

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

6900 Nubbin Ridge, Knoxville, TN 37919 ~ E-mail: firstcpc@earthlink.net ~

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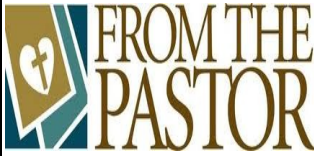
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

February 25, 2015



Due to the weather and the illness of one of our volunteers, last week's edition of *The Cumberland* was not distributed. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. This week's edition of our newsletter contains all the information from last week that is still relevant, as well as new information.

I want to share with you how encouraging last Sunday was to me personally. Due to the weather, I was expecting our attendance to be extremely low for the Worship Service, somewhere in the 25-30 people range. As a result of my expectations, after consulting with our Worship Leaders, I made the call to move the service from the Sanctuary to the Chapel. While our attendance was lower than usual, it was much better than expected and we packed out the Chapel, as 56 of us gathered to worship. The spirit was great and the singing was simply outstanding as it resonated off the brick walls. I am not sure, but it may have melted any remaining ice off the roof. What encouraged me was your faithfulness in being here in spite of the weather conditions and the flexibility you showed in our change of venue. It is truly a privilege for me to be the pastor of First Cumberland. Before I move one, I want to say to those who did not venture out on Sunday that I understand your absence and would in fact encourage everyone to use caution and good judgment on bad weather days. On days like last Sunday, I want you to make your safety a priority over your attendance.

This year, *Ash Wednesday* fell last week, on February 18th. *Ash Wednesday* marks the beginning of the *Season of Lent*. Traditionally, *Lent* is the forty-day (not including Sundays) period of preparation for our celebration of Jesus' resurrection on *Easter Sunday*, which is April 5th this year. Followers of Christ often give up something for *Lent*. This giving up, or fasting of, something typically centers around food or drink. Some people give up eating chocolate; others give up drinking sodas. I am not sure of the spiritual significance of such a fast, but I am sure it means something to the practitioner. Nonetheless, this year I would like for us to shift our thinking from simply giving up something to both giving up something and replacing it with something else. For example, we could give up watching a thirty-minute television show each day and replace it with spending thirty minutes reading the Bible and praying. Or we could give up watching a one-hour television show and replace it with going to visit one of our homebound members or one living in a nursing home. Or we could give up eating at our favorite restaurant and replace it with donating the money we would have spent on the meal to the FISH Food Pantry to help feed the needy in our community. This list of things we can give up and replace is as endless as our imagination. Other possibilities include giving up a grudge we are holding against someone and replacing it with forgiveness. Or giving up worrying about tomorrow and replacing it with trusting God. Again, the possibilities are endless. Will you join me this *Lenten Season* and give up something and replace it with something better? If you do, I can see it having real spiritual significance in your life; it could even lead to the best celebration on *Easter* that you have ever experienced, which is the purpose for observing *Lent* in the first place.

A few weeks ago, in an article on the back page of the newsletter, I expressed by appreciation to a group of volunteers help who help us in the office every week. The ladies I mentioned typically volunteer on Mondays. In my haste to complete the newsletter, I forgot to mention a lady who sends out a weekly mailing to our shut-ins every Thursday, so I want to take this opportunity to express a belated thank you and my apologies to **Jewell Kerr**.

At the risk of boring you with yet another story about our three-year-old grandson, I want to share yet another one. I know I have now done so in three straight newsletters, but I cannot help myself. Two Sunday mornings ago, Rex woke up sick, too sick to go to church. When his mother informed him that he and her were staying home and therefore not going to church, Rex responded empathically, "Please let me go to church! I need to be with Jesus!" To which his mom replied, "Jesus is with us at home, too." Immediately, Rex said, "Are you tricking me? That Guy is everywhere!" I am glad that Jesus is everywhere I am, and that He is everywhere you are. He is Emmanuel—God with us!

