

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

McKenzie, Tennessee

NEWSLETTER

October 11, 2007



Pastor's Desk

Although I never advanced past Tenderfoot, I always remember my Boy Scout Motto, "Be Prepared" It has proven good advice throughout my life. You never know when God chooses to bless your life. Based upon my years of experience, I found God works through the routine, often mundane, ordinary events in life to greatly touch my heart.

Scriptures reveal a story which typifies the idea of being prepared. John 5:2-9 details the whole situation however, verse 4 provides a synopsis. "For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."

Help came from troubled waters. On this day the pool's surface was smooth as glass. No one could predict what would happen next. It was a day for saving your strength, visiting friends, and speculating about the time of the next healing. A man, crippled for 38 years, sat near the water's edge. No friends or family were available to assist him into the healing waters. Then, Jesus came along and changed a very ordinary, mundane, uneventful day into a day of remembrance.

Last Wednesday was a day like the one described in Scripture. It was shaping up to be a normal day with nothing outstanding coming my way. Then, without warning, God grabbed my attention and touched my heart with a moment I will cherish for a lifetime. I was visiting the ward at our hospital. It was my intention to be a visible reminder of the Holy for our wounded troops. I was conversing with a soldier when I glanced across the room at an injured Iraqi Soldier. As he was watching me I noticed he held a pink object in his hand. Because of the military setting the unusual color immediately caught my attention.

As I finished my visit with the wounded man, the Iraqi Soldier attempted to get my attention. I slowly started his direction, and began to size up the situation. It only took a moment to realize his injured eye. Sutures pulled the skin taught over an area where his eye had once been. He was a good looking young man, about 25 years old. The single, most distinguishing feature, other than the stitches, was a smile which stretched from ear to ear. I remember thinking to myself, "Why is he so happy?" His country is in shambles, and he will live the remainder of his life with only one eye.

As I moved closer my focus changed from his face to the object he proudly held in his left hand. The unidentified pink object blossomed into a pink piece of construction paper. It was folded in half and someone had written on it with a crayon. As he held it out to me I noticed a hand made card. It was crafted by a school aged child from somewhere in the United States. The amazing thing about this particular card was its inscription. It was addressed, Dear Iraqi Soldier. The drawing of a little girl and her younger brother adorned the outside of letter. Inside the young author penned a sweet, innocent message of hope which ended with a prayer.

My heart began to melt as I communicated with this young soldier. Here in his darkest hour he shared with me his most prized possession. Suddenly, my petty complaints and gripes about being in a deployed environment seemed insignificant. While going through the motions of an average day an angel of God had stirred the waters of my heart.

Somewhere in this great nation of ours a little girl took the time to write a card to a soldier from a country she has never seen. She had no idea if it would ever reach someone who needed or wanted it however, she still poured her heart into it. What she may never know is her act of love is now the prize possession of an Iraqi soldier. He was a soldier in need of an act of kindness in a cruel setting. God placed the message of hope in his life when he needed it the most. The next day I went back to visit him and discovered he shows the card to anyone who visits his bedside.

We do not know the source of this precious letter of hope and encouragement. Only God knows! Our hospital beds contain more Iraqi soldiers, police, adults, and even children than our own troops. Often times they succumb to the violence of insurgents. We have not been able to find another card addressed to anyone other than American troops in the boxes of cards we receive. What an awesome God we serve! My prayer is families, Sunday school classes, and schools will send cards specifically addressed for the Iraqi people we treat. Please help by getting people to send these cards to my mailing address. Our hospital chaplains will deliver them to our patients. One card made the difference in the life of one Iraqi soldier. I can only imagine the impact on precious lives if we can provide cards for all of our Iraqi patients.

*A little side note is that Public Affairs heard about this story and came to take the photos I have included of Saad and his card. They also interviewed me and plan to release a story this next week.

STEVEN E. WEST, Ch, Lt Col, USAF
Wing Chaplain
332 AEW/HC
APO AE 09315-9997

Chaplain Steven West is a Southern Baptist Chaplain serving in Iraq and is the senior chaplain of the hospital where he and his team is deployed. I was Chaplain West's supervisor when he was a new Captain at Eglin A.F.B. Florida. He is an outstanding Christian man and he and his family are a joy to be around. Please feel free to send cards and letters to the American and Iraqi wounded. It is the Christian thing to do.

