

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Kevin Wood ~ Pastor Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter "Loving God, Loving People" November 21, 2007

OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS...

...are with Alice Montgomery and Tom Raines, Jr. in the death of our faithful and courageous friend Tom Raines who is at home in heaven. A graveside service was held Tuesday afternoon at Greenwood Cemetery. May God bless and keep you in the days ahead!

LAST SUNDAY WE THANKED GOD!

Last Sunday I had the privilege of being part of one of the best Thanksgiving worship services ever! People stood up and shared their thanks to God from the heart. Four magnificent Thanksgiving boxes were prepared and delivered the same day. And Dr. J. David Hester delivered a fresh word from God about how to really be thankful by raising our "Ebenezers." If you want to get the gist of the story, read I Samuel 7:3-13. But, like most great blessings in life, you had to be there to really appreciate it. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you from the First Church family!

BRING YOUR LOAVES AND FISHES THIS SUNDAY!

This Sunday, November 25 we will collect and dedicate our Loaves and Fishes offering. Please bring your boxes filled with bills and coins. 75% will go to help relieve hunger and malnutrition in Darfur. 25% will be used in our local Love and Company ministry. Thank you for caring!

ARE YOU AVAILABLE?

A recent church sign read: "God doesn't just want 10% of us, He wants all of us!" How do you see life—as a tube of toothpaste to be used up for your own pleasure or as a gift from God to be used for His purpose and His glory? Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!" Christ-followers reveal their true identity by the way they use their time, talents, and financial resources. Is the Kingdom of God first in your life or are you too busy doing your own thing? The world has sold us a bill of goods by making us think so many things are important, yet only what we do for the Lord will truly last. As we continue our annual stewardship campaign, "Commitment Sunday" will be Sunday, December 9. Search your heart. Are you really available for the Lord's work?

INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO OUR ADVENT EVENTS!

This Advent-Christmas season we have decided to present all our special programs during the Sunday morning services. We're doing this so you can invite everyone you know who doesn't have a church family. Christmas is one of the best times of the year to welcome people to experience the joy and peace of Jesus Christ. Sunday, December 2, 10:45 a.m. First Sunday of Advent. "Hanging of the Greens" during the morning service. Sunday, December 9, 10:45 a.m. Second Sunday in Advent. Children's Christmas program followed by a church-wide covered dish luncheon in the gym. Please bring plenty of meats, salads, vegetables, and holiday desserts to share. This Sunday is also "Commitment Sunday" for our stewardship campaign and election of new elders, class of 2008. Sunday, December 16, 10:45 a.m. Third Sunday in Advent. The choir will present their annual Christmas cantata. Sunday, December 23, 10:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday in Advent. Morning Message: "Incarnation: God is with Us!" Monday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. Christmas-eve Candlelight Communion Service.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB CHRISTMAS OUTING

The Friendship Club invites everyone 55 and older to our annual Christmas gathering Wednesday, December 12, 11:00 a.m. at the Copper Cellar, 7316 Kingston Pike. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office. Please bring a \$3 exchange gift.

'ELDER ON CALL' DURING NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>November 25: Valerie Wann</i> | <i>December 9: Lee Barron</i> | <i>December 23: Eugene McCammon</i> |
| <i>December 2: Tom Witmer</i> | <i>December 16: Jewell Kerr</i> | <i>December 30: Hugh Morgan</i> |

PRAY FOR UPWARD BASKETBALL!!!

Call the church office or come by and sign up your children/grandchildren, Grades K-6 for Upward Basketball. Evaluations will held starting next Monday, November 26. We still need many helpers for the Upward Basketball ministry but the most important need right now is prayer. Please join the Prayer Team and pray daily for the following:
(1) that we achieve our goal of reaching 100 children and families for Christ this first year; (4,500 flyers were taken to Knox County elementary schools this week!)
(2) that God will be glorified in this new ministry;
(3) that director Steve Summers and the leadership of UB will be blessed and enabled and encouraged as they prepare for the season.
If anyone has any questions about UB, please call the church office (588-8581).

