

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Kevin Wood ~ Pastor

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Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

September 10, 2008

PASTOR'S PROMISE

As announced last Sunday morning I will sing a solo the next Sunday I look out and count 100 people present. I'm not much of a soloist but I'll sing the verse and you can sing the chorus of "Heaven Came Down," a great hymn of the church. Of course we should at least 100 people present on any given Sunday. It wouldn't be hard at all if you brought your whole family and all the unchurched friends you know. According to our official church roll we have 393 members! I was always taught that people who love the Lord put Him first on Sunday mornings. Do you?

PIONEER CLUBS CAN BE A GREAT MINISTRY!...

...if you bring all your children, grandchildren, neighbor children, and everybody's children to our new Sunday afternoon ministry beginning Sunday, September 21, 4:00 p.m.

We have sent invitations to over 5,000 public school children because at First Church we believe that every child needs a spiritual foundation and a growing relationship with the Lord of life.

Pioneer Clubs is for all ages, from two years to grade 7. We have dedicated leaders and a great curriculum with lots of activities. We are asking that all church families pre-register their children. The cost for the ten week program is \$15.00 per child (maximum of \$50.00 per family) plus a colored t-shirt for the club emblem. For information call me anytime at 588-8581;357-1946; or 228-0710.

'PRAYER GATHERING' SEPTEMBER 14

Nancy and I have cleaned the house and pulled out the red carpet for all of you to come pray with us during the "Prayer Gathering" next Sunday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. This will be the last church family prayer time before "40 Days of Community" begins.

We will continue to lift up our "40 Days of Community" spiritual growth campaign and a new ministry called "Pioneer Clubs." In addition you are encouraged to mention names of those who need prayer for healing, direction, encouragement, etc. Hope to see you there!

We will not be having a full meal this time but please bring your favorite dessert to share. Coffee, tea, and sodas will be provided.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAYS

First Church will host some new member classes for adults, youth, and children during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.) on the following schedule in September and October.

Adults Sundays, September 21 and 28 in the Keene Room

Youth (grades 6-12) Sundays, October 5 and 12 in the Conference Room

Children (grade 5 and below) Sundays, October 19 and 26 in the Conference Room

The classes are for information only. A commitment to membership is not required. Parents, please talk with your children and youth to determine if they are thinking about a commitment to Christ and His Church. Please call the pastor if you are interested in the classes for yourself or your children (588-8581;357-1946;228-0710).

NEEDED: HOST HOMES AND LEADERS FOR '40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY!'

We are looking for 7 small group leaders and 7 host homes for the "40 Days of Community" spiritual growth campaign October 5-November 23. The teaching sessions will be on DVD so all you need to do is be a discussion leader and/or provide a television and a place to sit for a total of six weekly meetings. If you feel God wants you to participate in this way please call the church (588-8581) or Steve Goodrich (691-4069).

WHO ARE YOU INVITING?

Who are you going to invite to "40 Days of Community" October 5-November 23? Please pray for and develop your own invitation list of guests to bring to church every Sunday, to small group Bible studies during the week, and to get in on some of the big service projects that will be carried out.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will travel to Lakeside Tavern restaurant Wednesday, September 24, 11:00 a.m. for lunch and fellowship. Everyone 55 and older is welcome to join us. The address is 10911 Concord Park Drive (671-2980). Reservations are expected so please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office or call us (588-8581).

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

The Session will meet for its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, September 16, 6:00 p.m. in the Keene Room. All elders are encouraged to be present.

DON'T MISS GOD'S PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE!

Purpose #4 "You Were Shaped for Serving God!"

Our first purpose in life is to respond to God's love by loving Him back. That's worship! Our second purpose involves belonging and learning to love God's family, the Church. That's fellowship!

Our third purpose is to become like Jesus Christ! That's discipleship!

Our fourth purpose in life is to serve God by serving others. That's ministry!

Everything about you—your spiritual gifts, your passion, your abilities, your personality, and all your experiences have prepared you to be of unique service to humanity. You were put on earth to make a difference! Your model for serving is Jesus Himself! Serving like Jesus means learning to be available, grateful, and faithful to God at all times. It also means overcoming barriers like self-centeredness, perfectionism, materialism, comparing and criticizing, and wrong motivations. God wants to give you a servant heart. Are you ready to accept His call?

If you want to know more, read the Bible and Rick Warren's book, The Purpose-Driven Life! A few free copies are still available in the narthex.

