

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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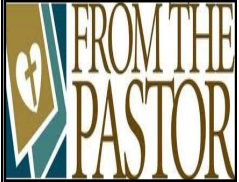
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

April 13, 2016



Last Sunday, we celebrated our first-ever **Homeschool Sunday** here at First Cumberland. It was a good Sunday—in fact, it was a very good Sunday, but still I cannot help but think that is was a missed opportunity. By that I mean that several of our regular attenders were not here to welcome and worship with our invited guests; nor did they get to hear how appreciative the homeschool programs are of the support they receive from our congregation. Those who were ill, your absence is understandable, but for the rest of us, we can do better! The same can be said about the **Potluck Lunch**; it was a wonderful meal and the food was abundant, but many of our regular attenders did not stay to eat and fellowship with our invited guests. At least one of the homeschool families present are looking for a church home; again, it was a missed opportunity, but I know in my heart of hearts, that we can do better! Please do not understand my comments as harsh criticism; they are not. My comments are meant to point out one small thing (being intentionally mindful of church events) that can help us grow our congregation and forge into the future God has in store for us. We can, and I believe will, do better!

I want to share with you a newsletter article written by **Rev. Duwayne Pounds**, the pastor of the Rocky Ridge Cumberland Presbyterian Church (one of my former pastorates), in Birmingham, Alabama:

"Dedication is costly. It cost Matthew his life by a sword in Ethiopia. It cost Mark his life at the hands of a mob in Alexandria. Luke was hanged on an olive tree in Greece. It cost John banishment on the Isle of Patmos. The once doubting Thomas paid the price for his unwavering belief with a lance. James the Greater was decapitated at Jerusalem. James the Less was thrown from the Pinnacle of the Temple, then clubbed to death. Bartholomew was flayed alive. Peter was crucified in Rome with his head downward. Andrew witnessed for Christ right up to the moment of his own death on a cross. Jude was shot with an arrow. Make no mistake about it. This Gospel we treasure was paid for in blood. Someone has rightly said, 'Talent is cheap; dedication is costly.'

You and I need this message of the cross because we are tempted to seek a lazy way, a cheap way, an easy way to live for God. Husbands and wives want to have lasting marriages, but they want to do it without it costing them their fidelity and freedom. Parents want to raise Christian children, but they don't want to pay the price of setting the kind of example necessary to help children know the Jesus way of living. Church members want a church that is vital and alive in the community, but many want someone else to bear the burden. Each of us want to contribute something lasting to this world, but we want to do it from an armchair with one hand on a television dial. It cannot be done. There is only one way to become what God has created you to be. It is the way of love, commitment, and service. It is the way of the cross."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

2016 FISH Food Pantry Campaign

Our second bagging session last Saturday successfully filled 212 bags in record time. Our competent crew consisted of the **Youth** of the Church—**Josh Rech**; **Dawn, Chrissy, Justin, Chris**, and **Patrick Curtis**; and **Gracie Hayes**—Youth Leaders **Scott** and **Amanda Roberts**; **Steve McCurry**; **Jimmy Curtis** (who will be picking up bread for the pantry this week); **Tom** and **Jessie Walker** and friend **Cameron**; **Mike** and **Zach Medley** (who broke down and took all the cardboard to recycle), **Betty Hammill**; and **Pastor Mike**. The next two bagging sessions, on April 16th and 23rd, will be handled by our partner church, Church of the Savior United Church of Christ. I will keep you informed about whether we will need to bag on April 30th. Thank you **ALL** for your work in helping to feed the hungry in our community. I could not do it without you!—**Betty Hammill**

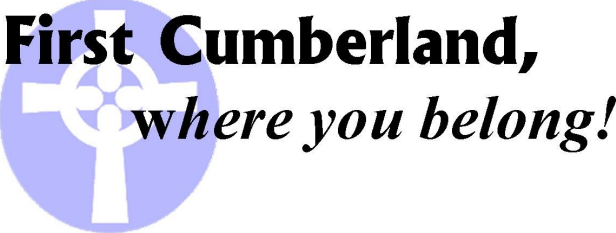
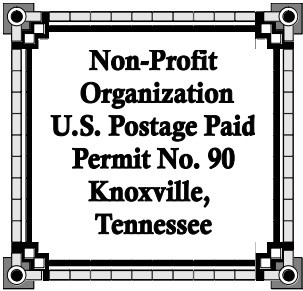
Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

Sunday evening, May 1st, our ladies' ministry will be hosting a meeting featuring **Sally Cox**, a former member of First Cumberland, who will be sharing her story of healing. This meeting will take place in the Keene Room, at 5:00 p.m. Following listening to **Sally's** exciting story, a light supper will be served. All the ladies of the church are encouraged to mark this date down on your calendar and plan to attend. Feel free to invite ladies from outside our congregation (family, friends, neighbors co-workers, classmates, etc.) to attend with you.

