

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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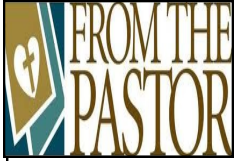
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

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

Our Weekly Newsletter

*"Loving God, Loving People"*

January 20, 2016



Last weekend, seven-hundred-and sixteen Cumberland Presbyterian youth and chaperones from around the southeast gathered in Gatlinburg for **Winter Convocation**, sponsored by Grace Presbytery. Every year, this is the largest gathering of Cumberland Presbyterian youth in the world. This year, we had nine people, seven youth—**Chrissy Curtis, Dawn Curtis, Gracie Hayes, Emma O'Neal, Sidney O'Neal, Josh Rech, and Jonathan Spencer**—and two chaperones—**Amanda Roberts and Scott Roberts**—in attendance all weekend. In addition, Joanna and I joined them Friday night and Saturday. The emphasis for Convocation this year was that Jesus is our Living Hope (**First Peter 1:3**). My prayer is that each of us know Jesus as our Living Hope.

I want to share with you the story I used to open last Sunday's sermon with: "The story is told of a seminary student who studied all night in preparation for a final exam in his hardest theology class. When he arrived at school the next morning, he began to go over his notes one more time. To his relief, when the professor walked in, she said: 'Let's do a quick review before the test.' The professor covered every item that had been on the study guide, then she started giving them new information—material that they had not previously covered in class. Immediately, several students complained about the new information. The professor picked up the text book and said: 'Everything is in the book, and you are responsible for everything in the book.' With that said, it was time to take the test. As her assistant passed out the test, the professor said: 'Leave your test face down on the desk until everyone has one. I will tell you when to turn your paper over and start.' A couple of minutes later, the professor said: 'You may turn the test over and start.' When the seminary students turned over the tests, they discovered that every answer was filled in. A note at the bottom of the last page said: 'Your Final Exam is now over. All your answers are correct. You are blessed with an "A" on the Final Exam.' Every student looked up at the professor in utter astonishment. When the professor was sure all eyes were on her, she said: 'You passed the test for one reason only—because the creator of the test took the test for you. All your study time, class time, and hard work in preparation for this exam did not help you get the "A". You have just experienced grace.'"

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### **Friendship Club**

**Change of Date:** The next Dutch-treat luncheon for the **Friendship Club** will now be Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., at **Calhoun's Restaurant** (Bearden hill). Everyone reading this announcement is welcome to attend this and all **Friendship Club** outings; you are also encouraged to invite people from outside the church to join you. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office.

### **2016 Denomination Day Celebration**

The Presbytery of East Tennessee's **2016 Denomination Day Celebration** will be Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 3:30 p.m., at the Talbott Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The celebration will be a song service featuring Southern Gospel Music. There will be a Presbyterial Choir made up of people from many churches, including First Cumberland, along with several other choirs and soloists. Following the celebration, a meal will be provided for a donation. Please make reservations no later than Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, by contacting the Talbott Church at 865-475-1221 or [talbottchurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:talbottchurch@bellsouth.net).

### **From Our Mailbox**

*Church Friends.*

*Thanks for the support and love shown during the years. Mother (Edna Fleenor) loved the church and wished many times that she could be with you in worship.*

*The dish garden you sent for the service was beautiful. It will occupy a special place in my home and remind me of our church friends. We appreciate those of you who came out to the service on such a cold day. The family was overwhelmed.*

*Thank you and best wishes to each member and to the church,  
Judy Fleenor and family*

*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.*

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 90  
Knoxville,  
Tennessee

First Cumberland,  
where you belong!

Happy Birthday

January 20th-26th

We have no known birthdays  
this week.

Stewardship Report January 17, 2016	
Winter Convocation.....	9
Sunday School.....	40
Worship Service.....	77
Offering.....	\$4,803.00
Memorial.....	\$120.00

Activities for January 20-26, 2015	
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m.      Choir Practice
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.      Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.      Worship Service
	6:00 p.m.      Session Meeting
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)	

*Among Our People*

Dick Booher will have surgery on his shoulder Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> . . . Peggy Bradshaw, mother of Dianne Fielder, is in U.T. Medical Center . . . Hannah and Hailey Davis, granddaughters of Tom and Lois Witmer, competed at the Ozone Gymnastics meet this past weekend; more than 3,500 gymnasts competed; Hannah competed in and placed in all four events; Hailey is coming back after a year off due to injuries and only competed on Bars and Floor exercises . . . Sarah DeLozier, daughter of Tom and Emily DeLozier, is beginning an eleven-month training term in Sacramento, California, as a team leader for FEMA through AmeriCorps . . . Ada Ladd remains under hospice care at home . . . Catherine Pipkin, mother of Paul Pipkin, remains in Parkwest Medical Center; she is now under palliative care . . . Becky Rader will have surgery on her toes Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> . . . Marlene Ritchey remains under hospice care in Arizona . . . Congratulations to MariKate Walker and Bashnar Abuhelweh on there recent engagement . . . Tom Witmer will have a stent placed in his heart with the aid of an Impella Ventricular Assist Device Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> . . .

Church Directory

We hope to soon create a new Church Directory. Please make sure the Church Office has your updated contact information (address, telephone number, e-mail address) so the new directory will be as accurate as possible. We will be doing this directory in-house and it will include family pictures. These pictures will be taken Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, and Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow,

“ . . . In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” [First Peter, 1:3, NIV]

Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

Peggy Bradshaw @ U.T. Medical Center  
Catherine Pipkin @ Parkwest Medical Center

Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)

Mildred Acuff; Janie Beeler (wife of Greg Beeler); Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Pat Beeler (friend of Greg Beeler); Charlotte Byrd; Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Kim Boyatt (friend of Susan Edwards); Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Frances Broom (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Greg Brown (caretaker of Mary Cregger); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); DAVID CLARK (coworker of Tom DeLosier); Carol Craven (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Cregger; *Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries*, Mary Helen Daniel; SARAH DELOZIER (daughter of Tom and Emily DeLozier); Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Lynne Garrison (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Beth Hazelwood’s baby (friend of Lisa Hayes); Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Christina Hinkle and Baby (daughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna); Bobbie Himes (sister of Jin Gaston); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Kim Jones (friend of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Steve Kusenda (brother-in-law of Margaret Migas); Ada Ladd; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Gene McCammon; Maxine McGuire; Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Bob Metts; Brian Migas (son of Margaret Migas); Jonathan Migas (son of Margaret Migas); 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*; Catherine Pipkin (mother of Paul Pipkin); Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); Becky Rader; David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); Marlene Ritchey; Mary Safewright (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Gladys Stone; John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Charlie Spalding (neighbor of Joy Taylor); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr’s sons); Tom Witmer

*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.

2015 Contribution Statements

If you do not receive your 2015 Contribution Statement by email or U.S. Mail this week, it will be available this coming Sunday in the Narthex.