

Pastor's Pen

Special People, Giddiness, and Ministry News

It was a distinct joy yesterday to celebrate the ministry Sheryl Roos has offered as a staff member in charge of our nursery. It could not have been a more fitting day liturgically as we reflected upon the baptism of Jesus, as recorded in Mark, and reaffirmed the baptismal covenant. Sheryl is a great example of one who has taken seriously the vow to nurture our children in the faith by sharing her gifts within this faith community.

Sheryl was a volunteer nursery worker for many years, so when the congregation decided in 2006 to create a paid nursery staff position, her commitment and passion for this ministry made her an obvious choice. Coming full circle, though Sheryl has retired from the staff position she remains a nursery volunteer; thankfully. We truly are indebted to Sheryl for her love and nurture of our children. Thank you, Sheryl.

So, let me cover a few things about life at Crievewood. The building renovation and construction project is on track to be complete by the end of February, except for the paving of the parking lot. You can begin to water seeds of giddiness, but prudence and experience suggest an "I'll believe it when I see it (or flush it as the case may be) approach". Nevertheless, I am going to go out on a limb and say it will be finished in 2015, and since it is 2015 let your paced giddiness grow.

There are other staff changes underway. A new Child Care Center Director has been hired; I will let you read the rest of the newsletter to see whom we have hired and use this column to express my appreciation for Leigh Ann Cate's work as the interim director. We could not have had a more able person guide us through these transition months, indeed I call to mind the verse from Esther "for just such a time as this" (4:14). Thank you, Leigh Ann.

Cathy Williams is retiring as our organist, though she will continue to offer her gift to us in a number Sunday morning worship services. Caleb Dinger will assume the duty of accompanying the Chancel Choir as well as the Gathering Service vocal and instrumental ensemble. I will say more about Cathy and her ministry among us at a later date, but one can never express gratitude too often. Thank, you Cathy.

Our new Administrative Council held its first meeting and approved a 2015 Operating Budget of \$462,000. We had some good news/bad news in the financial picture of the past year. The good news is that through two-thirds of the Capital Campaign pledge period we have received over two-thirds of the committed amount. Moreover, we collected 102.3% of our 2014 Operating budget. The bad news is that we only managed to pay 78.8% of our Conference Apportionments.

Because it really is our desire (even in our congregational DNA) to pay 100% of our apportionments and there is much positive about our financial health, we applied for and received a grant to further develop our stewardship. Here is the official statement:

It is my pleasure to announce that the Crievewood United Methodist Church has been awarded a stewardship grant of \$1000 from the United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences. To qualify for the grant, Crievewood has begun the process of creating and implementing a comprehensive stewardship program. Building on past practices, the church will implement new ways of telling the exciting story of God's work at Crievewood UMC and encouraging that work's financial support. In this way Crievewood will continue to be in mission to the local community, Middle Tennessee and across the world. I look forward to working with Dr. van Eys,

Blake Leyers, Adele White and the stewardship team. In Christ,

Philip D. Jamieson

*President of the United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and
Tennessee Annual Conferences*

I am eager to begin the action steps outlined in our grant proposal and am convinced this will bring fresh energy to our funding of ministry while building upon an already strong financial position.

Finally, I ask you to watch for two surveys that will be circulated soon. One will concern our worship life, and the other our need for a church bus. And, I ask you to pray for Crieewood UMC and our faithful response to where God is leading us. On February 7th many of the elected leaders will meet to craft a new mission statement for this faith community; we covet your specific prayers for that endeavor. These are exciting days for us, tamping down giddiness is harder than it looks.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

Free Fitness Class

Steph Dodge is leading a free fitness class in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings at 6:00 a.m. The class is designed to provide a high intensity, boot-camp style workout in 30 minutes. It is open to all ability levels and no equipment is needed, but be prepared to work hard and sweat. Plan to have some fun while you take care of the body that God has given.

Child Care News

If you are not already aware, our church offers a fantastic, daily outreach ministry to the Crieve Hall community--our child care center. The children we serve are the BEST, and we are so proud of our staff and the families in our center. Adding to our excitement in the center this week is the following announcement regarding a change in leadership of our Child Care Center: **Sharon Ferrell** will be coming on board as the Director of Operations on January 26, and she will join **Dee Ramirez**, who will remain as our Program Director. What a great team!. Please pray for our child care ministry and these leaders as they continue the good works!

Valentines Banquet

Save the Date for the Valentine's Banquet. This year's Valentine's Banquet will be on the night of Saturday, Feb. 14th. So mark your calendars and ask a date or a friend or just come as part of the Crieewood family for a night of great food and entertainment. Keep your eyes open for an announcement about this year's menu. The menu will have both regular and vegetarian choices. And don't worry about bad weather because there will be valet parking. This event is our main fundraiser for the youth summer mission trip to Mountain TOP which will be on June 7-13th, 2015.

