

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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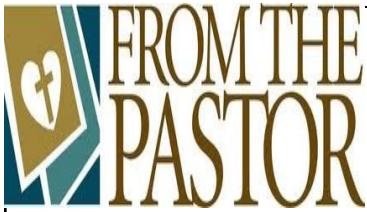
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

September 17, 2014



This coming Sunday, September 21st, marks the first Sunday of my second year as the pastor of First Cumberland. Coincidentally, September 21st is also **National Back to Church Sunday**, which is a movement to invite everyone in America to church by motivating church members to invite their family and friends to come with them. With that thought in mind, I think it is time for First Cumberland to make two significant steps into the future God has planned for us (**Jeremiah 29:11**). The first step is increasing our Sunday School attendance from the forties to sixties; and the second step is increasing our Worship Service attendance from the eighties to the low hundreds. In fact, that is my goal for this coming Sunday; sixty or more in Sunday School and one hundred or more in the Worship Service. How can we accomplish this? Two ways: one, make a commitment to be here yourself; and two, bring someone with you. It really is that simple, and it is the only plan I have. By the way, this is not a one time goal for this Sunday, rather it is just the beginning point for a whole year of growth. My first year here was focused on stability—on reassuring us that we have a future—on shoring up the foundation; I think that has largely been accomplished. Now is the time to shift our focus to growth. I am always focused on spiritual growth and maturity, but now I am specifically talking about numerical growth—about increasing our attendance.

In a recent edition of the Tusculum Cumberland Presbyterian Church's newsletter, Pastor Roger Patton shared three things about church growth that I have long believed. (1) ***“ . . . if we want to grow, we will grow. What does this mean? If we want new people to come and visit our church we will invite them.”*** That is rather blunt, but its bluntness does not diminish its truth. We would all say we want to grow, but do you want First Cumberland to grow enough to invite someone to come with you? If not, don't you think now is the time to change that? (2) ***“ . . . growth is a byproduct of health. What does that mean? If a congregation displays hospitality and is friendly and welcoming to others, people will want to be a part of it.”*** I must say that we excel in this area, so keep up the good work because more new people will be coming through our doors. (3) ***“ . . . growth . . . is all about grace. Just as God gives us grace freely and widely in Jesus Christ, God also gives us the grace to grow.”*** When we experience God's grace—remember; grace happens here—we should want to share that grace with others, which returns us to the action plan of both attending Sunday School and the Worship Service this coming Sunday and bringing someone with you.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Friendship Club

Members of the **Friendship Club** will gather at **Naples Italian Restaurant**, in Bearden, at 11:00 a.m., this Wednesday, September 17th, for a Dutch-treat lunch. Every one reading this announcement is invited to join the **Friendship Club** by merely showing up to eat.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry Meeting

The ladies of the church will be meeting on Sunday, September 28th, at 5:00 p.m., at Betty Hammill's house (505 Bardon Road). They will have a meal and then former member, Tracy Woods, will be sharing a very interesting story of a healing she has experienced. Ladies, please mark this date and make your plans to be there.

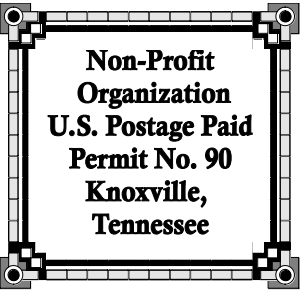
FISH Pantry

During the month of September, we are collecting **non-food items** for the **West Knox FISH Pantry**. These items include bath and facial soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, diapers (all sizes), etc. Collection boxes are in the Narthex. The last day of the collection will be Sunday, September 28th. Thank you for your assistance with this project.


First Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Fellowship Fall Festival

Our Youth will sponsor a **Fall Festival** (for all ages) on Sunday afternoon and evening, October 26th. Look for more details in upcoming editions of *The Cumberlander* and make your plans to attend and bring someone with you. Also, see **Amanda Roberts** if you want to help with this event.

*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



September

22-Lois Witmer

25-Brack Emory



Activities for September 21–27, 2014

Sun.,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 a.m.	Stewardship & Finance
	6:00 p.m.	Session
Weds.,	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report September 14, 2014

Sunday School.....	35
Worship.....	72
Offering	\$4632.00
Music Fund.....	\$100.00

Session Meeting

Our Session will meet this coming Sunday, September 21st, at 6:00 p.m., in the Keene Room.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you need any assistance registering your Kroger Rewards Card, including hands-on-help, please contact **Kim Halbert** at 660-5821 or khalbert@utk.edu.

To Thank You

My Church Family,

How can I thank you enough for receiving the Frances Wilkerson Award. I was so very blessed to have known Frances. She was a true saint! I was so surprised and honored!

Also thank you so much for your prayers, cards, phone calls and delicious food. My appetite is slowly coming around.

God’s Love,

Lois Witmer

First Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

Sunday, September 21st, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch, Archery, and Fun — Bring a friend!


Sunday, October 5th, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch, Archery, Fun, and Fall Festival Planning — Bring a friend!

Sunday, October 26th, 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
FCPYP Fall Festival — Our Youth need to be at the church no later than 2:00 p.m. to help set up for the festival. Bring a friend!

Will You Fly?


Even if we all had wings, very few of us would fly; like most things in life, it’s not what you capable of, it’s what you are willing to do?

Prayer Concerns



In the Hospital

Rose Wilkinson (Blount Memorial)



Health and Prayer Concerns

the persecuted Christians around the world; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries home and abroad; Gordon Blaylock; Edna Fleenor; Howard Eblen; Mary Cregger; Gladys Stone; Maxine McGuire; Ada Ladd; 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); Debbie and David Triese (Margaret Migas’s sister and brother-in-law); Carl Ware (Sam’s father); Allison, Hailey, Connor and Hannah Davis; Janie Beeler (Greg Beeler’s wife); Ruth McNabb (Tammy Eblen’s mother); Debbie Holloway; Kim Jones (friend of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Rebecca Rech (Justin Rech’s pother); Jack and Jin Gaston; Cliff Parrott; Tom Williams (friend of Cliff Parrott); Dick Booher; Tom Parrott (Cliff Parrott’s son); Larry Taylor (Joy’s husband); 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; Jonathon Spencer; Rose Wilkinson (Pastor Mike’s mother); Ruth West (Greg Beeler’s aunt)

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

Among Our People

Great to have Lois Witmer and Dick Booher back with us last Sunday . . . Jin Gaston will have a stress text this week . . . Howard Eblen has taken a turn for the worse . . . Jonathon Spencer received six stiches in his chin last week after being shot with a pellet gun; he is doing well . . . Mary Helen Daniel fell last week; she broke no bones, but is very sore . . . B.F. Daniel continues to receive outpatient therapy following his stroke . . . Donna Wingard (Mildred Acuff’s daughter) remains under hospice care with terminal cancer; Mildred is still in the Atlanta-area with her and her family . . . Lois Witmer had a procedure on her hip last week; she is doing much better . . . Jim Dyer had a heart cauterization this last week; he received a good report . . . Carl Kissiah (Joanna Wilkinson’s father) will meet with a surgeon at Vanderbilt Hospital Monday, September 22nd, to determine if the graft in his aortic aneurism needs to be replaced . . . Rose Wilkinson (Pastor Mike’s mother) had an emergency appendectomy last week; she is doing well, but is also battling COPD . . .