

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

McKenzie, Tennessee

NEWSLETTER

December 31, 2008



From the Pastor's Desk

A Joyful New Beginning

The beginning of a new year is always a period of renewal and refreshment. During the holidays I hope you have had that opportunity to reflect on 2008 and give thanks to God for his mercy. For some bad things have come your way in 2008 in the experience of job loss, financial loss, and home loss. Some of you have experienced illness, family difficulties, and personal loss of family or friends through death. Some of you have experienced joy in the birth of children and grandchildren, in marriage, a new job or a new home. Through all these experiences, God is your refuge. 2008—is soon behind us and we can welcome 2009—fresh, clean and full of promise.

Even as Israel is in captivity in a foreign land, the prophet Jeremiah writes of a new beginning—a day when God will restore and renew his people, giving them a fresh start. Despite what has gone before—the nation's sin and rebellion, their lack of faith and vision—God will bring them home and establish a new covenant with them. It will be a joyful new beginning.

Could you use a joyful new beginning in your life right now? Just as God gave Israel a new beginning, God is willing to give you one as well. That is Good News! A new beginning with God in Christ Jesus is a new covenant and new beginning. You can begin today, by seeking God's forgiveness and grace and welcome him in your heart.

Happy New Year! See you all Sunday!

—Bro. Tony

Thank You to the Christmas Committee

Many thanks to Jill Renfro and everyone who helped get ready for the Advent season. David & Anne Lewis helped get all the decorations—trees, garland, wreaths in place. Jennifer Hayes rehearsed with the children and Amanda Boaz with the “Lil Angels” for weeks in preparation for *A Lamb's Tale*, which was a wonderful blessing to everyone who attended. The children sang beautifully and their acting skills were amazing. We certainly have a talented group of dedicated children. The Chancel Choir presentation on the 21st brought lots of visitors to the 11 am worship service. It was an inspiring service of carols and scripture. Thanks to everyone who prepared breakfast for the choir on Saturday morning before their rehearsal.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Class Friendly is studying the Encounter Sunday School literature. The theme for this quarter is Human Commitment. The writer is Kip Rush, pastor of the Brenthaven Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Kip is also the son-in-law of Joe & Linda Hearn. January 4 begins *Old Testament People of Commitment*.

The Fellowship Sunday School class has rotating teachers who use the *The Present Word* and David C. Cook Bible literature.

For months the Revelation Sunday School Class has been studying the book *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur. In January we will finish this study and begin to study McArthur's sequel entitled *Twelve Extraordinary Women*. We have learned much about the men who became Jesus' twelve apostles. In the sequel we will study twelve women randomly chosen from the Old and New Testaments.

Why were the men ordinary and the women extraordinary? Actually both were ordinary when chosen. It was only by Christ's work in their lives that they were able to accomplish the extraordinary.

If you are presently not attending a Sunday School class we would love to have you join us in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings.

New Sunday School Study

“It is not enough to defend the faith if we have not been transformed by the faith we defend.”....so begins the inside cover of *Beyond Opinion, Living the Faith We Defend* by Ravi Zacharias and team. We will be using this book for study beginning January 11th on Sunday mornings in the Reception Room. Come join us during the Sunday school hour and be challenged! *Beyond Opinion* addresses topics that shape the very future of worldwide Christianity - from the process of spiritual transformation to the challenges posed by militant atheism and resurgent Islam. It presses the reader to go beyond mere understanding and consider three responsibilities: To wrestle honestly with every question; to internalize the answers; to live out those answers before a watching world. More than a book of apologetics, *Beyond Opinion* will equip you intellectually, spiritually, and relationally “to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Hope to see you there!

Christmas Cards

There are LOTS of Christmas Cards in the Christmas Tree and Bell Card Exchange Holders in the hallway. Please check to see if you have cards.

Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

from

Ron, Julia & Christopher Hinton

Donna Ward

Blondell and Lowell Young

They have given gifts to the Sanctuary Fund in lieu of giving Christmas cards.

WOW

WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) will resume on **January 21**. We will begin at 5:30 pm with a Soup, cheese toast and dessert for a donation. A nursery is provided for the infants through 3 year olds. There will be classes for all ages. One of the adult classes is "Fireproof" facilitated by Tim & Carol Nanney. Rev. Janner will continue his study of the gospel of Mark.

Fireproof - Class

A new class will be offered in January when WOW (Worship on Wednesday) gets underway. The movie, *Fireproof* is about a married couple who are facing difficulties and problems. The class will use segments of the movie and a study-guide book for marriage enrichment. Books are available (\$9 each) in the church office. Tim & Carol Nanney have agreed to facilitate this class.

2009 Offering Envelopes

The 2009 Offering Envelopes are on a table at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to have a set of offering envelopes for 2009 and there aren't any envelopes with your name, call the church office and we will provide a set for you.

