

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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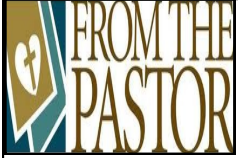
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

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

Our Weekly Newsletter

*"Loving God, Loving People"*

November 4, 2015



Last Sunday was **All Saints' Day** on the Church calendar, and as such, we recognized those connected with First Cumberland who had passed away since November 1, 2014, as part of the *Litany of Remembrance* during our Worship Service. Those remembered were: **Brenda Burk** (sister of Lois Witmer); **Denette Curtis Carpenter** (mother of Dawn, Chrissy, Christopher, Justin, and Patrick Curtis); **B.F. Daniel** (husband of Mary Helen Daniel); **Carl Kissiah** (father of Joanna Wilkinson); **Geneva Stout** (aunt of Kim Halbert); **Laura Ann Taylor Weinand** (inactive member and daughter of Georganne Taylor Wood); and **Nancy Wood** (former member and wife of former pastor, Kevin Wood). Continue to keep these families in your prayers as they continue to deal with their grief. *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."* [Psalm 23:4, KJV]

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### **Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry**

- ♦ Due to the funeral of Nancy Wood, November's meeting of the West Circle of our ladies' ministry has been rescheduled. They will now meet on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., in the Keene Room. Please bring a sandwich lunch—drinks and dessert will be provided. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend.
- ♦ Coming up in November is our ladies' ministry's annual **BAKE/CRAFT SALE**. It will take place on Sunday morning, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. till after the Worship Service, in the Library. Ladies, we ask your help in contributing to our CPWM's largest fund-raiser.

### **Youth News**

- ⇒ Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, our **Middle School Youth Group** will meet here at the church from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. They will practice archery and play games; a light lunch will be provided.
- ⇒ Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, after our Worship Service, our **High School Youth Group** will meet at one of the city's greenway entrances (directions to follow). Youth need to bring their bikes and a light lunch. This outing will start about 12:30 p.m. and end around 3:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, both our **Middle and High Youth Groups** will help with the **Brunch with Santa** event. All youth need to be at the church at 8:00 a.m. to prepare brunch to be served at 10:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, our **Middle and High Youth Groups** will have a joint **Christmas Party** (details to follow).

### **Homecoming Tidbits**

**We received an additional quote on printing costs; note the new lower cost:** Various size color prints of the water color of the church that **Margaret Migas** painted for **Homecoming 2015** can be ordered through the Church Office; 18"x24" prints are \$20.00 each, 8"x10" prints are \$5.00 each, and 5"x7" prints are \$2.00 each; all the prints will be printed on matte-finish card stock and are suitable for matting and framing and would make wonderful Christmas presents. 4"x6" note cards are also available for \$5.00 per box (six cards with blank envelopes). If you would like a DVD of the **Homecoming 2015 Slide Show** that was played in both the Narthex and the Gym on Homecoming Sunday, simply contact the Church Office; the cost is \$5.00 per DVD; order forms are also available in the Narthex.

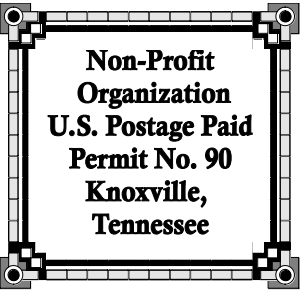
### **The Cumberlander**


Over the last few years, in order to conserve resources, many people have opted to receive their church newsletters via e-mail. While this conserves resources (paper and postage), it does create its own problem, and that is that generally one e-mail copy of the newsletter is sent to a family and once the recipient reads it, he or she deletes it without the rest of the family having access to it. If you desire to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please either make sure you share the newsletter with all your family members or supply the Church Office with all your family's e-mail addresses so that each family member can receive their copy.

### **Christian Sympathy**

Our sincere Christian sympathy is expressed to the **Family of Nancy Wood**, wife of former Pastor Kevin Wood, who passed away last Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Kevin in your prayers.

*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.*






### Happy Birthday

October 4th~November 10th

4th ~ Shelia Emory  
5th ~ Larry Fielder  
5th ~ Brent Witmer  
6th ~ Darian Booker  
7th ~ Jennifer Rech  
7th ~ Josephine Rech  
7th ~ Steve Summers  
9th ~ Kim McCurry



Stewardship Report November 1, 2015	
Sunday School.....	54
Worship.....	84
Offering.....	\$4,295.20
Building Reimbursement.....	\$174.27
Youth Fund.....	\$290.00
Memorial Fund.....	\$50.00

Activities for November 4-10, 2015	
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m.	West Circle Meeting
(See web site for complete calendar listings)	

*Among Our People*

It was great having **Ann Avery** and **Mark Henn** worshipping with us for the first time last Sunday . . . It was great having **Jim Collins** (father of David Collins) worshipping with us last Sunday . . . **Edna Fleenor** remains under hospice care at NHC, St. Mary’s . . . **Ada Ladd** is still at Kindred Nursing and Rehabilitation-Northhaven . . . **Becky Rader** is in South Carolina visiting her daughter . . . **Marlene Ritchey** remains under hospice care in Arizona .

