

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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Kevin Wood ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

December 26, 2007

OUR GUESTS THIS SUNDAY

Our guests this Sunday, December 30, 10:45 a.m. will be our great friends W. Jean and Regena Richardson. Jean will lead morning worship and deliver the message.

I had the privilege of working with Jean as associate pastor of Beaver Creek CP Church in the early 1980's. Many of you remember him when he served as interim pastor at First Church just 2 ½ years ago!

If you want a real blessing on the last Sunday of 2007, join us! Welcome back, Jean and Regena!

TAKE A TRIP TO KOREA JANUARY 27!

Ernest and Michelle Gillis, the pastoral family of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Korea, will be our guests Sunday, January 27, 10:45 a.m. Come meet them and hear about what God is doing through their ministry!

The First CP Church of Korea has become the home base for new mission points throughout Asia. New pastors and leaders are being raised and sent to places previously unknown to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Bring your family and friends to welcome the Gillises. On that Sunday we will take a special "Gift to the King" offering for Korean missions and we will enjoy our first potluck luncheon of 2008. Please bring those wonderful meat, salad, vegetable, and dessert dishes to share!

SESSION RETREAT SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

All elders on Session are invited to our annual prayer and planning retreat Saturday, January 5, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. A noon meal will be catered by Thursday Connection. The retreat will begin in the conference room next to the pastor's office.

UPWARD BASKETBALL PRAYER TEAM

We are thankful for all the prayer partners of Upward Basketball and as the season approaches, continue to pray for the following...

(1)...for all 78 children signed up to play this season. Pray for the development of their basketball skills and especially that they and their families will grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

(2)...for Upward Director Steve Summers, all coaches, referees, halftime devotional speakers, and everyone who has dedicated their time during the season. Pray that their hearts will be focused and their witness strong.

(3)...that all needed resources and funding will be available for the ministry.

(4)...that all practices and games will glorify God and honor His purposes.

Final pre-season practices will be held Tuesday-Friday, January 8-11. The first game will be Saturday, January 12, 11:00 a.m.

More prayer partners are always needed so join us anytime!

HELPERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Beginning in January, 2008 we need a full slate of helpers in Children's Church.

The Christian Education Committee asks you to sign up for one month. A curriculum is provided for K-3 while a toddler nursery (ages 1-4) will be staffed by a paid nursery worker. If you can help, please contact Nancy Wood (357-1946).

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club is looking for new members in 2008. Everyone 55 and older is welcome to join us for our monthly fellowship outings beginning Wednesday, January 9, 11:00 a.m. at Mimi's Café, 10945 Parkside Drive. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office.

THE SESSION, 2008

We thank God for those who have been elected and will serve on the Board of Elders (Session) for 2008. Their names and terms of office are listed below:

Class of 2008

Lee Barron

James O'Neal

Steve Summers

Class of 2009

Valerie Wann

Lois Witmer

Tom Witmer

Class of 2010

Steve Goodrich

Steve McCurry

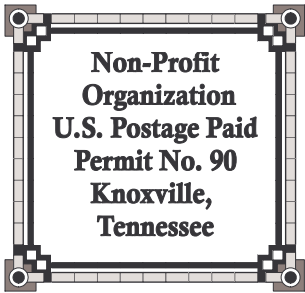
Dianne Pipkin

A service of ordination/installation will be held for new elders Steve Goodrich, Steve McCurry and Dianne Pipkin Sunday, January 6 at the conclusion of the morning worship service.

DON'T STOP PRAYING FOR YOUR CHURCH!

As we approach a new year, please don't stop praying for First Church. The elders and I ask you to pray for us as we retreat together and plan together. Pray that God will be glorified for the good things that are happening and that He will guide us to answers to our most pressing problems including finances and new ministries. Your prayers have and always will make a difference. So keep going. Pray without ceasing. Look what God has already done. And He's not done yet!!!

~Pastor Kevin



Happy Birthday



Not a One
This Week



Activities for December 29, 2007-January 5, 2008

Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Tues., New Year's Day- Office Closed

(See web site for complete calendar listings)

Stewardship Report for December 23, 2007

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday School..... | 49 |
| Worship..... | 92 |
| Candlelight Service..... | 128 |
| Offering..... | \$4,375.75 |
| Capital Improvements Fund | \$4,275.00 |
| Memorial/Building Fund..... | \$750.00 |
| Expenses paid last 2 weeks | \$10,770.60 |

Year-to-Date (as of December 23, 2007)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Offerings received to date:..... | \$155,046.01 |
| Expenses paid to date:..... | \$262,655.93 |
| Building / Cap. Improve. Fund..... | \$38,454.00 |

Keep an eye on the thermometer in the Narthex. Keep up with the our progress of the Building / Capital Improvement Fund Raising Campaign.

