

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Our Weekly Newsletter "Loving God, Loving People" December 30, 2009

WILL WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2010?
(Matthew 5:13-16)

Jesus uses two very earthy metaphors to challenge believers to live a life of influence. The world, He says, is like rotting meat. But we are to be salt! Again the world, He says, is like a dark night. But we are to be light!

Many believe that the Church has become so much like the world we no longer make a difference. We have lost our saltiness and our witness is growing dimmer day by day.

But the truth is in Christ we have the power to change the world! Christians can have a tremendous impact wherever they are if they remember to use the four powers they have been given:

The first power we have that can make a difference is the power of prayer! As Christians we have no power without prayer because prayer connects us with God’s plan. His plan always turns out better than ours! Prayer is not just informing God. Prayer is a dialogue with the Master Planner to find our directions and then we move out! Will we use the power of prayer to change lives in 2010?

The second power we have that can make a difference is the power of truth! Not only is the Good News powerful but all of God’s truth is powerful! Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote: “*One word of truth outweighs the whole world!*” Shakespeare wrote: “*Beauty is truth. Truth, beauty. That is all you know and all you need to know!*” Christians have a special responsibility regarding truth. We are to “*tell the truth in love.*” The world desperately needs God’s truth; Biblical truth. Will we “*tell the truth in love*” in 2010?

The third power we have that can make a difference is the power of example! People need more than just an understanding of the truth. They need to see the benefits with their own eyes! God uses embedded believers in every walk of life to exhibit His truth— one Christian nurse in a hospital; one Christian teacher in a school; one Christian in a shop, or factory, or office. A ‘faith mentor’ who loves people like Christ loves people and doesn’t mind letting them see the human flaws and the Godly influence in a life all at the same time! Will we be ‘faith mentors’ in 2010?

The fourth power we have that can make a difference is the power of the group! Sociologist Robert Belair has observed: “*The quality of a culture may be changed when just two percent of its people have a new vision!*” Jesus successfully transmitted His vision to twelve ordinary people. And that dedicated minority went out to change the world forever! Have you attached yourself to a dedicated group of Christians who are committed to loving people and bringing them into the Kingdom in 2010?

The world is waiting for someone to make a tremendous difference! In this new year Jesus Christ calls us to be salt and light! Will we make that difference in 2010?

SESSION MEETINGS

The first regular Session meeting for 2010 will be Tuesday, January 19, 6:00 p.m. in the Keene Room. The annual planning retreat will be held the following Sunday, January 24 immediately following morning worship. All elders are encouraged to be present for the meetings.

“THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE FORGIVEN”

Feed Your Faith of Knoxville will host a day-long men’s conference, “*The Good, the Bad, and the Forgiven,*” Saturday, January 16 at Sevier Heights Baptist Church. Featured speakers include Michael Franzese, Dr. Voddie Baucham, Hallerin Hilton Hill, and Burt Rosen. See www.FeedYourFaith.org for more information! All proceeds from the conference will benefit Knox Area Rescue Ministries.

UPWARD BASKETBALL MINISTRY BEGINS JANUARY 9

Saturday, January 9, 11:00 a.m. our third season of Upward Basketball begins at First Church. Boys and girls, kindergarten through grade six, will play their first games of the eight-week season.

There are two ways you can personally support Upward Basketball. First, pray for God to change hearts and lives and second, attend some games and support the leadership of this vital sports ministry. Your presence encourages us!

FRIENDSHIP CLUB IS GOING TO LULU’S AGAIN!

The Friendship Club is looking for new members in 2010 and everyone 55 and older is automatically included. The group will be going out for lunch each month to a selected restaurant. Wednesday, January 20, 11:00 a.m. you can join us at Lulu’s Tea Room, 3703 West Beaver Creek Drive. For reservations, sign up on the bulletin board outside the church offices or call 588-8581. Restaurant suggestions are welcome by calling Dick and Esther Congdon (689-9692).

THANK YOU!

The church family expresses gratitude to all those who made our Advent/Christmas season so beautiful through sanctuary decorations and special worship services. Your hospitality and service brought joy to our celebrations!

