

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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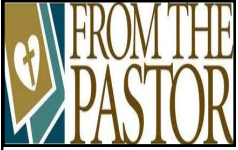
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 28, 2016



What a wonderful **Candlelight Communion Service** we had last Saturday night. The spirit of worship was contagious, and I cannot put into words how pleased I was with the attendance. Thank you for inviting so many of your family members and friends to join us on this special occasion as we gathered to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Our list of guests is simply too long for me to publish in the newsletter, but a crowd like we had on **Christmas Eve** gives me great hope for our future. Truly, God is great and worthy to be praised!

I recently came across this anonymous quote, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." With *New Year's Day* approaching, I began to think about that statement. My conclusion was that we do not actually start over as in our past did not happen, but instead, we begin again right where we are. As followers of the risen Jesus, it is not about saying that we will do this and we will not do that, and then forgetting our resolutions or falling short of attaining them. It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him. This way our focus will be set on the things of heaven and not on all the earthly stuff that seems to constantly demand our attention. If I were to make a *New Year's* resolution, it would be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord. Several years ago, the Lord spoke to me in that still small voice in prayer and said, "I am more than enough—I am more than enough in every area of your life." I am convinced that He wants me to tell others the same thing. This year I am determined to make Christ my all and all; will you join me on this journey? He wants our undivided attention in spite of the distractions and temptations that lie waiting around the corner. He has to be our main focus. How we will end 2017 will be largely determined by how we started it. If you are not a Christian, please know that this could be the best year of your life. Your life can be filled with hope and peace as your Lord and Savior. Why should every year be the same as the one before with nothing really changing? After all, our *New Year's* resolutions may or may not get accomplished. If you are a Christian and you feel stagnate in your relationship with the Lord, then now is the time to rekindle your love affair with Him. Jesus calls us to Himself and says, "***Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***" [Matthew 11:28, RSV] Can you hear Him? He is tugging at our hearts.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Holiday Ministry Opportunities

- * Thank all of you who contributed gifts to the "**Angel Tree**". Monday morning, December 19th, **Jewell Kerr**, along with **Judy** and **Alan Gwilliams**, sorted the three gifts for each of the twelve recipients, and then **John** and **Jewell Kerr** transported them to the Serene Manor Nursing Home. They were very appreciative of all the gifts – many of the patients have no family at all, so we helped to make Christmas brighter for some of them. Thank you one and all for your assistance in this very important ministry that we want to continue for many years.
- * We will taking all the "**Mitten Tree**" items up to the Coalition for Appalachian Ministry (CAM) Mission House in Townsend sometime the first part of January.
- * To those who participated in the **FISH Hospitality Pantries** Gift Cards this year, we thank you. You have helped to feed the hungry in our community.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain, and/or install the *Elder Class of 2018* will take place at the close of our **Worship Service**, Sunday, January 8th, at approximately 12:00 noon; at that time, our *Session* will nominate **Phil Bridges**, **Chrissy Collins**, and **Dianne Pipkin** to serve as the next *Elder Class*; additional nominations can be made from the floor providing the nominee meets the biblical and constitutional qualifications to serve as an Elder and is present at our **Congregational Meeting** to accept the nomination.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **West Circle** of our ladies' ministry will meet Tuesday, January 10th, at 11:00 a.m., in the Keene Room. (This is a week later than usual.) Please bring a sandwich lunch – drinks and dessert will be provided. All the ladies of the church are invited.


Denomination Day Celebration

First Cumberland will host the *Presbytery of East Tennessee's 2017 Denomination Day Celebration* Sunday afternoon, January 29th, at 3:30 p.m. Following the celebration, a meal will be served in our Gym; donations for the meal will be accepted. This special musical Worship Service will feature a Presbyterial Choir, as well as various church choirs, and soloists. For those interested in joining the Presbyterial Choir, meet at the Talbot Cumberland Presbyterian Church for practice Sunday, January 8th, and Sunday, January 15th; both practices will start at 3:00 p.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

December 28th - January 3rd

3rd ~ Rose Wilkinson



Our Faithfulness Record for December 24 th -25 th	
Candlelight Communion Service.....	157
Worship Service.....	64
Offering.....	\$2,911.25
Youth Fund.....	\$125.00
Music Fund.....	\$50.00
FISH.....	\$1,500.00

Activities December 28th - January 3rd

Sunday: **New Year’s Day**

 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

(See our web site for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Maxine Curtis fell and broke her hip Tuesday morning, December 27th; she is doing well and was scheduled to have surgery late that afternoon. ~ **Nora Dereberry**, mother of Maxine Curtis, is now under hospice care. ~ **Amelia Hinkle**, five-month-old granddaughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, fell and fractured her skull Tuesday morning, December 27th; while at the hospital Emergency Room, the neurologist determined that other than a small fracture there was no other damage. ~ **Jewell Kerr** continues to have a heart-rhythm issue. ~ **Amanda Roberts** is having some blood pressure and dizziness issues resulting in her having to go to the hospital Emergency Room twice the week before Christmas.

Special Guests


It was great having **Allen** and **Sallie Cox** and **Amy, Jesse, Brooks**, and **Cooper Pritchard**, daughter and family of **Larry** and **Dianne Fielder**, worshiping with us last Sunday.

