

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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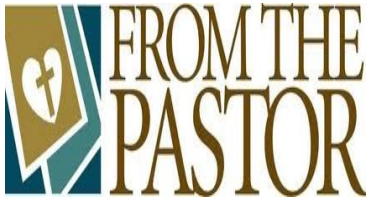
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

October 29, 2014



What a great day last Sunday was in the life of First Cumberland. I heard nothing but positive comments following our **All Music Worship Service**. I want to thank all our musicians and singers who made this such a special service. With 101 people present, our attendance was the highest it has been in several weeks (I am sure that had nothing to do with the fact that I was not preaching) and many of you had special guests attending with you. I also want to thank everyone who participated in our Youth-sponsored **Fall Festival**. I have no clue to how many people actually attended the **Festival**, but pastorally speaking, it had to be somewhere between 150 and 200, many of which were your invited guests. The best I could tell, a great time was had by all who attended. \$1,200.00 (of the \$1,980.00 need) was raised to help our Youth go to Winter Convocation this coming January. Thank you for your generosity!

At least one person who read my article last week thought that I was discouraged by the fact that we are not yet reaching the attendance goals that I set for the second year of my ministry here at First Cumberland. Well, while I do experience bouts of frustration when things do not go as quickly and/or easily as I had envisioned them, let me assure you that I am not discouraged in the least bit. I remain confident that God has great plans for this congregation and I am excited to be a part of His plan [Jeremiah 29:11]. What I attempted to do in last week's article was give an accurate reflection of where we are in the process of reaching our attendance goals. It was my hope that this reflection would motivate each of us to both be faithful in our attendance and in inviting others to join us. Another member expressed his frustration to me; he has asked everyone who lives on his street to come to church with him, but so far none of them have done so. Perhaps you feel the same frustration. If so, my advice is to keep inviting people. The people we invite may never enter the doors of First Cumberland, but God will honor our efforts and send other people to us. It has been my experience that the congregations I have served often reaped in fields in which they did not sow, and I am positive that other churches have reaped in the fields in which we did sow, which is fine with me because it is all about God and His Kingdom, not me and the congregation I serve. So again, keep up the good work of inviting others to join us; God will give the increase.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who sent me a birthday and/or pastor appreciation card last week. I also want to thank those who contributed to the monetary gift I received from the congregation or who gave me a restaurant gift card. I have felt appreciated the entire thirteen months I have been here, but this extra acknowledgment was truly heartwarming. It also pleased me greatly that so many of the pastor appreciation cards I received noted Joanna's ministry here at First Cumberland. We are blessed to serve such a caring congregation!

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

The Grace of Sharing

Last Sunday was **Dedication Sunday** for this year's stewardship campaign. We received 30 Estimated Giving Cards for 2015, totaling \$134,940.00. Thank you for your generosity and participation in *the grace of sharing*. When our estimated giving is added to our anticipated income for facility use next year (\$28,300.00) and non-pledged offerings (\$56,000.00; several people choose not to turn in a card but still give faithfully; others consistently give more than they estimate), we have an estimated income of \$219,240.00 for 2015. While this falls short of our anticipated budget of approximately \$250,000.00, it is a great start towards reaching our goal, and I am confident, that just like this year, God will meet our needs through the generosity of His people.

Practicing *the grace of sharing*,

Pastor Mike

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **West Circle** of our ladies' ministry will meet Tuesday, November 4th, 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.

*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.*

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

Non-Profit
Organization
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Tennessee



Happy Birthday

November

4-Sheila Emory
5-Chris Clark
5-Larry Fielder

5-Brent Witmer
6-Darian Booker
7-Jennifer Rech
7-Steve Summers

5-David Wann
7-Sherri Hill
7-Josephine Rech

Activities for October 26–November 1, 2014

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Tues., 11:00 a.m. West Circle

Wed., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report October 19, 2014

Sunday School.....52

Worship.....101

Offering\$3120.00

Music Fund.....\$100.00

Among Our People

It was great to have B.F. and Mary Helen Daniel back at church with us last Sunday; the daughter, Lisa Medley and her family attended with them . . . It was also great to have Ruth Halbert (Bill’s mother from Franklin, TN) and Carl Ware (Sam’s father) worshipping with us last Sunday . . . Melanie Hester Kuhunenn is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery this week . . . Becky Rader is at NHC Fort Sanders and continues to improve . . . B. F. Daniel continues to receive outpatient therapy . . . Donna Wingard (Mildred Acuff’s daughter) remains under hospice care; Mildred remains in the Atlanta-area with her and her family . . . Dick Booher will have knee replacement surgery on November 5th . . .

