

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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A Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

February 21, 2007

LENT BEGINS

We are entering the season of Lent, a period of 40 weekdays and six Sundays when the church "proclaims, remembers, and responds to the atoning death of Jesus Christ."

"Ash Wednesday" is this Wednesday, February 21. Holy Week begins Sunday, April 1. Easter Sunday is April 8.

During this season I ask you to think of and pray for those people you know who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. Pray that God will speak to their hearts and give you an opening to invite them to hear the Good News.

I will be preaching on some of the "I AM" sayings of Jesus during Lent. As C. S. Lewis has written in his book Mere Christianity, "either this man was and is the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse." Everyone is faced with the choice of who Jesus is.

Invite your family and friends to hear His "outrageous claims!"

YOU STILL CAN GET IN ON THE CHALLENGE!

"The Essential 100 Challenge" is a new and exciting way for everyone at First Church to read through the Bible together. The Challenge is based on a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. It's the through-the-Bible program you can easily complete...and enjoy.

Whether you're a new or experienced Bible reader, "The Essential 100 Challenge" will be the fastest, most rewarding journey through God's Word you've ever taken.

The challenge begins this Wednesday, February 21 ("Ash Wednesday," beginning of Lent) but you can still sign up this Sunday by claiming a list of Bible readings or purchasing The Essential Bible Guide at a cost of \$8.80. Both are available in the narthex. Please make your checks payable to First Church for "Bible Guide."

MODERATOR WITH US

This Sunday, February 25 we will have Rev. Don Hubbard, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, deliver the morning message. Don lives in Knoxville and was pastor of the Marietta CP Church for many years. It will be an honor to have the moderator with us!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 4

On Sunday, March 4 a congregational meeting will be held to discuss the consultation report and hear opinions and suggestions from the congregation. The elders and pastor want to hear from you as we pray and prepare for the future God has for us. Every member and regular attender is encouraged to be present for an abbreviated worship service and the discussion which follows.

Please claim your copy of the report in the narthex by this Sunday, February 25.

PEGGY WILL BE LEAVING SOON!

Peggy O'Neal is getting ready to leave on a medical mission trip to Panama March 2-9. She will be part of a team of doctors and nurses providing medical, dental, vision, and pharmacy care. The mission team will also share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people.

Thank you for your generous response so far! The scope of the need is great and you still have time to donate again until this Sunday, February 25. The following items are especially requested:

Children's Vitamins Toothpaste and Toothbrushes Reading Glasses

All of these items are for children, youth, or adults. Used glasses are acceptable. Boxes for the donations are located in the gym kitchen and the narthex.

There will be a brief commissioning service for Peggy this Sunday during morning worship. When she returns she will share her experiences with us. Please keep the medical team in your prayers.

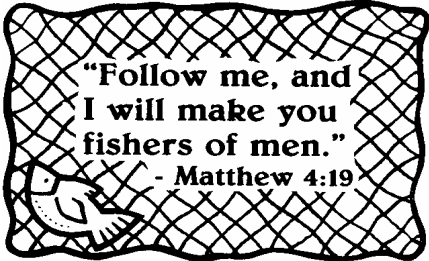
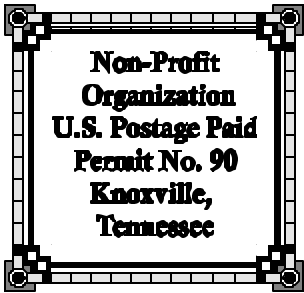
OUR GUESTS SUNDAY MARCH 11

Our special guests Sunday, March 11, 10:45 a.m. will be the families of "Thursday Connection" Home School Co-operative. Some of them will join us in worship and many more will come later as honored guests for our monthly potluck luncheon in the gymnasium. They will join us in bringing meats, salads, vegetables, and desserts to share in this "family get-together!" They will also spend the afternoon looking at the facility as a possible meeting place beginning this fall. What a great opportunity we will have to make them feel at home with us! Maybe God has "brought us together for such a time as this!"

'LIVING LORD'S SUPPER' PARTICIPANTS

"Holy Week" is the first week of April this year and we will be looking for men who want to participate in our second annual "Living Lord's Supper" Communion Service. A planning meeting will be held Sunday, March 4 following the morning service. All "alumni" and any newcomers are welcome to join us!

Pastor Kevin



Happy Birthday

February 2007

23~Vester Summitt
24~Elizabeth Wilkins

Activities for February 25-March 3, 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

Stewardship Report for February 18, 2007

(Inclement Weather)

Sunday School.....	21
Worship.....	55
Offering.....	\$2,278.00
Special Offerings: FISH	\$25.00

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

Offerings received to date:	\$21,981.81
Expenses paid to date:	\$32,570.36



FISH

We have begun our 2007 FISH campaign. Our theme this year comes from Proverbs 28:27a- "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing..." April is the month that our church stocks the West Knox FISH pantry. Our first bagging session will be March 31 at 9:30 a.m. at the Pantry. Additional bagging sessions will be April 7, 14, and 21. Please sign up on the FISH Bulletin Board located in the Narthex if you can help. Our

Goal this year is \$4000.00 and the good news is that we have \$1,822.03 left over from last year in the account, so we are almost halfway to our goal. If you would like to contribute to FISH and feeding the hungry, make your check payable to the church, mark it for FISH, and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. We also need large size paper grocery bags-we usually use over a 1000! Grocery stores charge for them now, so your bag donations are greatly appreciated. Leave them in the office or give them to Betty Hammill. If you can help transport groceries the last week of March, please notify Betty Hammill. A local bakery supplies bread at a low cost for the Pantry. If you can help get 100 loaves of bread to the Pantry each week during April, please contact Betty Hammill. Prayer support is essential for a successful campaign. We ask that you pray daily for the FISH campaign. Starting this week Betty will go to Second Harvest to buy food at 14 cents per pound to attempt to keep the costs of purchased food as low as possible. Betty looks forward to working with you again to help the poor and hungry of our community during the month of April. If you have any questions please call Betty at 690-8739.

Prayer Concerns

In the Military

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

In the Hospital

Dick Congdon in Ft. Sanders Regional
Room 311, 541-3311

Recovering at home from Surgery

Stephanie Sauls

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

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, Heidie Holton, Irene Brooks (Nancy Wood's mother), JoAnn Ford, Howard Eblen, William Barron (Lee's Father), May Webb, Shelia Franklin, Diane Barker, Rose Gauthler, Vickie Webb, Mary Matthew, Jim Deardorf, John Donovan, Jenny McGill, Lee Oberlieesen, Beth Frammer, and Adrian Murphy (friends of Dorothy Porter), Doug Bailey, friend of the Witmers, Natalie Meadows, expecting twins to be delivered this week and 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.

EATING SOUP? SAVE THOSE LABELS!

Bring the entire label and put it in the box in the church office. Labels from Campbell's, Prego, Swanson's, Pepperidge Farms, and V8 are sent to the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home in Denton, TX for them to exchange for equipment.



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.