

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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

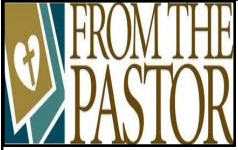
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

February 1, 2017



I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make our hosting of the *Presbytery of East Tennessee's 2017 Denomination Day Celebration* last Sunday afternoon and evening such a great event. While the possibility of threatening weather kept several people from attending, those present from other congregations repeatedly bragged on our hospitality. Several of you helped with setup and/or cleanup, prepared an abundance of food, worked in the kitchen, ushered, served communion, sang in the Presbyterial Choir, sang in our Choir, or simply attended the celebration. While the list of those who helped is too extensive to print in the newsletter, I want to mention four people specifically: **Dianne Pipkin**, for coordinating the meal, and **Sam** and **Karen Ware** and **Gene McCammon** for leading the music. Our annual **Denomination Day Celebration** is honor of the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church back on February 4, 1810. With that in mind, the title of my message this coming Sunday morning is, *"What Is a Cumberland Presbyterian?"* I look forward to seeing you here.

Thinking about seeing you at church, it amazes me how many people, even people who profess to be Christians, refuse to get near a church unless their nephew is playing the role of a sheep in the Christmas play. On occasion, someone will say to me, "I can get more out of a walk in the woods than from attending church." This leads me to ask, "Can a Christian survive apart from the local church?" Some Christians have no choice—they are sick or shut-in, or working in an isolated area where no church exists, and God is certainly sufficient to care for their needs. Even though it is technically possible to live the Christian life apart from the local church, it is certainly not the norm. When you become a Christian, you are called into a relationship with God through Christ (**First Corinthians 1:9**), but **First John 1:3** makes it clear that we enter a fellowship that goes two ways: with God and with other Christians. The New Testament never divides Christians into the church members and the non-church members. All the way through, it assumes that every Christian participates in their local assembly. It gives no samples of Christians who belong to the universal church, but have no link with a local church. Wherever Christians are within range of each other in the New Testament, they meet. In the Book of **Acts**, every time the Apostle Paul came to a town where there were no Christians, he won a few converts and immediately organized them into a local church. For Christians in every location, regularly gathering together as the church was a part of life. It is illogical to say that you are merely part of the worldwide, universal church, yet refuse to gather with the segment of that universal church that exists in your local area. It would be like claiming you have a car, when the right fender is in Nashville, the engine is in Memphis, and the tires are in Knoxville. You do not have a car; you have the beginning of the inventory for a junkyard. It just will not function until the pieces are put together. The church must be together to carry out its four-fold, God-given purpose of worshiping Christ, evangelizing the lost, loving one another and our neighbor, and learning more about our God. If you read this paragraph thinking I had you in mind when I wrote it, you are probably correct. Again, I look forward to seeing you at church this coming Sunday morning.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Outreach and Missions Update

On our first monthly collection day, we received 104 packages of water for the **Water Angel Ministry**. That translates into 2915 (16.9 ounce) bottles (approximately 385 gallons) of drinkable water that will be given out to the homeless in our area. In addition to the water, several coats, hats, and a least 220 pairs of gloves were donated. Our Session helped jumpstart this new ministry effort by buying 63 cases of the water and 18 packages of gloves from the balance of the money from last year's Yard Sale. A special thank you to **Scott Roberts** for picking up these items. Remember, we will be collecting bottle water, coats, gloves, and hats on the last Sunday of each month throughout the year.

We received a note from the **Coalition of Appalachian Ministries (CAM)** thanking us for the mittens, hats, and scarves we collected and delivered to the headquarters in Townsend. These items were distributed in two rural and poor areas; one in north Georgia and one in Ducktown, Tennessee. The people were very happy and thankful for receiving them. The note we received is posted on the CPWM bulletin board in the front hall.

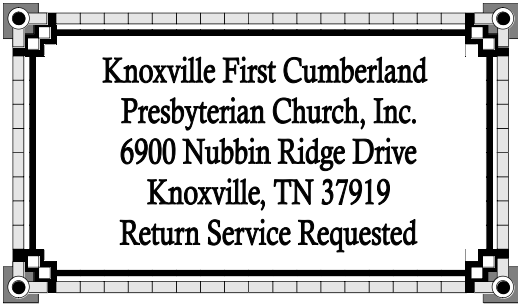
Scout Sunday

Our annual **Scout Sunday** event will be this coming Sunday, February 5th. On this day, scouts and parents of **Cub Scout Pack 20** and **Boy Scout Troop 20** will be our special guests; various scouts will also participate in the Worship Service. Both of these groups meet at and are sponsored by First Cumberland. Make your plans now to attend this special Worship Service.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **West Circle** of our ladies' ministry will meet on Tuesday, February 7th, at 11:00 a.m., in the Keene Room. Please bring a sandwich lunch; drinks and dessert will be provided. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend.

*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.*



First Cumberland,
where you belong!



Happy Birthday
February 1st-7th



We have no known birthdays this week.

Our Faithfulness Record for January 29th

Sunday School.....	53
Worship Service.....	71
Offering.....	\$3,681.30
Playground Fund.....	\$20.00
Facility Reimbursement.....	\$233.00
Water Angel Ministry.....	\$125.00
Denomination Day Celebration.....	142

Activities for February 1st-7th

- Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Thursday: 6:30 p.m. Friendship Clup, P.M. Edition
Sunday: **Scout Sunday**
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Mildred Acuff fell on Monday, January 23rd, resulting in a trip to the Emergency Room; fortunately, nothing was broken and she returned home that night ~ **Kathy Byers**, daughter of Betty Hammill, had hip replacement surgery on Tuesday, January 31st. **Maxine Curtis** is now receiving outpatient physical rehab. ~ It was great having **Kim Halbert** back worshipping with us last Sunday; she continues to recover from her recent procedure to remove another gall stone. ~ **Marilyn Ritchey**, daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey, has been diagnosed with breast cancer; she is now post-surgical and moving to the treatment phase of radiation and possible chemotherapy. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, returned to her home on Thursday, January 26th; she is will receive in-home physical rehab.

Special Guests

It was great having **Dottie Small**, daughter of Allen and Sallie Cox, worshipping with us last Sunday.

File Cabinets Needed

Our *Worship Committee* is in need of one more four-drawer letter-sized vertical file cabinets for our Choir Room for music storage (two have been donated). If you have a file cabinet that you would like to donate, please contact the Church Office. If needed, arrangements can be made to pick it up.

Church’s Website

The church’s website, www.first-cumberland.org, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four [Worship Services](#).



Prayer Concern List
In the Hospital



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

Prayer Concerns

Mildred Acuff; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Gordon Blaylock; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); **KATHY BYERS** (daughter of Betty Hammill); Charlotte Byrd; *Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries*; Maxine Curtis; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); **JAMES FRITZ** (school bus driver of Jonathon Spencer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; Kim Halbert; Mark Hester; Betty and Bud Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Jewell Kerr; *our Kids Hope USA ministry*; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Alexi Lewallen (granddaughter of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; Sara Paul (friend of Rose Wilkinson); *persecuted Christians around the world*; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); Marilyn Ritchey (daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey); Amanda Roberts; John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Jean Stapleton (mother of Elaine Stapleton); Shane Thompson (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Codee Weaver (son of Elaine Stapleton); Lee Wells (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Rose Wilkinson (mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); Bob Witmer (uncle of Tom Witmer); Lois Witmer

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

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, February 15th, at **The Original Louis Drive-in Restaurant** (4661 Old Broadway), at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, February 2nd, at **Calhoun’s Restaurant, Bearden Hill** (6515 Kingston Pike), at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.