

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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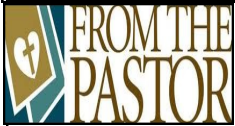
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

January 6, 2016



The following article was written by Rev. Jennifer Newell and appeared in the March 2015 edition of the newsletter of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Tennessee. I offer it for your thoughtful consideration.

"I hate going to the dentist . . . and I am not the only one. No one wants to go—and lots of us don't. We may even feel *guilty* for not going, but we still put off routine dental care until a tooth breaks, or abscesses; and then the care is anything **but** routine.

I've thought a lot about why I hate going to the dentist, and aside from the **cost** and the **pain**, two things stand out. When I lie down in that chair and open my mouth:

- 1) **I am no longer in control.** My mouth is in someone else's poking and prodding hands. As they scrape and rinse and use that tiny little vacuum, all I can do is lie there and take it. *I can't talk, can't move, can't even read a book.*
- 2) **My dental indiscretions are obvious.** I can say, 'I floss twice a day,' but the hygienist knows better. I told her it's like going to confession: 'Forgive me, sister; it has been 45 minutes since my last cup of coffee and 2 weeks since I last flossed . . .'

I dread it, but I go anyway. I go because I know that little, hidden problems can turn into big ones unless we catch them early. I go because I want a healthy lifelong relationship with my own teeth. I go because my mouth's health is my responsibility: *no one can go to the dentist for me.*

I know this sounds crazy, but **maybe**—just maybe—church **should be a little more like a trip to the dentist:** a place where we are confronted with two important (and **uncomfortable . . .** and yes, sometimes **costly**) truths:

- 1) We aren't in control; and
- 2) We have not lived the way we know we should.

And maybe—just maybe—**more of us might choose to come to church** because, deep down, we know that little, hidden problems can turn into big ones if we don't address them; because we want a healthy, lifelong relationship with God; and because the quality of our life with God is, in large part, a matter of our own choices; it is our responsibility, and no one else can do it for us.

So here's to your health; spiritual AND dental! I'll see you in church . . ."

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

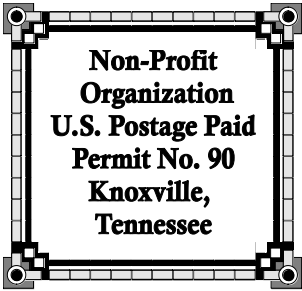
Congregational Meeting

Our annual **Congregational Meeting** to elect, ordain and/or install elders will be this coming Sunday, January 10th, at the close of our Worship Service. At that time, our *Session* will nominate **Ryan Haddox**, **Scott Roberts**, and **Steve Summers** to serve as the *Elder Class of 2018*. During this meeting, we will also receive the resignation of **James O'Neal**, *Elder Class of 2016*, who is moving to Hawaii. Our *Session* will then nominate **Dianne Pipkin** to serve the remaining eleven months of James' term. Additional nominations for both classes can be made from the floor if the nominee is present for the meeting, has agreed to be nominated, and meets both the biblical and constitutional qualifications to serve. A special thank you to **Maxine Curtis**, **Kim Halbert**, and **Jewell Kerr** for their service to this congregation as the *Elder Class of 2015*.


Youth News

- ⇒ Our **Youth** (both Senior High and Middle School) will meet this coming Sunday, January 10th, following our Worship Service. This brief (15-20 minutes) meeting is to finalize the plans for the upcoming **Winter Convocation**.
- ⇒ This year's **Winter Convocation**, in Gatlinburg, will be Friday, January 15th, through Monday, January 18th. All our Youth who will be attending need to be at the church and ready to leave for Gatlinburg at 6:30 p.m., Friday, January 15th; **Scott** and **Amanda Roberts** will be providing transportation.

*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

January 6th-12th
6th ~ David Collins



Stewardship Report January 3, 2016	
Sunday School.....	44
Worship Service.....	73
Offering.....	\$3,450.00
Youth Fund.....	\$76.00
Building Repair Fund.....	\$500.00

Activities for January 6-12, 2015		
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 p.m.	Youth Meeting
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)		

Among Our People

Edna Fleenor remains under hospice care at NHC, St. Mary's . . . **Ada Ladd** remains under hospice care at home . . . It was good having **Tom Hesseling** and his daughter, **Jolie** (friends of Julie Rech), worshiping with us last Sunday . . . It was good having **Cliff Parrott** back worshiping with us again last Sunday . . . **Catherine Pipkin**, mother of Paul Pipkin, had back surgery last Tuesday, January 5th . . . **Marlene Ritchey** remains under hospice care in Arizona . . . **Pastor Mike** and **Joanna** will travel to Birmingham, Alabama, at the end of the week to celebrate the first birthday of their youngest grandson . . . **Tom Witmer** has appointments with two doctors this week to determine a course of action regarding his blockage . . .

Friendship Club


The next Dutch-treat luncheon for the **Friendship Club** is Wednesday, January 20th, at 11:00 a.m., at **Calhoun's Restaurant** (Bearden hill). Everyone reading this announcement is welcome to attend this and all **Friendship Club** outings; you are also encouraged to invite people from outside the church to join you. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office.

Church Directory

We hope to soon create a new **Church Directory**. Please make sure the Church Office has your updated contact information (address, telephone number, e-mail address) so the new directory will be as accurate as possible. We will be doing this directory in-house and it will include family pictures.

Church's Website

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




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; Sarah Ames (mother of a coworker of Kathy Byers); Janie Beeler (wife of Greg Beeler); 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); Carol Craven (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Cregger; **Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries**, Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Nora Derreberry (mother of Maxine Curtis); Edna Fleenor; Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Lynne Garrison (sister of Lois Witmer); Mary Beth Hazelwood's baby (friend of Lisa Hayes); Mark Hester; Larry Hickens (friend of Tom and Emily DeLozier); Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Christina Hinkle and Baby (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); Malachi (seven-year-old friend of Zachary Spencer); Gene McCammon; Maxine McGuire; Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Bob Metts; 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**, Catherine Pipkin (mother of Paul 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; Donna Snoderly (sister-in-law of Betty Hammill); 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); Lois Witmer; Tom Witmer

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

Just a Thought

Not once does the Bible say, "Worry about it.", "Stress over it.", or "Figure it out.", but over and over again it clearly says, "Trust God."

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*—Proverbs 3:5-6**