Chair Give-away

We have several metal folding chairs to give away. If you would like one or more of the chairs, simply call the Church Office and schedule a pick up time. The chairs will be stored in the hallway next to the Gym until they are gone. The chairs are free to anyone or any church that would like to have them and is willing to pick them up.

*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

April 13th-19th
18th - Dain Shelton

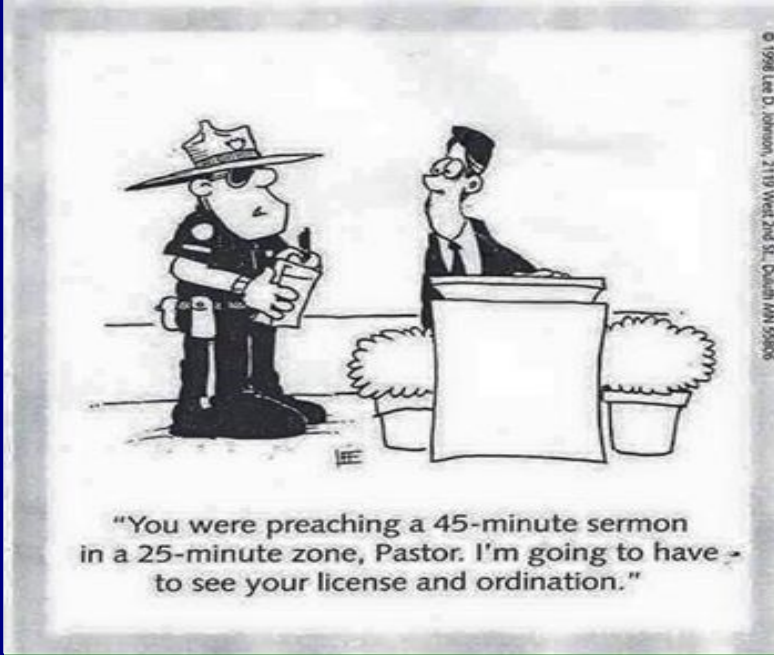



Stewardship Report April 10, 2016	
Sunday School.....	40
Worship Service.....	86
Offering.....	\$4,460.00
Facility Reimbursement.....	\$832.00
Youth Fund.....	\$36.00
Music Fund.....	\$50.00
Kroger Rewards.....	\$161.91

Activities for April 13-19, 2016	
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Sunday:	9:30 a.m. Sunday School
	10:45 a.m. Worship Service
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)	

Among Our People


Dick Booher remains at his son’s home, in Morristown, recovering from surgery; he is undergoing additional physical therapy on his shoulder and will not return home until sometime mid-May . . . Congratulations to **Stephanie Bridges** on her upcoming graduation (May 7th) from Tennessee Wesleyan College with a *Bachelor of Science* Degree in Biology; she has been accepted into the University of Tennessee’s Veterinary School . . . **Mary Cregger** is back in Fort Sanders Reginal Medical Center . . . **Marlene Ritchey** remains under hospice care in Arizona . . . **Kristi Summers** remains in Australia on rotation from pharmacy school . . . **Joanna Wilkinson** had surgery last Friday, April 8th, to remove and biopsy several ovarian cysts/masses; she could not have received a better report from the surgeon, but must wait until next week for the pathology report to conform that the cysts/masses are in fact benign . . . **Lois Witmer** is battling chronic anemia . . .





Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital
Mary Cregger @ Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center
Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)



Mildred Acuff; 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 DeLozier); 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); Judy Gammon; Lynne Garrison (sister of Lois Witmer); Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Christina Hinkle and Baby Girl (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); Jewell Kerr; Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Steve Kusenda (brother-in-law of Margaret Migas); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Gene McCammon; Maxine McGuire; Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); 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*, 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; Jean Stapleton (mother of Elaine Stapleton); Gladys Stone; John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew 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); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Joanna Wilkinson; Lois Witmer; 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, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four Worship Services.

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch of the **Friendship Club** is Wednesday, April 20th, at **S&S Cafeteria** located at 4808 Kingston Pike, at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.