

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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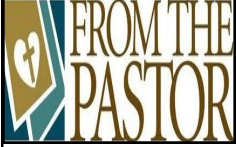
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

August 3, 2016



The majority of the money raised by our annual Garage Sale has been used to purchase forty-eight backpacks full of school supplies for students at the Rocky Hill Elementary School whose parents/guardians needed assistance in this area. This is truly a going outside where Jesus is, where the action is project. The need at Rocky Hill was so great that I did not call any of the others schools that I intended to contact. We were able to supply eight backpacks full of supplies for each of the six grade levels, kindergarten through fifth grade, at the school. I want to thank those who helped fill the backpacks last Sunday following our Worship Service; I saw a lot of smiles on the faces of those packing the backpacks. The backpacks will be delivered to the school this week so that the teachers can distribute them as needed on the first day of school, which is this coming Monday, August 8th. The Garage Sale ended up raising \$1,400.81. To date, approximately \$1,200.00 was spent on backpacks and school supplies, which means that if you or someone you know needs a backpack, we can supply you/them with one; just let me know of the need; again, all requests will be kept confidential.

Once again I am going to wade out into dangerous waters—this time it is the dangerous waters of American politics. In my twenty-five years of serving in the pastorate, I have never attempted to tell anyone what candidate to vote for in any election and I do not plan to do so now. Nonetheless, with both the Republican and Democratic Conventions behind us and the hundred-day countdown to the presidential election underway, I thought that I would share my thoughts on this topic. Do you remember the days when the so-called Christian Right mobilized churches as political weapons? As a young adult, I witnessed the rise of Moral Majority and later the Christian Coalition and other such groups that attempted sway all Christians to vote a certain way, often even to vote for certain candidates. Long before this, the Christian Left attempted to mobilize churches in the same manner, but with a different political agenda in mind. (By the way, I despise the terms “Christian Right” and “Christian Left” because it divides the Body of Christ, but these terms are now a part of the standard nomenclature of our time.) While I believe it is our duty as citizens of this country to participate in the political process, with voting being the minimal level of participation, and I believe that our theology should effect our whole lives, including our political views, attempting to mobilize our churches as political weapons and putting our faith in political power instead of the Power of Pentecost was and still is nothing less than idolatry, which is sin. Maybe it is time for the followers of the risen Jesus to stop flirting with suitors who promise to meet all our needs in accordance to their riches in government, whether those riches be more spending or lower taxes or whatever political promise appeals to us. Maybe, instead of trying to change our nation via an election, we can, instead, focus on doing the work of making disciples—of going outside where Jesus is, where the action is and sharing, in both word and deed, the life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As our nation moves deeper into what I consider to be the most bizarre election season of my lifetime, we can choose to roll up our sleeves and go to work making disciples or we can sit around and whine. Honestly, since the candidates of our nation’s two major political parties became apparent weeks before their respective conventions, I have been whining about being forced to choose between what I consider to be two poor options. As of right now, I am done whining; instead, I am going to focus on “campaigning” on behalf of my true Leader—I am renewing my pledge to go outside where Jesus is, where the action is. Yes, come the first Tuesday in November, I will vote for someone and I most probably will not be pleased with my vote, but I will vote with the assurance that neither our salvation nor our future rest in the hands of either Donald or Hillary or any other of the candidates for President of the United States or any other political office; instead, they rest in Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Our allegiance to the risen Jesus, His Word, His Church, and His call on our lives should override everything else, including our patriotism, economic aspirations, and political orientation. Someone please throw me a life preserver so I can get out of this deep water.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

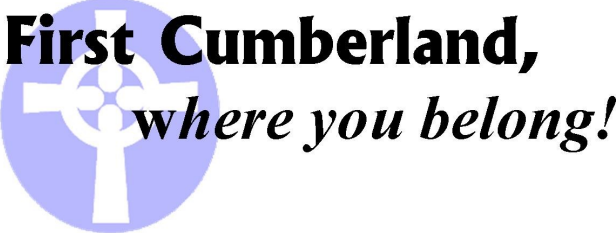
Youth News


- ⇒ Eight of our Youth and four chaperones camped out at the Cove Lake State Park, in Caryville, Tennessee, last weekend. Our Youth Group would like to thank **Tom** and **Emily DeLozier** and **Scott** and **Amanda Roberts** for their great camping trip. A wonderful time was had by all.
- ⇒ Our Youth Group will have a **Cookout and Hot Tub Party** at Pastor Mike and Joanna’s home Sunday afternoon, August 21st, following our Worship Service. All attending need to bring a change of clothes and a towel.