Thank You Notes

Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers, visits, cards and food provided for to us during my grandmother's death. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a loving and supportive group. Words cannot express our gratitude to you all.

In love,

**Hunter, Heather & Hayden Garrett
Kyle, Kim, Clint and Corey Manns**

OUR PEOPLE

Congratulations to Brian Taylor and Jennifer McDougald who were married December 30 at the church in a private ceremony.

Springs

We are having a Student/Parent Potluck this Sunday, January 4 at 4pm. Bring your favorite dish. Drinks will be provided.

Stay tuned for information about children's choir resuming.

...Fewleftstanding...

The t-shirts are in! You will not be given your shirt unless it has been paid for. Children's sizes through adult XL are \$15; 2XL shirts are \$16. Please make your checks out to "MCPC Youth" and can be given to me or taken to the church office. Also, if you did not order a shirt but want one, I will gladly make another order providing we have at least 36 sign-up. Thanks for your support!

Convocation money and registration has been turned in! Thanks to all parents and chaperones who attended our meeting. If you have any further questions/comments/concerns, feel free to call me. Just a reminder, if you made a payment plan for Convocation, it must be paid in full by January 16 or your student will not be allowed to attend and you are still responsible for paying back the youth fund.

We are having a Student/Parent Potluck this Sunday, January 4 at 4pm. Bring your favorite dish. Drinks will be provided.

Mark your calendars for February 6! The youth, along with the church's Relay for Life team, will be hosting a Valentine's Banquet. More details to come!

LoOkInG aHeAd:	January 4	Student/Parent Potluck
	January 16	Convocation Pay Plans Due
	January 16-19	Convocation in Gatlinburg
	February 6	Valentine's Banquet

Be blessed! Jennifer

Thank you to everyone who has given Marcus and I Christmas cards and gifts! They are very much appreciated. Thank you again to everyone who gave towards my staff gift. It was very generous and definitely helped to bring a little more joy during the holiday season.

Attendance and Giving Report

<u>Dec. 21, 2008</u>	Total Attendance -229
General Fund Offering -	\$5,202.28
Sanctuary Fund -	1,755.00
Gift to the King -	353.02
TOTAL -	\$7,310.30
<u>Dec. 28, 2008</u>	Total Attendance - 187
General Fund Offering -	\$3,135.00
Sanctuary Fund -	60.00
Gift to the King -	55.62
TOTAL -	\$3,250.62

(General Fund Amount Needed Weekly - \$5,680)

Memorials & Honorariums Sanctuary Fund

In Memory of Durell Muffett

by Jean Garrett

In Memory of Kenneth Coleman

by Jean Garrett

In Honor of the Senior High youth

by Jean Garrett

In Honor of Jennifer Hayes & the cast of A Lamb's Tale

by Jean Garrett

January Calendar

Women's Ministry

Sharing Sisters will meet at the home of Katrina Holancin for a potluck supper on Tuesday, January 6 at 6 pm, Martha Sue Peters will be the program leader.

Jubilee Circle will meet at the home of Donna Ward on Monday, January 12 at 7 pm.

Glory Be Circle will meet NOT meet this month.

Acolytes

Emma Renfro - 352-4908
Bridget Bradberry - 352-0044
Supervisor - Sarah Bradberry

Ushers

9 am Service

Tommy Surber - Chairperson
Kelly Weatherford - Co-Chairperson
Kerry Warman
Randy Thomas

11 am Service

J. T. Lindsey - Chairperson
Mark Thompson - Co-Chairperson
Tom Smith
Linda Meek

Nursery Helpers

4 - Jill Warren- B	352-5374
Carol Hill- T	352-0891
Melanie Burke	415-2238
11- Gretchen Whitlow - B	352-4617
Linda Meek- T	352-2344
Carol Belong	352-6350
18- Clara Weatherford – B	352-0515
Linda Smith- T	352-5369
Stacie Warman	393-0177
25- Letha Basford- B	352-5670
Martha Peters-T	352-5997

Attention Elders

A retreat is being planned for Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24 at the church for all the elders now serving on the session. On Friday night, Rev. William Jones will lead "Touch the Future", a discernment process for our session to gain knowledge and spiritual guidance for the future of our church. On Saturday, Rev. Janner will lead in planning, training and discussion. All the elders are encouraged to attend.

On Sunday, January 4 at 10:10 am there will be called session meeting in the Library.

Relay for Life Church Team

The UGLY HAT contest will start in January. Start collecting your pennies now so you can vote.

We are planning a competition among the married folk. Stay tuned for more details.

We are planning a Valentine's Dinner along with the youth of the church for a fund-raiser on **Feb. 6**. Mark your calendars!

Our next team meeting will be Tuesday, January 6 at 7 pm.