----Tony

Stewardship Meetings

You are invited to the church for a Stewardship Powerpoint presentation for the proposed 2008 budget. Your elder shepherd will be calling you to invite you to one of the meetings. Shepherd groups under Elders Bradberry, Garrett, Johnson, Meek, Nanney and Scott are invited Monday, October 22 at 6:30 pm. Shepherd groups under Elders Hames, McKinnie, Patterson, Smith, Surber, and Warren are invited Tuesday, October 23 at 6:30 pm. If you cannot attend at the time scheduled, please call the church office to let us know which night you will attend. Coffee and dessert will be served and a nursery provided.

You will have an opportunity to make your 2008 commitment on an estimate of giving card each night, but the Pony Express Saddle Bag campaign will also take place beginning November 4.

Halloween - October 31 - WOW

Calling all ghosts, goblins, cowboys, princesses, and other creatures. The October 31 (Halloween) WOW will have an altered format. The Garrett/Hames team will provide a picnic at the pavilion for supper and the traditional Halloween party. Children and adults are invited to come in costume. Everyone is asked to bring candy for the children to Trick or Treat at the church. Interested persons may want to decorate your cars and offer Trunk or Treat. As usual, the meal begins at 5:30, with a costume parade and treating to follow. Join us for this annual event.

Springs

Springs had an awesome time at Casey Jones' Village and Gunther Toody's. Thank you to the parents for allowing your child to go and thank you to Bro. Tony who drove us and bought us ice cream!

Children's Choir (third grade and up) will continue meeting on Sundays 4pm unless it is the third Sunday of the month which means *Springs* will be meeting instead. We will continue working on our Christmas musical.

Our next *Springs* meeting will be Sunday, October 21st at 4pm. For the next few weeks at WOW, the *Springs* class will be talking about reverence during worship. Please encourage your child and lead them by example about the importance of reverence during worship.

...fewleftstanding...

October 19th we will have a joint lock-in (held at our church) with the youth from the Meridian CP Church in Greenfield. The lock-in will start after the high school football game at 9pm and students must be picked up by 7am on Saturday morning. We will provide hot dogs and smore ingredients to have during the bon-fire. We are asking each student to bring their favorite snack (enough to share with everyone) and/or a 2 liter soft drink. ☐ yes, bring your friends, a sleeping bag, warm clothes, and ummm your **BIBLE!!!**

Lines for the *Case of the Mysterious Benefactor* must be **completely** memorized by this Sunday, October 14th. We will perform the dinner theater on November 10th. More details to come regarding ticket prices, menu, etc.

The dinner theater is set in the 1940s. If anyone has any costumes or props that may fit the setting and you would not mind the youth borrowing them, please let me know ASAP.

...fewleftstanding... will meet from 5-7pm on Sundays until further notice.

Be looking for information regarding this January's trip to Gatlinburg.

LoOkInG aHeAd: **October 19** ...fewleftstanding... Lock-In

October 21 *Springs*

November 10 *The Case of the Mysterious Benefactor*

Remember to keep it holy!

Jennifer

Picture Directory

If you were not able to have a portrait made during the scheduled photography dates, you can still be included in the pictorial directory. Please bring us a picture of your family (no larger than a 4x6). If you submit a professional photograph, you must obtain a copyright release from the original photographer. Deadline for getting a picture in the directory is October 21, 2007.

We will be doing activity pages also. If you have snapshots of church events you'd like to share, please drop them off at the church. Thanks for your help.

