

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

January 11, 2012

Nourished by Grace

In preparation for the Baptism of the Lord Sunday I read much about water, from its composition in the human body to its expanse around the globe; its soothing power and destructive force. I was reminded too that humans can live longer without food than without water, preparing me to better understand the anguish of Jesus, when on the cross thirst overwhelmed him.

However, the more prevailing theme in my twelve days of Christmas was food. Yes, I never lacked for it and had a surfeit of gatherings that featured it. That I am well fed is not what was distinct. Too, I once again found particular meaning in the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, and further experienced that in the fellowship hall or at the chancel rail eating together is a holy act within the covenant community. That is not new either. Rather, I was a character in several instances where food shaped the moment in meaningful ways.

Let me share three. I received a call from someone I have known for over 25 years asking me to give him a ride to an emergency food box distribution point. I did, and in his box was a large frozen turkey (think Thanksgiving). Living without the means to cook it, he asked me if I would cook it for him; I said yes. Before it had time to thaw, he called to say he and his wife were so hungry he was coming for the turkey. I tried to assure him I would cook it soon and get it to him, but while I was away from home he showed up at the house and reclaimed his turkey (one of my sons was home). I offer this anecdote as a bit of a confession; for though I first thought it humorous to be in that situation I truly regret not having prepared that turkey for two hungry souls. In my affluence I missed the urgency.

I received a call from a woman whom I have also known for many years; another I have helped as able. She needed gifts for her children at Christmas and gas in her car to take the middle child to a doctor. We met at a gas station and after helping her out with her requests, she gave me a couple of power bars. It seemed odd to accept any gift and I tried to decline, but it became clear that this was a matter of dignity, and this is what she had to offer.

Riding a crowded city bus one evening, a gentleman stepped aboard wearing more clothes than the weather necessitated, carrying a large plastic bag of stuff, and a backpack. He looked like life had taken quite a toll on him; in fact, it crossed my mind that he might be one of Nashville's homeless community. To my surprise he pulled a big cardboard box with a large pepperoni pizza in it out of the plastic bag and shouted out "Who wants pizza?" He went on to tell everyone that he stops by a pizza place each evening where the manager gives him free pizza and today he had given him two large ones. That pizza was eagerly received and joyfully shared.

We are in the season of the year when our scripture readings focus on the ways we recognize Jesus as the incarnate presence of God, and more broadly how we discern God in our midst. Food sustains and binds, it reveals and reflects. Through individuals known and unknown, folks on the margin of my life, I feel that God and God's economy were made manifest. A turkey, power bars, and a pizza opened my eyes to important spiritual truths, and nourished me with grace. Our days are full of missed opportunities to help another, I wish I had sped up the preparation of that turkey; our days are full of opportunities to receive as graciously as we offer (even a widow's mite), I am glad I did not refuse those power bars; and our days are full of opportunities to join the banquet that is spread before us; I am glad I was there when the pizza was passed around on the # 6 bus.

Peter van Eys

Missions

Up on the Roof

Rooftops Fundraiser 2012

Rooftop is a nonprofit agency, providing rental assistance to those in need in Davidson County. Criewood is one of the many churches that have come together to support Rooftop. When a person comes to Criewood looking for assistance we can refer them to Rooftop. Rooftop partners with Metro Social Services, which provides an assessment and then links the client with services all over Nashville. Rooftop enables us to be good stewards of our resources and provides hope to those in need.

Now Rooftop is asking us to partner with them in another way. They are having their second annual **“Up on the Roof”** silent auction fundraiser on Thursday, January 26, at the Terrazzo’s Penthouse from 6:30-8:30 pm. **They have asked our congregation to provide a basket for the silent auction.** Our theme is “A Backyard Party.” You may help by making a cash donation that will be used to purchase items for the basket. The basket can contain items such as decorations, outdoor lights, table cloth, cookbook, gift certificates to restaurants that cater backyard games, beverage bucket, bottle opener, etc. We will be accepting donations through Sunday, January 22. Donations may be left in the church office or given to Jennifer Bizwell or Blake Leyers.

Everyone is invited to the fund raiser. If you are interested in attending to bid on our basket or learn more about Rooftop, please go to their website at www.rooftopnashville.org to order tickets.

Criewood Outreach Committee

Wednesday Night

Wednesday nights will resume again on January 11 with a month filled with trivia games for all ages. Mark your calendar, prep your brain, and come ready to play. David van Eys and Steph Dodge will lead the games.

All choirs, Gathering, Preschool, Children’s, and Chancel, will have regular practice on Wednesday nights starting January 11. Youth Choir will begin on Sunday, January 15.

