

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Kevin Wood ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

November 7, 2007

POLLY’S HOME!

The apostle Paul says “...*to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!*” We thank God for the faithful witness of Polly McGuire Pharaoh who went home to be with the Lord last Friday. A resurrection service was held for her at the church on Tuesday. May the God of all comfort and peace be with Maxine, Jim, and the family!

HOW DOES A CHURCH GROW?

A dynamic, mission-minded church has four characteristics:

- (1) A dynamic church possesses an atmosphere in which God is free to move!
- (2) A dynamic church grabs the attention of outsiders!
- (3) A dynamic church makes sure it’s doors are open to everyone!
- (4) A dynamic church proclaims the message of salvation!

A “survival church” lives in the past, is focused inward on itself, spends money to preserve the status-quo and consequently doesn’t grow.

An “institutional church” stays in the present, fixates on program and on meeting the needs of who’s already there, provides for the needs of the congregation, and experiences some transfer growth (members joining from other churches).

A “mission church” looks to the future, trusts God’s vision for His Church, focuses outward on the needs of the community, invests money in the future, and often experiences new conversions to the Christian faith.

Where are we as the Body of Christ?

Where do we want to be as the Body of Christ?

STEWARDSHIP BEGINS NOW!

Most of you are aware we are beginning a two-part stewardship campaign at First Church for 2008.

The first part is a Capital Funds Campaign to complete major repairs and renovations to the facility: a new roof and heating and cooling system. We estimate we need to borrow a maximum of \$500,000.00 from our denomination to do that. You will receive a letter this week giving you all the details of how you can help, both immediately and long-term.

In the coming weeks you will be given opportunity to make commitments to the church (time, talents, and treasure) and an ongoing commitment to help repay the denominational loan.

It all sounds overwhelming but we are convinced that God wants us to continue our ministry here. The elders and I ask you to join us in trusting that He will make a way. Let’s give our best and watch God do the rest!

A RECORD SUNDAY!

Thanks to all of you who made worship the #1 priority last Sunday. The numbers reflected it! We had 53 in Sunday School and 101 in worship. Of course we can do this any Sunday and more if we continue focusing on reaching people who don’t know Christ and don’t have a loving church family like ours. Who do you know? Have you given them your best invitation?

THE CROSSING FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Our new youth group for grades 6-12, “The Crossing,” is well under way and we’re looking for more youth to join us this for the next meeting: Sunday, November 18, 5:00-6:30 p.m. For information or transportation, call youth directors John and Lindsay Duncan (300-2226).

LOAVES AND FISHES OFFERING

Hundreds of thousands of children and families are going to receive direct assistance with food, water, clothing, education and a host of other needed services through our Loaves and Fishes offering. How are you doing with your collection boxes? Keep putting those coins and bills in every day. It will be time to dedicate our offering before you know it (Sunday, November 25). 75% goes to World Vision for relief in Darfur and 25% goes to our Love and Company ministry. Thank you for caring!

‘ELDER ON CALL’ DURING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

November 11: Steve Summers	December 2: Tom Witmer	December 23: Eugene McCammon
November 18: Valerie Wann	December 9: Lee Barron	
November 25: Lois Witmer	December 16: Jewell Kerr	

Each week the “Elder on Call” will assist the pastor in leading worship, visitation of the sick and shut-in, and pastoral care of the church family. Please pray for them in this important ministry!

SIGN UP NOW FOR UPWARD BASKETBALL

Call the church office or come by and sign up your children/grandchildren, Grades K-6 for Upward Basketball. Evaluations begin the week of November 26.

Every member and friend of the church is asked to do at least two things as we prepare to begin the first season of Upward Basketball:

(1) Become a Prayer Partner for UP and begin praying immediately for everyone involved; (2) Sign up to be a coach, referee, commissioner, devotional speaker, concession helper, set up and clean up crew; or help provide scholarships for children who will need financial assistance.

