

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 24, 2014



"Magnificent!" . . . "Wonderful!" . . . "Awesome!" . . . "Breathtaking!" . . . "The best program that I have seen in my thirty-six years of being in this church!"—these are but a few of the comments I heard following last Sunday night's **Christmas Cantata**, *Darkness into Light: A Christmas Musical Journey*. [Check out the picture on the back page](#). It is a shame that Mary McDonald (the writer and arranger of the cantata) was not present as anticipated, because she too would have been blown away by the presence of the Holy Spirit during the worship service. My favorite comment following the service, and it was shared by several people, is that they could feel the Spirit of God in the service. So many people were involved in the musical (seventeen choir members, two narrators, sixteen cast members, and seven behind-the-scenes workers) that there is not enough space to list all of their names, nonetheless, I want to thank each of them for a job well done! I do want to single out **Karen** and **Sam Ware** and thank them, not only for the work in leading our Choir in this musical, but for leading this congregation in worship throughout the year. We are extremely blessed to have this gifted couple leading our music here at First Cumberland. I also want to thank everyone who helped make our **Christmas Party** such a great time of food and fellowship. Lastly, I want to thank everyone who invited someone to attend the musical with you. Words cannot express how happy and excited I was to see such a crowd here. As I was returning Becky Rader to NHC Fort Sanders last night, she made the following comment: "God sure was pleased tonight!" I could not agree more.

On behalf of our Outreach Committee, I want to thank everyone who participated in this year's **Angel Tree**. All thirty angels for ten indigent residents of Serene Manor Nursing Home were taken. By doing so, you have made someone's holiday better because they have experienced the unconditional love of Christ this Christmas.

On a more personal note, Joanna and I want to thank everyone for each card and gift we have received during this special season. We view each one as an expression of your love for us and we pray that you view our cards to you as an expression of our love for you. We are truly blessed to be serving First Cumberland. Merry Christmas to all!

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,
Pastor Mike

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** will be Wednesday, December 24th, at 5:00 p.m. Remember, here at First Cumberland, *Holy Communion* is available to all who are in attendance, so feel free to invite your family and friends to attend with you.

Mitten Trees

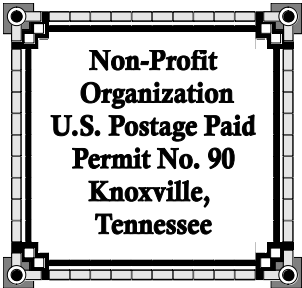
Two **Mitten Trees** are in the Narthex. These trees are for us to hang mittens, gloves, scarves, or hats that will be distributed this Winter by the **Coalition of Appalachian Ministries**, near Townsend, to families in the area who are in need. We will be collecting these items through the end of December.

Friendship Club


The next outing for the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, January 21st, 11:00 a.m. We will be gathering at **Bravo Cucina Italiana** (Bearden Hill location) for a Dutch-treat lunch. Everyone reading this announcement is invited to attend this and all monthly outings of the **Friendship Club**.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*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

January



Activities for December 28-January 3, 2014

Sunday,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Thursday,		News Year Day

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report December 21, 2014

Sunday School.....	44
Worship.....	73
Offering	\$5,650.25
Youth Fund.....	\$79.00
Cantata.....	137
Offering.....	\$377.00

Among Our People

In addition to having so many quests with us last Sunday night for the Christmas Cantata, it was great having Becky Rader and B.F. and Mary Helen Daniel back with us . . . Dick Booher is receiving in-home rehab following his knee replacement . . .

Kroger Community Rewards Program

The first quarter of our participation in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program** is complete, and Kroger is sending First Cumberland a check for \$202.53. Thanks to those who have signed up to participate in the program. If have not yet signed up, members and friends of First Cumberland can register online. To do so, simply register online by going to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and select First Cumberland Presbyterian Church as the organization you wish to support. Next time you shop, check the bottom of your receipt to make sure you see our church’s name there. Contact Kim Halbert at 660-5821 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Lay Ministry Corner

Only God can take the suffering and unfairness of life and make it the very thing that defines and matures our faith and relationship with Him! We only need to trust and believe in God's purpose for everything that happens and ask for revelation that we might know His plan for us.

—Donna Walker

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.”

—Corrie ten Boon



Prayer Concerns



In the Hospital

Becky Rader ~ NHC Fort Sanders

Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)

the persecuted Christians around the world; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Jack and Roy Acuff (brothers of a friend of Pastor Mike); Mildred Acuff; Janie Beeler (Greg Beeler’s wife); Preston Beeler (Greg Beeler’s cousin); Charlotte Bird; Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Kim Boyatt (friend of Susan Edwards); Peggy Bradshaw (Dianne Fielder’s mother); Mary Cregger; B.F. and Mary Helen Daniel; Allison, Hailey, Connor, and Hannah Davis; Nora Derreberry (Maxine Curtis’s mother); Jim and Cookie Dyer; Edna Fleenor; Grace Flory (Lois Witmer’s mother); Hannah Haddox; Jack and Jin Gaston; Curt Hammill (Betty Hammill’s son); Ruth Heifner (friend of Pastor Mike); Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Bobbie Himes (Jin Gaston’s sister); Christina and Baby Hinkle (Pastor Mike and Joanna’s daughter is expecting a baby boy on January 18, 2015); Debbie Holloway; Becky Ingle (coworker of Amanda Roberts); Kim Jones (friend of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Ada Ladd; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Maxine McGuire; Mary McJunkins (Mary Wegman’s mother); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (Tammy Eblen’s mother); Bob Metts; Brian Migas; Jonathan Migas; Mary Anne Moncier (Dianne Fielder’s aunt); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (Dianne Fielder’s cousin); Alice Montgomery; Carl Overstreet (friend of Cliff Parrott); Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrott (Cliff Parrott’s son); Charlie Pipkin (Paul Pipkin’s father); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); Becky Rader; Rebecca Rech (Justin Rech’s mother); Marlene Ritchey; Bryan Rogers (Bonnie Bridges’ son); Carol Seeman; Gladys Stone; Sydney Snoderly (Betty Hammill’s great niece); Jack Walker; Carl Ware (Sam Ware’s father); Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr’s sons); the Whaley family (friends of Kathy Byers); Tom Williams (friend of Cliff Parrott); Robyn (friend of Hannah Haddox)

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

