org)

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

November 30, 2016



Rose Kennedy was the matriarch of the Kennedy clan. While many people think she lived a "charmed life", there are few people in American public life who have endured more heartache than she. Years ago, she lost both a son and a daughter, and later a grandson, in plane crashes. Two other sons were assassinated while holding public office. She had a daughter who was so severely retarded that she had to live in an institution. Her last son was entangled in a horrible scandal involving a car wreck in which a young woman died. Jess Moody, in his book, *A Club Sandwich Goes Great with Chicken Soup*, reports a conversation that he had with Rose Kennedy in which she recalled that following the birth of her retarded daughter, she gave up on God and withdrew from life. Shockingly, one of the family's maids had the courage to confront her about her attitude and told Rose Kennedy that "... you'll never be happy until you make your heart a manger where the Christ child may be born." In her anger, she immediately fired the maid, but later that night, Rose Kennedy prayed that her heart would be a manger where the Christ Child could be born—from that day on, she had a new peace and perspective. And by the way, she rehired the maid the next morning. As I said last Sunday when I shared this story, "I cannot think of a better way to start the *Advent Season*—to prepare for *Christmas*—than to make our heart a manger."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### Holiday Ministry Opportunities

- \* In conjunction with our *Mission and Outreach Committee*, our *Ladies' Ministry* has two "**Mitten Trees**" in the Narthex. Throughout the month of December, we will be collecting gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats for children in Appalachia through the **Coalition for Appalachian Ministry (CAM)**, located in Townsend, TN.
- \* We also have an "**Angel Tree**" in the Library. This "**Angel Tree**" has 36 "angel" requests on it, representing 12 residents of **Serene Manor Nursing Home** (each person will receive three presents apiece). Please return your gifts unwrapped, with the angel attached to it, and put the gifts under the tree, by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your assistance.
- \* **Christmas Gift Cards** are a wonderful way to honor family and friends and also to help feed hungry families in the Knoxville-area. The **FISH Hospitality Pantries** are walk-in pantries in the northern, eastern, and southern parts of Knox County. Order blanks and two sample cards are in the Narthex on the table. You can order the cards and mail them yourselves, or you can send them your names and addresses and they will mail them for you. A family of four can be fed for three days with just a \$5.00 gift. Contact **Betty Hammill** (690-8739) for more information.

### Upcoming Events

- \* Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ **Rocky Hill Christmas Parade**, at 6:00 p.m.
- \* Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> ~ **Third Sunday of Advent** ~ Our **Choir** will present this year's *Christmas music* during our **Worship Service**, at 10:45 a.m.
- \* Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> ~ **Youth Christmas Party**
- \* Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ **Christmas Eve ~ Candle Light Communion Service**, at 5:00 p.m.
- \* Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ **Christmas Day** ~ no Sunday School ~ **Worship Service**, at 10:45 a.m.
- \* Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> ~ **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain, and/or install the **Elder Class of 2018** at the close of our **Worship Service**, approximately 12:00 noon; 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.

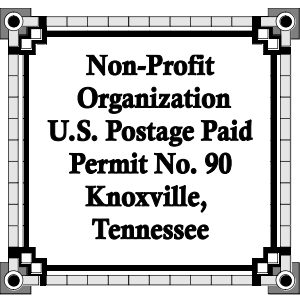
### Rocky Hill Christmas Parade

First Cumberland will once again have a float in the **Rocky Hill Christmas Parade**, which will be held this coming Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to help decorate our float, please meet here at the church that Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. and bring any Christmas decorations you think might be useful. In addition to having a float, we will also host a hospitality tent in the parking lot of Rocky Hill Center where we will give away coffee and hot chocolate, as well as distribute flyers about our church. For more information, contact Pastor Mike.


### Youth News

- \* All our **Youth** need to be at the church this coming Saturday morning, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. to help decorate our float for the **Rocky Hill Christmas Parade**. To ride on the float be back at church by 4:45 p.m., or be at Rocky Hill Ballpark at 5:00 p.m.
- \* On Sunday afternoon, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., our **Youth** will have a **Christmas Party** (lunch and a movie) here at the church. All attendees need to bring one wrapped gift (cost: \$5.00 or less).

*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

**November 30<sup>th</sup> - December 6<sup>th</sup>**

We have no known birthdays this week.



Faithfulness Record for November 27 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday School.....	36
Worship Service.....	65
Offering.....	\$2,050.25

Activities for November 30 <sup>th</sup> - December 6 <sup>th</sup>		
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday:	6:30 p.m.	Friendship Club, P.M. Edition
Saturday:	9:00 a.m.	Decorate Our Parade Float
	6:00 p.m.	Rocky Hill Christmas Parade
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)		

**Among Our People**


**Bonnie Bridges** is awaiting the results of a medical test she underwent last week. ~ **Hannah Davis**, granddaughter of Tom and Lois Witmer, finished first on the beam at her first gymnastics meet. ~ **Wayne Haddox**, father of Ryan Haddox, will have a procedure to repair a second carotid artery on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. ~ **Kim Halbert** spent several days in hospital last week in South Carolina, while on vacation; once back in Knoxville, she had an outpatient procedure last Sunday morning to remove several gall stones from her bile duct and implant a stent. ~ It was great having **Gina Jenkins**, girlfriend of Greg Curtis, back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ Congratulations to **Kristi Summers** and **Cody Hawn** on their recent engagement. ~ **Pastor Mike** will have outpatient surgery on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, to repair a hernia. ~ **Lois Witmer** is now home from the hospital and slowly improving.

**Women of Joy Conference**

There will be a **Women of Joy Conference** in Pigeon Forge the weekend of April 28-30, 2017. Cost for the conference is \$109.00 per person; cost for lodging is \$144.00 (two nights, double occupancy); each lady is responsible for her own meals. A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is due by November 30<sup>th</sup>, with the balance (\$228.00) due by March 30, 2017. Contact **Joanna Wilkinson** at [3girls-mom@KFCPC.comcastbiz.net](mailto:3girls-mom@KFCPC.comcastbiz.net) or 205-533-2001 to confirm your interest in attending and to make your deposit.

**Advent Thought**


“Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent. . . . If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. . . .” —**Edward Hays**



### Prayer List

**In the Hospital**

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



**Health and Prayer Concerns** (alphabetized)

Mildred Acuff; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Charlotte Byrd; Gordon Blaylock; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); **Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries**, Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; Bill Gregory (friend of Greg Beeler); Wayne Haddox (father of Ryan Haddox); Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Bobbie Himes (sister of Jin Gaston); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Jewell Kerr; **Kids Hope USA Mentoring Program**, Steve Kusenda (brother-in-law of Margaret Migas); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; 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); 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); Gladys Stone; **SHANE THOMPSON** (cousin of Hannah Haddox); 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); 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.*

**Church's Website**

The church's website, [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org), includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four [Worship Services](#).

**Friendship Club, P.M. Edition**

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be this coming Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at **Red Lobster Seafood Restaurant** (8040 Kingston Pike), at 6:30 p.m. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.

**Friendship Club**

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at **Copper Cellar West** (7316 Kingston Pike), 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.