

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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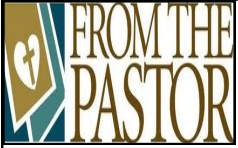
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

February 22, 2017



Last week, I received an e-mail from **Evangelism Explosion** that began like this: *"If God would save every person today that you prayed for by name, how many people would get saved? Too often, we pray in general for God to reach the unsaved millions across the world. But what would happen if we focused our prayers and commit to pray with focus, even fervency, for 10 people this year by name? Consider taking the 'Ten Most Wanted' challenge: choose 10 individuals who need Jesus. They can be family members, co-workers, neighbors, friends, or even elected officials. Make a list of their names and place it somewhere to remind you to pray for them regularly by name. . . . Then, let's watch what God will do!"* I have accepted the **Ten Most Wanted** challenge and I encourage you to do so as well; if you cannot think of ten people in your circle of influence who have not received the risen Jesus as their Lord and Savior, pray for as many people can think of, even if it is just one person. Pray specifically for God to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of their sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in the risen Jesus (see Acts 26:18). Many, if not all, of us had family or friends who prayed for our salvation before we surrendered our hearts and lives to the risen Jesus. Prayer is the big weapon for the salvation of souls. Argument and debate without prayer is dry and fruitless. We should not spend our time bashing our heads against the arguments of people; instead, we should bash into the Throne of Grace with strong prayers on behalf of those we want to be saved. My father was in his late forties when he was saved. I still remember going with him to see his mother that night. With tears following down her cheeks, she said, "Ray, I have prayed for your salvation everyday of your life." My grandmother's words made a huge impression of me. Once I was married and Joanna and I had children, I prayed for their salvation each and everyday, from the day they were born until the day each of them made a *Profession of Faith*. Before his conversion, I had repeatedly prayed for my dad's salvation, though admittedly, not on a daily basis. The e-mail from **Evangelism Explosion** reminded me of my family's salvation and it has caused me to rededicate my efforts in praying for the lost people that I know personally; again, I encourage you to join me in this undertaking.

This coming Sunday will conclude the sermon series ***A Time for Hope!*** The title of the third and final message is ***"God's Word Provides Hope"*** based on **Romans 15:4**: ***"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."*** [NRSV]

I will be leaving town this coming Thursday (February 23rd) afternoon to attend a meeting of our denominational Ministry Council; the meeting will be in Cordova (Memphis). I will be back in town late Saturday night. If you need me, feel free to call me on my cellphone and leave a voicemail; I will call you back as quickly as I can.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Water Angel Ministry

This coming Sunday, February 26th, will be our second time to bring water, coats, hats, and gloves for the **Water Angel Ministry**. Please put your donation in the hall by the overhang. Help will be available to bring your donations into the building. Thank you one and all for your generous assistance in helping the "least of these" in our community.

Youth News

Our **Youth** are going **roller skating** this coming Sunday February 26th. Please drop your youth off at **Skatetown** (5713 North Broadway) at 2:00 p.m. Directions are on the rink's website, skatetownknox.com. Please pickup your youth at 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$8.00 per person, this includes skate rental. Please **RSVP** to **Amands** or **Scott Roberts**.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner outing of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, March 2nd, at **Aubrey's Restaurant, Papermill** (6005 Brookvale Lane), at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.

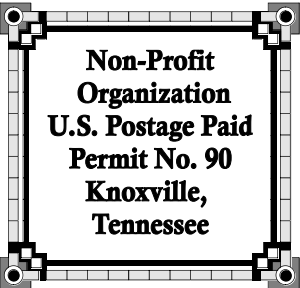
Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, March 15th, at **LongHorn Steakhouse** (in the west side of the parking lot of West Town Mall), at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join you on these outings.


Save the Date

"The family of the late **Barb Lancaster** invites you to attend as our guests a dinner in her memory in support of **Christian Education for Children** set for Monday, April 17, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Vera Low Center for Student Enrichment (on the campus of Bethel University in McKenzie, Tennessee). More information to follow in March.

*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

February 22nd-28th

23rd — Becky Rader
28th — Sam Ware



Our Faithfulness Record for February 19 th	
Sunday School	56
Worship Service	69
Offering	\$3,082.25

Activities for February 22 nd -28 th	
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Sunday:	9:30 a.m. Sunday School
	10:45 a.m. Worship Service
	6:00 p.m. Session Meeting
(See our web site for complete calendar listings)	

Among Our People

Mike Bachman continues to recover from heart bypass surgery. ~ **Kathy Byers**, daughter of Betty Hammill and mother of Lisa Booker, continues to recover from hip replacement surgery. ~ **Maxine Curtis** is still receiving outpatient physical rehab. ~ **Mary Helen Daniel** will receive home healthcare for another week. ~ Congratulations to both **Hailey** and **Hannah Davis**, granddaughters of Tom and Lois Witmer; they both placed in a gymnastics meet last weekend, with **Hailey** qualifying for the state. ~ **Edna Hughes**, sister of Rue Dougherty, is in a physical rehabilitation center recovering from a fall. ~ **Ruth McNabb**, mother of Tammy Eblen, will have a medical procedure on Friday, February 24th. ~ **Tom Parrott**, son of Clift Parrott, continues to recover from a stroke. ~ **Dianne Pipkin** continues to recover from surgery on her thumb. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, will begin chemotherapy treatments for her Lymphoma this week. ~ **Lois Witmer** will have surgery on Wednesday, February 22nd.

Special Guests


It was great having **Christina, Waylon, Ethan, and Amelia Hinkle**, daughter and family of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson; **Dottie Small**, daughter of Allen and Sallie Cox; and **Harriot Thompson**, friend of Allen and Sallie Cox, worshipping with us last Sunday.

Session

Our **Session** will meet this coming Sunday evening, February 26th, at 6:00 p.m., in the Keene Room.

Missions and Outreach Committee

Our **Missions and Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, March 5th, at 4:00 p.m., in the Keen Room.




Prayer Concern List

In the Hospital

Lois Witmer @ Parkwest Medical Center

Prayer Concerns



Mildred Acuff; Mike Bachman; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Kathy Byers (daughter of Betty Hammill and mother of Lisa Booker); Charlotte Byrd; **Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries**; Maxine Curtis; Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); James Fritz (school bus driver of Jonathon Spencer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; **FAMILY OF STEPHEN JAMES** (uncle of Scott Roberts); Mark Hester; Betty and Bud Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); **EDNA HUGHES** (sister of Rue Dougherty); Betty Kennedy (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Jewell Kerr; **our Kids Hope USA ministry**; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Alexi Llewellyn (granddaughter of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Mary Anne Moncier (aunt of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Barbara Mullenax; Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrot (son of Cliff Parrott); Sara Paul (friend of Rose Wilkinson); **persecuted Christians around the world**; Dianne Pipkin; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); Marilyn Ritchey (daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey); Andy Rufo (nephew of Alice Montgomery); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Jean Stapleton (mother of Elaine Stapleton); Shane Thompson (cousin of Hannah Haddox and Amanda Roberts); Angel Tindell (granddaughter of Catherine McKinney); Carl Ware (father of Sam Ware); Codee Weaver (son of Elaine Stapleton); Lee Wells (mother of a coworker of Susan Edwards); Devan Wilhite (friend of Greg Beeler); Rose Wilkinson (mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); Lois Witmer

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

Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the **Family of Stephen James**, uncle of Scott Roberts, who passed away on Tuesday, February 14th. Please remember this family in your prayers.

Church's Website

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