Thursday Connection Online Auction

Thursday Connection (one of the two home school groups that meet at First Cumberland) is holding an **Online Auction** November 8th-22nd. To view the items donated, go to www.32auctions.com/TCAuction2014. A partial list of donors include: Ripley’s Aquarium, FlyAWay Indoor SkyDiving, The Muse Knoxville, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Knoxville Ice Bears, Smoky Mountain Outdoors, The Tomb Family Adventure, MagiQuest, Knox Music Studio, Pump It Up!, Cool Sports, Southern Belle Riverboat, Nantahal Outdoor Center, Rocky Hill Animal Center, Tennessee Children’s Dance Ensemble, Aussie Pet Mobile of Knoxville, Chic-Fil-A-Kingston Overlook, Huntington Learning Center, Knoxville Home Inventory, Jiffy Lube, Knoxville Opera, River Sports, ALWAYS YOURS OCCASIONS LLC, Smoky Mountain Fun, AMSE, Sevierville Bowling Center, Chop Shop, Wonderworks, Tiger Rock Martial Arts. They accept Paypal and credit/debit cards payments on the auction site.

Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

Becky Rader - NHC Fort Sanders

Health and Prayer Concerns

the persecuted Christians around the world; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Gordon Blaylock; Ada Ladd; Edna Fleenor; Mary Cregger; Gladys Stone; Maxine McGuire; Charlotte Bird; Carol Seeman; Jack Walker; Mildred Acuff; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Carl Overstreet (friend of Cliff Parrott); Jonathan Migas; Peggy Bradshaw (Dianne Fielder’s mother); Nora Derreberry (Maxine Curtis’s mother); Marlene Ritchey; Brian Migas; Mary McJunkins (Mary Wegman’s mother); Carl Ware (Sam’s father); Allison, Hailey, Connor and Hannah Davis; Janie Beeler (Greg’s wife); Ruth McNabb (Tammy Eblen’s mother); Debbie Holloway; Kim Jones (friend of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Rebecca Rech (Justin’s mother); Jack and Jin Gaston; Cliff Parrott; Tom Williams (friend of Cliff Parrott); Dick Booher; Tom Parrott (Cliff’s son); Richard Hines (Jin Gaston’s brother-in-law); the Whaley family (friends of Kathy Byers); Christina and Baby Hinkle (Pastor Mike and Joanna’s daughter is expecting a baby boy on January 18, 2015); Bob Metts; Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr’s sons); B.F. and Mary Helen Daniel; Alice Montgomery; Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Kim Boyatt (friend of Susan Edwards); Donna Wingard (Mildred Acuff’s daughter); Becky Ingle (coworker of Amanda Roberts); Jim and Cookie Dyer; Lois Witmer; Rose Wilkinson (Pastor Mike’s mother); Ruth West (Greg Beeler’s aunt); Becky Rader; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Bryan Rogers (Bonnie Bridges’ son); Jack and Roy Acuff (brothers of a friend of Pastor Mike); Ruth Heifner (friend of Pastor Mike)

Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list. Call 588-8581 or email firstcpc@earthlink.net

Bethel University’s Renaissance Choir

This coming Saturday evening, November 1st, at 7:00 p.m., Bethel University’s **Renaissance Choir** (125 members) will be in concert at the Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in Farragut.

Lay Ministry Corner

God’s Not Dead!

I challenge any Christian reading this to proclaim the same in a public way this week. If any of the church members would like to view this movie, please contact **Donna Walker** at thetwwalkers@att.net and I will be happy to share this inspiring film with you!

—Donna Walker

Just a Thought

“The truth is that God doesn’t need our money but knows that our orientation toward money reflects our obedience to the lordship of Christ and how we grasp that he is the source of all we have.”

—from the *Pastor to Pastor* e-newsletter