

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

6900 Nubbin Ridge, Knoxville, TN 37919 ~ E-mail: firstcpc@earthlink.net ~

(865) 588-8581

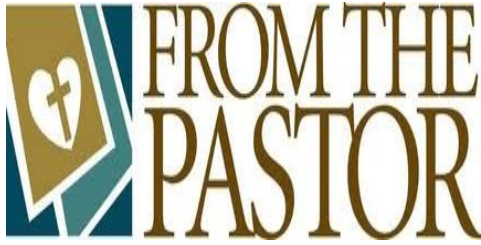
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 4, 2013



Welcome New Members

Can you feel the excitement building around First Church? Part of that excitement is that we have entered the *Season of Advent* and we are now actively preparing for the coming of Christ at *Christmas*. Another part of that excitement is that our attendance is steadily, though slowly, increasing. Yet another part of that excitement is that some of our regular visitors are bringing visitors with them. Perhaps the principal part of our growing excitement

is that God is leading people to officially unite with this congregation, such was the case last Sunday as **Ryan Haddox** presented himself to receive the *Sacrament of Baptism*. Then Ryan and his wife, **Hannah**, officially joined First Church. Immediately following this event, they presented their infant son, **Max**, to receive the *Sacrament of Baptism*. This all occurred early in the worship service, following the lighting of the *Advent* candle. Then at the close of the service, five more people—**Joanna Wilkinson** and **Joy Taylor** and her three sons, **Zach**, **Steve**, and **Jonathan Spencer**—officially joined First Church.

Ryan joined by *Profession of Faith* and the receiving of the *Sacrament of Baptism*. **Hannah** joined by *Transfer of Membership*, having been a member of Mebane United Methodist Church, in Mebane, NC. **Joanna** joined by *Transfer of Membership*, having been a member of Grace Community Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in Millbrook, AL. **Joy** joined by *Transfer of Membership*, having been a member of Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, in Knoxville, TN. **Zach**, **Steve**, and **Jonathan** joined by *Profession of Faith*, having received the *Sacrament of Baptism* as children.

Did you notice my use of the phrases “officially unite with this congregation” and “officially joined First Church”? With the exception of Joanna, each of our new members had been regularly and faithfully visiting with us for several months. That is great; people should visit long enough to know whether or not God is leading them to join that particular congregation. If you have been visiting for a while now and have not yet “officially joined First Church”, let me encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so. All you have to do is let me know and I will walk you through the simple process of expressing your desire to do so and allowing our Session to make it official. Your joining will add to the excitement that God is generating around this place.

Two more praises before I sign off. One, I truly appreciated our Handbell Choir’s presentations last Sunday; they were simply beautiful. And two, \$477.41 was received through our *Loaves and Fishes Offering*; thanks again for your generosity!

God’s Grace,

Pastor Mike

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of **John Smith** and **Patty Derreberry**. John Smith was a faithful visitor to First Church; he passed away last Wednesday, November 27th. Pattie Derreberry was Maxine Curtis’ sister; she passed away last Saturday.

God Is Faithful!

As of last Sunday, 29 *Estimated Giving Cards* have been received totaling \$135,380. When coupled with \$28,400 in estimated rental income, this brings us to a total estimated income for 2014 of \$163,780. This is still well below our budgetary needs, which points out the necessity of every church family—member or regular visitor, no matter the size of the family or the amount estimated to give—to turn in an *Estimated Giving Card*. With that in mind, you can turn in your *Estimate Giving Card* on either of the next two Sundays (December 8th or 15th) or mail it to the church office. This deadline concurs with the next meeting of our Session; in the meeting the budget for 2014 will be set. Remember, **God is faithful!**

Congregational Meeting

This coming Sunday, December 8th, at the close of our morning worship service, we will hold a **Congregational Meeting** to elect the *Elder Class of 2016*. At that time, our Session will nominate Jim Curtis, James O’Neal, and Amanda Roberts for the three open positions (Ann Bachman, Sam Ware, and Tom Witmer will be rotating off the Session). Additional nominations can be made from the floor providing the person nominated both meets our constitutional requirements and has agreed to be nominated and serve if elected.

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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Non-Profit
Organization
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Tennessee

Happy Birthday

December
12-Allison Davis
12-Taylor Ford
13-Susan Shelton
14-Justin Rech

Activities for December 8-14, 2013

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Handbell Practice
Wed., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Thurs., 7:00 p.m. Stewardship & Finance

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report December 1, 2013

Sunday School.....	47
Worship.....	93
Offering	\$6,440.00
Payment on Church Note.....	\$1,300.00
Building Fund.....	\$5.00
Music Fund.....	\$10.00
Memorials.....	\$175.00

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Here are two events which will give us opportunities to help the less fortunate in our area.

1 – CAM MITTEN TREE. We will collecting gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and socks for children and adults in the Appalachian Mountains. We will have two Christmas trees in the Narthex to put these items on. The trees will be up by Dec.1. We have been assisting these people in this very worthwhile project for many years.

2 – SERENE MANOR NURSING HOME. We will be buying Christmas presents for 5 residents living there who have no family. We will have a Christmas Angel tree in the Library for this project. The tree will be up by Dec 1, and we hope to have the requests on the tree by then also. This is our first year for this project. Thank you in advance for helping in this way.

WELCOMING TEA FOR JOANNA WILKINSON

Will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2013 in the Keene Room from 2 to 4 pm. We invite all the ladies of the church and community to come and meet our new pastor’s wife.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club will meet for lunch Wednesday, Dec. 18, at the Copper Cellar in west Knoxville. Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate with us.

WEST CIRCLE

Will meet on Tuesday, December 10 at 11 am in the Keene Room. We will be having our Christmas potluck. We invite the ladies of the church to join us for a Christmas program and fellowship.

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); Curt Hammill (Betty’s son); Suzan Smith, (Jewell Kerr’s daughter); Jewell Kerr and family; Cliff Parrott; Janet Simcox (lung cancer); Scott Robert’s Uncle; the Whaley family, (friends of Kathy Hammill’s); the family of John Smith: the family of Patty Derreberry, (Maxine Curtis’ sister); Tom Williams, (friend of Cliff Parrott).

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

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

First Sunday in Advent sported our beautifully decorated Sanctuary – thanks to **Judy Gammon & Leigh Ann Summers ... James Paschke** begins a new position this week with the TN Department of Correction ... Good to see **Becky Rader** back after medical procedures last week ... Sympathy to **Maxine Curtis** in the death of her sister, **Patty Derreberry** ... Sympathy also to family of **John Harvey Smith** whose funeral was Saturday ...

POINSETTIAS

Christmas poinsettias will again bless the beauty of our sanctuary during Advent. This year, you are invited to purchase one (or more) of these plants at a cost of \$5.00, each. On Dec. 22, you may take your plant home with you, or you may deliver it to one of our shut-ins. Thank you for your orders thus far. If you still desire to participate in this, call the church office with your order.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS