

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 19, 2007

GRATITUDE AT CHRISTMAS

Nancy and I want to thank God for the privilege of knowing each of you and working alongside you. We have been watching you catch more and more of the vision God has for First Church by getting involved in the ministry.

There is a field of harvest to glean and a world to be won and we are grateful for this time He has given us to be with you and proclaim the Good News with one voice.

May you find Christ at home in your heart this Christmas. May the Word become flesh in your soul. May the Spirit be the candle of the Lord in your life. Merry Christmas and God bless you!

A STANDING OVATION!

Last Sunday the choir presented "Emmanuel: Celebrating Heaven's Child" to a standing ovation from the congregation! Praise God for Sam and Karen Ware, all the choir members and sound man Steve Summers for the wonderful message of the Messiah's birth, so powerfully delivered! We give God the glory for His Son and we thank Him for the messengers!

UPWARD BASKETBALL PRAYER TEAM

We are thankful for all the prayer partners of Upward Basketball and as the season approaches, continue to pray for the following...

(1) ...for all 78 children signed up to play this season. Pray for the development of their basketball skills and especially that they and their families will grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

(2)...for Upward Director Steve Summers, all coaches, referees, halftime devotional speakers, and everyone who has dedicated their time during the season. Pray that their hearts will be focused and their witness strong.

(3)...that all needed resources and funding will be available for the ministry.

(4)...that all practices and games will glorify God and honor His purposes.

Practices will be held this week and the first week of January. The first game will be Saturday, January 12, 10:30 a.m. More prayer partners are always needed so join us anytime!

CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE STILL OPEN

The annual youth-sponsored Christmas Post Office will be open this Sunday, December 23. Look for your Christmas cards on the tables in the narthex. Undelivered cards may be brought to the church office, but this is the last Sunday for delivery. Thank you for your contributions! Please make checks to First Church and designate them for "Youth Christmas Post Office."

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY THIS SUNDAY

This Advent-Christmas season we have been presenting all our special programs during the Sunday morning services. We're doing this so you can invite everyone you know who doesn't have a church family. Christmas is one of the best times of the year to welcome people to experience the joy and peace of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday, December 23, 10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday in Advent. Morning Message: "Incarnation: The Miracle of Christmas."

SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Jesus Christ invites you to His table Monday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Supper will include the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Come as you are, dependent on the mercy and grace of God. Bring all family and friends who seek Him as Savior and Lord. Peace be with you!

MORE THAN HALF-WAY!!!

After last Sunday we are more than half-way to our goal of \$50,000.00 for the Building Improvement Fund! The total so far is \$33,429.00!!! We have until January 31, 2008 to raise \$16,571.00. By God's grace we will achieve it and begin work on the new roof and HVAC system soon. Thank you for giving and caring!

HELPERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

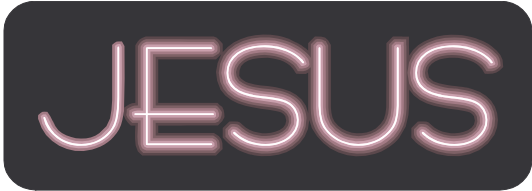
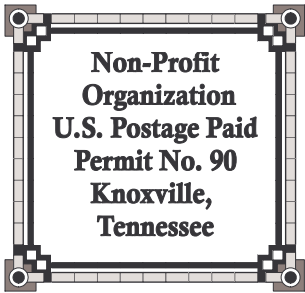
It's one of the most important ministries of the church! Beginning in January, 2008 we need a full slate of helpers in Children's Church. The Christian Education Committee asks you to sign up for one month. A curriculum is provided for K-3 while a toddler nursery (ages 1-4) will be staffed by a paid nursery worker. If you can help please contact Nancy Wood (357-1946).

'ELDER ON CALL' DURING DECEMBER

December 23: Eugene McCammon

December 30: Hugh Morgan

~Pastor Kevin



Happy Birthday



December
24-Rachael Searcy
27-Ryan McDaniel
28-Andrew Godwin
29-James Searcy, Jr.
29-Mark Boggs



Activities for December 22-29, 2007

Sun.,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Mon.,	5:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion
Tues.,	Christmas Day—Christ’s Birthday	
	Office Closed Christmas Day	

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for December 16, 2007

Sunday School.....	39
Worship.....	112
Offering.....	\$2,660.40
Capital Improvements Fund	N/A
Memorial/Building Fund.....	\$5,050.00
Expenses paid last week	N/A

Year-to-Date (as of December 16, 2007)

Offerings received to date:.....	\$150,670.26
Expenses paid to date:.....	N/A
Building / Cap. Improve. Fund.....	\$33,429.00

Keep an eye on the thermometer in the Narthex. Keep up with the our progress of the Building / Capital Improvement Fund Raising Campaign.