Memorials & Honorariums

Nehemiah Building Fund

In Memory of A. J. Walker (Kirk's grandson-in-law)

by Betty Scott

Ed & Demetra Perkins

In Memory of Connie Bartmess (Charro Keenan's mother)

by Betty Scott

In Memory of Quinn Pinson (Jo's brother-in-law)

by Betty Scott

Joe & Linda Hearn

In Honor of Kathy Hollomon, Jen Nolen, Demetra Perkins, Amy Hall, Peggy Perritt, Antoniette Bowden, Gail Robb and all breast cancer victims and survivors

by Lynda Lankford

Attendance and Giving Report

September 30, 2007

Total Attendance-141

General Fund Offering -

\$ 3,970.87

Nehemiah Building Fund -

320.00

Sanctuary Fund -

40.00

TOTAL

\$ 4,330.87

October 7, 2007

Total Attendance -218

General Fund Offering -

\$ 5,048.48

Nehemiah Building Fund -

40.00

Paving Fund -

220.00

Missionaries -

150.00

TOTAL -

\$ 5,458.48

(General Fund Amount Needed Weekly - \$5,182)

Loaves and Fishes

We will participate in the Loaves and Fishes Program to help to alleviate world hunger. (This program was formally called the Love Loaf Program.) We will provide Loaves and Fishes banks to the congregation on Sunday, October 14 and ask everyone to return their banks on Sunday, November 25 as a Thanksgiving offering. 50% of the offering will be used in Darfar by World Vision; 25% of the offering will be used by the denomination's Board of Missions Hunger Fund; 25% will be retained by our congregation for community hunger needs.

Thank You Notes

We are so grateful for your visits, cards, e-mails and other expressions of sympathy in the passing of our beloved "Uncle John." As always we are so blessed to be members of a church family who enriched John's life with your visits and many acts of kindness during the years he resided at McKenzie Health Care Center. Cindy & Gene Owen
Scott, Kevin & Woody Arnold & families

WOW

WOW stands for Worship on Wednesday. At 5:30 pm a light meal is served by an elder team. The team consists of two elders and their shepherd groups. (If you haven't been called upon by your elder and would like to participate, please let us know.) Donations are taken for the meal.

Classes beginning at 6:10 pm are available for all ages, as well as a nursery for infants and toddlers. *What Cumberland Presbyterians Believe*, an adult class taught by Amanda Boaz meets in the Worship and Family Life Center. Another adult study group will be facilitated by Tom & Debby Aljancic. They have a different topic each week. They use devotionals by Charles Stanley and Adrian Rogers. They meet in the Class Friendly Sunday School Room.

The children will be using Bible study material from Faithweavers which continues to emphasize the scripture and story from Sunday School through music, games, crafts, etc.

Many thanks to Team 5 with Elders McKinnie and Smith for the sub sandwiches and to Team 6 with Elders Bradberry and Surber for the vegetables soup and sandwiches.

Oct. 17 - PIZZA NIGHT

Oct. 24 - Team 1 with Elders Linda Meek and Tommy Patterson and team members: T. & M. Bobo; D. Blount; M. Finley; Hearn; Howells; F. Jensen; Keenans; K. Kelleys; Kirks; L. Lewis; R. Morris; Olsons; Peters; J. & C. Stambaugh; Turners; Warmans; Washburns; Lynn Watkins

Oct. 31 - Team 3 - Elders Jean Garrett & Joe Hames with team members: C. Arnold; C. Blounts; A. Browns; Carrolls; Claytors; G. Coleman; G. Corbin; A. Cross; J. Davis; Tamara Nanney; H. Garretts; L. McNeil; Pates; P. Ridley; L. Ridley; B. & C. Rutledge; Stevens; Waddles; D. Ward; Webbs

Nov. 7 - Team 2 - Elders Tim Nanney and Mark Warren with team members: Austins; Belongs; Burkes; Rex Browns; D. Ervins; J. Fortner; Hills, Kemps; P. & S. Long; Lunns; Nienabers; Nolens; Powells; J. & L. Stambaugh; C. & J. Toombs; Ken Weatherford; Whitlows; J. Wilkinson

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church McKenzie met at the church for the fall organizational meeting with seventeen members present. The tables were gaily decorated for the autumn season. Our good cooks had an array of tasty dishes to sample for shared supper.

