

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

February 19, 2014

Pastor's Pen

Messages Given and Received

What a wonderful weekend we had at Crievewood. The Valentine's Day banquet hosted by our youth Saturday evening was outstanding in every way, and the spirit of the congregation Sunday morning was notably upbeat (I imagine the sunshine helped). It is truly a beautiful thing to be part of a faith community that surrounds its youth with such love, and delights to be together in worship. A blessed weekend indeed!

Of course I was already bent toward all that is good in the world having shared Valentine's Day with Patti. Since Esther Howland first mass produced Valentine Cards in the 1840's, people have welcomed February 14th as an opportunity to express affection and love. Through cards, candy, flowers (the big three), and/or dinner-out many sought to communicate the importance of a relationship in their life. Patti and I took the card and dinner-out approach.

I also enjoyed watching some of the Olympics. I am amazed by the beauty, skill, creativity, determination, and dedication of world class athletes. I have thrilled to speed skating races and figure skating competitions decided by fractions of seconds or points. I have marveled at skiers attacking slopes, moguls, and half-pipes with fearless commitment, and I have been drawn into the excitement of ice hockey and curling matches reflecting the power of discipline and teamwork.

The greatest gift of these Olympics though, has been the grace in defeat shown by some athletes; Shaun White and Shani Davis come to mind. Too, the reaction of the crowd when Jeffrey Abbott fell during his figure skating routine; not only did the Sochi crowd inspire Jeffrey to get up and finish his routine (though in obvious pain), it gave him a standing ovation for his courageous recovery.

I am keenly cognizant that there is much hurt and suffering in the world, fighting in Syria and Afghanistan, domestic violence in Metro Nashville; the list goes on and on. I suspect that awareness magnified the sublime messages that wove the tapestry of my weekend experience. I know myself as rich with love and life in family and in the body of Christ.

I remember when our oldest son, David, was just learning to read and we were hiking in Edwin Warner Park. We came upon one of the picnic shelters where we stopped to have lunch and David found an opportunity to flex his newly acquired reading skills. He pointed out a message spray painted on the ceiling of the shelter and read to us, "I love you MJ". There was no comma in the short proclamation, so I assumed the writer wished to be anonymous, although the possibility did exist that MJ was not doing well in English Class and omitted necessary punctuation. Either way, the one sending or the one receiving the expression of love was un-named.

Communication is at the core of human interaction, tethered my life over the weekend, and is very much a theme in our faith story. God has been creatively persistent and unequivocally consistent in communicating with humanity. Think burning bush, stone tablets, prophets, angels, a voice from heaven, and the Word made flesh; God is forever sending us the message, "I love you."

We live in such a technologically advanced age, which shapes how information and affection are communicated; stone tablets are outdated and a burning bush is confusing in light of global warming. Yet, the timeless acts of supporting our youth, gathering together in worship, giving cards to significant others, being good sports, and standing ovations remain reliable means of communicating values, community, and love.

We are soon to enter the Christian liturgical season of Lent in which we are invited to nurture our relationship with God by focusing on living a disciplined life according to the example of Christ. We have been loved and claimed and redeemed by God through Jesus Christ; that message of God's love for us echoes across the generations and in every heart open to receive it. Our response to that love is the eternal imperative. Sure we could buy a can of Krylon and spray paint "I love you God" somewhere, it is cheap, easy, and provides anonymity; however, I think the more faithful option is to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

March Pot Luck Dinner

On Sunday March 30th we will honor Tom McBryde and give thanks to God for his many years of ministry on the Crieveewood staff. A potluck meal will follow the traditional service.

Ash Wednesday

Crieveewood will begin the forty day season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday worship on March 5th at 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Please join us on Ash Wednesday as we and other Christians worldwide begin this period of repentance and introspection.

Missions

Open Table Nashville

Due to the cold weather in Nashville this winter, there is greater need for emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families. Open Table Nashville is committed to filling that need, standing in the gap for those who are not able to take advantage of the great services offered by the Nashville Rescue Mission and Room in The Inn.

If you would like to know more, or think you could serve in this ministry, please contact regina@opentablenashville.org.

TP Sundays Are Back

As part of our ongoing support of Community Care Fellowship the Outreach Committee is encouraging participation in **TP Sundays**. Please bring **toilet paper**, any size package, on the **first Sunday of every month**. Packages may be left in the narthex of the church. **Our next TP Sunday is March 2.**

Charlie's Caramel Corn

Look for Charlie's homemade caramel corn in the narthex on Sunday, **March 16**. Consider purchasing it as a snack for all those March madness basketball games. Proceeds from this sale go to youth missions. The honor system will be in place.

Activities

UMW General Meeting and Brunch

The United Methodist Women will hold a general meeting and brunch on Saturday, March 1, at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Jocelyn Briddell, executive director of the Scarritt-Bennett Center will speak. Dr. Briddell is responsible for the vision, mission, and overall administration of the center that offers programs and events that address racial equality, cross-cultural understanding, spiritual renewal, and the empowerment of women. This is an opportunity to learn and grow and fellowship. Why not invite a friend to share that experience with you?

Scheduling Change

The Rebekah Circle will gather on **Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in the conference room, a change from their normal Monday meeting. During the meeting they will put together gift bags.

Dorcas Circle Soup Luncheon

The annual Dorcas Circle's Soup Lunch will be on **Tuesday, March 18**, in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. You can enjoy a variety of soups plus drink, cornbread/crackers, and dessert, all for \$6.00. Proceeds will be used by the circle for their mission projects. Please pass the word along to your friends and neighbors.

JOY Club

The JOY Club is a group of mainly older adults meeting monthly for an outing that includes a Dutch treat meal and an experience at a location in Middle Tennessee. The meetings are usually the 4th Thursday of each month. Photos taken during the year will be judged in the November meeting and prizes will be given to best in show.

The next meeting is **Thursday, February 27**. JOY Club will tour the Sumner Crest Winery followed by lunch at 5 Chefs. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and bring \$3 for the van. Please make a reservation with Jean McCurdy by February 23, 2014.

Thursday, March 27, the Joy Club will take a one hour walking tour of the Music City Center at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will follow. Please make your reservation by March 23. Departure time from the church will be announced later.

“Stuck” Bible Study

Our Sunday night Bible study continues each Sunday evening, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Searchers classroom.

WNF



*On February 26, Pastor Peter will talk about apportionments in the concluding session of a four week discussion on "Fun with Apportionments!".

*Ash Wednesday worship is on March 5 at 6:30 p.m., and a Lenten study led by Pastor Peter will begin on March 12.

*The children will meet at 6:00 p.m. upstairs for children's music on February 26 and March 12, but not during the Ash Wednesday service.

*The Nursery will be open every week during the program hour.

WNF Menus:

Wednesday, February 19—Potato bar, salad bar, and dessert

Wednesday, February 26—Chili, salad, bread, and dessert

Wednesday, March 5—Baked chicken breasts, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dessert

Youth

Youth Mountain Top Mission Trip

This year the youth Mountain TOP Trip will be on June 8-14. Any youth who has completed grade 7th-12th is welcome to participate. To secure your spot, please turn in a \$100 deposit by March 2nd. Checks can be made out to Criewood UMC with Mtn TOP in the memo line. We will also need adult volunteers for the trip. Contact Steph if you are interested in going with the youth. Priority will be given to parents who have a senior in the youth group. We are also in need of vehicles that can carry 7 people. If you have one that we could use for this weekend please let us know.



Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule

	8:00-10:30 a.m. Shift	10:30 a.m.-noon Shift
2/23/14	Tracey and Jillian Lee	Kristy Thornton
3/2/14	Kim Boyce and Adele White	Glynnis Boyce
3/9/14	Bill and Nina Tucker	Rachel Leyers

Postponement

PJ's and Pajamas scheduled for February 21 has been postponed due to the belated Valentine Dance at Crieve Hall Elementary. Watch the newsletter and your inboxes for a new date and time for this fun event.

Other Items

Friends of Stop Hunger Now,

We are delighted to announce that the meals from your meal packaging event have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Atlanta warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner Mission of Hope in Haiti.

Gratefully,

Michael Ashley

Program Manager - Atlanta | Stop Hunger Now