

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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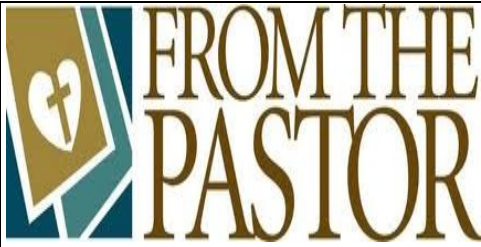
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

January 1, 2014



I know that *Christmas* is a joyous occasion for most, but it can also be a difficult time for some; nonetheless, I trust that each of you had a Christ-centered *Christmas* this year. As I write this article, the end of another year is upon us and a new one is about to dawn, so I want to wish each of you a blessed New Year! Notice that I did not wish you the traditional "Happy New Year!" This is not because I do not want you to be happy—I do, but that I wish for something far greater than mere happiness; I wish for you God's blessings and favor.

As this year draws to a close, I have been the pastor of First Church for fifteen weeks now, and Joanna has been in Knoxville with me the past five weeks, and we are truly glad that God has called us to serve First Church. In my opinion, I think our ministry together is off to a good start. We have witnessed two baptisms and saw seven people officially join the church. We have a few regular visitors that are, hopefully, considering officially uniting with us as well. With the exception of last Sunday, our attendance for the worship service has steadily risen and our giving to the Lord though First Church has been strong. We even gave more than \$26,000 above our regular tithes and offerings which allowed us to restructure our building debt lowering our monthly payments. Yes, all in all, we are off to a good start. There is one area that I believe we can do better in, however, and that is in our efforts to invite other people to join us in the worship of Christ. Before I continue, I want you to know that I realize that most of the people you invite will not come with you, at least not the first time you ask them. Statistics show that it takes, on average, ten invitations before someone will attend with you. Nonetheless, we cannot control with someone accepts our invitation or not; all we can control is whether we invite them or not, and I want to encourage you to invite your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and classmates that do not regularly attend church anywhere. Maybe, just maybe, expanding your invitation to include lunch after the worship service would add extra appeal to your invitation. I invite numerous people each week (typically folks I meet in stores or restaurants), but having just moved back to the area, my circle of friends is very limited—mostly folks already connected to First Church. Even if my circle of friends greatly increases over the next few months, I need your help in inviting people to join us here if we are going to become a growing congregation. I am not a big fan of making New Year's resolutions, but here is one I am willing to make, and I hope that you join me in it: **I hereby resolve to invite at least one person each week to join me in worshipping Christ with me at First Church.**

God's Grace,

Pastor Mike

Ordination and Installation Service

At the close of the worship service Sunday morning, January 12th, **Amanda Roberts** will be ordained as an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Then **Amanda**, along with **James O'Neal** and **Jimmy Curtis** will be installed as the *Elder Class of 2016*, serving three-year terms on the *Session* here at First Church. **James** and **Jimmy** have already been ordained having served on our *Session* in the past.

Denomination Day Celebration

February 4, 2014 marks the 204th anniversary of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In honor of this event, the Presbytery of East Tennessee will host its annual **Denomination Day Celebration** Sunday afternoon, January 26th. This celebration will take place at the Greenville Cumberland Presbyterian Church, beginning at 3:30 p.m. There will be congregational singing, special music (First Church has been asked to provide this), and a Communion Service. There will also be a showing of the revised version of the video, "God So Loved" about the beginning of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Since this service is sponsored by our presbyterial Heritage Committee, a "love offering" will be received for our denominational Historical Foundation.

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.

Knoxville First Cumberland
Presbyterian Church, Inc.
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919
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Organization
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Happy Birthday

January



Activities for January 5–11, 2014
Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Wed., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report December 29, 2013	
Sunday School.....	37
Worship.....	67
Offering	\$1,330.00
Building Fund.....	\$35.00
Music Fund.....	\$75.00

WEST CIRCLE
Will meet on Tuesday, January 7 at 11 am in the Keene Room. Please bring a sandwich, drinks and dessert will be provided. We invite the ladies of the church to join us for fellowship and Bible Study.


