

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"

February 5, 2014



FROM THE PASTOR

After what could be referred to as a 141-day "engagement", I am now officially the Pastor of Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. I pray that you are still as glad to have Joanna and me here as we are thankful to be here. I look forward with great anticipation to what God has in store for us as we continued this journey together. More than twenty years ago, I adopted **Jeremiah 29:11** as the theme verse for my ministry. This verse states: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" [NIV] Won't you join me in seeking and following God's plan for our congregation? I would be amiss, if I did not take the time to show appreciation to the members of the presbyterial *Commission to Install*, so thank you **Rev. Dr. J. David Hester** for chairing this commission and for preaching the sermon, and I pledge to do my very best not to "blow it!" I also want to thank **Rev. Don Hubbard**, **Rev. Bill Middleton**, and our own **Elder Diane Pipkin** for serving on this commission. And lastly, I want to thank everyone who brought food to the Potluck Fellowship Meal; I am not sure which I enjoyed more, the food or the fellowship; both were great!

Though this coming Sunday is **Scout Sunday**, we will resume the ongoing sermon series, "I Am a Church Member". The title of the message will be, "Church Is Not about Me". As I indicated in my last sermon, this message will focus on preferences and how our preferences should not lead to disunity. One of my professors at Memphis Theological Seminary said that there are three categories of thinking in which our thoughts about God and Church fit into. According to Dr. Nick Knickerbocker, these three categories are dogma, doctrine, and preferences. Examples of dogma would be the creed: "Jesus is Lord" or the belief that Christ is the only way to salvation. Examples of doctrine would be the mode of baptism one finds permissible or the type of church polity one practices. Examples of preferences would be what type of music we prefer or whether a minister wears a robe or not. There is no room for debate regarding dogma because dogma defines who we are as Christians. There is room for honest, respectful debate regarding doctrine because doctrine defines what denomination we associate ourselves with. There is nothing wrong with having preferences; the problem is when we elevate our personal preferences to the place of either doctrine or dogma. Both dogma and doctrine create unity with a congregation thus strengthening us for service. Preferences elevated beyond their rightful place create division and a selfishness that keeps us from serving. I look forward to seeing you at First Church this coming Sunday.

Grace,

Pastor Mike

Scout Sunday

This coming Sunday, February 9th, we will observe **Scout Sunday**. **Scout Sunday** is when all the scouts, Boys and Girls, that meet at First Church are invited to participate in the morning worship service. The scouts will be doing things like presenting the colors, taking up the offering, and possibly providing special music. In addition to the scouts, their families are invited to attend as well. This day is an excellent opportunity for each of us to show our visitors what a wonder place First Church is and maybe some of them will want to become a part of us.

Thank You Note

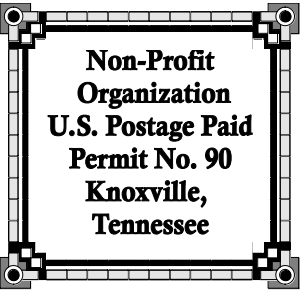
We received in the mail the following thank you note from the **Heritage Committee of the Presbytery of East Tennessee**:


To the Knoxville Church Choir,

Thank you for singing at the Denomination Day Celebration in Greenville. We received several comments on how much your singing was enjoyed and appreciated. Your contribution of music enriched the worship experience. Thank you.

Yours in Christ, Jane Hubbard


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.





Happy Birthday

February
9-Stephanie Saults
9-Matthew Shelton
10-Lindsay Bridges



Activities for February 2-8, 2014		
Sun.,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 p.m.	Stewardship & Finance
Wed.,	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
(See web site for complete calendar listings)		

Stewardship Report February 2, 2014	
Sunday School.....	51
Worship.....	93
Offering	\$5,058.00
Memorial Fund.....	\$100.00
Youth Fund.....	\$40.00
Music Fund.....	\$125.00

Among Our People

Richard Booher to have knee replacement on Thursday ... Patrick Curtis sporting a broken ankle as result of jumping at “jump place” at birthday party Saturday ... Did you see Joy Taylor on TV last week? Interviewed by Channel 10 about story they were pursuing ... Peggy Bradshaw, Dianne Fielder’s mother, has left hospital and gone to Holston Health and Rehabilitation Center for further therapy ... Hailey Davis competed in the Circle of Stars Gymnastics meet in Indianapolis and their team finished in first place.

A Job vs. a Ministry

Someone made the comment that there is a big difference between having a job at church and having a ministry at church.

... If you're doing it because no one else will, it's a job.
If you're doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.
... If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job.
If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.
... If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.
... It's hard to get excited about a job.
It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.
An average church is filled with people doing jobs.
A great church is filled with people involved in ministry.



Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

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); Cliff Parrott; Janet Simcox (lung cancer); Dale Craddo, (Scott Robert’s Uncle); Tom Williams, (friend of Cliff Parrott); Vicki Dilly, (Erin Pipkin’s mother); Carl Kissiah, (Joanna Wilkinson’s father); Bobbie Himes, (Jin Gaston’s sister is facing surgery).

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

TRIPLE ‘D’ IS COMING SOON!!!

‘D’inner
‘D’ance
‘D’essert

This event, and this will be an ‘EVENT’, will be held Saturday, February 15 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Cost: Donation of your choice.

Reservations are required for **Dinner** and **Dessert**. So that our professional chefs will know exactly how much food to prepare.

The menu will consist of choice of two entrées, Chicken and Rice Casserole and the second entrée is Lasagna with garlic bread. These choices will be made available for you to choose next Sunday. A form will be in the Bulletin and also available in the Narthex. You may also make reservations by calling the office.

Please get your reservations in early!

For additional information, please contact Stephanie or Daniel Saults.

THIS IS NOT JUST A COUPLES EVENT. THIS IS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!