

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 25, 2013



In last week's edition of *The Cumberland*, I made a major typo and left out two important words—"not be". Writing about our 2014 Budget, I inadvertently wrote: "Do discouraged or even disappointed concerning this projected budget deficit . . ." Obviously, or at least I hope it was obvious, I meant to write: "Do not be 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!**" My objective is to never discourage you or cause you to worry; instead, my goal is to help us grow in our faith until we have complete trust in the Lord. I am sorry for any confusion my typo may have caused.

The choral music throughout the *Advent Season* has been wonderful. As I indicated last week, as a congregation, God has truly blessed us with an abundance of musical gifts and talents. Though I know who some of these gifted people are, my guess is that several more of you are equally gifted but for whatever reason, you are not currently using those gifts here at First Church. If that describes you, then please let **Sam** and/or **Karen Ware** know so that you too can be used to bring God glory as part of our worship services. In my mind, I can imagine our Choir with even more members. I can also imagine us having our own orchestra every Sunday or at least on special occasions. Last Sunday, our Choir blessed us with a beautiful rendition of "Blessed Is the Lord (*Benedictus*)". They were accompanied on this piece by **Sam Ware**, piano; **Matt Wilkinson**, cello; **Constance Ottway**, violin; and **Kevin Pipkin**, percussion. Later, **Sam** moved back to the organ and **Gene McCammon** resumed his position at the piano as **Matt** and **Constance** joined them for the offertory, "*Gesu, Bambino*". As he often does, **James Paschke** played the trumpet during the singing of the carols. As usual, our Handbell Choir did an outstanding job playing "Christmas Rejoicing". My favorite musical moment of the day, however, came as our Children's Bell Choir played "Joy to the World" and the congregation joined them in singing this great carol. I know I say this a lot, but it really was a great day to be in the House of the Lord!

*Advent* is fast drawing to a close and *Christmas Day* is upon us, and as such, I want to wish each of you a traditional, "*Merry Christmas*", but I want to wish you much more than that: I want to wish each of you the peace of *Christmas*. For us to truly experience the peace of *Christmas* we must surrender ourselves—our worries, our struggles, our sins—to Christ. We all want peace to reign in our lives, but so many of us struggle to surrender control of our lives. This year give yourself the best *Christmas* present of all—give up trying to live your life your way and surrender to living your life Christ's way. You see, the peace of *Christmas* is only found in surrendering our will to the Christ of *Christmas*.

Lastly, Joanna and I want to thank everyone who gave us a *Christmas* card or gift over the last couple of weeks. Each gift and card is truly appreciated and each handwritten note warmed our hearts and made us feel extremely welcome. We are grateful to God that He has called us to First Church, and that gratefulness continues to grow.

God's Grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### A Christmas Affirmation of Faith

I believe in the spirit of Christmas, for it is the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth is celebrated; I believe in the lights of Christmas, for they remind me of Him who is the Light of the world; I believe in the greenery of Christmas, for it symbolizes the eternal life of those in Christ; I believe in giving gifts at Christmas, for it is in keeping with the greatest gift the world has ever known; I believe in being child-like at Christmas, for Jesus said we must become as children to enter the kingdom of heaven; I believe in the angels' song about peace on earth among persons of good will, for when my will is good, as it is at Christmas, I feel peace and joy in my heart that is unlike anything else in all the world. It has to be the peace and joy of God. Amen.

*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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Organization  
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Knoxville,  
Tennessee



Happy Birthday

January

Activities for December 29, 2013~January 4, 2014

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

4:00 p.m. Handbell Practice

Wed., New Year’s Day

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report December 22, 2013	
Sunday School.....	46
Worship.....	90
Offering .....	\$4,033.00
Building Fund.....	\$55.00
Debt Redudcion.....	\$426.71
Coke Box.....	\$34.00

CAM MITTEN TREE

Thank you for all your contributions to the Mitten Tree this year – all the mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks that have been collected for the people in Appalachia. We will be collecting through this next Sunday, Dec. 29, and then all of these items will be taken to the CAM Mission in Townsend. God Bless all of you for your generosity.

~Betty

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

~ By Rev. Dr. J. David Hester~

Vicki Dilly, mother of Erin Pipkin, suffered a seizure at grocery parking lot Dec. 13; After 10 days in hospital (some of them on ventilator), she has returned home ...

Carl Kissiah, father of Joanna Wilkinson, remains in hospital for treatment ...Thank you to the Handbell choirs (children and adults) for the beautiful music Sunday morning ... Good to have former member Cathy Satterfield with us for worship Sunday ...

Within a service-driven church, the congregation should have no unemployed members! Where is God calling you to serve this year? Don't just think about it. Act on it! Have a blessed New Year!

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); Vicki Dilly, (Erin Pipkin’s mother).

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)

Lay Ministry Corner

Relying On Our Own Understanding

It is often rightly pointed out that one of the least reliable types of testimony is that of an eyewitness. You can have 5 people witness a car wreck, and rarely will any of them tell the same story though they all saw an identical event! Why is that? I heard it explained on a Christian radio station that it is because our own heart and mind deceive us! Our minds will always tend to hang on to a sense of reality that allows us to be perceived as the victim, even if there is no basis in reality! (Jeremiah 17:9-10) If we are to reach true perception, we must get beyond the worldly concerns of trying to assign blame. We must be more concerned with problem resolution than offense taking. If our heart and brain are stuck trying to pile up the offenses of another, understand this is sometimes our way of trying to justify our own bad behavior so we can feel righteous in not apologizing for our actions. Don't fall for this deceit that we tell ourselves! Follow God's call to do the right thing, and search for His understanding and wisdom in all things. If we see the purpose in our trials, we are no longer victims and our yoke will be lightened.

~Donna Walker