

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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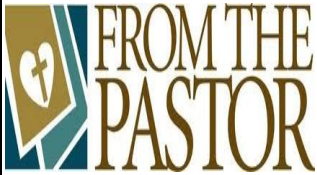
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org)

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

March 25, 2015



Many people tend to think about life in terms of categories. It helps us make good decisions, plan for the future, and make sense of the world around us. Yet, when it comes to understanding the depths of God, the weight of mystery blurs our categories, and we reach a dead end. The most weighty moments of our lives—disappointments, losses, transitions—defy our neat and clean understanding. There is no better example of an event that defies our categories than the cross of Christ! Jesus' journey toward Good Friday is "good" in that it is for us and our salvation, yet "bad" in that it is tragic, violent, and filled with despair. The cross is a "strength" in that it is the culmination of God's plan for our salvation, yet it exhibits the depth of "weakness" God was willing to adopt on our behalf. The cross forces us to hold together conflicting perceptions of reality: joy and sorrow, peace and fear, immanence and transcendence. Paradox is essential to our understanding of God and God's work in our lives. It allows us to think in "both/and" categories rather than only "either/or" categories. The Lenten journey we are on is one of paradox. Rather than thinking about Lent as a time of happiness or sadness, perhaps the two can be held together in a kind of "bright sadness," to borrow a term from Richard Rohr. Such thinking allows more room for mystery in our thoughts as we ponder the old rugged cross.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

*Pastor Mike*

### **FISH Food Pantry Campaign**

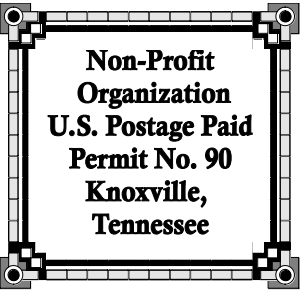
Thank you for your contribution of \$90.00 last week. This brings our total to \$2,300.00. Our partner church, Church of the Savior, will be sending us \$1,000.00 next week, making a total of \$3,300.00. As I announced last Sunday, the 310 cases of food we have purchased will be delivered this coming Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, around 10:00 a.m.; Jimmy Curtis and Pastor Mike, plus several helpers from Church of the Savior, will be helping Steve McCurry unload the cases into the pantry. We also have a change in bagging dates; we will NOT need to bag on March 28<sup>th</sup>; April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup> (Youth) will be our only bagging dates. We start at 9:30 a.m. at the pantry site and work for about an hour. If you can help on April 4<sup>th</sup>, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We will be out in time to make the Easter Egg Hunt at the church. May our church be blessed as we help to feed the hungry in our community.

—Betty Hammill

### **Holy Week Activities**

- ⇒ Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, **Palm/Passion Sunday** — Our Choir will be presenting the Easter Musical, "***Written In Red***" during our morning Worship Service, at 10:45 a.m.
- ⇒ Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Maundy Thursday** — We will be celebrating ***The Lord's Supper*** during this special evening Worship Service, at 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Good Friday** — Bearden Sequoyah United Ministries will hold a Worship Service focusing on "The Last Seven Words of Christ", at 12:00 noon, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Pastor Mike will be one of the speakers.
- ⇒ Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, **Saturday of Holy Week** — We will hold our annual **Egg Hunt** (for children up to fifth grade), at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch. We are in need of plastic eggs filled with candy; if you would like to donate candy-filled eggs, please drop them off in the Church Office.
- ⇒ Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, **Easter Sunday** — Community Sunrise Service at East Tennessee Veteran's Cemetery Rotunda, at 7:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, **Easter Sunday** — We will begin our celebration of the Resurrection of Christ with a **SonRise Service** in the Chapel, at 8:15 a.m., followed by a **Continental Breakfast** in the gym, at 9:00 a.m. Next, we will be **Sunday School**, at 9:30 a.m., followed by our **Easter Worship Service**, at 10:45 a.m., when we will again be celebrating ***The Lord's Supper***.

*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.*



# Happy Birthday

March 29~April 4  
30-Mildred Acuff

Stewardship Report March 22, 2015	
Sunday School.....	44
Worship.....	86
Offering .....	\$1,977.75
FISH Food Pantry.....	\$90.00
Memorial Fund.....	\$150.00

Activities for March 29~April 4, 2015		
Sunday,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Wednesday,	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday,	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday,	12:00 noon	Good Friday Service @ Sacred Heart Cathedral
Saturday,	11:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
(See web site for complete calendar listings)		

*Among Our People*

**Dick Booher** remains at his son’s house in Morristown recovering from kneecap replacement surgery . . . **Hailey Davis** has a stress fracture in her leg and will miss the remainder of the gymnastic season . . . **Edna Fleenor** is still at NHC, Saint Mary’s for rehab . . . **Robyn Halbert** was recently quoted in the Knoxville News Sentinel regarding First Tee of Greater Knoxville’s upcoming golf clinics for kids . . . It was great having **Rev. Don McConnell** and his wife, **Joyce**, worshipping with us last Sunday . . . **Marlene Ritchey** continues under hospice care; you may contact **Marlene** via mail; her address is 475 Jacks Canyon Road; Apt. 222; Sedona, Arizona 86351 . . . **Tara and Josh Shelley** are expecting their second child; big sister Brooklyn and grandparents Tammy and Danny Eblen are extremely excited . . . Correction: the last name of Becky Rader’s niece who has been worshipping with us the last few weeks is **Stedina, (Melissa Stedina)** not Golden as originally reported . . . **Joy Taylor**’s MRI revealed bulging discs in her back that may require surgery in the near future . . . **Lois Witmer** continues to go to outpatient rehab following surgery to repair a broken hip . . .

