The Cumberlander

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

September 18, 2013

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Wow! I want to thank you for the wonderful welcome I and my family received last Sunday as I began my ministry as the Pastor of First Church. After the Pot Luck Dinner, which was excellent by the way, my extended family could not stop talking about how friendly you were. I really appreciate you making them feel that way, and I know that you will make all our visitors feel the same way. One of my wife's high school classmates and her seventh-grade son were present last Sunday as well, and your friendliness toward this young man resulted in him telling his mother that he wants to start attending this church. I do not know if they will end up attending regularly or not, but that kind of unconditional friendliness to visitors is so attractive in our impersonal world.

I look forward to what God has in store for us as a congregation. For the last eighteen or so years, the theme verse of my ministry has been Jeremiah 29:11, which says: "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV) Won't you join me in living out the awesome plans God has for First Church. I preached last Sunday about understanding our purpose; let me remind you of what I think our purpose as a congregation is: "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." Worship, evangelism, loving, and learning are the "tools" we use to bring glory to God. With that in mind, I want to encourage you to take inventory of your "tool chest." Are each of these "tools" found there? If so, then use them every day; and if not, these "tools" can be yours simply by beginning to use them. You see, God has made these "tools" readily available to each of us; all we have to do is use them. If you were to take the first letter of the four action verbs in our purpose – Worship, Evangelize, Love, and Learn - they would form the acrostic WELL, which will be the focus of this coming Sunday's sermon, "Are We Healthy?" I hope to see you here, and bring a friend or two or more with you.

At the risk of being redundant, please keep my family in your prayers. My wife, Joanna, needs to secure a job in Knoxville before she can join me at First Church every Sunday, and our house in Millbrook needs to sell before we can buy a home in Knoxville. My life over the next few weeks will be extremely exciting and full as I embrace the new opportunity for ministry that God has placed before me. Joanna's life, on the other hand, will be one of awkward separation as we are apart for an extended period of time.

One last thing, if you need me and I am not at the church, feel free to contact me on my cell phone (205-533-2001) or via email (mwilkinson1@elmore.rr.com). If you would like to touch base with Joanna, her cell phone number is 205-533-2002, and her email address is 3girlsmom@elmore.rr.com. Once we buy a home in Knoxville, we will most likely get new cell phone numbers and emails addresses that we will share with you at the time.

God's Grace,

Pastor Mike





Happy Birthday



September

22-Lois Witmer 23-Billy Davis 24-Sheila Boggs 25-Brack Emory 25-Hazel Johnson 25-Raleigh Wann



Activities for September 22-28, 2013

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service Wed., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report September 15, 2013

Sunday School	47
Worship	
Offering	
Building Fund	

HELP IS NEEDED

The insert in Sunday's bulletin told you about the emergency help needed by the Coalition of Appalachian Ministry (CAM) for children in the Del Rio School. They are in great need for — shampoo, soap, hair brushes, laundry supplies, towels, wash cloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, socks, shoes, underwear, pants and shirts. Bring your gifts any of the three Sundays remaining this month and we will deliver them to our CAM headquarters for their distribution.

Boxes will be in the halls to receive these gifts. Thank you for your assistance.

PRAYING YOUR CROSSES

Are you **praying your crosses** last week? For those who were present last Sunday morning, you know that everyone was given a paper cross (prepared by our children in Children's Church under the guidance of James and Laura Paschke). You were asked to write on the back of the cross what prayer needs you had – burdens, concerns, people. We took up your crosses, mixed them up and redistributed them with the request that you pray every day this week for what was on the back of the cross you received. We hope you are doing that – even though you do not know who the person was who wrote the requests.

Prayer Concerns In the Hospital

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

CP Missionaries; Mary Jane & Gordon Blaylock; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Mary Cregger; Gladys Stone; Mildred Acuff; Maxine McGuire; Ada Ladd; Nancy Anthony; Bud & Betty Hickman; Carl Overstreet (friend of Cliff Parrott); Jonathan Migas; Peggy Bradshaw (Dianne Fielder's mother); Nora Derreberry (Maxine Curtis's mother); Marlene Ritchey; Brian Migas; Taylor Ford; Mary McJunkins, (Mary Wegman's mother); Eric Nelson, (friend of the Witmer clan); Donna Wingard, (Mildred Acuff's daughter); Ann Fleming, (Beth Rader Fleming's mother-in-law); Pat Shetterly, (Sherry's mother); Debbie & David Triese, (Margaret Migas's sister and husband); Steve Goodrich; Saxon Cochran (Bridges' neighbor with cancer); Carl Ware; Allison, Hailey, Connor and Hannah Davis; Janie Beeler, (Greg Beeler's wife); Judy Gammon; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Suzan Smith, (Jewell Kerr's daughter); Richard Himes (Jin Gaston's brother-in-law); Debbie Holloway; Mildred Gragg (friend of Mary Cregger); Kim and her family, (friends of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Rebecca Rech, mother of Justin Rech; Jack Gaston; J. David Hester; Marie Jobson, (friend of the Witmer's); Grace Flory (Lois Witmer's mother).

Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list. Call 588-8581 or email firstcpc@earthlink.net

Lay Ministry Corner

If your life is full of busyness, you will never be available when God calls you to His business. ~Donna Walker

The Abuse Epidemic: Silent No More

by Rick Warren

"I said ... 'I will not say anything while evil people are near.' I kept quiet, not saying a word.... But my suffering only grew worse, and I was overcome with anxiety. The more I thought, the more troubled I became; I could not keep from asking: 'Lord, how long will I live? When will I die? Tell me how soon my life will end.'" (Psalm 39:1-4 GNT)

The first step in breaking free from abuse, whether it's sexual or physical or verbal or emotional, is sharing with someone who can help you break free.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "The truth will set you free" (NLT). Freedom comes when you open up and admit your pain to someone else

In a study of 10 nations, it was discovered that between 55 to 95 percent of women who have been abused by their partners have never told anybody, and men are even less likely to talk about it or get help.

Abuse is often called the silent epidemic because it's the big, pink elephant in many marriages that nobody wants to talk about. People suffer in silence.