





Happy Birthday

December

24~Mary Jones

24~Rachael Searcy

27~Ryan McDaniel

28~Andy Godwin

29~Jim Searcy, Jr. Mark Boggs

NOTE: Our birthday records are not complete. If you would like to add someone to our list, or confirm that your information is correct, please call the church office.

Activities for December 23-29, 2006

Sun., 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

Morning Worship Service

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Communion

Service Choir

Wed.,

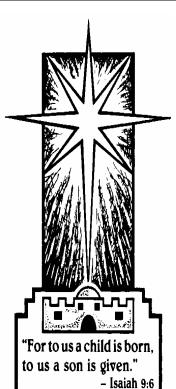
6:30 p.m.

Stewardship Report for December 17, 2006

Sunday Scho	ool38
Worship	70
Offering	\$2,456.00
	ing\$175.00
Youth Activ	ities Fund \$62.00

Year-to-Date (as of December 17, 2006)

Offerings received to date: \$125,028.55 Expenses paid to date: \$229,208.24



CPWM Activities

Pecan Sale. We still have pecans for sale and will have them available in the library for \$8.00 per pound. We will continue selling them until all are sold.

The **Mitten Tree** is in the library. This Sunday will be your last opportunity to contribute as the socks, mittens, gloves, and hats will be taken to CAM (Coalition for Appalachian Ministry) after Christmas for distribution to needy folks. If you have any other items for CAM (ongoing request for items to make crafts for sale), bring them too.



Prayer Concerns



Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of George Moore. He was the brother-in-law of Jewell Kerr and the husband of Georgia Moore

In the Military

Shane McGhee in Iraq, wife Tamara in California Ronnie Gann (Peggy O'Neal's brother) in Iraq

Recovering at Home

Polly Pharaoh recently at Ft. Sanders Mary Jane Blaylock recently at UT Hospital Karen Shilling, daughter of the Congdons

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

Kathy Hammill Byers, Mildred Acuff, Ileana Grace Hayes, Bill Hammill, Reba Smith, Bill & Flora Mae Keene, Marlene Ritchey, Mildred Stone, Tom Raines, Edna Fleenor, Pollye Pharaoh, Maxine McGuire, Vera Stewart, Mrs. Don Franks, Priscilla McCoy (Kim Halbert's mother), Margaret Lindsay, Mary Cregger, Jennie Lee Middlemas, Lucy Hesler, Heidie Holton, Irene Brooks (Nancy Wood's mother), JoAnn Ford, Howard Eblen, William Barron (Lee's Father), May Webb, Shelia Franklin, Diane Barker, Rose Gauthler, Vickie Webb, Mary Matthew, Lee Oberlieesen, and Jim Deardorf (friends of Dorothy Porter), Mrs. James F. (Irene) Dunford (friend of Mary Jane Blaylock).

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

COMING SOON: The **20th Annual Basketball Basics** begins Saturday January 6, 2007. Flyers were distributed in schools this week. If you would like to volunteer for this outreach activity of the church, please contact Steve Summers. People are needed for many tasks, not only instruction of the children. You can work only one Saturday or every week. There are opportunities for record keeping and greeting as well as coaching. There will be more emphasis on hospitality for the parents this year. Let's get to know these folks who come to our church times other than Sunday worship.



Deadline

Newsletter Articles

All Newsletter articles, events, or announcements should be sent by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays to Dianne at firstcpc@earth link.net or call the church office at 588-8581.

The Cumberlander

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~ E-mail: firstcpc@earthlink.net ~

(865) 588-8581

Kevin Wood ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

A Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 20, 2006

ON CHRISTMAS-EVE

Nancy and I are looking forward to spending our second Christmas-eve with all of you at First Church. We have grown to love and appreciate you and your commitment to doing the Lord's work. Please accept our gratitude for all your Christmas gifts, cards, prayers, and remembrances. We thank God for each one of you and we pray for His grace and peace to fill your lives this Christmas. We hope to see you on Sunday as we commemorate the birth of the Christ child once again!

SPECIAL DELIVERY OF YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS

The youth of the church will be finishing up delivery of Christmas cards this Sunday, December 24. Please make sure all your cards are in the post office boxes in the narthex or the outer church office. They will be trying to deliver all of them before morning worship begins.

ADVENT EVENTS

December 24, 9:30 A.M. Sunday School.

<u>December 24, 10:45 A.M.</u> Christmas-eve morning worship with the pastor preaching. <u>December 24, 5:00 P.M.</u> Christmas-eve Candlelight Communion.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING!

Thank you so much for your generous "Gift to the King" offering which totaled \$516.00! 50% (\$258.00) will go to the Children's Home in Denton, Texas and 50% (\$258.00) will be sent to the Cartago CP Church in Colombia, South America, earmarked to help build a new sanctuary.

LOOKING FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS?

The Sunday School class being taught by Rev. Bill Ivey will study scriptures and themes related to Advent and Christmas during December and the first two Sundays of January. Beginning January 21 the class will have a twelve-week study of selected Old Testament stories.

If you are not presently attending a class you are invited to take part. The class meets at 9:30 a.m., Room 30.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 31

Sunday, December 31 a congregational meeting will be held at the close of worship for the purpose of electing three new elders. At that time Tom Witmer, Lois Witmer, and Valerie Wann will be placed in nomination. Other nominations may be made from the floor provided the person has been contacted ahead of time and agreed to serve if elected.

The election will be secret ballot with the elders counting the votes. All members of First Church are encouraged to vote in the election.

The ordination and installation of new elders will be held on Sunday, January 7 during the morning service

The church family expresses appreciation to the those elders who will rotate off (Bill Halbert and Steve Goodrich). Lois Witmer is eligible for re-election because she was completing an unexpired term.

Please be in prayer for the new elders and the Session as they discern God's direction and lead the church forward.

WORSHIP IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 7, 10:45 a.m. will be a special worship service with the theme "Hope, Healing, and Reconciliation." We will also ordain and install three new elders.

Sunday, January 14, 10:45 a.m. we will have as our guest Ginny Weatherstone of Volunteer Ministry Center, an organization which works with the homeless of Knoxville. Ginny has asked us to collect over-the-counter cold medications for the VMC medical clinic. The liquids should be non-alcoholic. They will be dispensed, as needed, by the volunteer nurses at the clinic. We will ask "Jazzercise" to join us for this mission project.

Begin the new year by inviting family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and school mates to join us in worship! God wants us to grow by welcoming and loving new people!!!

BASKETBALL BASICS

Saturday, January 6 begins our 20th annual Basketball Basics ministry at First Church and we need your help to coach, welcome, register, and host children and their families. If you will help in any way please contact Steve Summers immediately (922-3999).

THANK YOU

The church family expresses appreciation to all who have made the Advent season such a beautiful and blessed time for everyone. Your hospitality, love, and care as you lead worship, sing to the glory of God, decorate the facility, prepare food and deliver care packages to shut-ins speaks well of your servant-heart. God bless you this Christmas!

Pastor Kevin