Among Our People

It was a wonderful Christmas-Eve Communion Service attended by 97 people. It was great having so many of your extended family members here with us. The Lord was surely in our midst.

Pastor Mike and Joanna’s daughter Rebecca was visiting from Millbrook for the Christmas holiday and was here last Sunday morning. In addition, their two daughters (Christina Hinkle and Jennifer Hayes) and their husbands and grandchild (Rex) were here for the holidays. Jennifer Hayes will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 11th. Carl Kissiah (Joanna’s father) was released from the hospital on Christmas Day and continues to improve...

Hailey Davis (Tom and Lois’ granddaughter) has her first gymnastics competition of 2014 this Sunday, January 5 in Ashville, NC. She is now a Level 8 gymnast...


CAM MITTEN TREE
Thank you for all your contributions to the Mitten Tree this year – all the mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks that have been collected for the people in Appalachia. We collected through this past Sunday, Dec. 29, and then all of these items will be taken to the CAM Mission in Townsend. God Bless all of you for your generosity.
~Betty



Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns



CP Missionaries; Mary Jane & Gordon Blaylock; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Mary Cregger; Gladys Stone; Mildred Acuff; Maxine McGuire; Ada Ladd; Nancy Anthony; Bud & Betty Hickman; Carl Overstreet (friend of Cliff Parrott); Jonathan Migas; Peggy Bradshaw (Dianne Fielder’s mother); Nora Derreberry (Maxine Curtis’s mother); Marlene Ritchey; Brian Migas; Mary McJunkins, (Mary Wegman’s mother); Eric Nelson, (friend of the Witmer clan); Donna Wingard, (Mildred Acuff’s daughter); Debbie & David Triese, (Margaret Migas’s sister and husband); Carl Ware; Allison, Hailey, Connor and Hannah Davis; Janie Beeler, (Greg Beeler’s wife); Judy Gammon; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Richard Himes (Jin Gaston’s brother-in-law); Debbie Holloway; Mildred Gragg (friend of Mary Cregger); Kim and her family, (friends of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Rebecca Rech, mother of Justin Rech; Jack Gaston; J. David Hester; Marie Jobson, (friend of the Witmer’s); Grace Flory (Lois Witmer’s mother); Suzan Smith, (Jewell Kerr’s daughter); Jewell Kerr and family; Cliff Parrott; Janet Simcox (lung cancer); Dale Craddo, (Scott Robert’s Uncle); the Whaley family, (friends of Kathy Hammill’s); Tom Williams, (friend of Cliff Parrott); Vicki Dilly, (Erin Pipkin’s mother); Carl Kissiah, (Joanna Wilkinson’s father).

Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list. Call 588-8581 or email firstpcp@earthlink.net

Lay Ministry Corner
Relying On Our Own Understanding

It is often rightly pointed out that one of the least reliable types of testimony is that of an eyewitness. You can have 5 people witness a car wreck, and rarely will any of them tell the same story though they all saw an identical event! Why is that? I heard it explained on a Christian radio station that it is because our own heart and mind deceive us! Our minds will always tend to hang on to a sense of reality that allows us to be perceived as the victim, even if there is no basis in reality! (Jeremiah 17:9-10) If we are to reach true perception, we must get beyond the worldly concerns of trying to assign blame. We must be more concerned with problem resolution than offense taking. If our heart and brain are stuck trying to pile up the offenses of another, understand this is sometimes our way of trying to justify our own bad behavior so we can feel righteous in not apologizing for our actions. Don't fall for this deceit that we tell ourselves! Follow God's call to do the right thing, and search for His understanding and wisdom in all things. If we see the purpose in our trials, we are no longer victims and our yoke will be lightened.

~Donna Walker