**Camp Chilhowee Work Day**

There will be a **Work Day at Camp Chilhowee** this coming Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. First Cumberland sponsors one of the cabins at the camp, and there is much work that

## Prayer Concerns

### In the Hospital

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

### Health and Prayer Concerns

(alphabetized)

the persecuted Christians around the world; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Roy Acuff (brother of a friend of Pastor Mike); Mildred Acuff; Janie Beeler (wife of Greg Beeler); Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Charlotte Bird; Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Kim Boyatt (friend of Susan Edwards); Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Greg Brown (friend of Mary Cregger); Mary Cregger; B.F. and Mary Helen Daniel; Allison, Hailey, Connor, and Hannah Davis; Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Jim and Cookie Dyer; Edna Fleenor; Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); **SANDY GANGE** (cousin of Greg Beeler); Lynne Garrison (sister of Lois Witmer); Jack and Jin Gaston; Gracie Hayes; Ruth Heifner (friend of Pastor Mike); Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Bobbie Himes (sister of Jin Gaston); Debbie Holloway; Kim Holloway (friend of Lisa Hayes); Becky Ingle (friend of Amanda Roberts); Kim Jones (friend of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Ada Ladd; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Maxine McGuire; Mary McJunkins (mother of Mary Wegman); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Bob Metts; Brian Migas (son of Margaret Migas); Jonathan Migas (son of Margaret Migas); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Carl Overstreet (friend of Cliff Parrott); Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrott (son of Cliff Parrott); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); Nicolae Racile (father of a friend of Joy Taylor); Becky Rader; Rebecca Rech (mother of Justin Rech); Marlene Ritchey; Bryan Rogers (Bonnie Bridges’ son); Roger Rollins (coworker of Steve Summers); Carol Seeman; Gladys Stone; Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Joy Taylor; Jack Walker; MariKate Walker; Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr’s sons); the Whaley family (friends of Kathy Byers); Lois Witmer; Robyn (friend of Hannah Haddox)

*Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes to our Prayer Concerns list. Call 588-8581 or email [firstcpc@earthlink.net](mailto:firstcpc@earthlink.net)*

**Chapel Cushion Fund**

As noted in last week’s newsletter, Classical Conversations (one of the homeschool groups that meet in our facility) has started a **Chapel Cushion Fund** to reupholster the pew cushions in our Chapel. To date, \$430.00 has been contributed to this fund. Though this is a Classical Conversations initiated project, anyone who would like to help can donate to it, simply make your check out to the church and mark it **Chapel Cushion Fund**.



## **Thank You**

I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the love, honor, and attention that was shown to me over the weekend—both from my family and friends, and from my church family. You all made my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday so special. I didn't realize that turning 90 would be so much fun and exciting. It was a time I will never forget. Thank you and God bless each and every one of you.  
—Mildred Acuff

## **New Organ**

Our new organ was installed last week. As you recall, our old organ was damaged nearly two years ago by a power surge. Our insurance company attempted to make our old organ fully function, but was unable to do so. They then decided to buy us a new organ.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Our **Christian Education Committee** would like to invite anyone who would like to volunteer to help (teach, crafts/art, cook, music, etc.), or explore volunteering, with **Vacation Bible School** this year to attend a **Planning Meeting** following our Worship Service this coming Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, in the Keene Room. Our **VBS** is scheduled for Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. **VBS** will begin each night at 5:30 p.m. with a "light supper" with the program starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

Time to make plans and mark your calendars now for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. The **Egg Hunt** will be for kids from birth to fifth grade. Please bring one dozen candy-filled eggs to the church for each child in your family that will be participating. Even if you don not have children involved, we would like to ask each church family to donate at least a dozen candy-filled eggs. You can drop them off in the Church Office, or bring them the day of the event. There will be games and crafts, lunch, and of course an **Egg Hunt**! If you

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Invites You To Our  
**Easter Egg Hunt!**

When: Saturday, April 4, 2015  
Time: 11:00 a.m.

The egg hunt will be for kids from birth to 5th grade.

There will be games and crafts for children of all ages, lunch, and of course an Egg Hunt!

Everyone is invited to come and have fun!

Please bring one dozen filled eggs for each child participating in the egg hunt.  
You may also drop off eggs in the church office.



would like to help in any way please see **Julie Rech** or **Laura Paschke**. Thank you!

## **Friendship Club**

The next outing for the **Friendship Club** is Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. They will gather at **Sullivan's at Rocky Hill** for a Dutch-treat lunch. Everyone reading this announcement is already a member of the **Friendship Club** and is therefore automatically invited to attend this