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, January 18th, at **The Lunch House** (3816 Holston Drive), at 11:00 a.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 you on these outings.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, January 12th, at **The Original Louis Drive-in Restaurant** (4661 Old Broadway), at 6:30 p.m. (This is the second Thursday of the month instead of the typical first Thursday.) 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.




Prayer List

In the Hospital

Maxine Curtis @ Parkwest Medical Center

Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)

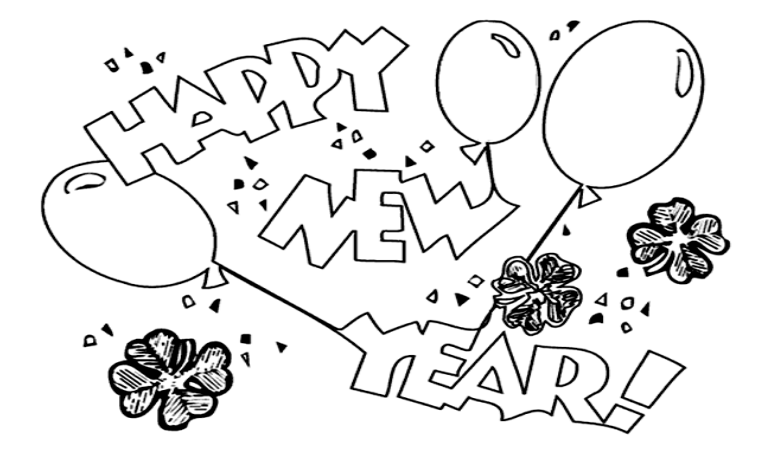


Mildred Acuff; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Charlotte Byrd; Gordon Blaylock; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); **Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries, MAXINE CURTIS**; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; Wayne Haddox (father of Ryan Haddox); Kim Halbert; Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); **AMELIA HINKLE** (granddaughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Jewell Kerr; **Kids Hope USA Mentoring Program**, Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrott (son of Cliff Parrott); **persecuted Christians around the world**, Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); **AMANDA ROBERTS**; 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); Gladys Stone; Shane Thompson (cousin of Hannah Haddox); 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; Theola York (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards)

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](#).





First Cumberland,
where you belong!



2016 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>In Honor of</u>
Mildred Acuff	Lea Earl Acuff	
Mildred Acuff	Donna Marie Acuff Wingard	
Marjorie Beasley	Mr. and Mrs. John Cobb	
Marjorie Beasley	Mr. and Mrs. F. Vaughn Patrick	
Mike and Ann Bachman		To the Glory of God
Mike and Ann Bachman		To the Glory of God
Phil and Bonnie Bridges	Bob Bridges	
Phil and Bonnie Bridges	Frank and Roberta Settle	
David and Chrissy Collins Family	Howard and Bernice Leach	
David and Chrissy Collins Family		John and June Givens
Jim and Maxine Curtis	J. B. Derreberry	
Jim and Maxine Curtis	Patty Derreberry	
Jim and Maxine Curtis	Jim and Florence Curtis	
Jim and Maxine Curtis		Nora Derreberry
Tom and Emily DeLozier		Ryan and Nicole DeLozier
Tom and Emily DeLozier		Sarah DeLozier
Tom and Emily DeLozier		Jimmy Lynn DeLozier
Susan Edwards	Grace Marie Wilkinson	
Susan Edwards		Mason Carter Atkins
Susan Edwards		Lucas Zayne Teaque
Jere Bradshaw's Family	Jere Bradshaw	
Dianne and Larry Fielder		Peggy Bradshaw
Jack and Jin Gaston	W.L. and Dot Gatson	
Jack and Jin Gaston		Tom and Lois Witmer
Jack and Jin Gaston		Jim and Maxine Curtis
Jack and Jin Gaston		
Judy Gwilliams	Bobbie Himes	
Judy Gwilliams	Steve Gwilliams	
Betty Hammill	David Wimslow Gwilliams	
Betty Hammill	William Hammill	
Betty Hammill	Vaughn Snoderly	
Jewell Kerr	Helen Snoderly	
Jewell Kerr	Suzie Kerr Smith	
Carol Long	Maxine McGuire	Barbara Mullenex
Allen, Sharon, Rachel and Timothy Owens	Dewayne Stephens	
Dianne and Paul Pipkin	Dr. and Mrs. J. David Hester	
Karen Spinning Family	Richard and Esther Congdon	
Karen Spinning Family	Richard and Esther Congdon	
Elaine Stapleton	Tammy French	
Elaine Stapleton	Eric Eatherly	
Donna and Tom Walker	W. Glenn O'Neal	
Donna and Tom Walker	Faye O'Neal	
Donna and Tom Walker	Michael O'Neal	
Rev. Carl Ware Family	Daisy Alley Ware	
Sam and Karen Ware Family	Don G. and Etelka Franks	
Susan Watson	Claude M. Cox	
Mike and Joanna Wilkinson	Barbara Kissiah	
Mike and Joanna Wilkinson	Carl Kissiah	
Mike and Joanna Wilkinson	Ray Wilkinson	
Mike and Joanna Wilkinson		Rose Wilkinson