This coming Friday, February 27th, Joanna and I will move into our newest residence (Marlene Ritchey's house) in Brentmoor Subdivision, on the corner of Nubbin Ridge Road and Ebenezer Road. Our new address is 1504 Clear Brook Drive; Knoxville, Tennessee 37922. Feel free to drop by and visit us at your convenience. I want to again thank the Hester Family for allowing us to live in Dr. Hester's house the last few months. I also want to thank each of you for your prayers during our continuing transition. By the way, the contract is signed; we have officially leased our house in Millbrook, Alabama.

Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike

*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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Tennessee



Happy Birthday

February 22-28

23-Becky Rader
28-Sam Ware

Invite
a
Friend

Stewardship Report February 15, 2015	
Sunday School.....	51
Worship.....	112
Offering	\$4,657.00
Building Reimbursement.....	\$5,942.40

Among Our People

Dick Booher had kneecap replacement surgery last Wednesday, February 18th; **Dick** is doing well and will be staying at his son’s house in Morristown for a few weeks while he recovers . . . **Hailey Davis** placed third in Level 9 at the Excalibur Cup Gymnastics Meet in Virginia Beach, Virginia, two weekends ago . . . **Edna Fleenor** is in Physicians Regional Hospital, Saint Mary’s . . . **Gracie Hayes** is going to Vanderbilt Hospital Wednesday, February 25th, for medical tests . . . **Charlie Pipkin** (Paul Pipkin’s father) is still in Parkwest Hospital, but is now under hospice care . . . **Marlene Ritchey** continues under hospice care; you may contact **Marlene** via mail; her address is 475 Jacks Canyon Road; Apt. 222; Sedona, Arizona 86351 . . .

Surprise Birthday Party

This announcement does not appear in **Jewell Kerr**’s special edition of *The Cumberlander*.

Jewell Kerr will celebrate her 80th birthday on Monday, March 9th. In honor of this occasion, her children would like to invite the entire congregation to a catered luncheon at the church immediately following the Worship Service on Sunday, March 8th. Again, this is supposed to be a surprise, so please do not let **Jewell** know. Shhhhhh!!!

Quote of the Week

“God is calling you to relinquish your old habits and beliefs that are holding you back from being all He called you to be. To trust that He has something bigger and better in store for you.”

—Dana Arcuri

Prayer Concerns

In the Hospital

Edna Fleenor - Physician’s Regional Hospital,
Saint Mary’s
Charlie Pipkin - Parkwest Hospital

Health and Prayer Concerns (alphabetized)

the persecuted Christians around the world; Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries; Roy Acuff (brother of a friend of Pastor Mike); Mildred Acuff; Janie Beeler (Greg Beeler’s wife); Preston Beeler (Greg Beeler’s cousin); Charlotte Bird; Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Kim Boyatt (friend of Susan Edwards); Peggy Bradshaw (Dianne Fielder’s mother); Mary Cregger; B.F. and Mary Helen Daniel; Allison, Hailey, Connor, and Hannah Davis; Nora Derreberry (Maxine Curtis’s mother); Jim and Cookie Dyer; Edna Fleenor; Grace Flory (Lois Witmer’s mother); **LYNNE GARRISON** (Lois Witmer’s sister); Jack and Jin Gaston; **BETTY HAMMILL**; **GRACIE HAYES**; Ruth Heifner (friend of Pastor Mike); Bud and Betty Hickman (friends of Mary Ann Haney); Bobbie Himes (Jin Gaston’s sister); Debbie Holloway; Kim Holloway (friend of Lisa Hayes); Becky Ingle (coworker of Amanda Roberts); Kim Jones (friend of Amanda and Scott Roberts); Sherri Kramer (friend of Joy Taylor); Ada Ladd; Bob Lawson (friend of Pastor Mike); Maxine McGuire; Mary McJunkins (Mary Wegman’s mother); Catherine McKinney; Ruth McNabb (Tammy Eblen’s mother); Bob Metts; Brian Migas; Jonathan Migas; Mary Anne Moncier (Dianne Fielder’s aunt); Dewaine Moncier, Jr. (Dianne Fielder’s cousin); Alice Montgomery; Carl Overstreet (friend of Cliff Parrott); Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrott (Cliff Parrott’s son); Charlie Pipkin (Paul Pipkin’s father); David Poore (coworker of Phil Bridges); Anna Faye Presley (niece of Catherine McKinney); Nicolae Racile (father of a friend of Joy Taylor); Becky Rader; Rebecca Rech (Justin Rech’s mother); Marlene Ritchey; Bryan Rogers (Bonnie Bridges’ son); Roger Rollins (friend of Steve Summers); Carol Seeman; Gladys Stone; Sydney Snoderly (Betty Hammill’s great niece); Jack Walker; MariKate Walker; Carl Ware (Sam Ware’s father); Joni Warner (friend of Jewell Kerr’s sons); the Whaley family (friends of Kathy Byers); Robyn (friend of Hannah Haddox)

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

Prayer List Updates

We are now CAPITALIZING and **bolding** the names of people the very first time they appear on our Prayer List in both the newsletters and the bulletins. Please regularly read these lists and let the Church Office know of any updates, changes, or corrections that need to be made to them.

Just a Thought

“God uses people who fail—cause there aren’t any other kind around.”

—John Maxwell

Happy Birthday



March 1-7
3-Rebecca Ware
5-Emma O'Neal



Activities for March 1-7, 2015

Sunday,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday,	11:00 a.m.	West Circle
Wednesday,	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
(See web site for complete calendar listings)		

Stewardship Report February 22, 2015

Sunday School.....	35
Worship.....	56
Offering	\$3,167.50

Scout Sunday



We want thank the members, leaders, and family members of **Girl Scout Troop 20959, Cub Scout Pack 20, and Boy Scout Troop 20** for participating in **Scout Sunday** two weeks ago. The weather put a damper on our attendance, but nonetheless, the spirit and participation were both excellent. In case anyone does not know: **Diane Fielder** is part of the leadership for **Girl Scout Troop 20959**, and **Dawn and Christy Curtis** are members; and **Mike Bachman** is part of the leadership for **Boy Scout Troop 20**.

Committees

If you would like to serve on one of the church's committees (Building and Grounds; Christian Education; Missions and Outreach; Stewardship and Finance; or Worship), please contact Pastor Mike.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **West Circle** of our ladies' ministry will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 11:00 a.m., in the Keene Room. All the ladies of the church are both invited and encouraged to attend. Please bring a sandwich lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided. If you are not an active member of our ladies' ministry, this lunch meeting would be a great time to either begin or resume your participation.

Friendship Club

Since the weather postponed last week's outing, weather permitting, the next outing for the **Friendship Club** will be this Wednesday, February 25th, at 11:00 a.m. They will gather at **Rafferty's Restaurant** (8906 Kingston Pike, near Ebenezer Road) for a Dutch-treat lunch. Everyone reading this announcement is invited to attend this and all monthly outings of the **Friendship Club**.

The Question of the Ages

“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’”—Matthew 22:41-42

Without question, Jesus Christ is the most controversial figure who has even lived. He is loved, worshiped, and followed by some. He is hated, despised, and rejected by others. He is disregarded and ignored by most. But it always will come down to Jesus.

Who is Jesus? Two thousand years ago, Christ Himself asked the question: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” (Matthew 22:42). And to this very day, people are still confused about the answer. Maybe there has never been a time when more people profess faith in Jesus yet at the same time have no clue as to who He really is.

Many will speak with respect about Christ. They will say things like, “I believe that Jesus was a great prophet” or “I believe that Jesus was a messenger sent from God” or “I believe that Jesus was the best of all men.”

Yet the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was the unique Son of God, not a man becoming God. He was God becoming a man. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the second member of the Trinity. And it also teaches that He was supernaturally conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He was not merely a good teacher but the greatest teacher—God in human form.

The Bible teaches that Christ was physically crucified and that He bodily rose from the dead. The Bible also teaches that Jesus was not one god among many but is the only God, equal with the Father and above all others. This is why the death of Jesus, and the death of Jesus alone, meets the righteous requirements of God.

Jesus never became God. He always was God. He walked among us as an ordinary man, yet He was God incarnate.

—Greg Laurie, submitted by **Cliff Parrott**

