The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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(865) 588-8581

Kevin Wood ~ Pastor

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 7, 2011

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY!

A congregational meeting to elect three new elders for three year terms will be held at the conclusion of morning worship this coming Sunday, December 11. At that time the Session will place in nomination Phil Bridges, Dianne Pipkin and Steve Summers.

Other nominations may be made from the floor provided the person has already been contacted and has agreed to serve. All members of the congregation are encouraged to vote in the election. Those who are elected will be ordained/installed to the office of elder on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Please be in prayer for the congregation and for those who will serve!

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS EVENTS!

The celebration of the birth of the Christ-child continues at First Church!

Wednesday, December 7, 12 NOON

Seniors Christmas Luncheon

New ministry for 55's plus; good food, fellowship and singing Christmas carols around the piano!

Sunday, December 11, 10:45 A.M.

Election of Elders; Puppet Presentation; "Gift to the King Offering"

Wednesday, December 14, 11:00 A.M.

Friendship Club Christmas Luncheon at Copper Cellar

Saturday, December 17, 3:00 P.M.

Youth and Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18, 10:45 A.M.

Churchwide Christmas Program featuring the Choir, Youth and Children

Sunday, December 18, 3:00 P.M.

Christmas Caroling and Poinsettia Delivery to the Homebound and Hospitalized Make someone's Christmas and sing-a-long with us (if you can't carry a tune, you can carry a poinsettia)!

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 P.M.

Christmas-Eve Candlelight Communion

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 A.M.*

Christmas Sunday Worship (no Sunday School)

*Please note the special time for worship!

MISSION GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

MITTEN TREE--- The Mitten Tree is taking donations in the library. Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, Bibles, Juice Boxes, and after-school snacks are needed. All gifts will be distributed through Coalition for Appalachian Ministry. Contact person: Dianne Fielder (982-6918). <u>Deadline</u>: Sunday, January 1.

<u>ANGEL TREE</u>---The Angel Tree is located in the church office and includes the names and needs of three families. Please

sign in at the desk, then take the card and purchase the requested gifts, returning them to the office no later than Sunday, December 18. Contact person: Kevin Wood (228-0710). Deadline: Sunday, December 18.

GIFT TO THE KING OFFERING--- This year's "Gift to the King" offering will go to Cumberland Presbyterian new church development projects in mission locations outside the United States. Offering envelopes will be provided in the bulletin this Sunday, December 11. Please give generously!

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP!

Our second "Night of Praise and Worship" was a blessed worship experience and we look forward to the next one, which has been re-scheduled for Sunday, January 8, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Our special guests for that day of worship will be Fuad Reveiz (10:45 a.m.) and his son Nick Reveiz (6:00 p.m). Make plans to invite all your family and friends to hear their testimonies!

THANK YOU!

First Church wants to recognize and offer our sincere appreciation to Leanne Summers, Judy Gammon and Barbara McCammon for spending their time and expertise decorating the sanctuary for the Advent-Christmas season. Thank you for helping us experience the joy of this holy season!

~Pastor Kevin

FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

Faith for the Future – our campaign to repair our HVAC system – has been underway since early March – nine months. Our most recent accounting showed that we had received \$131,288.54 on our \$200,000 goal.

I am pleased to report that the project is all but finished as the workers this week complete the cosmetic work.

I am more than pleased to report to you that this week I was contacted by a donor – who wishes to remain anonymous – to advise me that he had given stock to the church in the amount of \$10,000 for Faith for the Future! So, our total is up perceptibly. There is a caveat to the gift. This is matching money. The church will receive these funds after we have given \$10,000 in matching new money. I emphasize new. If you have paid your pledge, I would invite you to add some new money now. And those few members who have yet to contribute – now is the time!

We are talking of a \$20,000 gift here. But we must have <u>new</u> money – money given after Dec. 1, 2011.

I would challenge us to make these new gifts within 2 weeks - so that by Christmas, we can move past the \$150,000 total of our \$200,000 goal.

<u>Faith for the Future</u> is alive and well! Thank you for your support. (NOTE: We received \$2,438 towards matching the \$10,000)

J. David Hester, Campaign Director



3rd SUNDAY in

Join Us For Worship this Sunday! And bring a friend!







December

12-Allison Davis
12-Whitney Goodrich

12-Jaylor Ford

13-Susan Shelton

14-Justion Rech

Activities for December 11-17, 2011

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Tues., 11:00 a.m. West Circle

7:00 p.m. Session

Weds., 11:00 a.m. Friendship Club-Copper Cellar

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thurs., 7:30 p.m. Dance Class Sat., 1:00 p.m. Choir Practice

3:00 p.m. Youth & Children's Christmas

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for December 4, 2011Sunday School53Worship82Praise & Worship53Offering (AM)\$4,802.66Offering (PM)\$103.20Capital Improvements Fund\$15.00

WEST CIRCLE

Will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 11am in the Keene Room. We will be having a lasagna lunch after our program and business meeting. Our Circle is open to all the ladies of the church. Questions – ask Betty Hammill – 690-8739.

<u>Congratulations to Stephanie Bridges</u> who signed her letter of intent to play Softball and Volleyball at Tennessee Wesleyan College. Stephanie is a 4-year varsity starter in both sports at Halls HS and received school and All-District awards in both sports. She plans to enter the pre-vet program and major in biology at TWC next fall.

The children and youth will be having a Christmas party at 3:00 in the gym on the 17th. We will be decorating Gingerbread houses and making cards for the delivery of poinsettia's. I ask that everyone please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange.

On Dec. 18th the church will be Christmas caroling and delivering poinsettia to the homebound. We will be split into groups, so I would like to encourage all to participate. It is an amazing feeling when you see someone that is no longer able to attend church with a HUGE smile on their face when they see us. There will be a sign up sheet by the office for the caroling and delivery of poinsettia. The church has 50 tickets to see the Living Christmas Tree at 7:00pm on Sunday the 18th. We can all carpool together after our WONDERFUL afternoon of caroling and visiting with our homebound members. I hope that everyone has a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Allison Davis

Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns



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

Call 588-8581 or email firstcpc@earthlink.net.

SESSION MEETING

The Session meeting for December will be held Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Keene Room. All elders and newly elected elders are encouraged to attend!

DECEMBER FRIENDSHIP CLUB!

The Friendship Club will meet for their Christmas get-together Wednesday, December 14, 11:00 a.m. at the Copper Cellar Restaurant, 7316 Kingston Pike (673-3422). Come bring your friends and enjoy the season with us! Everyone at least 55 years-old has a standing invitation!!!

Family in need of a good used, dependable van! If you know of one or someone who can donate one, please contact the church office (588-8581).



Thank you for your assistance!

CHRISTMAS GIFT (and Challenge)

The Gleaners Sunday School Class (taught by Dr. Hester) has again purchased a sheep (through Heifer International) to send to an underprivileged family overseas. This sheep will assist the family - through its wool - to gain income for sustenance. Contact us if you also want to do the same.

J. David

Year End Giving

There are only three more Sundays in this month to catch up on you pledges or to give money or items to be able to receive credit for you income taxes.

Remember, just because you are not at church, our expenses continue. If you want to support the ministries of this Church, you must provide the financial support, also.