Following the meal a short business meeting was held. This year's president Marlene Kreuter emphasized that all women of the church are placed on a circle list. This is to facilitate the preparing of a meal in the case of a funeral or hospitalization of our church members, something that can occur to any of us. If any woman should wish to attend a circle meeting other than the one she is assigned she should feel free to do so. Meetings will be held the first Monday of each month with the Women's Ministry meeting the months of August, October, February and May. Circle meetings can be as traditional or informal as the group desires. As stated in our handbook "it is our hope that every woman in the church will make an effort to participate in some of the scheduled activities. We know from experience that the fellowship and Christian friendships are worth the effort."

Our first fundraiser will be the casserole and bake sale to be held in November. The Jubilee Circle will oversee the bake sale, Glory Be's will be responsible for publicity and ticket selling, and Sharing Sisters will assemble the casseroles. Some of the proceeds from this project will go for paying our Women's Ministry dues. Anyone who wishes may still contribute the yearly amount of \$15.00 (or more). Other projects will include Mother and Father's Day gifts to the Ministry and the popular dinner theater production.

We closed by the joining of hands and singing *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*. Respectfully submitted, Linda Kelly, Secretary

Casserole Sale & Bake Sale

Women's Ministry will have a Turkey and Dressing Casserole Sale & Bake Sale as their Fall Fund-Raiser. The casseroles will be available for pick-up on Saturday, **November 17** from noon until 2 pm. You must order your casseroles in advance. Tickets are \$15 and will be available from Women's Ministry ladies until **November 11**. The Women's Ministry will also sponsor a **Bake Sale** on the same day **November 17 from 10 am to 2 pm**.

Ladies, please plan to bake cakes, cookies, pies, bread and candy and have it at the church by 9:30 am on the 17th. Thanks for your help in making this Fall Fund-Raiser a success.

Seekers

Seekers, mark your calendars for Thursday, Nov. 1. A trip to the Tennessee Safari Park near Alamo, TN is being planned for that day. At the park, there are over 300 animals representing 63 different species, including zebras, monkeys, camel, giraffe, deer and kangaroo. The church van can take a drive thru tour so you can feed, pet and photograph the animals. The cost is \$10 per person. We will leave the church at 10:30 and have lunch in Humboldt on the way to the park. To be sure there is a seat on the van for you, call the church office.

Leaderfest '07

Jackson Cumberland Presbyterian Church

November 11, 2007

Registration 2:30 pm - Workshops 3-6 pm

\$5.00 per person

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING

*Elder Linda Meek gave devotional and opening prayer

*Financial Report showed \$22,273.70 Receipts for September; \$18,713.72 Expenses for September; Year-to-date Receipts \$179,324.79 and Year-to-date Expenses \$203,989.04

*Approved a retreat for children in 4th - 6th grades with Covenant Presbytery at Jonathan Creek Campground Nov. 2-4.

*Approved Bethel Nursing Pinning Ceremony in FLC on Dec. 8

*Prayed for members/friends/relatives

*Heard West Tennessee Presbytery Report by Jean Garrett

*Heard report by Nomination Committee

*WORKDAY at the church - October 27

*The Halloween Party will be Wednesday, October 31 at the Pavilion.

*Stewardship Meeting will be Oct. 22 (6:30pm) for Elder Shepherd groups: Bradberry, Garrett, Johnson, Meek, Nanney and Scott. Stewardship Meeting will be Oct. 23 (6:30 pm) for Elder Shepherd groups: Hames, McKinnie, Patterson, Smith, Surber, and Warren.

*Power-point Budget Presentation will take place both nights. Nursery provided.

*Worship Committee announced Christmas Committee Co-Chairpersons Lenore Surber and Glynda Corbin

