

The Cumberland

Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Inc.

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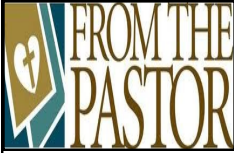
Rev. Mike Wilkinson ~ Pastor

Website: www.first-cumberland.org

Our Weekly Newsletter

"Loving God, Loving People"

March 29, 2017



For the last few months, in an effort to be good stewards of our resources, our **Building and Grounds Committee** has been working with TVA to conduct an EnergyRight Solution audit of our usage of electricity here at the church. This audit is now complete and it recommends that we replace most of our existing electrical fixtures (both inside and outside) with new, high efficiency fixtures and lamps (bulbs). In order to maintain the décor, we will not be replacing the fixtures in our Sanctuary, Chapel, and Narthex; instead, the existing fixtures in these rooms will only receive new high efficiency lamps. In addition, both our exit and emergency lighting will be brought up to current fire code. The bad news is that this project will cost nearly \$71,000.00 (material and labor). The good news is that TVA will provide us a financial incentive (check/one-time refund) to make these changes; this incentive is expected to be slightly more than \$7,000.00. More bad news, even with the incentive, we will still need to pay out-of-pocket approximately \$64,000.00. More good news, we have already received a \$20,000.00 gift to help offset this expense. Yet more bad news, even with this generous gift, we will still have to pay nearly \$44,000.00 out-of-pocket. Yet more good news, through Pathway Loan's Energy Efficiency Loans program for charitable organizations, we can borrow the \$44,000.00 at a two percent interest rate over a five-year period. Still more bad news, it will cost us nearly \$800.00 in fees to borrow the money we need. Still more good news, the money to cover the fees has already been given by an additional donor. Another bit of bad news, the monthly payment on the loan will be nearly \$770.00. Another bit of good news, our average savings on our monthly electric bill will be more than \$1,350.00; thus giving us a positive cash flow increase of approximately \$580.00 per month (This is the good stewardship part.). In addition to saving money on our electric bill, this project will update our building, and make both our building and parking lot safer. At its meeting last Sunday evening, our **Session** approved both the recommendation of the energy audit and the borrowing of the needed money. We also approved holding a one-month fundraising campaign to reduce the amount of money we need to borrow. Every thousand dollars we raise during this campaign will reduce our monthly loan payment by more than \$17.00, which in turn increases our positive cash flow by \$17.00 (Again, the good stewardship part.). If you would like to contribute any amount—above and beyond your regular giving—to this project, simply note your check or offering envelop with the words "Lighting Fund". Every gift, no matter its size, will simultaneously reduce our debt and increase of savings. Thank you in advance for your generosity and faithfulness.

I am not sure what "got into us" last Sunday during the Worship Service, but I hope it "gets into us" every week. Our congregational singing was simply outstanding; it was full of energy and, shall I say, spirit-filled. Perhaps, I do know what "got into us" after all, it was the Spirit of God. As followers of the risen Jesus, the Holy Spirit continually abides in us; my prayer is that more and more we will allow more of God's Spirit to "leak" out of us.

As I noted last week, the first joint Choir presentation of the **Easter** musical, "Because He Lives" will be this coming Sunday, at 5:00 p.m., at the **First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge**. The second presentation will be **Palm Sunday**, April 9th, at 5:00 p.m., here at our church. Though it will be the same presentation at both churches, I want to again encourage you to attend both musical worship services for two reasons: 1) Your attendance at both services will demonstrate your support for our excellent music ministry here at First Cumberland (Our Choir and its leaders work very hard to present the best musical worship experience possible.); and 2) It gives us the opportunity to develop relationships through fellowship with other Cumberland Presbyterians. With this second reason in mind, we will be hosting a **Pot-Luck Dinner** following the joint presentation here. As you prepare food for the meal, keep in mind that we will have many guests eating with us.