Talent Show and Ice Cream Social

Our **Outreach and Missions Committee** has reset the date of our the church-wide **Talent Show and Ice Cream Social**; it will now be held Sunday afternoon, August 14th, at 4:00 p.m. It is hoped that everyone who signed-up to participate in the **Talent Show** on the original date will still be able to join in the fun. Please bring ice cream (homemade or store-bought) and/or a dessert that compliments ice cream (cookies, brownies, cake, etc.) and join in this great time of fellowship. There will be a panel that will judge the homemade ice cream that is brought.


*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

August 3rd-9th
6th - James Paschke
9th - Maxine Curtis



Faithfulness Record July 31, 2016	
Sunday School.....	29
Worship Service.....	81
Offering.....	\$3,209.25
Music Fund.....	\$50.00
Garage Sale.....	\$20.00
Youth Group.....	\$130.00


Activities for August 3-9, 2016	
Sunday:	9:30 a.m. Sunday School
	10:45 a.m. Worship Service
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)	

Among Our People

Mildred Acuff fell Monday, July 25th and broke her arm; **Alejandra Vargas Araiza**, mother of Alfonzo Marquez, has been diagnosed with cancer and is now under hospice care in El Paso, Texas . . . **Wakely Burton** (four-week-old child of **Morgan Burton**, friend of Hannah Haddox) is facing some serious health issues . . . It was great having **Kathy Byers**, daughter of Betty Hammill, worshiping with us last Sunday . . . It was great having both the **Doyal** and **Owens Families** worshiping with us again last Sunday . . . **Michael Garrett**, cousin of Kim McCurry, is in the hospital, in Gainsville, Georgia, in grave condition . . . **Bill Halbert** had an MRI on his eyes last Saturday, July 30th; he is awaiting the results . . . It was great having **Curt** and **Brenda Hammill**, son and daughter-in-law of Betty Hammill, worshiping with us last Sunday . . . **Marcus, Jennifer**, and **Rex Hayes**, son-in-law, daughter, and grandson of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, moved to Fort Worth, Texas, Monday, August 1st; **Marcus** will be attending Brite Divinity School to work on his doctorate degree . . . **Cliff Parrott** is still having some hip pain, but is doing better; he goes back to the doctor this week . . . **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, learned from the results of her needle biopsy that she has Malignant B-cell Lymphoma; she underwent a tissue biopsy on Tuesday, August 2nd, to determine the best drugs to be used in her upcoming chemotherapy treatments; the results are still pending . . . It was great having **Lois Witmer** back worshiping with us last Sunday; she is still receiving outpatient physical therapy as she continues to recover from her recent stroke . . .


Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch of the **Friendship Club** is Wednesday, August 17th, at **Famous Dave’s Bar-B-Que** (located at 208 Advantage Drive, near the intersection of Cedar Bluff Road and Parkside Drive), at 11:00 a.m. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.



Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital
Michael Garrett, cousin of Kim McCurry, at N.E. Medical Center, in Gainsville, Georgia



Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)

Mildred Acuff; Alejandra Vargas Araiza (mother of Alfonzo Marquez); Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Charlotte Byrd; Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Kim Boyatt (friend of Susan Edwards); Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); **FAMILY OF STEPHEN BROWN**; Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Morgan and Wakely Burton (friend of Hannah Haddox and her friend’s baby); ***Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries around the world***; Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; **MICHAEL GARRETT** (cousin of Kin McCurry); Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Bobbie Himes (sister of Jin Gaston); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Kim Jones and her mother (friend of Amanda Roberts); Jewell Kerr; Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Steve Kusenda (brother-in-law of Margaret Migas); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Gene McCammon; Maxine McGuire; Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrott (son of Cliff Parrott); ***persecuted Christians around the world***; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); Becky Rader; David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Charlie Spalding (friend of Joy Taylor); Jean Stapleton (mother of Elaine Stapleton); Gladys Stone; Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Codde Weaver (son of Elaine Stapleton); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Rose Wilkinson (mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); Lois Witmer

Please keep the Church Office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list.

Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the **Family of Stephen Masom Brown** (former member and organist) who passed way last Monday, July 25th. Please keep this family in your prayers. ***“Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”*** [Matthew 5:4, NKJV]

Church’s Website

The church’s website, **www.first-cumberland.org**, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four Worship Services.