

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

January 25, 2012

A Renovation and Construction Proposal for Crievewood UMC

This column may seem prosaic but in fact speaks to the matter of God's Spirit moving among us, an exciting subject indeed! As an itinerant pastor in the United Methodist Church, movement is an expected part of the equation, yet it is always like jumping from one moving train to another. Okay, sometimes it feels like going from a galloping horse to a laid back turtle, or vice versa, but the point is this, the matter of movement is more than a geographical shift. Congregations are organic communities with defining commitment to the mission and ministry for which they exist, to be the body of Christ.

Stepping on board Crievewood I was whisked into a rich history of faithful and vital discipleship. It was immediately clear that this congregation is prayerfully attentive to God and eager to serve God; a dynamic given formal process through committees for long range planning. Interestingly, the various summary statements that emerged over the years were consistent about the needs and the opportunities, both present and coming.

I hope that most Crievewood members know by now that a proposal for renovated and new space was brought to the October 2011 Church Council meeting by the Long Range Planning Committee. For several weeks there have been question and answer sessions following Sunday morning worship concerning the project; another one is scheduled for January 29th. Using every means of keeping the conversation open, let me offer some specifics with comment.

First, the scope of work would change out the mechanical and lighting systems, and address life safety issues throughout. In my opinion there is little doubt these things must be done, and now is the time. We are caretakers of what was handed down to us and what we in turn will hand down to the next generation; bringing the building up to 2012 Codes and installing more efficient equipment is imperative. Second, construction would add an elevator, redesign bathrooms (on both levels), and create a new Child Care Center (CCC) entrance area. The latter includes an office for the CCC Director, a stairway connecting our two existing levels, and a covered arrival/departure canopy. By reformatting existing CCC rooms, the plan proposes space for infant care. Here the proposal provides the top thing on the congregational wish list, an elevator; as well as strengthens one of our key ministries, the Child Care Center. Aware that the Crieve Hall neighborhood is trending younger, a priority of ministry with young children connects to the needs of our neighbors and a divine mandate.

Finally, I would highlight the proposed new multi-purpose room and new kitchen. We face a constant challenge regarding the scheduling of our existing Fellowship Hall, for we must keep it available for use by the Child Care Center (as space for indoor play) until 6:00 Monday-Friday. That obviously limits the development of programs for larger gatherings during the daytime hours. The addition of a second room comparable in size to the Fellowship Hall, an up-to-date Kitchen, and additional bathrooms will expand our ministry possibilities. The Long Range building proposal includes reconfiguring many existing rooms, with the most significant change tied to the new space construction. With a new Kitchen, the old one will be formatted for a Nursery. We have need of a nursery now for Sundays, and the renovation plan would, as noted, allow the Child Care Center to consider offering infant care.

In other words, the plan for renovating and adding space will satisfy long standing desires (again think elevator), address present needs, and position us for continued growth. I invite you to examine the proposal carefully and to consider it prayerfully. Seek answers to any questions you might have, but more than that, seek the direction God's Spirit is moving us.

Peter van Eys

Missions

Super Rolls on Super Bowl Sunday

Sunday, **February 5, is a TP Sunday.** Please help us keep our commitment to Community Care Fellowship to supply a year's worth of toilet paper, 4000 rolls in all. To date we have collected 3,017 rolls. We are getting close, but we still need 983 rolls to reach our goal. Consider bringing in some super rolls on Super Bowl Sunday!

Sweet Treats Notice

Charlie's Homemade Caramel Corn will be available in the narthex on Sunday, February 12th, just in time for Valentine's Day. All it takes to enjoy this treat is a donation to the Youth's Bahamas trip and other projects. The honor system will be in place.

Wednesday Night Study beginning in February:

"I'm afraid this is dividing the church."

"I'm afraid of being judged for my view."

"I'm afraid of being labeled 'homophobic.'"

"I'm afraid of blurring the line between right and wrong."

"I'm afraid of taking a stand."

"I'm afraid of going against the Bible."

Please make plans to attend the study, "This I Know," led by Carter Ellis on the following Wednesday nights: Feb. 1, 8, and 15; March 14, 21, and 28; April 11, 18, and 25

Thoughtful, authoritative, and trustworthy, ***This I Know*** is a companion curriculum to *For the Bible Tells Me So*, the award-winning documentary that *Entertainment Weekly* recently selected as one of "Five Films That Have Changed the World."

This study is designed to create a safe space for meaningful conversation, to provide the tools to respond constructively -- and to offer guidance through the example of Christ's inclusive love.

Sign up now for "This I Know" by contacting Leigh Ann Cate at lac723@comcast.net OR calling 615-833-4528.

Watch this space for other Wednesday Night Fellowship activities...including Ash Wednesday Service, a Lenten study led by Pastor Peter, 147 Million Orphans, and much more... coming soon!!!!

WNF Menus

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

Wednesday, February 1—Poppysseed chicken casserole, rice, green beans, and cobbler. Chicken nuggets available for children.

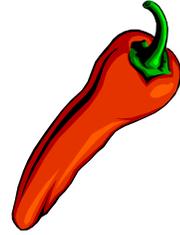
Wednesday, February 8—Spaghetti and meat sauce, French bread, salad, and dessert

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

Tomorrow, 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 the home which is preceded by a fifteen minute video. The cost of admission is cost \$5 per person if we have a group of ten or more. Lunch will be at Demos restaurant after the tour. Please bring the admission cost, \$2 for the van, and your lunch money.

Calendar Reminders

Men's Breakfast—The February meeting of **Men's Breakfast is Saturday, February 18**, at 8:00 am. The February date has been moved one week so that it will not conflict with preparations for the Valentine's Banquet.

Confirmation— After a month's break, the Confirmation class resumes in February. The topic for the class on **Wednesday, February 1**, is *Worship*.

Youth Choir—The Youth Choir will practice after the traditional service at **noon on both Sunday, January 29, and Sunday, February 5**. The schedule returns to normal on February 12.

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, 1/29 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.

Spring Cleaning

Wesley class members will soon begin to clean out and clean up their classroom. The library collection will be weeded. Cabinets will be cleaned out. If you are storing anything in that room, check with Becky Freck. The AV equipment obviously needs to be stored in that room since it is kept locked, but other stuff may need to be removed. Those groups that use the library will need to be patient with the sorting, boxes, etc. as the work is being done. Thanks!

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 2012 is posted in the upstairs educational hallway on the wall above the children's clipboards. If you would like to offer the gift of altar flowers, just sign the chart for your selected week, and you will be contacted.

Thank You

To the members of Crievewood UMC,

It has been a comfort to us ,his parents, to read the tributes and condolence messages from members of Bruce's Wesley Sunday School Class, members of your congregation, and Bruce's former pastor.

We had a beautiful service for Bruce. His sister-in-law, Nancy, sang three hymns chosen by Bruce. The Lord provided beautiful weather for us. Thanks for the beautiful flowers.

*God bless you all, and thanks again for being so kind to Bruce.
Mr. Roy Olinger and Anna*

To the Pastor and members of Crievewood UMC,

Bruce requested that upon his death he wanted to honor his church family through memorial. He truly loved his Wesley class and its members. So many from your congregation helped Bruce during his battle with cancer. You brought great comfort to his family here in Iowa to know he was surrounded by so much love.

Thank you so much for all so many have done to help Bruce through all this. He is now at peace and without pain.

*Blessings,
Ron and Nancy Olinger*