

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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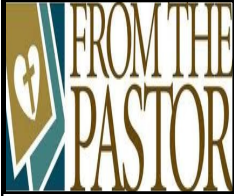
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

February 17, 2016



As we continue our journey through the *Season of Lent* and the self-examination of our lives that is a part of this journey, I want to share a small portion of last's Sunday's message based on **Luke 4:1-13**, which records the temptation of Jesus: "Growing up, I watched *The Flip Wilson Show*, and I especially enjoyed the skits where Wilson played a character named Geraldine, whose signature line was: 'The devil made me do it.' Whatever the unsavory situation, her response, or I guess I should say his response, was always: 'The devil made me do it.' . . . I want us to realize that the devil cannot make us do anything. He may invade our wilderness experiences and point out opportunities for us to do wrong; that is, he may tempt us to sin, but we do not have to give in to his temptation. The Apostle Paul tells us that there is "No test or temptation that comes [our] way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All [we] need to remember is that God will never let [us] down; he'll never let [us] be pushed past [our] limit; he'll always be there to help [us] come through it." [First Corinthians 10:13, MSG] God will not allow us to be tested beyond our ability to endure; still, if the devil tempted Jesus, we can be assured that he will tempt us. . . . To help all of us overcome temptation, let me remind you of three biblical truths. First, we are not alone. Who led Jesus into the wilderness? It was the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is with us in our wilderness moments. Second, remember who we are. The Bible repeatedly calls us children of God. Third, as I said earlier, we have an escape, because God always gives us an out. Still, we need to understand that the devil enjoys testing us—he enjoys tearing families apart—he enjoys bringing hardships into our lives—he enjoys seeing children arguing with their parents—he enjoys stealing our joy—he enjoys it when we do not take the time to read our Bible or to pray—he enjoys it when we do not come to church, and when we fail to support the ministries of the church with our time, talent, and treasure—he enjoys bringing doubt into our minds. It is when we are at our lowest, weakest points—when we are in our wilderness that the devil enjoys testing us the most, but it is also the time when God teaches us the most."

I want to thank all the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and their leaders for participating in **Scout Sunday** last weekend. In addition to sponsoring and hosting these scouts on a weekly basis, we are typically blessed to be the beneficiaries of at least one Eagle Scout project most years. Most of the projects have to do with beautification of our property or working on our playground.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,
Pastor Mike

Church Pictorial Directory

A big thank you to every one who has had their picture taken for our new **Church Pictorial Directory**. The goal and desire is to have every person/family (both members and regular attenders) included in this new directory, so if you have not yet had your picture taken, contact **Jimmy Curtis** (865-382-8947) to schedule a time before the end of February to have your picture taken. You may also submit a digital picture to the Church Office (FirstCPC@KFCPC.comcast.biz) by the end of the month. Also, please make sure the Church Office has your updated contact information (address; telephone number; e-mail address; birth date with year; and anniversary date) so the new directory will be as accurate as possible.

Our Motive in Giving (by Greg Laurie)

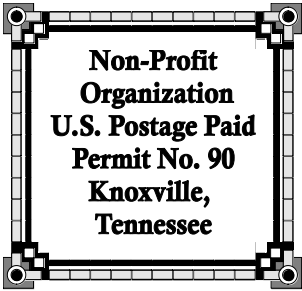
I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly.—2 Corinthians 9:5

The story is told of Billy and Ruth Graham and an experience they had in church one Sunday. As the offering was being taken, Billy Graham reached into his pocket and meant to pull out a five-dollar bill. Instead, he pulled out a fifty-dollar bill and didn't discover it until he had already had placed it in the offering plate. He was a little horrified by what he had done and turned to his wife, Ruth, and said, "Well, at least I will get a reward in heaven for giving fifty dollars." "No," Ruth said, "you are going to get a reward for five dollars because that is all you meant to give."

Motive is everything because God looks on the heart. The Bible tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). The word used for *cheerful* could be translated "hilarious." This suggests a joy in giving that leaps over all restraint. . . .

Giving is a responsibility. It is also an opportunity. And it is a blessing for every follower of Jesus Christ.

*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 17th-23rd

18th ~ Mindy Landry
19th ~ Chris Curtis
19th ~ Justin Curtis
19th ~ Daniel Sauls
23rd ~ Becky Rader



Stewardship Report February 14, 2016

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Sunday School..... | 48 |
| Worship Service..... | 127 |
| Offering..... | \$6,861.25 |
| Memorial..... | \$50.00 |

Activities for February 17-23, 2015

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

(See our web site for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Dick Booher is still at his son's home, in Morristown, recovering from his surgery . . . Phil and Bonnie Bridges traveled to Georgia last weekend to watch their daughter, Stephanie, play college softball . . . Hailey Davis (granddaughter of Tom and Lois Witmer) participated in the Make It Count Gymnastics Classic, in Pigeon Forge, last Saturday; she finished first all around in Level 9 . . . Ada Ladd remains under hospice care at home . . . Becky Rader is still recovering from her surgery . . . Marlene Ritchey remains under hospice care in Arizona . . . Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson enjoyed a three-day getaway to Pigeon Forge at the beginning of this week . . .

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch of the Friendship Club will be Wednesday, February 24th, at Aubrey's Restaurant located at 6005 Brookvale Lane (near the intersection of Northshore and Papermill Drives). The gathering will take place at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. Feel free to invite non-church members to join you for this event.

Missions and Outreach Committee

Our Missions and Outreach Committee will meet Sunday afternoon, February 28th, at 4:30 p.m., in the Keene Room. The committee would like to welcome its newest member, Emily DeLozier.

Session

Our Session will meet for its regular monthly meeting Sunday evening, February 28th, at 6:00 p.m., in the Keene Room.



Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

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

Health and Prayer Concerns

(alphabetized)

Mildred Acuff; 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); David Clark (coworker of Tom DeLosier); Carol Craven (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Cregger; *Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries*, Mary Helen Daniel; Sarah DeLozier (daughter of Tom and Emily DeLozier); Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Tammy Eblen; Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Lynne Garrison (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Beth Hazelwood's baby (friend of Lisa Hayes); Mark Hester; Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Christina Hinkle and Baby Girl (daughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna); 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); Gene McCammon; Maxine McGuire; Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Lesa Medley (daughter of Mary Helen Daniel); 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*, Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne 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; Mary Safewright (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Gladys Stone; John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Charlie Spalding (neighbor of Joy Taylor); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr's sons); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Tom Witmer

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

Church's Website

The church's website, www.first-cumberland.org, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four Worship Services.

"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." - First John 1:9, NRSV