

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

6900 Nubbin Ridge, Knoxville, TN 37919

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Kevin Wood ~ Pastor

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A Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

March 14, 2007

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to all the church family who made our Thursday Connection guests so welcome last Sunday with good food and wonderful fellowship. As your pastor, I am thankful for your faithfulness in doing all the little things that make the church work every Sunday. Please know that anything you do out of devotion to the Lord will not go unrewarded!

OUTRAGEOUS CLAIMS!

During the rest of Lent and Easter you will hear some of the outrageous claims of Jesus of Nazareth. Last Sunday in John's gospel, He claimed "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD!" Below are some of the other claims He will make in the weeks ahead during our 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning worship services:

*March 18: "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE!"

*March 25: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!"

*April 1 (Palm Sunday) Choral Cantata entitled *"Written in Red."*

*April 8 (Easter Sunday): "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!"

LENTEN/EASTER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

"The Living Lord's Supper" Communion Service

See it through the eyes of the original disciples, Thursday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast

Sunday, April 8, 7:45 a.m. in the courtyard with Dr. J. David Hester preaching.

Easter Sunday "Celebration of Eternal Life!"

*Sunday, April 8, 10:45 a.m. with the pastor preaching
and Rev. Bill Ivey, Celebrant for Holy Communion*

WE NEED EVERYONE FOR "SPRINGFEST, 2007!"

Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. we need every member and friend of the church to be present to welcome kids, parents, and grandparents from everywhere in Knoxville to "Springfest" with inflatables and carnival games and plenty of good food.

This coming Sunday, March 18 we will be ordering special "I Love My Church" t-shirts. Be sure to order yours at the table in the narthex at a cost of \$10 each. All proceeds go to help build our new denominational center in Memphis. They will be personalized with the name of our church on them and no doubt will become keepsakes for years to come!

Thursday Connection, Jazzercise, Scouts, and other groups will be helping us with "Springfest." It will be a great day of friendship and outreach. Plan to spend part or all of your day here representing First Church!

INVITING PEOPLE TO MEET JESUS

It's often called "Friendship" or "Relational" evangelism. Everyone has family and friends who do not know Christ and who do not have a church family. While the Bible shows many "styles" of evangelism, the most effective way is to begin with people you already know.

The Christian faith is about telling people you know best what your relationship with Christ and His Church means to you. The Lenten-Easter season is the number one time of year to invite people close to you to hear the Gospel message and experience what it can be like to be part of God's family. In the coming weeks leading to Palm Sunday and Easter (April 1 and 8) I encourage you to do the following: (1) Write out a list of family and friends you want to invite. Call it your "personal invitation list;" (2) Begin praying for each one on the list, asking God to give them an open heart to respond to your invitation and a desire to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pray for each one daily; (3) When you're ready, make the contact and give them your best, most personal invitation to come with you for Palm Sunday and Easter worship.

Remember, do your best and God will do the rest!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS WITH DR. HESTER

First Church is pleased to announce Dr. J. David Hester will lead a class on "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" six Sunday evenings in April and May beginning Sunday, April 15. You can sign up starting this Sunday, March 18 by using the insert provided in the bulletin. More details in the coming weeks.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB OUTING

The Friendship Club for everyone 55 and up will be meeting for lunch at Aubrey's on Papermill Road, Wednesday, March 28, 11:00 a.m. It's springtime and we would like to make some plans for special trips. Join us!

WE'VE DECIDED TO 'RE-FOCUS'

We are going to stay where we are and "re-focus" our ministry at First Church! That's the basic decision that came out of our congregational meeting March 4. In order to do that there are several things every member and friend of the church can do:

(1) We can pray daily that God will grow the church.

(2) We can give a positive witness of the church to everyone we meet.

(3) We can make a list of our "potential congregation," begin praying for each one of them and target Palm Sunday and Easter to bring them to church. Our goal for each of those two Sundays will be 150!

(4) We can use our renewed commitment to stewardship and most of our remaining endowment funds to keep moving forward.

(5) We can give a high priority to developing new and vital ministries for children, youth, and senior adults. As a beginning we can work together and welcome the community to our "Springfest, 2007" event scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(6) We can sit together on the main floor and slowly build a sense of closeness in worship.

(7) We can do the "P.U.S.H." prayer as suggested by Dr. Hester. "Pray Until Something Happens!" This will include some church-wide prayer meetings in homes this spring and summer.

Pastor Kevin

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6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919
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Happy Birthday

March 2007

21~Judy Gammon
21~Dianne Pipkin
22~Amy Fielder Pritchard

Activities for March 18-24, 2007

Sun.,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	4:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
Wed.,	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Session

Stewardship Report for March 11, 2007

Sunday School.....33
Worship.....84
Offering.....\$1,514.00
Special Offerings: FISH \$325.00

Year-to-Date (as of March 11, 2007)

Offerings received to date: \$31,671.06
Expenses paid to date: \$46,180.91



FISH

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$325.00 this week. This brings our total to \$3,558.00. We are getting close to our goal of \$4000.00. This week we were able to get 14 more cases of food from the Second Harvest Food Bank. The last week of March I will need lots of help transporting food stored at the church and

food which will be purchased to the Pantry. Please save those large sized paper bags and bring them to the church or give them to Betty. And keep on praying to help the poor and hungry in our community. Thank you for your continuing support. Betty

Are you enjoying the Challenge?

If you started your Bible readings on Ash Wednesday, you are in your third week of the 50 readings in the New Testament, utilizing the *Essential 100 Challenge* guidelines. All the books were picked up; however, two have not been paid for. If you have gotten one of the books, please help the church with the cost, and



Prayer Concerns In the Military



Shane McGhee in Iraq, wife Tamara in California
Ronnie Gann (Peggy O'Neal's brother) in Iraq

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

Dick Congdon, Brack Emory, Mary Jane Blaylock, Denominational Center Task Force, Donna Wann (mother of David Wann), Pollye Pharaoh, Ileana Grace Hayes, Bill Hammill, Reba Smith, Bill & Flora Mae Keene, Marlene Ritchey, Mildred Stone, Tom Raines, Edna Fleenor, Maxine McGuire, Vera Stewart, Mrs. Don Franks, Priscilla McCoy (Kim Halbert's mother), Margaret Lindsay, Mary Cregger, Jennie Lee Middlemas, Lucy Hesler, Irene Brooks (Nancy Wood's mother), JoAnn Ford, Howard Eblen, William Barron (Lee's Father), Family of Libby Smedburg, Shelia Franklin, Rose Gauthler, Mary Matthew, Jim Dear-dorf, John Donovan, Lee Oberlieesen, Joan Webber and Beth Farmer (friends of Dorothy Porter), Doug Bailey, friend of the Witmers, Dewaine Moncier, Jr. and Mary Lynn Tolar and infant Thomas Moffat (3 requests by Dianne Fielder).

Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes, additions or deletions to our Prayer Concerns list.



SATURDAY
MARCH 24
(RAIN DATE
MARCH 31)

Work Day

If anyone has a bed with mattress, any size, to donate, please contact Betty Hammill at 690-8739.

New Directory in the Planning

In a few weeks we will be asking you for information. We would like permission to include your email address and birthday, as well as your mailing address and phone number. We need your assistance in obtaining such information for out-of-town folks, such as children who have moved away. Forms will be distributed later.



Newsletter Deadline

All Newsletter articles, events, or announcements should be sent by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays to Dianne Fielder at firstcpc@earthlink.net or call the church office at 588-8581.