Update on Building Repairs and Maintenance

The Building & Grounds Committee met with the Session on Tuesday, December 4 in a joint meeting to hear a presentation from Al Bedinger on the HVAC design. After the presentation there was a question and answer period. There were also several members present. Al explained the difficulties in replacing our existing system due to it being a two pipe system and all piping is beneath the concrete. He informed all that his team's best budget number for replacing the HVAC system in total is around \$636,000 with another \$39,000 needed if our electrical service is not sufficient. This amount is more than twice the number we where using for very preliminary budget numbers. The next scheduled committee meeting is Tuesday January 8. If you have any input for the committee please contact one of us prior to our meeting. If you have any questions or comments about these projects or other facility needs, please contact any member of the Building & Grounds Committee. (Tom Witmer, James O'Neal, Billy Davis, Barbara McCammon, Dick Congdon or Charlie Franks).

All Newsletter articles, events, or announcements should be sent by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to Tom Witmer at firstcpc@earthlink.net or thomaswitmer @Comcast.net or call the church office at 588-8581. If you would like to receive The Cumberlander via email in PDF format let Tom know.



Prayer Concerns



In the Military

Shane McGhee in Iraq, wife Tamara in California
Bill Hickman in Iraq, Lee Barron's cousin

In the Hospital

Wally Holt, Ft. Campbell Military Hospital, Iraq War Veteran

On-going Health and Prayer Concerns

Ted Ford; Taylor Ford; JoAnn Ford; Marlene Ritchey; Pastors Euripides Morera, Rodrigo Torress and Gilberto Arteaga, and their congregations in Buenaventura, Columbia; Brack Emory; Mary Jane Blaylock; Denominational Center Task Force; Ileana Grace Hayes; Bill Hammill; Reba Smith; Bill & Flora Mae Keene; Mildred Stone; Edna Fleenor; Maxine McGuire; Mrs. Don Franks; Priscilla McCoy; Margaret Lindsay; Mary Cregger; Jennie Lee Middlemas; Irene Brooks; William Barron; Nancy Bandermlen; Doug Bailey; Mike Roberts; Joyce Creasman; Brenda Burk; Jonathan Migas; Bernie Migas; Levi Bailey; Lillian Stephens; Neal Denton; Bonnie Holbert; Otis Clinton Shelby; Reba Hauser; Franklin Graham Crusade coming to Knoxville in April, 2008; Lucy and Glen Hesler; Lois Witmer; Francis Bogart; Noreen Bogart; David Summers; Barbara Leith; Elena Zimmerman; Adrienne Murphy; Thomas King; Terry Davidson; Peggy O'Neal; Gladys Stone; Sam Bivens; Wayne Huskey; Ann McGraw; Matt Lambert; Kay Tipton; Sam Stone; Lea Acuff; Donna Walker; Cliff Limerick; Judy Lawson (Lisa Deal's Aunt); the family of Richard Justice (Melissa Luttrell's uncle); the family of Kathleen England of Louisville, KY (Leah Witmer's grandmother), Wendy O'Neal (surgery).

Please keep the Church office informed of any needed changes, additions or deletions to our Prayer Concerns list.

West Circle

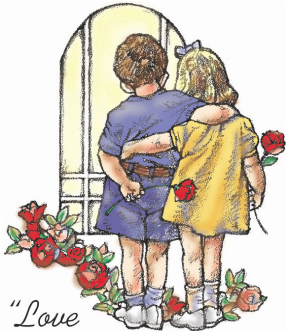
will meet at the church at 10:45 a.m. on January 8th. Please bring a sandwich for lunch. Drinks and a dessert will be provided.

A Need

Does anyone have or know of anyone who has a wood burning stove for 20"—22" logs that is no longer needed and needs a new home???? Well, if you are that person or know someone who is then call 548-4083. They would really like to take it off your hands!!!

Thanks!

How can anyone of us express in words the joy that is felt by truly giving from the heart. Especially by giving to those in need. Thanks to all who this Christmas season gave freely of their time, money and gifts to all the needs we identified and to ones we did not know about. God blesses those who give freely and in the spirit of love!



"Love
your Neighbor
as Yourself."

Mark 12:31

Commitment Cards

Please do not forget to turn in your Commitment Cards into the church office. Thank you for your continuing support of this Church and God's work.