WNF Menus

Wednesday, January 11— Donna’s lasagna, mixed green salad with fruit, French bread, and ice cream

Wednesday, January 18— Potato bar, salad bar, and dessert

Wednesday, January 25—Baked tilapia served over fresh vegetables, mashed potatoes, salad, and dessert

Prayer Shawl Ministry

There will be a meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry on Sunday, January 22, at 4:00 p.m. Anyone who has an interest in knitting or crocheting a shawl for those who need healing or anyone who would like to support this mission is welcome to attend.

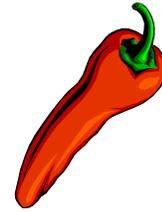
5th Sunday Family Life Activity

CHILI COOK-OFF

January 29th, 5:00 p.m.

You are invited to Crievewood's First Annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the New Journeys Sunday School Class. Bring a pot of chili, and potentially win the prize for "Best Chili at Crievewood!"

New Journeys will provide the cornbread, crackers, and other items to go with your chili. Not a chili chef? Bring your appetite and a friend for fellowship--- guaranteed to warm your heart and your belly. Fun for all ages!



JOY Club

January 26, 2012, 9:30 am

Members will travel to Oakland's in Murfreesboro where there is an historic house, museum, and gift Shop. There will be a staff led tour of home which is preceded by a fifteen minute video . Lunch will be at Demo's and cost \$5 per person if we have a group of ten or more. Please bring \$2 for the van and your lunch money. To join us for a great trip, make your reservations by January 22 by contacting Nancy Rosdeutscher.

February meeting on March 1, 2012

(Time to be determined closer to date)

Joy Club will travel to Belmont United Methodist Church and join their Senior group led by Jim Strickland.

BRING YOUR OWN SACK LUNCH. This will be great fun. Belmont will provide drink and dessert.

Bring \$2 for the van ride. Time is yet to be established. Please make reservations by February 26, 2012.

Youth

Super Bowl Subs!

Please support our youth as they prepare for Mountain TOP and Bahamas Habitat missions this year! We are offering 12" subs for Super Bowl. Place your order now, and pick up your sub in the Fellowship Hall on Super Bowl Sunday (2/5) immediately following the traditional worship—it's that simple. No set fee, but donations are accepted!

Please return form by Sunday, 1/28 to church office or Stephanie. **ONE SANDWICH PER FORM, PLEASE! Forms are available in the narthex.**



Valentines Dinner

An Evening of Dinner and Entertainment

February 11, 6:30 p.m.

Please make plans to attend this year's Valentine's Banquet. The youth will be serving dinner and providing entertainment as we raise money for youth missions. Reservations are required as space is limited. Please RSVP by contacting Steph at the church or by email at steph@crievewoodumc.org by February 5, 2011.

Youth Continued

Warmth in Winter

The annual TN conference gathering of youth will be on January 27-29th, 2012, at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. This year's theme is "Think Big: Dare to live life exceedingly, abundantly, beyond," and it comes from Ephesians 3:20. As always there will be a speaker, great music, and some crazy dances thrown in. The cost is \$70/person. Please turn in your money as soon as possible.

Save the Date!

Save the date and save your stuff. The youth will be having the yard sale again on April 21st. All proceeds will benefit youth missions.

Children's Corner

Heart Project

Our Children's Council believes it is important for our children to build relationships with ALL of our Crieve-wood family, and since February is the month of love...

It is time again for the **Heart Project**—but with a twist! This project originated to allow regular attendees at Crieve-wood to get to know each other better. Traditionally, an adult has chosen the name of a child and prayed for him/her, sent cards and treats, etc. This year, we would like to see these relationships go both ways.

Participants will be given the name of a family/individual to make contact with during the month of February—and beyond if you choose. The twist: BOTH parties (families or Individuals) will have the contact info and can love on each other with cards, phone calls, visits, hugs...whatever works for you. Our goal is to match families and individuals who may not know each other well just yet.

If you or your family would like to participate, please contact Kelly Marks at kmariemarks@comcast.net by **January 22** or call **Leigh Ann at the church office at 832-2897** to get your name on the list. Details and information will be distributed on January 29th following both worship services. You could even plan to sit with your new friend(s) at the chili cook-off that evening!!



District Training

Do you have a question about what you are supposed to do as a newly appointed committee member? Or maybe you're a veteran member with some questions as to how other churches handle certain problems. Get some answers at District Training held Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 p.m. at Brentwood UMC. Check the church bulletin board for the classes being offered.

Thank You

Dear Criewood Members,

I so very much appreciate all the cards, calls, and prayers during my father's recent passing. I am blessed by your thoughtfulness. Having a church family is so important especially in these times. Thank you again for thinking of me and our family.

*Love,
Chris Carter*

Dear Criewood,

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia. It has lasted longer than any I ever had. Everything in the fruit basket was delicious. I appreciate all of the gifts from the church family. It's really nice to be remembered at Christmas time.

*Sincerely yours,
June Birdsong*