LOOKING AHEAD

Oct. 17 - 5:30 pm - WOW PIZZA
Oct. 19-20 - 9 pm - 9 am - fewleftstanding Lock-In
Oct. 19-20 - Bethel Homecoming Weekend.
Oct. 21 - 4 pm - Springs (Grades 3-6)
Oct. 22- 6:30 pm - Congregational Stewardship Meetings
Oct. 23-6:30 pm - Congregational Stewardship Meetings
Oct. 24 - 5:30 pm - WOW Team 1 (Meek Patterson)
Oct. 27 - WORKDAY at the church
Oct. 28 - MHS Football Team will worship with us
Oct. 31 - 5:30 pm - WOW Team 3 (Garrett/Hames)
Halloween Party (Team 2 & 3 have swapped)
Nov. 2-4 - Junior High Retreat @ CCW
Covenant Presbytery Junior Retreat
Nov. 4-Bridal Tea-Amy Jackson(Mark Smith's finance)
Nov. 7 - 5:30 pm - WOW -Team 2 (Nanney/Warren)
Nov. 10 - Youth Dinner Theatre
Nov. 11 - Leaderfest '07 at Jackson C.P.Church
Nov. 14 - 5:30 pm - Team 4 (Johnson)
Nov. 16-18 - Senior High Retreat @ CCW
Nov. 18 - 6 pm - Community Thanksgiving Service
Nov. 21 - NO WOW - Thanksgiving B reak
Nov. 28 - 5:30 pm - Team 5 (McKinnie & Smith)
Dec. 5 - 5:30 pm - Team 6 (Bradberry/Surber)
Dec. 9 - Bethel College Commencement

Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church

REVIVAL

October 21- 23

Peter Jeffrey - Evangelist
Services - 7 pm Nightly

Remember in Your Prayers

Jen Nolen; June Nanney; Amy Hall; Mike Smith; Dusty Locke family-moving to Florida; Porter Dunlap; Brian Harris; J. T. Arnold; Philip Austin, Jr.; Cynthia Cooper; Laila McDade (Lori & Eric's premature baby)

McKenzie Health Care Center: Jo Pinson; Christine Pinson; Jessie Killebrew; Ranny Brogdon; Louise Mebane; Frances Ridley; Bonnie Bayless (Clara Weatherford's grandmother, Susan Bouldin's mother); Kenneth Mebane

Those confined to home, retirement & nursing homes:

J C True; Faye Headden (Oak Manor); Roy Travillian (Lynda Lankford's father); Katherine Thompson; Marie Bobo; Berneal McKennie; Mary Margaret Williams; William & Evora Bryant; Kathryn Gazley; Christine Fitzgerald (Tom Smith's aunt); Evelyn Buck; Joyce Lovelace

Those with long-term illnesses & undergoing treatments, therapy:

Kathy Hollomon (Jackson Hospital ICU); Carla Waddle; Crystal Plentovich; Elaine Butler; Belinda Popplewell; Neal Giles; Trinity Bright; Sandra Mattox; Debbie Sanders; Barbara Elinor; Tom Swindle; Joyce McDaniel; Terry Fauth; Ryan Kirk; Tim Hacker; David Stamp; Shelba McCaslin; Rhonda Powell; Lois Sheick; Paul Fauth

MILITARY: Jon Erik Gam (Julia Hinton's nephew); Joey Smiley; Howard Spires; Justin Townsend; Keith Stanley Jr. (Linda McClure's nephew); Mark Boaz; Rosendo Pena; and all military

OTHERS: Colombia, South America churches; our church; the Session and committees, our nation's leaders, missionaries

E-Mail Addresses

If you prefer to read our newsletter online go to <http://www.mckenziecpc.org/newsletter/>. If you give us your e-mail address, we will send a notice each time our newsletter is published (twice monthly).

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Church Office -(731) 352-2440; Information Line - 352-2440-Voice Mail; Fax- (731) 352-3101; E-Mail: church@mckenziecpc.org
Zia McKennie-Organist; Dr. Alan Cross-Choir Director; Music-Peter Jeffrey, Diann Olson
Jennifer Wilkinson-Youth/Children's Coordinator; June Perritt-Sec.

Office Hours - Monday-Friday - 8am-4pm

Contemporary Worship Service - 9 am; Sunday School - 10:10 am; Traditional Worship - 11 am

Sunday Evening - Children's Choir and Youth Fellowship

Prayer and Bible Study Groups - Sundays and Wednesdays

School of Discovery-Tuesday/Thursday 8:30am-1:30 pm

WOW - Worship on Wednesday 5:30 pm-Classes for all ages

"A Family of Faith with Open Minds and Loving Hearts"