

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

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Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

May 3, 2017



I want to thank everyone who made **Homeschool Sunday** a great day to worship the risen Jesus here at First Cumberland. Clearly, we have some very musically gifted young people attending the two homeschool cooperatives that meet in our facility. Though all of our guests did not sign a Registration Pad, we had at least fifty people in attendance who are connected to First Cumberland through one of our homeschool ministries.

As one of the homeschool representatives noted in her presentation, First Cumberland has recently (April 12, 2017) chartered a new classical education ministry named **Cumberland Christian Academy**. This new ministry meets the criterion for Category IV (church-related) status with the Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools (TANAS). This new ministry will allow us to further help students receive and parents provide a Christ-centered classical education. While we have been hosting homeschool cooperatives for years, **Cumberland Christian Academy** now makes it possible for us as a congregation to help shape the education students receive while on our campus. This new ministry does not replace either **Classical Conservations** or **Thursday Connection** (the two homeschool cooperatives that currently meet in our facility), but rather, enhances and expands those ministries both here and across the State of Tennessee. Please remember this new ministry in your prayers.

Last Friday night, **Classical Conservations** hosted a **Talent Show** as a fundraiser for **Charlie Spalding**—a young student battling leukemia. **Charlie** was only three-years-old when diagnosed; I believe she is now five-years-old. This **Talent Show** had such a large number of students participating that its venue had to be shifted from our Gym to our Sanctuary. \$774.00 was raised by this student-initiated, student-led, student-preformed fundraiser. If you were unable to attend, but would like to financially support this young girl, her two sisters, and mother during this difficult time, you may write a check to First Cumberland, put **Charlie Spaulding** on the memo line, and we will forward it on to this family. Also, please remember **Charlie** and her family in your prayers.

Last Sunday, we received \$2,025.00 for the **Lighting Fund**. When we take out a loan to complete this project, last week's donations will lower our monthly payment by \$31.37; coupled with previous donations, our monthly savings is now \$220.91. Though I know of three additional checks that are in the mail, this fundraising effort has officially concluded. Nonetheless, during the month of April, \$14,225.00 was generously contributed to this effort while simultaneously keeping up our regular giving; in fact, we finished the month of April with \$1,645.87 more income than expenses. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" Every gift, no matter its size, donated to this fund helped reduced our loan amount, thus increasing our savings—thank you for your generosity and your faithfulness. When April's giving is added to the initial gifts (\$20,857.00 received in March) to start the **Lighting Fund**, we now have \$35,082.00 of the \$70,920.87 needed to complete this project. In addition to that, TVA will give us a rebate incentive of \$7,074.47. The loan for the balance should close soon, with work on the project starting soon thereafter.

When talking about the importance of church attendance last Sunday, I failed to mention that Jesus said, "***I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.***" [John 15:5, NRSV] When we fail to regularly and faithfully attend church (worship, Bible study, fellowship), we are like a branch that has been severed, sadly severed of our own volition, from the vine in that we will gradually wither and die. Does First Cumberland need you? Yes, without a doubt, we absolutely need each and every one of you, but more important, you need First Cumberland for it is in preaching and hearing the Word of God, in celebrating the sacraments, in the offering up of prayers about shared concerns, in helping carry one another's burdens, and in the fellowship with other believers that we recognize the risen Jesus and are grafted into Him—the Vine. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

Water Angel Ministry

Thank you for contributing 360 bottles of water for the **Water Angel Ministry** this month. This is an important ministry that helps the homeless in our community. The last Sunday in every month is always our collection day.

Attention Graduates

If you, or a family member, will be graduating from high school, community college, or a university this Spring, please notify the Church Office so that we can recognize your accomplishment. Also, include any honors, recognitions, and awards you or your family member received.

Vacation Bible School

Save the date—while all the details have yet to be worked out, the theme and dates for this year's **Vacation Bible School** here at First Cumberland are as follows: The theme is "**Camp Out: Getting S'more of Jesus**" and the dates are Friday, June 23rd, and Saturday, June 24th. More details to come as the are finalized.

*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

May 3rd - 9th

6th — Josh Rech



Our Faithfulness Record for April 30 rd	
Sunday School	46
Worship Service	127
Offering	\$4,882.75
Building Reimbursement	\$100.00
Memorial Fund	\$350.00
Lighting Fund	\$2,025.00

Activities for May 3rd - 9th

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday: 6:30 p.m. Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

(See our website for complete calendar listings)

Among Our People

Peggy Bradshaw, mother of Dianne Fielder, fell and broke her hip; she had surgery on Friday, April 28th, and is still in UT Medical Center and is now having difficulty swallowing. ~ We had six ladies (**Crissy Collins**, **Emily DeLozier**, **Susan Edwards**, **Elaine Stapleton**, and **Joanna** and **Rebecca Wilkinson**) attend the Women of Joy Conference, in Pigeon, Forge, last weekend. ~ It was great having **Kim McCurry** back worshipping with us last Sunday. ~ **Cliff Parrott** is struggling with mobility; he has a doctor’s appointment this week. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments.


Special Guests

It was great having **Todd** and **Ashley Beale**; **Michelle Bickers**; the **Fulton Family**; **John** and **June Givens**, parents of Crissy Collins; the **Hariman Family**; **Michael Hood**, friend of Joy Spencer; **Kenneth Masters**; **Lee** and **Chris McDaniel**; **Claire**, **Kate**, and **Bonnie Claire Phillips**; the **Strickland Family**; **Erin Wessel**; **Amy**, **Maysie**, and **Skylar Williams** all worshipping with us last Sunday. (These were the guests that signed the Registration Pads.)

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

The next Dutch-treat dinner for the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be this Thursday, May 4th, at **Wright’s Cafeteria** (5403 North Middlebrook Pike), at 6:30 p.m. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.


A Thought to Ponder: Faith is not the absence of doubt; rather, faith is the presence of belief.



Prayer Concern List

In the Hospital

Peggy Bradshaw @ UT Medical Center



Prayer Concerns

Mildred Acuff; Ann and Mike Bachman; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Gordon Blaylock; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Charlotte Byrd; **Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries**; Hannah Davis; Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; Mark Hester; Betty and Bud Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Pat Housley (coworker of Amanda Roberts); Edna Hughes (sister of Rue Dougherty); Betty Kennedy (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Alexi Llewellyn (granddaughter of a friend of Rose Wilkinson); Keith Lunsford (cousin of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (mother of Tammy Eblen); Peter McNamara (friend of Hannah Haddox); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (cousin of Dianne Fielder); Alice Montgomery; Georgia Moore (sister of Jewell Kerr); Amy Beth Davidson Morgan; Cliff Parrott; Sara Paul (friend of Rose Wilkinson); **persecuted Christians around the world**; Jan Pipkin (sister-in-law of Dianne Pipkin); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); David and Rebecca Rech (parents of Justin Rech); **LORI ROARK** (sister of Kim McCurry); John Snoderly (brother of Betty Hammill); John Snoderly, Jr. (nephew of Betty Hammill); Sydney Snoderly (great-niece of Betty Hammill); Charlie Spaulding (homeschool student); 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)

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

Friendship Club

The **Friendship Club** will gather for a Dutch-treat lunch on Wednesday, May 17th, at **Connors Streak and Seafood** (10915 Turkey Creek Drive), at 11:00 a.m. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.

Church’s Website

The church’s website, www.first-cumberland.org, includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four [Worship Services](#).