

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"

March 5, 2014



FROM THE PASTOR

This week will witness the beginning of the season of **Lent**. For those not familiar with the Church calendar, **Lent** is the Christian season of preparation for **Easter** and the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, **Ash Wednesday** marks the first day, or the start of the season of **Lent**, which begins forty days prior to **Easter** (Sundays are not included in the count because they are to be days of celebration instead of days of preparation). The forty day period is in recognition of Jesus spending forty days in the wilderness, following His baptism, preparing to launch His public ministry. This year, **Ash Wednesday** is March 5th. The purpose of this period of preparation is to intentionally set aside time for reflection on Christ. The intent behind the practice of fasting during **Lent** is not merely the practice of self-denial, though this discipline is to be a part of the Christian lifestyle, and the spiritual discipline of fasting is much broader than merely giving up an item of food for a short period of time. The primary intent of fasting during this season is preparation. This means that if, for example, you decided to give up, or fast from, watching television in the evenings from six to eight o'clock, you would spend that time in prayer and Bible study focusing on Jesus Christ—His suffering and His sacrifice, His life, death, burial, and resurrection. With all this in mind, I want to encourage you to begin your preparation now and perhaps the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ will become more real to you than it has even been; if it does, you will never be the same.

Grace,

Pastor Mike

Sow Generously for FISH

We have met our goal of \$5,000.00, in fact we are a little over that amount. We have on hand \$5,205.00, which at this time is enough. Thank you for your generous giving. Sometimes we have to add to our initial order, so if we need more funds I will let you know. Please sign up on the **FISH** bulletin board in the narthex if you can help with the bagging on any or all of these three Saturdays—March 29th, April 5th, and April 12th. This is done at the Pantry site at 9:30 a.m. and usually lasts about an hour. May God bless our church as we sow generously to help feed the hungry in our community.

—Betty Hammill

Good Morning, God!

You are ushering in another day, untouched and freshly new
So here I come to ask You, God, if You'll renew me, too.
Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday
And let me try again, dear God, to walk closer in Thy way . . .
But, Father, I am well aware I can't make it on my own
So take my hand and hold it tight for I can't walk alone!

—submitted by Mary Cregger

Finance Committee

Our **Finance Committee** will meet this coming Sunday, March 9th, immediately following the Worship Service. The meeting will be in the Conference Room next to the Church Office.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

Ladies of the church, it is time to gather again. I have proposed a meeting at my house Sunday afternoon, March 30th, at 5:00 p.m. We will begin with a meal, and end with a program by Mike and Joanna on "The Role of Women in the Church". Put this date on your calendar and make plans to attend. Thanks!

—Betty Hammill

*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.*

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Presbyterian Church, Inc.
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

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Organization
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Knoxville,
Tennessee



Happy Birthday

March

9-Jewell Kerr
11-Madelyn McCurry
13-Chrissy Curtis
15-Sarah Pipkin

Activities for March 9-15, 2014

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

12:15 p.m. Stewardship & Finance

Wed., 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report March 2, 2014

Sunday School.....46

Worship.....73

Offering\$3,285.00

FISH.....\$125.00

Memorial Fund.....\$75.00

Music Fund.....\$100.00

Among Our People

Richard Booher

leaves rehab center on Wednesday to return home following recent knee replacement ... **Phil, Bonnie, Stephanie Bridges** are in San Diego this week where **Stephanie** plays in some softball tourneys; she’s shortstop for TN Weslyn team ... **Hailey Davis** competed in the Greensboro Invitational Gymnastics Meet this and finished third All Around...Don’t forget to **re-set your clocks** Saturday night as Daylight savings time begins ...

Why Does the Church Need Me?

by Rick Warren

One reason why you need to be connected to a church family is to fulfill your calling to serve other believers in practical ways. The Bible says, “All of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT). Your service is desperately needed in the Body of Christ — just ask any local church! Each of us has a role to play, and every role is important. There is no small service to God; it all matters. Likewise, there are no insignificant ministries in the church. Some are visible and some are behind the scenes, but all are valuable. Small or hidden ministries often make the biggest difference. In my home, the most important light is not the large chandelier in our dining room but the little night-light that keeps me from stubbing my toe when I get up at night. There is no correlation between size and significance. Every ministry matters because we are all dependent on each other to function. What happens when one part of your body fails to function? You get sick. The rest of your body suffers. Imagine if your liver decided to start living for itself: “I’m tired! I don’t want to serve the body anymore! I want a year off just to be fed. I’ve got to do what’s best for me! Let some other part take over.” (continued next column)

Prayer Concerns
In the Hospital
Health and Prayer Concerns

CP Missionaries; Mary Jane & Gordon Blaylock; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Howard Eblen; Mary Cregger; Gladys Stone; Mildred Acuff; Maxine McGuire; Ada Ladd; Carol Seeman; Bud & Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); 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); 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); 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; Marie Jobson (friend of the Witmer’s); Grace Flory (Lois Witmer’s mother); Cliff Parrott; Janet Simcox (lung cancer); Dale Craddo (Scott Robert’s uncle); Tom Williams (friend of Cliff Parrott); Bobbie Himes (Jin Gaston’s sister is facing surgery); Dick Booher; Becky Rader; Brandon Hargutt; Alice Montgomery

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

Lay Ministry Corner

Live Lent ~ Week 1

Live Lent is a Cumberland Presbyterian program asking members to take an action each week to put God first in our lives. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 5th, the program suggests we make a Lenten promise to give up or add an activity to our daily routine that will help us focus more on God and less on ourselves this week. For example, we could give up television, video games, gossiping, complaining or eating out this week. Or, we could add Bible reading, an act of kindness or prayer to each day. The important thing is to pick something you can do in love to give back and pull closer to God!

(continued)

What would happen? Your body would die. Today thousands of local churches are dying because of Christians who are unwilling to serve. They sit on the sidelines as spectators, and the Body suffers. God calls you to a service far beyond anything you could ever imagine. He created *you* for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for you to do (Ephesians 2:10). Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God.