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS

Parents and children please note: In order to have a complete Christmas program we need all children to join us for the next two Sunday rehearsals during Sunday School and Children's Church. We can't do it without you!
-Wendy Goodrich and Jane Carroll

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR VETS

If you would like to express your love and appreciation to those who have been wounded in the cause of freedom in Iraq, you are invited to send Christmas cards to the following addresses:
Wally Holt
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20307-5001
A Recovering American Soldier
C/O Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20307-5001

~Pastor Kevin

Knoxville First Cumberland
Presbyterian Church, Inc.
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919
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Knoxville,
Tennessee

Happy
Thanksgiving

Happy Birthday

November

28-Mary Cregger

Prayer Concerns

In the Military

Shane McGhee in Iraq, wife Tamara in California
Bill Hickman in Iraq, Lee Barron's cousin

In the Hospital

Wally Holt, Walter Reed Military Hospital, Iraq War Veteran

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

Ted Ford; Taylor Ford; JoAnn Ford; Marlene Ritchey; Pastors Euripides Morera, Rodrigo Torress and Gilberto Arteaga, and their congregations in Buenaventura, Columbia; Brack Emory; Mary Jane Blaylock; Denominational Center Task Force; Ileana Grace Hayes; Bill Hammill; Reba Smith; Bill & Flora Mae Keene; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Maxine McGuire; Mrs. Don Franks; Priscilla McCoy; Margaret Lindsay; Mary Cregger; Jennie Lee Middlemas; Irene Brooks; William Barron; Nancy Bandermolen; Doug Bailey; Joyce Creasman; Brenda Burk; Jonathan Migas; Bernie Migas; Levi Bailey; Lillian Stephens; Neal Denton; Bonnie Holbert; Otis Clinton Shelby; Reba Hauser; Franklin Graham Crusade coming to Knoxville in April, 2008; Lucy and Glen Hesler; Curtis McNabb (Tammy Eblen's father); Lois Witmer; Francis Bogart; Noreen Bogart; David Summers; Barbara Leith; Elena Zimmerman; Allan Smith; Adrienne Murphy; Emma Ruth Cates; Thomas King; Terry Davidson; Peggy O'Neal; Edna Ivey (upcoming surgery); the family of Tom Raines.

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

CPWM News

Pecans

We have a few one pound packages of pecan halves remaining. They will be available in the Library Sunday and each Sunday thereafter until all are sold. Thank you for your support in baking, in making and in buying. The success of this annual fundraiser would not be possible without you. A final report will be published later.

Christmas Tea

On Sunday, December 2 CPWM will hold their annual Christmas Tea in the Keene Room at 2 P.M. All women of the church are invited. Please bring some of your favorite cookies to be enjoyed by all. For additional information please call, Betty Hammill at 690-8739.

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR...

So many caring people
Who help throughout the year.
And dedicate part of themselves
To Friends who the hold dear.

They give their time and talent.
They find a special way.
To share what is uniquely theirs
To brighten someone's day.

They give their love and friendship
In way that they believe
Will touch the lives of others.
And by giving they receive.

And so in celebrating
This special time of year
We thank the Lord for sending us
Each precious volunteer.
(Copied)

Activities for November 24-December 1, 2007

| | | |
|---------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Sat., | 7:00 p.m. | BSA, Court of Honor, Sanctuary |
| Sun., | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Worship Service |
| Mon., | 6:00 p.m. | Upward Basketball Evaluations |
| Tues., | 6:30 p.m. | Upward Basketball Evaluations |
| Wed., | 6:30 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Thurs., | 6:30 p.m. | Upward Basketball Evaluations |

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for November 18, 2007

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday School..... | 52 |
| Worship..... | 100 |
| Offering..... | \$2,656.50 |
| Capital Improvements Fund | \$2,650.00 |
| Memorial/Building Fund..... | \$445.00 |
| Expenses paid last week | \$9,828.41 |

Year-to-Date (as of November 18, 2007)

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Offerings received to date:..... | \$137,106.92 |
| Expenses paid to date:..... | \$238,355.33 |
| Building / Cap. Improve. Fund..... | \$18,356.00 |
| Keep an eye on the thermometer in the Narthex. Keep up with the our progress of the Building / Capital Improvement Fund Raising Campaign. | |

Update on Building Repairs and Maintenance

Phase #2 of the HVAC project is finished. We have finalized the design. We are now beginning Phase #3. It is the completion of a construction package and soliciting bids. We have authorized Al Bedinger to begin this phase. As those who where here Sunday noticed we again had a leak in the same area in the under concrete piping in the HVAC system coming from the boiler. Replacing the pipe under the concrete is a critical need in a new system. If you have any questions or comments about these projects or other facility needs, please contact any member of the Building & Grounds Committee. (Tom Witmer, James O'Neal, Billy Davis, Barbara McCammon, Dick Congdon or Charlie Franks).

Session Corner

- 1) The Session approved the request of Rev. Wood, that he receive an additional two weeks vacation each year (four weeks total) for the next five years; in lieu of a salary raise, other than the increase in insurance premiums.
- 2) The Session is in the process of nominating people to serve three-year terms as Elders, beginning January 2008. A congregational meeting to nominate/elect Elders is scheduled for December 09, 2007.
- 3) The Session is seeking to hire a nursery attendant for Sunday mornings. Qualified people (Infant CPR Certification) should contact the office so that an interview can be arranged.