January Birthdays

1 - Jo Pinson
4 - Bonnie Baxter
Brady Blount
5 - Lauren Perritt
6 - Jonathan Lankford
Lorey Basford
Kirk Nienaber
10 - Johnna Toombs
Jennifer Lankford Cole
11 - Linda Hearn
12 - Robye Lindsey
Elizabeth Lewis
16 - Douglas Pate
Kate Cummings
Gracie Blount
17 - Byron Pate
Carly Varallo
18 - Janet Baumgardner
Sarah Bradberry
Levi Hamilton
19 - Jeanie Chamberlain
Kimberly Burke
20 - Melanie Burke
21 - Nathan Nanney
22 - Melissa Smith
Lindsey Damesworth
24 - Liz Stambaugh
26 - Joel Washburn
27 - Joe Walker, Jr.
Bridget Bradberry
Emilie Varallo
28 - Mark Smith
30 - Spencer Ervin
31 - Lute Foster
Cynthia Nienaber

Anniversaries

1 - Lee and Amy Smiley
3 - Eric & Kristi Corbin

(Please call the church office if we have accidentally left off your birthday or anniversary, or if any dates are wrong. Thanks for you help.)

Baby Shower

Everyone is invited

to a

Baby Shower Brunch

in honor of

Melissa Herris

on Saturday, January 31, 2008

at 10 am

in the Reception Room at the Church

(Keith & Melissa are having another baby girl to join big sister, Noelle!)

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 4 - 10:10 am - Called Session Meeting
Jan. 6 - 7 pm - Relay for Life Meeting (Conference Room)
Jan. 6 - 6 pm - Sharing Sisters Circle Meeting
Jan. 12 - 7 pm - Jubilee Circle Meeting
Jan. 14 - 7 pm - Session Meeting
Jan. 16-19 - Convocation in Gatlinburg
Jan. 21 - 5:30 pm - WOW Kickoff
Jan. 23-24 - Elders Retreat Weekend - Planning
Jan. 31 - 10 am - Baby Shower Brunch for Melissa Herris
Feb. 1 - Denominational Day
"Souper" Bowl Sunday
Feb. 6 - Valentine's Banquet
Feb. 21 - Cumberland Presbyterian Miniversities - Here
Feb. 25 - Ash Wednesday - Beginning of Lent

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

Remember in Your Prayers

Brady Blount; Kim Manns; Dee Ann Barnes; Cory Roberts; Pat Langdon (foot surgery); Rev. Michael Wilkinson; Josiah Jeffrey Bridges (Bob & Lunette Hines' grandson); DeVere Ramsay; Mary Sue Neisler; Barbara Grimes; Gail Jones; Betty Potts (Cheriadeth Rutledge's sister); Anita Bringe; Joe Sasser

Prayer Concerns (Continued)

McKenzie Health Care Center: Jessie Killebrew; Jo Pinson; Christine Pinson; Rommie Mosley; Louise Mebane; Kenneth Mebane; Jewell Warren

Those confined to home, retirement & nursing homes:
Faye Headden (Oak Manor); Mary Margaret Williams (Morningside in Paris); Roy Travillian (Lynda Lankford's father); James Hickerson; Louise Martin (Paula Watkins' aunt); Charles McCalla (Robye Lindsey's brother); Blanche McCord; Marie Holmes (Mary Ann Janner's mother); Marie Bobo; Kathryn Gazley; Joyce Lovelace; Pauline Toney (Jill Renfro's grandmother)

Those with long-term illnesses & undergoing treatments, therapy: Susie Motheral; Carla Waddle; Jen Nolen; Frances Jensen; Craig Willis; Mary Anderson (Melissa Herris' mother); Dorothy Higdon (Corinne Arnold's mother); Billy Jack Smith; Jimmy & Ginger Taylor; Wayne Tedford; Frank Beecham; Austin Lowery; Diane Massey; Bill Edwards; Amy Hall; Carol Barker; Dot Neisler; Amelia Ruth; William Espey; Jimmy Lewis (Linda Meek's uncle); Neal Giles; Barbara Elinor; Joyce McDaniel; Terry Fauth; Rhonda Powell

MILITARY: Howard Spires is Home; Kellet Hochrieter; Tommy Baker; Buddy McClain; Sam Zasadny; Ronnie Combs (Mark & Sue Thompson's grandson); John Black (Mary Jane Martin's grandson); Brooke Cole; Mark Bowlin; Matthew Bowlin; Keith Stanley Jr; Joey Smiley; Mark Boaz; Rosendo Pena; and all military

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Rev. Dr. R. Tony Janner, Pastor Phone-352-9566 Cell 225-8055
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; Praise Choir Leaders-Peter Jeffrey, Diann Olson
Jennifer Hayes-Youth/Children's Coordinator; June Perritt-Sec.
Office Hours - Monday-Friday - 8am-Noon & 1-4pm
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 - Sunday evenings & Wednesday mornings & evenings
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"