

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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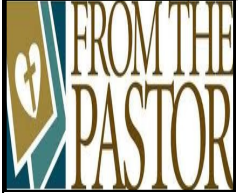
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

November 25, 2015



"Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation." [Psalm 68:19. NRSV]

Psalm 68 is an interesting passage. It was intended to be used in worship by Israel as a song of victory and deliverance. It recounts the many difficulties they endured and speaks of them being afflicted, oppressed, helpless, sinful, and exposed to hurt and pain; yet this psalm recalls that God provided for His people in the tough wilderness wanderings and in the days of bountiful blessing in the Promised Land. In both the good times and the bad, God blessed them and cared for them. In this passage, God's people recognize that and thank Him for it. Often in the bad times our eyesight gets foggy and we fail to recognize God's hand of blessing. We focus on the negatives and let them pull us down. At times we may not even see any positives in our situation, but God always gives blessings even though they may not be readily seen. I want encourage you to deliberately find things to be thankful for every day of the year. See God's hand at work in your life and praise Him, and remember that God daily gives multiple blessings to each of us. Also remember that a thankful heart is a joyful heart! My prayer is that each of you have a joyous **Thanksgiving!** Joanna and I will spend the holiday in Alabama with two of our daughters and one of our grandsons. We will be back for church on Sunday and look forward to seeing you here, as well.

We are still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Campaign—**Generosity: Excelling in the Grace of Giving**. Christian stewardship is about more than money; you know that, but you also know that money matters to the life of our congregation and to the spiritual well-being of God's people. Money pays our building note; it pays our utility (electricity, gas, water, and sewer) bills; it pays for our insurance coverage; it pays for maintenance and repairs; it pays for lawn care; and yes, it pays salaries (pastor, music directors, office/building manager, and custodian). Money also buys Christian education materials; it buys choral music; it supports our children and youth activities; and it helps support the ministries of our presbytery (camping program, ministerial training, etc.) and our denomination (church plants, mission projects, the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home, Bethel University, Memphis Theological Seminary, etc.). As much as we might wish it were not so, money matters here at First Cumberland, because without money none of the aforementioned ministries could take place. Please pray and ponder God's generosity in your life before you fill out your *Estimated Giving Card for 2016*, which will be turned in and dedicated on Sunday, December 6th, during our Worship Service. May our generous commitment reflect that we have not gotten over being saved, or in the words of **Second Corinthians 8:7**: ". . . *since you excel in everything—in faith, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*" [NIV]

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Youth News

- ⇒ On Saturday, December 12th, **BOTH** our **Middle and High Youth Groups** will help with the **Brunch with Santa** event. All youth need to be at the church at 8:00 a.m. to help prepare brunch to be served at 10:30 a.m.
- ⇒ On Sunday, December 20th, our **Middle and High Youth Groups** will have a joint **Christmas Party** following our **Choir's** presentation of the Christmas cantata, "*The Silence and the Sound*".

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

- ◆ A big thank you goes out to all who supported our CPWM's annual **Bake/Craft Sale** last Sunday. All of the baked goods were sold, as were many of the craft items. Thank you – to those who baked, to those who bought, and to those who worked at the church during the sale. Total proceeds from the sale will be available next week.
- ◆ Coming up in December will be the **Mitten Tree** for the children in Appalachia, the Serene Manor **Angel Tree**, and the **Fish Hospitality Gift Christmas Cards**. (Details will follow.)
- ◆ The **West Circle** of our ladies' ministry will meet Tuesday, December 15th, in the Keene Room, at 11:00 a.m. This is two weeks later than the usual meeting date. They will have a potluck lunch after the meeting. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Rocky Hill Christmas Parade

Once again, we will have a float in the **Rocky Hill Christmas Parade**. Anyone wishing to help decorate our float needs to meet here at the church Saturday morning, December 5th, at 10:00 a.m. The parade will be that evening at 6:00 p.m. Parade participants will meet at the Rocky Hill Baseball Fields at 5:00 p.m.

*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.*

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 90
Knoxville,
Tennessee

First Cumberland,
where you belong!

Happy Birthday

November 25th-December 1st

28th - Mary Cregger

Stewardship Report November 22, 2015	
Sunday School.....	59
Worship.....	84
Offering.....	\$2,032.25
Gift from Classical Conversation.....	\$500.00
Youth Fund.....	\$20.00
Music Fund.....	\$75.00
Building Reimbursement.....	\$50.00

Activities for November 25-December 1, 2015		
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 p.m.	High School Youth
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)		

Among Our People

Cooky Dyer has returned home after spending five days in the hospital last week . . . **Edna Fleenor** remains under hospice care at NHC, St. Mary’s . . . **Cliff Parrott** did not have a skin graph on his leg last Thursday, November 19th, as originally scheduled; instead, he had the skin graph on Monday, November 23rd, and is doing well . . . Congratulations to **Sarah Grace Paschke** and the Dean Hill Level 3 Cheer Squad; they placed first in the region last weekend and will be going to the state competition in Nashville on January 9th . . . **Marlene Ritchey** remains under hospice care in Arizona . . . It was good having **Kenan Saxton** (fiancé of Sarah Pipkin) worshiping with us again last Sunday . . . **Jack Walker** has returned home after spending four days in the hospital last week . . .

- Save the Dates
- ⇒ We will have a church-wide **Pot Luck Dinner** following the Worship Service on Sunday, December 6th.

⇒ We will have a church-wide **Brunch with Santa** Saturday morning, December 12th, from 10:30 a.m. (note the time change) until 12:00 noon, in our Gym. Donations for the brunch will gladly be accepted to help fund **Youth** activities.

⇒ Our **Choir** will present the **Christmas cantata**, “*The Silence and the Sound*”, Sunday night, December 20th, at 6:00 p.m.

⇒ Our annual **Christmas Eve Worship Service** will be at 5:00 p.m. and will include the *Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper*.

⇒ Our annual **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain and/or install elders will be Sunday, January 10th, at the close of our Worship Service.

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. PLT!

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); 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); Cooky Dyer; 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); 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; Gladys Stone; Donna Snoderly (sister-in-law of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); 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.

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat luncheon for the **Friendship Club** is Wednesday, December 16th, at 11:00 a.m., at the **Copper Cellar West** (7316 Kingston Pike). 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.