Missions

Caramel Corn

Look for Charlie's homemade caramel corn in the narthex on Sunday, **January 18**. Consider purchasing it as a half-time snack for your favorite game. Proceeds from this sale go to youth missions. There is a \$5 minimum per bag.

Activities

District Training

Nashville District Training will be on **Saturday, January 17**, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Calvary UMC. If you have accepted a new leadership role in the church and would like to learn more about that role, or if you would like to share ideas with others in a similar leadership position in other churches, this is a good opportunity to learn and network.

JOY Club

There has been a change of plans for the JOY Club January outing. On **Thursday, January 22nd** members will travel to Whites Creek, Tennessee for lunch and a tour of Fontanel. Please make your reservation with Jean McCurdy by January 18. The cost is \$18.60 per person. **Please make your check out to Nancy Rosdeutscher.** Plan to leave the church on Thursday, January 22nd at 11:30 a.m.

A visit to Puckett's grocery and restaurant in Leiper's Fork is **rescheduled on February 26, 2015**. Puckett's is a family restaurant established in the 1950's that still operates today and focuses on providing Southern comfort food accompanied by hospitality and country music. If you wish to attend, please make a reservation with Jean McCurdy by February 22nd, then arrive at the church that Thursday by 10:15 a.m. There will be a van for transportation.

Women's Bible Study

This group of women gathers on Sunday nights from 6:00-7:15 p.m. They are meeting for a six-week study of Mike Slaughter's Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus. Contact Leigh Ann Cate for more information.

Discover CRIEVEWOOD

Want to learn more about CrieveWood UMC? Have questions about Methodists? Looking for ways to get connected? Join the Senior Pastor for a light meal and an evening of answers and information at 5:00 @ the church on any of the dates below. (Childcare will be provided if requested).

February 22nd	July 19 th
March 15 th	August 16 th
April 19 th	September 20 th
May 17 th	October 18 th

Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will hold their next monthly meeting on **Saturday, February 21** at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please note that this meeting is one week later than normal because of the Valentines banquet. We will have the traditional Saturday breakfast followed by a program. All men are welcome; please invite a friend.

Church Retreat Dates

Please mark your calendars and get ready to register for our 2015 Family Church Retreat to Beersheba Springs. We will head to the mountain **August 14-16** for a time of rest and growing friendships. Registration forms will be available by the end of January.

Other Items

Altar Flowers

If you would like to celebrate God's grace in your life and enhance Sunday worship, consider donating flowers for the altar. The Altar Flower calendar for 2015 is displayed on a table in the narthex on Sunday morning and in the office during the week until construction is complete and it finds a more permanent home. If you would like to offer the gift of altar flowers, just sign the chart for your selected week or call the church office.

Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule

	8:00-10:30 a.m. Shift	10:30 a.m.-noon Shift
1/18/15	Chris and Kelly Cates	Blake and Craig Leyers
1/25/15	Jimmy and Carla Arnette	Jimmy and Carla Arnette
2/1/15	Randy and Susan Cortner	Randy and Susan Cortner

Children's Church 2015

Led by Leigh Ann Cate, our children, ages 3 years through current Kindergarteners, will experience their own brand of worship and journey through the church year while learning about various components of the traditional worship service. Please have your children join us on the first couple of rows on either side of the sanctuary to allow them to see and experience the service prior to our going downstairs.

Children and Youth Choir

We are trying something new. We are hoping to encourage wider participation in choir by not requiring a full commitment to a semester choir. We are scheduling specific Sunday's throughout the church year for each choir to sing. There will be three rehearsals that must be attended before that designated Sunday. Children's Choir will be singing in worship on February 1st, and Youth Choir will be singing in worship on March 1st. If you are interested in participating in these events, please contact Mr. Will at wlll@wcs.edu or speak to him at church.

Children's Ministry Team Announces Dates for 2015

Saturday, February 14—Youth Valentine Banquet with Child Care for children age 5/Kindergarten and under provided by the Children's Ministry Team. Older children are invited to attend the banquet with a parent!

Saturday, April 4—Spring Festival from 9-11 a.m. Egg Hunt at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, June 14—Ice Cream Social (not sponsored by Children's Ministry Team, but a great opportunity for our Crieewood Kids to hear all about our youth's experiences at Mtn. T.O.P.-and eat ice cream for dinner!

Monday, July 20-Thursday, July 23—Vacation Bible School for ages 4 (by June 1, 2015)– completed 4th graders. KFC Kids' Camp for completed 5th and 6th graders

Saturday, August 8—Back to School Bash for Kindergarten – 6th grade children

Saturday, October 24—Fall Festival from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat at 6:15 p.m.