Update on Building Repairs and Maintenance


The Building & Grounds Committee met with the Session on Tuesday, December 4 in a joint meeting to hear a presentation from Al Bedinger on the HVAC design. After the presentation there was a question and answer period. There were also several members present. Al explained the difficulties in replacing our existing system due to it being a two pipe system and all piping is beneath the concrete. He informed all that his team’s best budget number for replacing the HVAC system in total is around \$636,000 with another \$39,000 needed if our electrical service is not sufficient. This amount is more than twice the number we where using for very preliminary budget numbers. If you have any questions or comments about these projects or other facility needs, please contact any member of the Building & Grounds Committee. (Tom Witmer, James O’Neal, Billy Davis, Barbara McCammon, Dick Congdon or Charlie Franks).

Roller Shoes

Please do **not** wear roller shoes to church. The rollers mark up the floors and put scrapes in the floor tiles. Help us keep the Church looking good. Thank you!!

The Crossing’s Christmas Post Office

Bring your Christmas cards to the office along with a donation for postage and place in the “Mail Box”. The youth will deliver your cards to our church attendees. Donations will go to the youth group, The Crossing, for activities.



Prayer Concerns

In the Military

Shane McGhee in Iraq, wife Tamara in California
Bill Hickman in Iraq, Lee Barron’s cousin

In the Hospital

Wally Holt, Ft. Campbell Military Hospital, Iraq War Veteran

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

Ted Ford; Taylor Ford; JoAnn Ford; Marlene Ritchey; Pastors Euripides Morera, Rodrigo Torress and Gilberto Arteaga, and their congregations in Buenaventura, Columbia; Brack Emory; Mary Jane Blaylock; Denominational Center Task Force; Ileana Grace Hayes; Bill Hammill; Reba Smith; Bill & Flora Mae Keene; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Maxine McGuire; Mrs. Don Franks; Priscilla McCoy; Margaret Lindsay; Mary Cregger; Jennie Lee Middlemas; Irene Brooks; William Barron; Nancy Bandermlen; Doug Bailey; Mike Roberts; Joyce Creasman; Brenda Burk; Jonathan Migas; Bernie Migas; Levi Bailey; Lillian Stephens; Neal Denton; Bonnie Holbert; Otis Clinton Shelby; Reba Hauser; Franklin Graham Crusade coming to Knoxville in April, 2008; Lucy and Glen Hesler; Lois Witmer; Francis Bogart; Noreen Bogart; David Summers; Barbara Leith; Elena Zimmerman; Adrienne Murphy; Thomas King; Terry Davidson; Peggy O’Neal; Gladys Stone; Sam Bivens; Wayne Huskey; Ann McGraw; Matt Lambert; Kay Tipton; Sam Stone; Lea Acuff; Donna Walker; Cliff Limerick; Judy Lawson (Lisa Deal’s Aunt); the family of Richard Justice (Melissa Luttrell’s uncle); the family of Kathleen England of Louisville, KY (Leah Witmer’s grandmother), Wendy O’Neal (surgery).
Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes, additions or deletions to our Prayer Concerns list.

THE MITTEN TREE IS IN THE LIBRARY!

For many years we have participated with CAM, (Coalition of Appalachian Ministries) to help keep children warm. You may help by decorating the tree with mittens, scarves, or caps.

Loaves & Fishes

The final numbers are in. The final offering collected was \$777.53. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

Thank You!

I want to say “thank you” and Merry Christmas to my church family for such a beautiful poinsettia. Thanks for always being there for me. — Maxine McGuire

A Need

We have become aware of the following from Thursday Connection:
We have several families in our group that could use an extra boost for the holiday season. We thought that it would be fun to bless them with some gift cards, food, toiletries, etc. If you would like to contribute any of these things, the TC board will see that these are properly distributed to those who can use them. We suggest:
Grocery cards; Walmart or Target cards; Paper items, like TP, paper towels, Kleenex; Non-perishable foods; Toiletries like toothpaste, shampoo, soap; Anything that you know your family uses a lot of and that another family could use as well.
If you would like to help, bring your items to the office and we will get them to Thursday Connection. Thank you, in advance.