The motto of UP is “every child is a winner!” We pray our first year will a complete success in sharing the love of Jesus Christ with kids and their families.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS

Parents and children please note: rehearsals for our annual children’s Christmas pageant will be held in Children’s Church during November and early December. Wendy Goodrich and Jane Carol are directors. The pageant will be held during morning worship on Sunday, December 9.

SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 14

The Session will meet Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m. All elders are encouraged to be present.

~Pastor Kevin

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Knoxville, TN 37919
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Happy Birthday



November
12-Ron Jones



Activities for November 10-17, 2007

Sun.,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Wed.,	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:30 p.m.	Session
Thurs.,	8:00 a.m.	Thursday Connection Classes
Sat.,	10:00 a.m.	Rebeccas— Perkins Restaurant

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for November 4, 2007

Sunday School.....	53
Worship.....	101
Offering.....	\$4,511.68
Capital Improvements Fund	\$2050.00
Barbara Hester Memorial/Building Fund.....	\$200
Expenses paid last week	\$6,704.30

Year-to-Date (as of November 4, 2007)

Offerings received to date:.....	\$130,418.43
Expenses paid to date:.....	\$220,077.44
Building / Cap. Improve. Fund.....	\$8895.00

Update on Building Repairs and Maintenance

The architect, Al Barnes has given us a formal recommendation on selection of a contractor for the roof. Phase #2 of the HVAC project is in the final stage. We are finalizing design and budget. 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).



I want to apologize to anyone who did not know about the deaths of Barbara Hester and Polye Pharaoh. The “Party Line” is not functional at this time. We attempt to get the word out the best we can. We use email and ask those who receive to call others. We will be putting a formal “Party Line” in place by the end of the year. So until then keep in touch with each other. Again I apologize. ~Tom

Missing

We are missing four white plastic tables 8 foot long that belong to Thursday Connection. If you know where they are please inform the office. We have been collecting women’s jewelry in the office. We have a bracelet, watch and one ear ring.

All Newsletter articles, events, or announcements should be sent by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to Tom Witmer at firstcpc@earthlink.net or thomaswitmer @Comcast.net or call the church office at 588-8581. If you would like to receive The Cumberlander via email in PDF format let Tom know.



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, Military Hospital in Germany, 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; Tom Raines; Edna Fleenor; Maxine McGuire; Mrs. Don Franks; Priscilla McCoy; Margaret Lindsay; Mary Cregger; Jennie Lee Middlemas; Irene Brooks; William Barron; Nancy Bandermlen; Doug Bailey; Joyce Creasman; Brenda Burk; Jonathan Migas; Bernie Migas; Jessie Black; 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; Curtis McNabb (Tammy Eblen’s father); Lois Witmer; Francis Bogart; Noreen Bogart; David Summers; Barbara Leith; Elena Zimmerman; Allan Smith; Adrienne Murphy; Emma Ruth Cates; Thomas King; Terry Davidson; the family of Polye Pharaoh.

Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes, additions or deletions to our Prayer Concerns list.

CPWM News

Bake-Craft-Pecan Sale

On Sunday, November 18 CPWM will conduct its annual Bake-Craft-Pecan Sale in the Library from 9-12:30. All the ladies of the church are requested to bake their favorite items and prepare craft items to donate. This sale is the major source of the CPWM funds used to donate to charities of the church, community, and denomination. Date of the arrival of the Pecans is not confirmed and will be sold when available. Thank you for your enthusiastic support of this fund raiser.

The Crossing News

TC meet last Sunday and had four people attend. A GREAT time was had by all.

Join Us For...

...the next meeting of TC on Sunday the 18th at 5:00 p.m. in the gym and bring a friend. Call Lindsay or John Duncan for information. Their phone number is 300-2226.

Dear Church Family,

How can we begin to express our thankfulness for each of you? Words are so inadequate.

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls, food & even preparation of the building for Mother’s service.

God bless you all.

Love, Dianne & J. David

From her first visit to First Cumberland, Polye knew she had found a new church family. She loved the Lord and loved this church. Your visits, cards, and calls were always a joy to her over the last several years. We thank you so very much for your prayers and concern.

The Pharaoh Family