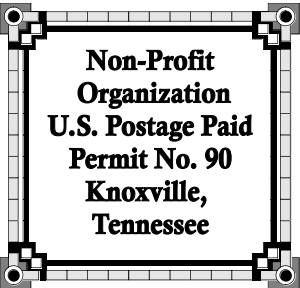
Learning the unforced rhythms of grace,

Pastor Mike


Easter Celebrations

- The Choirs of **Knoxville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church** and **First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge** are joining together to present the **Easter** musical, "*Because He Lives*". The first presentation will be this coming Sunday, April 2nd, at 5:00 p.m., at the Oak Ridge Church. The second presentation will be **Palm Sunday**, April 9th, at 5:00 p.m., here at First Cumberland; a **Pot-Luck Dinner** will follow the musical.
- Our **Maundy Thursday Communion Service** will be Thursday, April 13th, at 6:30 p.m.
- Our **Community Good Friday Worship Service** will be Friday, April 14th, at 12:00 noon, at **Sacred Heart Cathedral**.
- Our annual **Egg Hunt** will be Saturday, April 15th, at 11:00 a.m.; lunch will be provided in our Gym.
- Our **Easter SonRise Service** will be Sunday, April 16th, at 8:00 a.m., in our Chapel; **Breakfast** in our Gym will follow. This meal will conclude in time for everyone to attend **Sunday School** at 9:45 a.m.
- Our **Easter Worship Service** will be at its regular time (10:45 a.m.); as part of this celebration of the Resurrection, our Choir will sing "*Hallelujah*", which is a rendition of the "*The Hallelujah Chorus*" from Handel's "*Messiah*"; we will also celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during this service.

*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

March 29th-April 4th

30th — Mildred Acuff
2nd — James O’Neal
3rd — Mike Bachman



Our Faithfulness Record for March 26 th	
Sunday School	59
Worship Service	78
Offering	\$3,948.50
Building/Lighting Fund	\$787.00
Music Fund	\$50.00

Activities for March 29 th -April 4 th		
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday:	5:30 p.m.	Spring Work Day
Saturday:	9:30 a.m.	FISH Bagging Day
Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	5:00 p.m.	Easter Musical @ Oak Ridge
Tuesday:	11:00 a.m.	West Circle Meeting
(See our website for complete calendar listings)		

Among Our People


It was great having **Mildred Acuff** back worshipping with us last Sunday following her recent illness. ~ **Ann Bachman** is scheduled to have outpatient surgery on her foot on Wednesday, March 29th. ~ **Mike Bachman** has once again returned to work on a limited basis following his recent hospitalization. ~ **Phil Bridges** and **Pastor Mike** will be attending the Spring meeting of the Presbytery of East Tennessee this coming Saturday, April 1st. ~ While participating in a gymnastic meet on Saturday, March 25th, **Hannah Davis**, granddaughter of Tom and Lois Witmer, severely injured her ankle. ~ **Jack Gaston** continues to recover at home after his recent hospitalization. ~ **Rose Wilkinson**, mother of Pastor Mike and Susan Edwards, continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments.

Special Guest

It was great having **Paul, P.J., Vesper, and Morgan Hutchison**, friends of Pastor Mike and Joanna Wilkinson, worshipping with us last Sunday. **Paul** shared with us his musical gifts of playing the guitar and singing.

Surprise Birthday Party

Mildred Acuff will turn 92 this Thursday, March 30th. If you would like to celebrate this special occasion with her, come to Rafferty’s restaurant at 11:00 a.m. Thursday. No gifts – just bring a card. She thinks she is just going out to lunch with two friends, so she will be surprised to see you there. (This announcement does not appear in **Mildred**’s special edition of the newsletter.)




Prayer Concern List

In the Hospital

No one connected to First Cumberland is known to be in the hospital at this time.

Prayer Concerns



Mildred Acuff; **ANN** and Mike **BACHMAN**; Preston Beeler (cousin of Greg Beeler); Gordon Blaylock; Dick Booher; Peggy Bradshaw (mother of Dianne Fielder); Wanell Brown (friend of Rose Wilkinson); Charlotte Byrd; **Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries**; Maxine Curtis; **HANNAH DAVIS**; Mary Helen Daniel; Mae Denton (friend of Tammy Eblen); Grace Flory (mother of Lois Witmer); Judy Gammon; Jack Gaston; 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); **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; Cliff Parrott; Tom Parrot (son of Cliff Parrot); 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); Marilyn Ritchey (daughter-in-law of Marlene Ritchey); **RICK 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)

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

David’s Prayer

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.” - **Psalm 51:10-12**, NRSV

Church’s Website

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

Spring Work Days

We will have two **Spring Work Days** to beautify our church grounds. The first will be this Thursday, March 30th, and the second will be the following Thursday, April 6th. Both **Work Days** will begin at 5:30 p.m.; if you cannot make it that early, then come when you can as work will take place until dusk. Please bring your yard tools and help us prepare our church grounds for our upcoming **Holy Week** and **Easter** celebrations.

Friendship Club, P.M. Edition

Due to the second of the **Spring Work Days** falling on its scheduled date, the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will not meet on Thursday, April 6th, as originally planned. Instead, the next Dutch-treat dinner of the **Friendship Club, P.M. Edition** will be Thursday, May 4th, at **Wright's Cafeteria** (5403 North Middlebrook Pike), 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.

