

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

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Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 18, 2013



Last Sunday was yet another great day to be in the Lord's House. Without a shadow of a doubt, the Spirit of the Lord was in this place. From the first trumpet blast on "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" to the pronouncement of the Benediction, it was a wonderful time of worship. Since, I am a member of our Choir, I am hesitant to brag on them too much lest it seem self-serving; nonetheless, they did an outstanding job of presenting the *Christmas Concert* last Sunday. A special word of appreciation to **Amanda Roberts** (liturgist and liturgical dancer) and to **Laura Paschke** and **Hannah Haddox** (soloists); they all did a beautiful job. Beginning with **Sam** and **Karen Ware**, God has blessed this congregation with an abundance of musical talent and gifts. Also at the top of a list of musically gifted people in our congregation would be **Gene McCammon**. To God be the glory!

Speaking on behalf of my wife, Joanna, I want to thank all the ladies who made her *Welcoming Tea* such a wonderful event. She truly enjoyed getting to know the ladies better and is looking forward to many lasting friendships. Guys, this *Welcoming Tea* for Joanna has caused me to ask the question: Where is my *Welcoming Cookout*?

### God Is Faithful!

I interrupt this note from the pastor to bring you the final update on this year's stewardship campaign. The final tally is in: we received 30 *Estimated Giving Cards* totaling \$138,200. An additional card designating \$600 toward the Building Fund was also received. When the \$138,200 is added to the \$28,400 in estimated rental revenue, the \$4,000 estimated investment income, and the \$800 estimated profit from the drink machine in our gym, we have an estimated income for 2014 of \$171,400. First the good news: this amount is more than was pledged last year. Now the not so good news: though it is more than last year, it is still well below our budgetary needs. Though the *Session* has not yet officially approved the Budget for 2014, our *Stewardship and Finance Committee* has recommended a budget of \$263,978. I know that on its surface a budget that is \$92,578 over estimated income does not appear to be either good stewardship or a wise plan. I agree, so let say, first of all, that every line item in our budget has been diligently scrutinized and there simply is no unnecessary spending in this budget; in fact, several items are underfunded. In addition, the spending in six of the eight expense categories has been reduced from last year. Second, we are projecting that we will received \$50,000 in income from those who did not turn in an *Estimated Giving Card*. This is a reasonable projection since our unpledged giving for the last five years has averaged \$45,342 (To date, unpledged giving for 2013 is \$74,480.). This still leaves us with a projected budget deficit of \$42,578. Can we cover this shortfall from our reserves? No; though this has been done in the past, it is no longer a viable option. Then how do we overcome the deficit? I believe this will occur from a combination of two things: one; God will impress those among us that do not yet tithe to begin to do so, and two; God will add new members to our congregation. Do discouraged or even disappointed concerning this projected budget deficit because our God is able to complete the good work that He has started within us (**Philippians 1:6**). Remember, **God is faithful!**

God's Grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### Advent Worship

Don't miss Worship this Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>! In the beauty of our Sanctuary decorated for Advent, you will hear an inspiring message from Pastor Mike, the Christmas story in music with the Choir, Piano, Trumpet, Organ, Violin, Cello, Percussion, Adult and Children's Handbell Choirs, and the singing of favorite carols. Also, celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary with Scripture, carols, devotional message, and the passing of the Light of Christ. Plan now to share these wonderful opportunities to be with family and friends as we worship together.

—Sam Ware

*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.*

Knoxville First Cumberland  
Presbyterian Church, Inc.  
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
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Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Knoxville,  
Tennessee

Happy Birthday

December

22-Tammy Eblen  
23-Laura Paschke  
28-Devin Hill

Activities for December 22-28, 2013

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
4:00 p.m. Handbell Practice

Tues., 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
Wed., Christmas Day

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report December 15, 2013

Sunday School.....48  
Worship.....101  
Offering .....\$2,833.01  
Building Fund.....\$55.00  
Memorials.....\$50.00

CAM MITTEN TREE

We will collecting gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and socks for children and adults in the Appalachian Mountains. We will have two Christmas trees in the Narthex to put these items on. The trees will be up by Dec.1. We have been assisting these people in this very worthwhile project for many years. We will be collecting these things through the whole month of December.

TEA

Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Tea welcoming Joanna Wilkinson. Thank you for all who brought food and all who came to show Joanna how happy we are to have her aboard. We are very glad that she is here alongside her husband, Pastor Mike. WELCOME, JOANNA.

SERENE MANOR

We want to thank those people who bought Christmas presents for residents of Serene Manor this year. If you haven't returned your presents, please do so as early as possible. Jewell Kerr will be transporting them to Serene Manor this week. Thank you, Jewell, for coordinating this event.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Great to welcome former **Pastor Kevin & Nancy Wood** for worship Sunday ... Also great to have **Dave, Karen, Jack, Laura Spinning** from South Carolina for Memorial Christmas Concert for Karen's parents, **Richard & Esther Congdon** ... Thanks to our **Cub Scout Pack 20** for raking leaves on front lawn Saturday - in the rain! ...In hospital with heart problems is **Carl Kissiah**, father of **Joanna Wilkinson** ... Sympathy to family of **Charles Tallent**, former member and son of **Polly Tallent**; funeral is scheduled for Thursday ... Thank you **Choir & Amanda Roberts** for a great Christmas concert Sunday!

Prayer Concerns  
In the Hospital

Carl Kissiah, father of Joanna Wilkinson

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

CP Missionaries; Mary Jane & Gordon Blaylock; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Mary Cregger; Gladys Stone; Mildred Acuff; Maxine McGuire; Ada Ladd; Nancy Anthony; Bud & Betty Hickman; 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); Eric Nelson, (friend of the Witmer clan); Donna Wingard, (Mildred Acuff's daughter); Debbie & David Triese, (Margaret Migas's sister and husband); Carl Ware; Allison, Hailey, Connor and Hannah Davis; Janie Beeler, (Greg Beeler's wife); Judy Gammon; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Richard Himes (Jin Gaston's brother-in-law); Debbie Holloway; Mildred Gragg (friend of Mary Cregger); Kim and her family, (friends of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Rebecca Rech, mother of Justin Rech; Jack Gaston; J. David Hester; Marie Jobson, (friend of the Witmer's); Grace Flory (Lois Witmer's mother); Suzan Smith, (Jewell Kerr's daughter); Jewell Kerr and family; Cliff Parrott; Janet Simcox (lung cancer); Scott Robert's Uncle; the Whaley family, (friends of Kathy Hammill's); Tom Williams, (friend of Cliff Parrott).

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

POINSETTIAS

Christmas poinsettias again bless the beauty of our sanctuary. On Dec. 22, you may take your plant home with you, or you may deliver it to one of our shut-ins. Thank you for your orders thus far. If you still desire to participate in this, call the church office with your order.

POINSETTIA  
DONATIONS

Thank You!

Dear Tom and the Session and members of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you so much for allowing the students, staff and families of Paideia Academy to host our annual Thanksgiving Program and Feast at your beautiful campus this year! It was so special for us to be back with you as we commemorate our tenth year—many of us remember our first years here. We deeply appreciate your generosity!

May God bless you,  
Tisha Clapp