Discover God's purposes for your life:

Sunday, September 14 "You Were Made for a Mission"

~Pastor Kevin



Happy Birthday



September
14-Dwight VanDeVate
14-Eugene McCammon
16-Bill Hammill
16-Courtney McCurry
16-Charlie Johnson
17-Maxine McGuire
18-Leah Witmer



Activities for September 13-20, 2008

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting—Wood's Home
Tues., 6:00 p.m. Session
Wed., 6:30 p.m. Choir

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for September 7, 2008

Sunday School.....34
Worship.....57
Offering.....\$3,717.81
Capital Improvements Fund680.00*
Memorial/Building Fund.....5.00
Expenses paid last week\$11,502.37

Year-to-Date (as of September 7, 2008)

Offerings received to date:.....\$107,192.84
Expenses paid to date:.....\$173,336.43
Building / Cap. Improve. Fund.....\$80,235.55*
*Includes giving toward pledges

'MEET ME IN THE STAIRWELL'

You say you will never forget where you were when you heard the news On September 11, 2001. Neither will I.

I was on the 110th floor in a smoke filled room with a man who called his wife to say 'Good-Bye.' I held his fingers steady as he dialed. I gave him the peace to say, 'Honey, I am not going to make it, but it is OK..I am ready to go.'

I was with his wife when he called as she fed breakfast to their children. I held her up as she tried to understand his words and as she realized he wasn't coming home that night.

I was in the stairwell of the 23rd floor when a woman cried out to Me for help. 'I have been knocking on the door of your heart for 50 years!' I said. 'Of course I will show you the way home - only believe in Me now.'

I was at the base of the building with the Priest ministering to the injured and devastated souls. I took him home to tend to his Flock in Heaven. He heard my voice and answered.

I was on all four of those planes, in every seat, with every prayer. I was with the crew as they were overtaken. I was in the very hearts of the believers there, comforting and assuring them that their faith has saved them. (cont'd next column)



Prayer Concerns



In the Military

Bill Hickman in Iraq, Lee Barron's cousin

In the Hospital

Taylor Adkins (friend of MariKate Walker), St. Jude's Children's Hospital
Gordon Blaylock, Ft. Sanders Regional
Bill Hammill, NHC Farragut

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

Taylor Ford; Pastors Euripides Morera, Rodrigo Torress and Gilberto Arteaga, and their congregations in Buenaventura, Columbia; Brack Emory; Mary Jane Blaylock; Ileana Grace Hayes; Bill Hammill; Reba Smith; Bill & Flora Mae Keene; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Priscilla McCoy; Margaret Lindsay; Mary Cregger; Irene Brooks; William Barron; Joyce Creasman; Jonathan Migas; Bonnie Holbert; Otis Clinton Shelby; Lois Witmer; Elena Zimmerman; Gladys Stone; Lea Acuff; Mildred Acuff; A. R. Wood (Kevin Wood's brother); Lisa Deal; JoAnn Ford; Maxine McGuire; Pat Booher; Kevin Wood; Molly Deuschle; Fred Johnson; Millie Jones (the Acuff's great-granddaughter); Steve Goodrich; Marlene Ritchey; Irene Brooks (Nancy Wood's mother, moved to new nursing home facility); Doug Bailey (friend of Witmers); Lou Jackson (heart by-pass surgery); Marjorie Thompson (Shelia Emory's sister-in-law); Edna Ivey (knee replacement); Ada Ladd; Amy Pittman (friend of Becky Rader; Leah Witmer.

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

'MEET ME IN THE STAIRWELL' (cont'd)

I was in Texas , Virginia , California , Michigan , Afghanistan . I was standing next to you when you heard the terrible news. Did you sense Me?

I want you to know that I saw every face. I knew every name - though not all know Me. Some met Me for the first time on the 86th floor.

Some sought Me with their last breath. Some couldn't hear Me calling to them through the smoke and flames; 'Come to Me... this way... take my hand.' Some chose, for the final time, to ignore Me. But, I was there.

I did not place you in the Tower that day. You may not know why, but I do. However, if you were there in that explosive moment in time, would you have reached for Me?

Sept. 11, 2001, was not the end of the journey for you . But someday your journey will end. And I will be there for you as well. Seek Me now while I may be found. Then, at any moment, you know you are 'ready to go.'

I will be in the stairwell of your final moments.

God

Directory Update

Stella Holt
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