

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919 ~ E-mail: FirstCPC@KFCPC.com ~ (865) 588-8581

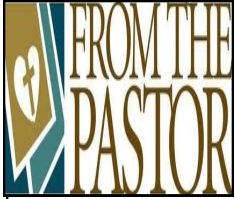
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"*Loving God, Loving People*"

December 23, 2015



I want to begin by thanking **Sam and Karen Ware**, our **Choir**, and our **Cast and Crew** for all the hard work they put into preparing for the presentation of the **Christmas cantata**, "***The Silence and the Sound***". The presentation was last Sunday night, December 20th, and it was truly wonderful. I wish I had the room to share with you all the wonderful comments I heard after the cantata, but limited space in this newsletter will not allow me to do so. Nonetheless, I am convinced that God was glorified and His people uplifted as we praised Him in song, dance, and drama. The opening narration of this cantata really touched me, and I want to share it with you: "The time had come. The time when eternity would be altered forever. ***This was the moment when condemnation would meet redemption.*** (*emphasis mine*) When the free reign of darkness would meet the Light of the World. The time was now. And as the curtains rolled back from a divinely-set stage, all of creation rose and stood in silence." In the words of one of the many Christmas cards we received, "May you have quiet moments to cherish Jesus and those you love this Christmas." In those rare but precious quite moments, I suggest that you ponder this thought: "***This was the moment when condemnation would meet redemption.***"

Our annual **Christmas Eve Worship Service** will be at 5:00 p.m. and will include the ***Sacrament of the Lord's Supper***. As Cumberland Presbyterians, we practice *Open Communion*, which means that you do not have to be either a member of this congregation or the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to participate in ***Holy Communion***, so feel free to invite family members and friends to join you for this special Worship Service. I look forward to seeing you here.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

- ♦ A special thank you to everyone who purchased a gift card for the **Fish Hospitality Pantry**. The proceeds from your purchase will help feed the hungry in our city.
- ♦ Another special thank you to everyone who participated in this year's **Angel Tree**. The gifts for ten of the residents at Serene Manor Nursing Home will be delivered this week in time for their Christmas party.
- ♦ Two **Mitten Trees** are in the Narthex. Please bring mittens, hats, scarves, and socks for the children in Appalachia—the Coalition of Appalachian Ministries, in Townsend, will distribute them. This coming Sunday, December 27th, is the final day of this drive, as the gifts will be taken to the mission the first week of January.

Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is expressed to the **Family of Ruth Ann Poole** (grandmother of Danni Curtis Robinson), who passed away Saturday, December 12th. Please keep Danni and her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

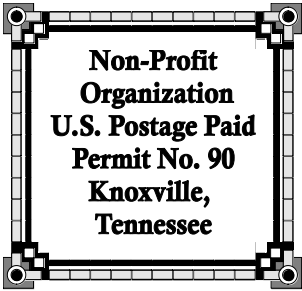
Our sincere Christian sympathy is expressed to the **Family of James "Geno" Capps** (grandfather of Leah Witmer), who passed away last Saturday, December 19th. Please keep Leah and her family in your prayers during this difficult time.


Congregational Meeting

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain and/or install elders will be Sunday, January 10th, at the close of our Worship Service. At that time, our *Session* will nominate **Ryan Haddox**, **Scott Roberts**, and **Steve Summers** to serve as the *Elder Class of 2018*. During this meeting, we will also receive the resignation of **James O'Neal**, *Elder Class of 2016*, who is moving to Hawaii. Our *Session* will then nominate **Dianne Pipkin** to serve the remaining eleven months of James' term. Additional nominations for both classes can be made from the floor if the nominee is present for the meeting, has agreed to be nominated, and meets both the biblical and constitutional qualifications to serve. A special thank you to **Maxine Curtis**, **Kim Halbert**, and **Jewell Kerr** for their service to this congregation as the *Elder Class of 2015*.

"Joy to the world! the Lord is come!"


*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

December 23rd-29th
23rd - Laura Paschke



Stewardship Report December 20, 2015	
Sunday School.....	41
Worship.....	80
Offering.....	\$10,365.25
Memorial Fund.....	\$25.00
Youth Fund.....	\$94.40
Christmas Cantata.....	101
Offering.....	\$298.00

Activities for December 23-29, 2015	
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday: 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)	

Among Our People

James Acuff (Mildred’s son from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania), spent several days visiting his mother last week . . . **Edna Fleenor** remains under hospice care at NHC, St. Mary’s . . . **Ada Ladd** remains at home, but is now under hospice care . . . The **James O’Neal Family (James, Peggy, Emma, Sydney, and Eli)** will soon be moving to Hawaii . . . **Cliff Parrott** continues to recover from the skin graft on his leg . . . **Marlene Ritchey** remains under hospice care in Arizona . . . **Tom Witmer** was scheduled for a heart catheterization on Tuesday, December 22nd . . .

Year End Contributions


Per Internal Revenue Service regulations, any contributions to the church you wish to be included on this year’s giving statement and tax return need to be given no later than Wednesday, December 30th, so they can be posted and deposited by December 31th.

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat luncheon for the **Friendship Club** is Wednesday, January 20th, at 11:00 a.m., at **Calhoun's Restaurant** (Bearden hill). Everyone reading this announcement is welcome to attend this and all **Friendship Club** outings; you are also encouraged to invite people from outside the church to join you. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office.

Church’s Website

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




Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

No one connected to First Cumberland is known to be in the hospital at this time. PTL!

Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)



Mildred Acuff; Sarah Ames (mother of a coworker of Kathy Byers); Janie Beeler (wife of Greg Beeler); Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Pat Beeler (friend of Greg Beeler); Charlotte Byrd; Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Kim Boyatt (friend of Susan Edwards); Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Frances Broom (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Greg Brown (caretaker of Mary Cregger); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); **FAMILY OF JAMES “GENO” CAPPS**, (Leah Witmer’s grandfather); Carol Craven (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Cregger; *Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries*, Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Edna Fleenor; Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Lynne Garrison (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Beth Hazelwood’s baby (friend of Lisa Hayes); Mark Hester; Larry Hickens (friend of Tom and Emily DeLozier); Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Christina Hinkle and Baby (daughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna); Bobbie Himes (sister of Jin Gaston); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Kim Jones (friend of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Steve Kusenda (brother-in-law of Margaret Migas); Ada Ladd; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Malachi (seven-year-old friend of Zachary Spencer); Gene McCammon; Maxine McGuire; Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Bob Metts; Brian Migas (son of Margaret Migas); Jonathan Migas (son of Margaret Migas); 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*; Catherine Pipkin (mother of Paul Pipkin); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); Becky Rader; David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); Marlene Ritchey; **MARY SAFEWRIGHT** (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Gladys Stone; Donna Snoderly (sister-in-law of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Charlie Spalding (neighbor of Joy Taylor); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr’s sons); Lois Witmer

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

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

“Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born”