**Friendship Club**


The next Dutch-treat luncheon for the **Friendship Club** is Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., at **The Original Louis’ Drive-In Restaurant** (4646 Old Broadway). Everyone reading this announcement is welcome to attend this and all **Friendship Club** outings; you are even encouraged to invite friends from outside the church. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office.

**Church’s Website**

The church’s website, [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org), includes audio recordings of the sermons from the last four of our worship services. Look for the link on the bottom left-hand corner of our homepage.

**Thought for the Week**

“You can choose the sin, but you can’t choose the consequence.” — **Tony Evans**




### Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

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

Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)



Mildred Acuff; Sarah Ames (mother of a coworker of Kathy Byers); 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); Carol Craven (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Cregger; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Jim and Cooky Dyer; Edna Fleenor; Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Lynne Garrison (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Beth Hazelwood’s baby (friend of Lisa Hayes); Mark Hester; Larry Hickens (friend of Tom and Emily DeLozier); Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); 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); 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); 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; Tara Shelley and baby (due in November); Gladys Stone; Donna Snoderly (sister-in-law of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr’s sons); Lois Witmer;

**Family of Nancy Wood**

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

**Save the Dates**

⇒ The second annual **Rocky Hill Christmas Parade** will be Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. We plan to enter a float in the parade again this year.

⇒ We will hold a **Brunch with Santa Claus** on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, in our Gym.

Additional information about these two events will soon appear in the newsletter.

# Generosity: Excelling in the Grace of Giving

*“... since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”* [Second Corinthians 8:7, NIV] Our *Stewardship and Finance Committee* and I have chosen these words of the Apostle Paul to be the theme of our *Stewardship Campaign for 2016*. The Apostle Paul wrote these words to a congregation somewhat similar to ours here at First Cumberland—they were a congregation that excelled in many areas, including generous giving. In the course of this letter—his second known letter to the believers in Corinth—the Apostle Paul both thanked them for their generosity and encouraged them to continue to be strong in this area of their relationship with Christ, and to improve it if possible. The purpose of this letter is to do the same—to thank you for your generosity over the past year and beyond, and to encourage you to continue in your generosity and to improve it if possible.

For the last several months, you have heard me pray, during *Prayer of Dedication* for our tithes and offerings, thanking God for His generosity towards us and asking God to help us become generous as He is generous. My intent when I am speaking or writing about stewardship is not to either raise money or fund a budget, though both of these things are necessary for our congregation to function properly; instead, my intent is to challenge each of us, myself included, to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ. One of the ways we effectively do that is through practicing generosity. Merely giving to a cause or a special project or to a budget meets the financial needs of the congregation, but it does not automatically cause us to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ. There are many good motivations for our giving to God through His Church. One such motivation is obedient giving—we give because it is our duty to give to and through the congregation of which we are a part. Another good motivation is transactional giving—we give because we are grateful for all God and our congregation has done for us. Yet another good motivation for giving is responsive giving—we see a need and respond to that need by giving. All of these motivations, and many more, are good reasons to give, but I would suggest to you that the best motivation for giving is character based giving—we give because our character has become Christ like. When this happens—when we have been conformed into the image of Christ [Romans 8:29], we become generous as God is generous. You see, properly understood, stewardship and generosity are not about what I or our *Stewardship and Finance Committee* or our *Session* want from you; stewardship and generosity are about what we want for you—for each of us—and what we want is for each one of us to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ.

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, will be *Dedication Sunday*, when we will have the opportunity to come forward and willingly express our desire to join the adventure of *excelling in the grace of giving* by simply placing your *Estimated Giving Card* on the altar as an act of worship. An *Estimated Giving Card* will be in each Sunday bulletin from November 8<sup>th</sup> through December 6<sup>th</sup>. “I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. . . .” [Second Corinthians 9:7, *The Message*] As always, the information you share on this card will be held in strict confidence, and I once again pledge to you that I will never know what you either plan to or actually give to the Lord through First Cumberland. It remains my firm belief that our *Stewardship and Finance Committee* simply cannot propose, nor can our *Session* approve a responsible budget for 2016 unless each of us turns in an *Estimated Giving Card*, so please make this a matter of much prayer. Following the Worship Service on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have a *Pot-Luck Dinner* to celebrate the generosity of this congregation.

In closing, I want to again thank you for the gifts you have given to the Lord to and through First Cumberland this past year, and indeed for all the time you have been a part of this congregation. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by me and it pleases God.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,  
*Pastor Mike*



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