The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919 ~ E-mail: FirstCPC@KFCPC.comcastbiz.net ~

Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

"Loving God, Loving People"

March 15, 2017



Our Weekly Newsletter

Last week, I shared the first of the five devotions that I wrote to appear on our denominational Ministry Council's website (<u>www.cpcmc.org/evotion/</u>) the week of April 1st-5th. This week, I want to share the second eVotion; it is based on Ezekiel 37:1-14. "Perhaps the most familiar story

recorded in the Book of Ezekiel is the one about the Valley of Dry Bones. As a child, I learned to sing the spiritual, "Dem Dry Bones". I thought it was amazing how "dem" bones connected to each other, but I missed the real point of the song—God is willing and able to restore our dry bones. The words God gave to Ezekiel and the song they inspired address the dry bones of slavery and oppression, but dry bones are not limited to these twin evils. Our dry bones could be shattered or abandoned hopes and dreams; they could a broken relationship or the loss of a loved one to death; they could be a financial struggle or an issue at school; they could be an illness or aging; they could be emotional or spiritual in nature. Whatever our particular dry bones are, we can experience restoration through the power of God's Holy Spirit. The Lord says, '... I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.' (Ezekiel 37:5). We might think that this promise is applicable to other people—that it does not apply to us because our dry bones are so dehydrated that not even God can restore them, but God asked Abraham, 'Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? . . .' (Genesis 18:14). Other translations use the word "hard" instead of "wonderful", asking 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?' The answer is no; God is willing and able to restore our dry bones."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the Friendship Club will be this Wednesday, March 15th, at the LongHorn Steakhouse (in the west side of the parking lot of West Town Mall), at 11:00 a.m. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings.

FISH Food Pantry Campaign

Jesus tells us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We will be given an opportunity to be blessed this April, as it is our month to stock the West Knox FISH Food Pantry. Thanks to your generosity in the past, no additional funds are needed right now. We will be bagging April 1st, 8th, and 15th – at 9:30 a.m., at the Pantry site (Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Road)). Also, the groceries from Second Harvest Food bank will be delivered on Tuesday, March, 28th to the Pantry. We will need volunteers to help unload that day; time TBA. You can sign up to bag on the **FISH** bulletin board in the Narthex. Updates on the **FISH** operation will be in *The Cumberlander* each week. Thank you for your support in helping to alleviate hunger in our community.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the Friendship Club, P.M. Edition will be Thursday, April 6th, at Wright's Cafeteria (5403 North Middlebrook Pike), at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.

Easter Celebrations

- ⇒ The Choirs of Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge are joining together to present the Easter musical, "Because He Lives". The first presentation will be Sunday, April 2nd, at 5:00 p.m., at the Oak Ridge Church. The second presentation will be Psalm Sunday, April 9th, at 5:00 p.m., here at First Cumberland. More details to come.

 Our **Maundy Thursday Communion Service** will be Thursday, April 13th, at 6:30 p.m.

 Our **Community Good Friday Worship Service** will be Friday, April 14th, at 12:00 noon, at **Sacred Heart Cathedral**.

- Our annual **Egg Hunt** will be Saturday, April 15th, at 11:00 a.m.; lunch will be provided in our Gym.
- Our Easter SonRise Service will be Sunday, April 16th, at 8:00 a.m., in our Chapel; breakfast in our Gym will follow. Breakfast will conclude in time for everyone to attend Sunday School.
- Our Easter Worship Service will be at its regular time (10:45 a.m.); as part of this celebration of the Resurrection, our Choir will sing "Hallelujah", which is a rendition of the "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah".

Youth News

- This coming Sunday, March 19th, our Youth Group will meet in the Gym for lunch following our Worship Service. After lunch, they will work on their archery skills. Parents please pick your Youth up at 2:30 p.m.
- On Saturday, April 15th, our Youth Group will help bag food at the FISH Food Pantry at 9:30 a.m., then they will return to our church to help set up for our Egg Hunt. Parents please drop your youth off at the pantry site by 9:00 a.m.; Scott and Amanda Roberts will transport them back to our church to help with the Egg Hunt.
- On Easter Sunday, April 16th, our Youth will prepare and serve breakfast between our Easter SonRise Service and Sunday School. Encourage everyone to attend as this will be a fundraiser (donations requested) for our Youth Group! Parents please have your youth at the Kitchen off the Gym by 7:00 a.m.

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.



First Cumberland,

where you belong!





Happy Birthday March 15th-21st



15th — Sarah Pipkin Saxton 19th — Allen Gwilliams 19th — MariKate Walker

21st — Judy Gammon 21st — Dianne Pipkin

Our Faithfulness Record for March 12th

Sunday School	41
Worship Service	
Offering	
Playground Fund	
Building Reimbursement	

Activities for March 15th-21st

Friendship Club Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. **Choir Practice** 6:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

Youth Lunch and Archery 12:15 p.m. (See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Jack Gaston spent a few days in the hospital last week; he is now home and continues to improve. ~ Larry and Dianne Fielder recently traveled to Virginia to celebrate the birthday of their grandson. ~ Dianne Pipkin had the pin removed from her thumb on Tuesday, March 14th. Josh Rech, along with the Bearden High School Band, marched in Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade last Saturday, March 11th; his mom, Julie, was with him; they returned home Monday, March 13th. ~ Jean Stapleton, mother of Elaine Stapleton, fell last week and broke her arm in two places; she had surgery to repair the breaks on Monday, March 13th. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments. ~ Lois Witmer received a great report from her biopsy last week—no cancer.

Special Guest

It was great having Greg Greene, friend of Allen and Sallie Cox, worshiping with us last Sunday.

CPWM'S Planning Committee

Due to the threat of inclement weather last Sunday, our Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry's Planning Committee meeting was rescheduled for Sunday, March 26th, at 12:30 p.m., at the home of **Betty Hammill**.

Egg Hunt

We are in need of plastic eggs filled with candy for our annual Egg Hunt. Please drop your donations off in the Church Office between now and Friday, April 14th.



Prayer Concern List In the Hospital



No one connected to First Cumberland is known to be in the hospital at this time.

Prayer Concerns

Mildred Acuff; Mike Bachman; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Vera Boyatt (mother of Kim Boyatt); Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Kathy Byers (daughter of Betty Hammill and mother of Lisa Booker); Charlotte Byrd; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Maxine Curtis; Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); James Fritz (school bus driver of Jonathon Spencer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; Mark Hester; Betty and Bud Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Pat Housley (coworker of Amanda Roberts); Edna Hughes (sister of Rue Dougherty); Betty Kennedy (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Jewell Kerr; our Kids Hope USA ministry; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Alexi Llewellyn (granddaughter of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrot (son of Cliff Parrot); Sara Paul (friend of Rose Wilkinson); persecuted Christians around the world; Dianne Pipkin; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); Marilyn Ritchey (daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey); Danni Robinson (granddaughter of Jim and Maxine Curtis); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Jean Stapleton (mother of Elaine Stapleton); Shane Thompson (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Codee Weaver (son of Elaine Stapleton); Lee Wells (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Rose Wilkinson (mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); Lois Witmer

> Please keep the Church Office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list.

Church's Website

The church's website, www.first-cumberland.org, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four Worship Services.

Water Angel Ministry

The next collection date for bottled water to be distributed to the homeless in our community is Sunday, March 26th.