The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Kevin Wood ~ Pastor

"Loving God, Loving People"

March 30, 2011

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

THE WAY TO HEAVEN!

An ABC News poll recently noted that nine out of ten people living in the United States say they believe in heaven. Of course there are many different opinions on how to get there.

Some say that in the end everyone becomes an angel and goes to heaven when they die. Others say whoever does more good things than bad will go. One popular Robert Frost poem seems to indicate "the road less traveled" is the way to heaven.

Several of the major world religions agree on a basic concept of heaven and hell (Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim). A consortium of scientists several years ago were quoted as saying that heaven's existence is not necessary. Faith is all we need. And this faith comes easily to some, while it eludes others. Apparently, they believe it's all based on a personality trait encoded in our genes. Some of us have it, and some don't. Atheists believe heaven is a myth and this life is all there is.

In sharp contrast to all we hear today about heaven and how to get there is Jesus' bold declaration: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me!" (John 14:6) This is one of the seven "I am" sayings Jesus made about Himself and His divine nature. His words made such a profound impact on his early followers they were actually called "The People of the Way!" before they were called "Christians." Numerous references to "The People of the Way" are found in the New Testament book of Acts (9:22; 22:4; 19:9; 19:23; 24:14; 24:22), the history book of the early Church.

In 21st century, post-Christian America, are we believers still "The People of the Way?" Do we believe Jesus is the Way or have we become subscribers to the rambling opinions of contemporaries?

Should we dive into the maze of public opinion and hope to find our way to heaven? Or should we trust the One who, after suffering and dying for our sins on the cross, descended into the Pit and rose triumphant on the third day over sin and death? Who knows the Way to heaven?

Jesus does! He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! We will never find the Father or the Father's Heaven without Him!

CONGRATULATIONS BONNIE!

Bonnie Holbert, a member of First Church since 1949, celebrated her 100th birthday March 19 with a huge party attended by 151 family and friends at the Inn at Christmas Place in Pigeon Forge. Congratulations Bonnie! You're the oldest living member of First Church and we thank God for your wonderful spirit!

"CRAZY GOLFERS" GOING TO PINE LAKES!

Men and women who enjoy a round of golf are invited to join the "Crazy Golfers" of First Church for their first outing of 2011 Sunday, April 10, 1:30 p.m. at Pine Lakes Golf Course in Rockford. Cost for the round will be \$30.00 including cart. Tee times have been arranged so please arrive on time to warm up. A sign-up sheet will be available outside the church offices. Newcomers are always welcome!



Rise!

Enjoy New Life in Christ This Easter!!!

Palm Sunday, April 17, 10:45 A.M.

Choir Cantata, "The King is Coming!"

Maundy Thursday, April 21, 6:30 P.M.

Worship Service and Holy Communion

Saturday, April 23, 11:30 A.M.

Community Easter Egg Hunt (Toddlers-Grade 5)

Easter Sunday, April 24, 7:30 A.M.

Early Service on the Front Lawn

(weather permitting, alternate location: Chapel)

Easter Sunday, April 24, 8:30 A.M.

Full Breakfast in the Gym (donation)

Easter Service, April 24, 10:45 A.M.

"Celebration of Life" Worship Service and Holy Communion

*nursery available for all services/activities



"Faith for the Future," our fund-raising campaign to pay for a major repair on the HVAC heating and cooling system, is continuing. By the grace of God and with the help of many longtime friends of the church we can achieve our goal! Checks should be made to the church and designated "Faith for the Future Campaign." Pledges will be received and dedicated this Sunday, April 3 during morning worship. Please use the pledge cards mailed to you this week and bring them to church this Sunday! If you have any questions about the campaign please contact Dr. J. David Hester, campaign director (769-0540/250-5375).



Join Us For Worship this Sunday! And bring a friend!





Happy Birthday



April 3- Michael Bachman

5-Elijah O'Neal



Activities for April 3 - 9, 2011

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Tues., 6:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Weds., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for March 27, 2011

Sunday School	50
Worship	81
Offering	\$4,639.40
Capital Improvements Fund	
Expenses paid last week	

FISH- Calling all Volunteers!

Our FISH Ministry continues again this year. Please contact Steve McCurry to volunteer to help. We will need many persons to help bag, dispose of cardboard, get food, unload food, and many more things. The FISH bagging dates are Saturdays **April 2, 9 and 16 at 9:00 am.**

THANK YOU!!

What a glorious surprise on March 20! As we gathered for the fellowship luncheon, you broke out singing "Happy Birthday" - to me! All my children and most of my grandchildren and all my greatgrandchildren were present. It was a special event! Thank you for remembering!

J. David Hester

SESSION MEETING

The Session will meet for its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. in the Keene Room. Session packets will be available in the narthex by Sunday, April 24 (Easter Sunday).

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will meet for their monthly fellowship luncheon Wednesday, April 13, 11:00 a.m. at Harrison's Restaurant, 110 Hillvale Road, Clinton (463-6368). Everyone at least 55 years-old is encouraged to join us. Please feel free to bring other friends as well! A carpool will be leaving the church by 10:15 a.m. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office (588-8581/228-0710).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO KNOXVILLE CHURCH!!

Good luck to J. David and all as the campaign proceeds. When all is finished you'll be good for many more years in the beautiful building "set on a hill".

Miss ya'll. Love & God bless, Norma & Clarence

Prayer Concerns



Virginia Brown, KY, Kim Halbert's grandmother On-going Health and Prayer Concerns



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

The Church Women United's spring luncheon is Friday May 6 with the theme "Living Our Friendship-Passing on the Key." If you would like to attend, please contact Dianne Fielder as reservations must be made.

FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

As we enter the second month of our campaign to raise funds to re-do our HVAC system, we are moving along. \$28,930 have been given or pledged thus far.

This week you will receive a letter and a pledge card in the mail. Please bring your pledge card on this Sunday, April 3, for presentation and dedication.

Remember, our church is now 126 years old - and it's now in our hands!

- J. David Hester

CONGRATULATIONS

To Nick Deal for passing his Structural Engineering III Test. So you are smarter then Lisa.