

# The Cumberland

## Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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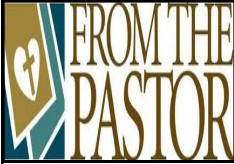
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org)

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

May 10, 2017



I want to begin by wishing all our ladies a happy **Mother's Day**. **Proverbs 6:20** says, "... keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake your mother's teaching." [NRSV] When I was growing up, my father was typically the law-giver (commandment-maker); do this, do that, don't do this, don't do that, you had better not do that! My mother, on the other hand, was the teacher and she did not always use words to teach; instead, she taught by her actions. When my father passed away, I preached a sermon at his funeral titled, "*The Greatest Things My Father Taught Me*". I would have to say that the greatest thing my mother taught me was loyalty. It was not always loyalty without grumbling, but it was unwavering loyalty nonetheless, as she remained loyal to my father and my sister and I through the most difficult of circumstances and she remained loyal to her aging and ill parents until the very end. Hopefully, I will not forsake my mother's teaching on loyalty, even if I on occasion grumble about the situation requiring my loyalty. With **Mother's Day** approaching, what is the greatest thing your mother has taught you? I am blessed; not only can I tell my mother about the greatest thing she ever taught me, she can read it in this newsletter. If your mother is still alive, once you determine what is the greatest thing she ever taught you, I encourage you to share it with her; doing so just might make this upcoming **Mother's Day** the best one she has ever experienced. And though it is still more than a month away, I would encourage you to do the same thing with your father on **Father's Day**.

I want to share yet another eVotion that I wrote for our denominational website; it is titled, "*When Things Go Awry*", and is based on **First Kings 17:17-24**.

"In this story, the Prophet Elijah went outside the land of Israel. The text does not tell us how the Lord directed the woman at Zarephath to welcome Elijah; nonetheless, she received this stranger into her home and shared with him what she thought to be her family's last meal. Amazing blessings followed this selfless decision. You would think it was enough—to have a jar of never-ending flour and a bottomless jug of oil was a sign of God's favor, right? Surely, that was enough for this mother to have faith, but then the woman's son became sick and died; the jar still had flour and the jug still had oil, but it was not enough. She cried out questioning the motives of God, even accusing the prophet of killing her son as punishment for her sins. Elijah carried the dead boy upstairs, where he pleaded with the Lord and incredibly, God brought the boy back to life. He then had the great joy of returning the son, alive, to his mother and witnessed her groans of sorrow become shouts of joy. God had turned her doubt and emptiness into faith and fullness. Sometimes we weep and question God when things go awry, but when we center our life on Jesus Christ, the one who died and came back to life for our sake, we begin to see God's plan to replace the tears and sorrows of this world with testimonies of faith and joy."

Though our fundraising effort for the **Lighting Fund** officially ended on Aril 30<sup>th</sup>, last week, we received another \$1,000.00 for this fund. When we take out a loan to complete this project, last week's donations will lower our monthly payment by \$15.53; coupled with previous donations, our monthly savings is now \$236.44. A total of \$36,082.00 has been given towards this project. Again, 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.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,  
*Pastor Mike*

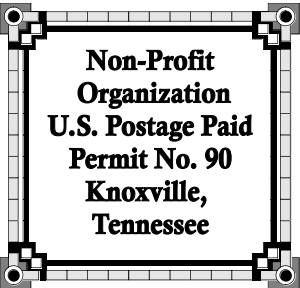
### Attention Graduates

If you, or a family member, will be graduating from high school, community college, university, or graduate school this Spring, please notify the Church Office this week so that we can recognize your accomplishment on Sunday morning, May 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More details to come as they 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 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**

We have no known birthdays this week.



Our Faithfulness Record for May 7 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday School	44
Worship Service	76
Offering	\$3,717.25
Building Reimbursement	\$1,921.85
Memorial Fund	\$325.00
Lighting Fund	\$1,000.00
Youth Fund	\$50.00
Music Fund	\$50.00

**Activities for May 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

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, remains in UT Medical Center and is now under hospice care. ~ **Betty Hammill** traveled to Tuscaloosa, AL, last week for the graduation of her grandson, **Carson Hammill**, from the University of Alabama. ~ **Rebecca Wilkinson**, daughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, has just moved to Knoxville and will soon be regularly attending First Cumberland. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Susan Edwards and Pastor Mike, continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments.

**Special Guests**


It was great having **Amelia** and **Ethan Hinkle**, grandchildren of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, and **Rebecca Wilkinson**, daughter of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, worshipping with us last Sunday. (These were the guests who signed the Registration Pads.)

**Friendship Club**

The **Friendship Club** will gather for a Dutch-treat lunch on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at **Connors Streak and Seafood** (10915 Turkey Creek Drive), at 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.

**Friendship Club, P.M. Edition**

The next Dutch-treat dinner for the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at **Peros on the Hill** (57706 Northshore Drive, Rocky Hill), at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. As always, feel free to invite family and friends to join us on these outings.




### Prayer Concern List

**In the Hospital**

**Peggy Bradshaw @ UT Medical Center**

**Prayer Concerns**



Mildred Acuff; Ann and Mike Bachman; **FAMILY OF MAE BEELER** (aunt of Susan Edwards and Pastor Mike); 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); **FAMILY OF 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 Susan Edwards and Pastor Mike); 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); **FAMILY OF TOMMY WARE** (uncle 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 Susan Edwards and Pastor Mike)

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 May Beeler**, aunt of Susan Edwards and Pastor Mike, who passed way Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>; the **Family of Edna Hughes**, sister of Rue Dougherty, who passed away Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>; and the **Family of Tommy Ware**, Sam Ware's uncle, who passed away Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please remember these families in your prayers.

**Church's Website**

The church's website, [www.first-cumberland.org](http://www.first-cumberland.org), includes audio recordings of the sermons from the previous four **Worship Services**.