~ Pastor Kevin

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Presbyterian Church, Inc.
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919
Return Service Requested

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Knoxville,
Tennessee



Happy Birthday



- 2-Susan Overton
- 3-Lindsay O’Neal
- 6-Bob Kendrick
- 9-Stella Holt
- 9-Samuel Kellett
- 9-Laura Taylor



Activities for January 3–January 9, 2010

Sun.,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Tues.,	10:30 a.m.	West Circle
Wed.,	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat.,	11:00 a.m.	Upward Basketball season begins

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for December 27, 2009

Sunday School.....	N/A
Worship.....	66
Offering.....	.\$4,189.40
Capital Improvements Fund	\$110.00
Expenses paid last week	N/A

Pledge Cards

If you have not turned you pledge card in for next year, please send or bring into the office before the end of the year. Thank you for your support.

Celebrating 200 Years!!!



The Presbytery of East Tennessee invites you to a special 200th anniversary celebration of the birth of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Sunday, January 31, 3:30 p.m. at Talbott C. P. Church, Talbott, TN.

Dinner will be served at a cost of \$6.00 per person. Reservations are required by Monday, January 18. Please call Peggy Long (423-586-5355) or send an e-mail to mfsharp@musfiber.com.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2010 will be available in the narthex beginning this Sunday, January 3. Please call the church office if you need them mailed (588-8581).

Prayer Concerns In the Hospital



- Ian Miller (nephew of Lisa Deal’s coworker), St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, brain cancer
- Lea Acuff, Brakebill
- Evelyn Crowell, Shannondale Assisted Living
- Sarah Pipkin, recovering at home



On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

Taylor Ford; CP Missionaries; Mary Jane & Gordon Blaylock; Ileana Grace Hayes; Bill Hammill; Reba Smith; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Priscilla McCoy; Margaret Lindsay; Mary Cregger; Jonathan Migas; Bonnie Holbert; Otis Clinton Shelby; Elena Zimmerman; Gladys Stone; Lea & Mildred Acuff; A. R. Wood; Maxine McGuire; Fred Johnson; Millie Jones; Marlene Ritchey; Marjorie Thompson; Ada Ladd; Nancy Anthony; Bud & Betty Hickman; Irene Marshall; Stephen Park; Pam Wisner; Bob Moore (father of friend of Allison Davis); Caleb Michael Bundon; Gene Murr (co-worker of Nick Deal); Judy Lawson, (Lisa Deal’s aunt); Bill Keene; Jackie Turbbeyville (Jim Curtis’s niece); the Banvelos family (friends of the Deal’s); Hannah Davis; Tina Zandi (Fielder’s next door neighbor); J. David Hester; Jimmy Thompson (Sheila Emory’s brother); Irene Marshall (Maxine McGuire’s friend); Ethel Bankert (Tom Witmer’s mother); Jackie (Patty Fitzgerald’s sister); Jack Gaston; Lisa and Nick Deal; Christina Foote; Claudia Pharaoh; Austin Johnson; Onnie Bailes and Carl Overstreet (friends of Cliff Parrott); family of Danny McDonald (brother-in-law of Stephen Park); family of Rev. Don Alexander.

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

Needed...

...a small refrigerator.
If you have one or know of anyone who has one to give away, please call the church office.
If you are in need of something or have something you would like to give away, please let the office know and we will advertise in the Cumberlander.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

A service of ordination and installation for our newly elected elders (Jim Curtis, Allison Davis, and Dianne Fielder) will be held Sunday, January 17 at the close of morning worship. Remember them in your prayers as they prepare to begin their three-year terms of office!

ICE SKATING PARTY!

All Pioneer Club kids and their friends are invited to an Ice Skating Party Saturday, January 9, 2:00 p.m. at the Ice Shalet. Make a list of your friends and bring them all to this winter blast! For more information contact Maxine Curtis (357-0441).

The twelve-week, winter-spring session of Pioneer Clubs will begin Sunday, January 24, 4:00 p.m. Adult volunteers will be needed as club leaders and for preparing weekly club meals. Will you help us!