FISH Food Pantry Campaign

This week begins our activity for the **FISH Food Pantry**. The groceries from Second Harvest were delivered on Tuesday, March 28th; thanks to those who helped unload them. Our first bagging day will be this coming Saturday morning, April 1st, at 9:30 a.m., at the pantry site (Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Road). It typically takes about an hour to bag the groceries to be distributed throughout the following week. We will also be bagging on Saturday, April 8th, and Saturday, April 15th. It would be helpful to sign up on the **FISH** bulletin board near the Narthex if you can help on those days. The food we have ordered cost approximately \$2,600.00. Because of your previous generosity towards the **FISH Food Pantry**, we did not have to raise money this year, and even if we have to order more food before our month is complete, your previous donations will cover any additional cost. Thank you for your generous support in helping to alleviate hunger in our community.

Youth News

- On Saturday, April 15th, our Youth will help bag food at the **FISH Food Pantry**, then they will return to our church to help set up for our **Egg Hunt**. Parents please drop your youth off at the pantry site (Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Road) by 9:15 a.m. After the bagging is completed, **Scott** and **Amanda Roberts** will transport them to our church to help with the **Egg Hunt**.
- On **Easter Sunday**, April 16th, our Youth will prepare and serve breakfast between our **Easter SonRise Service** and Sunday School. Everyone is encouraged to attend as this will be a fundraiser (donations requested) for our Youth Group! Parents please have your youth at the Kitchen off the Gym by 7:00 a.m.

Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry

The **West Circle** of our ladies' ministry will meet on Tuesday, April 4th, at 11:00 a.m., in the Keene Room. Please bring a sandwich lunch—drinks and dessert will be provided. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Egg Hunt

We are in need of plastic eggs filled with candy for our annual **Egg Hunt**. Please drop your donations off in the Church Office between now and Friday, April 14th. See **Laura Paschke** or **Julie Rech** for additional information.

Friendship Club

The next Dutch-treat lunch outing of the **Friendship Club** will be Wednesday, April 19th, at **Sam and Andy's Restaurant** (2613 Adair Drive, Fountain City), 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.

Water Angel Ministry

Thank you for your donation of 392 bottles of water last Sunday to be distributed to the homeless in our area. Our next collection date will be Sunday, April 30th.

Breaking News from Kroger!

- **Here's the good news:** Kroger donated \$54.78 to our church this past quarter through their Community Rewards Program.
- **Here's the bad news:** **ONLY nine** households – congregation, family and friends – are taking advantage of this easy way to give to our church. It does not cost you anything to participate; all monies are donated from Kroger.
- **There's more good news:** You can enroll in Kroger Community Rewards® Program any time at www.krogercommunityrewards.com! To get started, sign up with your Kroger Plus Card and select First Cumberland Presbyterian Church #33681 as the organization you wish to support. If you are enrolled, please check the number to ensure that you have selected the correct church.
- **Do you use your telephone number at the register?** If so, call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus Card number.
- **Members** must swipe their registered Kroger Plus Card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus Card when shopping for each purchase to count.
- **Need Assistance?** Contact **Kim Halbert** at (865) 660-5821. If you need hands on help, both **Kim** and **Tom Witmer** will be available to assist you in the Narthex on Sunday, April 2nd, prior to Sunday school, after Sunday school, and following the Worship Service.

It is always a good idea to invite someone to join you in the worship of the risen Jesus, so bring someone with you this coming Sunday; you will be glad you did.

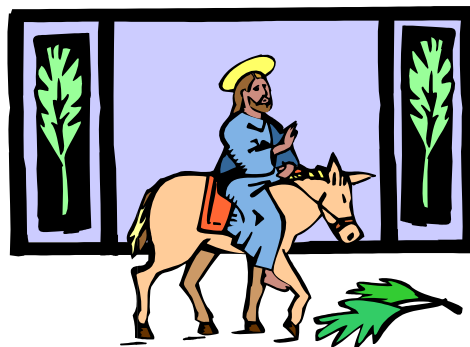
Holy Week Activities

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
6900 Nubbin Ridge Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
588-8581

Palm / Passion Sunday

April 9, 2017

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
5:00 p.m. Easter Musical ~ "Because He Lives"
6:15 p.m. Pot-Luck Dinner



Maundy Thursday

April 13, 2017

6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service,
with Communion

"For I have given you an example, that you also should
do as I have done to you." --- John 13:15

Good Friday, April 14, 2017

12:00 noon Community Worship Service
(at Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral,
711 S. Northshore Drive;
Pastor Mike will be one of the speakers)



Saturday, April 15, 2017

11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
Toddlers through 5th Grade
(bring a basket!)
Lunch provided

Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017

8:00 a.m. SonRise Service, Chapel
8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Gym
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship

