

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

February 27, 2013

Pastor's Pen

My Lenten Insights

I began a continuing education experience last week with several days on the Martin Methodist College campus, the first installment of a three part process. Aware that I had just stepped onto the intended learning curve, I was a bit surprised when a couple of people commented Sunday morning that I looked smarter. In fact, I at first heard that as affirmation of those two extra minutes I had spent grooming. Yet, the truth is I did gain some new insights as well as refresh existing understandings; might have even absorbed more had my end not reached its limit before the class's end.

The training focused on occasions when local churches need transitional pastors and the special ministry opportunities those present. By definition one might understand every United Methodist elder under appointment as a transitional pastor, serving from year to year a congregation (or congregations) that will exist long after we are gone, but there are circumstances that call for particular gifts and/or a specific skill set.

One thing that resonated for me was presented as a necessary shift in thinking. Transitional pastors must approach their time with a congregation as moving from an end to a beginning, rather than the typical paradigm of a beginning to an end. Hearing that in concert with my Lenten journey gave new texture to the mission and ministry of Jesus. His was an intentional, transitional ministry that moves all who would follow from an end to a beginning, the very heart of the passion narrative.

Today I had another Lenten epiphany while listening to an interview with Jan Lisiecki, a 17 year old Canadian pianist, on 91.1. He was speaking of how the pureness and simplicity of Mozart's compositions make them more difficult to play in many ways than other composers; "There isn't too much to do technically, so right away you can focus musically; audiences pick up very easily if something being said in Mozart is true or not".

I have long held that the message and the mandate of Jesus are simple, God loves us and we are to love God and neighbor. However, I suddenly connected the profound challenge this presents to us as we seek to be his disciples, for by the very pureness of the gospel, the world picks up very easily if something being said or done by a Christian rings true or not. As Paul put it, if we have not love we are a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (1 Corinthians 13:1).

Together we are moving through these holy days set aside for disciplined self-reflection and intentional growth. I have no doubt that readers of this column have much to share with me regarding spiritual insights and spiritual growth; please do. As for me, I am revisiting the story of how Jesus set his course to Jerusalem as movement from an end to a beginning, and I am staying mindful of the commitment needed to share in word and deed the pureness and simplicity of God's love.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events and Reminders

Lenten Prayer

On Friday mornings during Lent you are invited to meet with Peter and/or Stephanie at 7:00 a.m. for a time of guided prayer using the book *The Awkward Season*, by Rev. Pam Hawkins. We will meet at the Panera by Target on Old Hickory Blvd. Consider joining this fellowship as a part of your observance of a holy Lent. Through scripture and prayer we will hold ourselves accountable and bring before God the needs of the world.

Dorcas Circle's Annual Soup Luncheon

Mark your calendars for the annual Dorcas Circle's Soup Lunch which will be **Tuesday, March 19** in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. You can enjoy a variety of soups plus drink, cornbread/crackers and dessert for \$6.00. Proceeds will be used by the circle for their mission projects. Please pass the word along to your friends and neighbors.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by purchasing an Easter lily used in decorating the sanctuary, please fill out a flower envelope found in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the office. The cost of each plant is \$12.00. The deadline for ordering a lily is Palm Sunday, March 24.

Children's Spring Festival

Saturday, March 16

9:00 a.m.

Come and enjoy crafts, face painting, and bouncing fun. The egg hunt begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. All the fun and festivities are FREE! Everyone is welcome, but please bring a basket or a bag.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 10, is a Sunday of special offering in the United Methodist Church. One Great Hour of Sharing calls Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. This offering provides administrative support for UMCOR as it responds to disaster survivors and people in need around the world. Please give as you are able.

Daylight Savings

Daylight savings time begins on **Sunday, March 10**. Please set your clock one hour forward on that Sunday.

Missions

Charlie's Caramel Popcorn

Charlie's homemade caramel corn will again be available in the narthex on **Sunday, March 17**. Share it with your favorite leprechaun or stock up to munch your way through March Madness. Either way, to purchase this treat just donate to Youth missions. The honor system will be in place.

Spring Festival Candy

Last call for candy! We will be stuffing eggs for the Spring Festival this week. Please drop bags of individually wrapped candy in the Education Office by this **Sunday, March 3**.

UMCOR Challenge

Twenty-thousand UMCOR cleaning buckets have been sent to the northeast after Hurricane Sandy depleting UMCOR's inventory. So far this year the Tennessee Conference has shipped one thousand buckets. To replenish the supply, the TN UMC Mercy and Mission Ministry has issued a challenge. They are asking members of the conference to prepare 1,000 buckets replacing the inventory sent to Sandy victims and preparing for future needs. If you would like to help, please visit <http://bit.ly/1000bucketstory> for a description of the bucket contents and other resources.

Community Care Fellowship

Community Care Fellowship is in need of all sizes of men's undershirts and is grateful to those persons who donated items last month. We will continue to collect garments, so if you have any donation, please leave it on the table at the top of the stairwell off the narthex.

Activities

Wednesday Night Fellowship

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Welcome to these spring programs on Wednesday Night.

*During Lent, Peter and Carter will lead a study on Lenten Prayer, Praise and Reflection. Each week will feature listening to the Psalms and reflecting on a Gospel passage. Tonight and on March 6, Peter will lead; Carter will lead the program on March 12.

*All children's choir rehearsals and preschool activities will meet in their usual spots during the Lenten season.

*The nursery will be available for those with children two and under

Wednesday Night Menus

Wednesday, February 27—Hamburgers with all the trimmings, potatoes, and dessert

Wednesday, March 6—Chicken tenders, pinto beans, hash brown casserole, broccoli, and dessert

Wednesday, March 13—*Mexican Night*: tacos, cheese quesadillas, Mexican rice, refried beans, chips and salsa, and dessert

Joy Club

On **Thursday, March 21**, the Joy Club will tour downtown Nashville by van observing how the city has changed and continues to transform. Pastor Peter will be the driver and narrator. Lunch will follow the morning tour. If the response is great enough, a second tour in the afternoon will be scheduled. Please register with Jean McCurdy no later than March 17 and specify when you register whether you would prefer a morning or afternoon tour. Times will be announced once the group size is determined. Please bring money to cover lunch and bring \$3 to cover the van.

Men's Breakfast

The next monthly meeting of UMM Men's Club is on **Saturday, March 9**, at 8:00 a.m. All men of the church are invited to a delicious breakfast followed by a program featuring speakers, Ted Brown and David Alford. Ted Brown is the president of Martin Methodist College, and David Alford is a professor at Martin. You may also recognize David Alford as an actor on the TV show *Nashville*.



Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule

	Toddler Nursery	Infant Nursery
3/3/2013	Kellyanne and Christy Shaw	Chris and Kelly Cates
3/10/2013	Kate Foltz and David Cate	Craig and Blake Leyers
3/17/2013	Ken and Anne Pinkston	Chuck and Betsy Bean
3/24/13	Kelly and Kevin Marks	Carla and Jimmy Arnette

**Mark your calendars
for these exciting events geared specifically for your children:**

- Spring Festival**—March 16, beginning at 9 a.m.
- VBS**—July 8-11 (4 nights from 5:45-8:00 p.m.)
- Back to School Bash**—August 17 beginning at 5 p.m.

Youth

The youth meet weekly on Sunday nights from 5-7 p.m. Anyone in grades 7-12 is welcome to join us. We are currently learning to tell our stories of what God is doing in our lives as well as listening to the stories of different people in our community.

Youth families, please mark these dates down on your calendar:

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| 30 Hour Famine | April 5-6 |
| Yard Sale | April 20 |
| Youth Sunday/Senior Recognition | May 12 |
| Mountain Top Mission Trip | June 2-8 |
| Christian Adventure Week | July 22-28 |

You can contact Stephanie Dodge if you would like to participate in any of these activities.