

# The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

March 5, 2014

## Pastor's Pen

### A Holy Lent, Choices, and Marks

#### The Choice

*The intellect of man is forced to choose  
Perfection of the life, or of the work;  
And if it take the second must refuse  
A heavenly mansion raging in the dark.  
When all that story's finished, what's the news?  
In luck or out the toil has left its mark;  
That old perplexity an empty purse,  
Or the day's vanity, the night's remorse.*

W. B. Yeats

A couple of times in my life I have sported a beard. Since I tended it about as well as I tend my hair, those who loved me most thought it best I shave. That and the evolving contrast of a red beard and gray head have kept me beardless now for some time. Yet, given my ability with a razor it is nice to stop the blood-letting now and then; consequently, you can tell when I am taking a day off because I do not shave.

I was thinking about this visible sign of my “day off” while preparing for our Ash Wednesday Service, during which the sign of the cross is imposed on our forehead using the ashes created from burning the palm branches we waved to start Holy Week last year. By the ashes we are marked as human and as Christian, as sinner and as redeemed. The ashes acknowledge the limits of the human experience, our mortality; even as the cross witnesses to our belief that Jesus Christ is our savior. We are thus identified before God, one another, and any we meet in the course of our day, as people of the Christian faith.

Ash Wednesday begins the liturgical season of Lent in which we are called to reflect on our relationship with God and our commitment to the cost of discipleship. It is of course easier to put ashes on our forehead and offer a public witness to our faith than it is to faithfully live in word and deed according to the example of Christ each and every day. Yet, we make choices everyday about how we spend our time, our energy, our resources; we make decisions everyday about how we prioritize family, work, our relationship with God. And those choices and decisions are visible markings of our lives, as visible and transparent and identifying as wearing a cross made of ashes on our foreheads.

I invite you to join me in observing a holy Lent, to give honest review to the choices and decisions that define our lives, intentionally or unintentionally. It is of course God’s desire that such examination, prayerfully done within the context of the spiritual disciplines of worship attendance, scripture reading, Christian fellowship, and humble service, would lead us to newness of life. That in keeping a holy Lent we will be convinced to choose life as the people God would have us be, living in the Kingdom God has invited us to share; our very lives a sign, a mark, a witness of Christ’s love.

Peter van Eys

## Up-Coming Events

### Ash Wednesday

Crievewood 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.

Can't make Wednesday night? If you would like to receive the ashes on the morning of Ash Wednesday, Rev. Steph Dodge will be at the Starbucks in Nippers Corner from 6am-9am Wednesday morning so that you may be marked with ashes before going to work or school.

### March Fifth Sunday Pot Luck Dinner

On **Sunday, March 30**, a potluck meal will follow the traditional service. We will also honor Tom McBryde and give thanks to God for his many years of ministry on the Crievewood staff. Please come and share a special memory or story of Tom.

### UMC Nashville District Laity Listening Gathering

Join our district superintendent, Rev. Harriet Bryan, and others in southeast Nashville in a time of sharing, conversation, and questions about our district and the direction of our United Methodist Church. This gathering will occur on **Saturday, March 29, 10:00 a.m.**, at Crievewood. Please come and welcome our guests and share your thoughts about the organization, mission, and work of our church.

**Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 9.  
Remember to spring forward one hour.**

## Missions

### TP Sunday

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. **The total count of rolls collected as of March 2 is 727 rolls.**

### 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.

### 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.

## Activities

### Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will hold their next monthly meeting on **Saturday, March 8**, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There is always a great breakfast, fellowship, and program, so make an effort to come. Then reach out and invite a guest to join you.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

\*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 at the regular 6:00 p.m. program time.

\*The children will meet at 6:00 p.m. upstairs for children's music on March 12 and March 19, but not during the Ash Wednesday service.

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

\*Gathering musicians will practice at 6:00 p.m. every week, but Chancel Choir will adjust their practice on March 5 and meet for rehearsal after the Ash Wednesday service. They return to the 7:00 p.m. practice time on March 12.

### WNF Menus:

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

Wednesday, March 12—Cheese tortellini pomodoro, chicken, broccoli, rolls, and dessert

Wednesday, March 19—*Mexican Night*: tacos, cheese quesadillas, Mexican rice, refried beans, chips and salsa, and dessert

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 note that lunch at the Center requires two more blocks of walking. Make your reservation by March 23. Departure time from the church will be promptly at noon.

On **Thursday, April 24**, members will travel to Giles County and tour Pulaski, Tennessee, and visit the Milky Way Farm for lunch. The cost is \$24 per person. Reservations must be made in advance. Please give your check made out to CUMC to Jean McCurdy by March 31. Participants will gather at the church by 9:00 a.m. for a two hour ride to Pulaski.

Joy Club will travel to Macon County on **Thursday, May 22, 2014**. They will visit Red Boiling Springs and eat lunch at Armour's Hotel. The menu will be selected in advance of the trip. Details about the trip and the lunch will be announced later.

### “Stuck” Bible Study

Our Sunday night Bible study continues at 5:30 p.m. in the Searchers classroom. The class will be revisiting “Mad” this week, and will skip two weeks during spring break, and come back together to conclude the “Stuck” study on March 30. Our next Bible study will begin on April 6, and options for the next study will be available for consideration this Sunday.

### UMW Circle Notes

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.

The Priscilla Circle invites you to join them on **March 11 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Searchers classroom. Pat Freudenthal from Community Care Fellowship will be speaking. The invitation is open for all members of Crielewood and the community.



## Children's Corner

### Nursery Schedule

3/9/14  
3/16/14

#### 8:00-10:30 a.m. Shift

Bill and Nina Tucker  
Tom and Becky Freck

#### 10:30 a.m.-noon Shift

Bill and Nina Tucker  
Tom and Becky freck

### Confirmation

We have embarked on a Confirmation journey with our current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and we ask your prayers for our Confirmands over the next eight weeks. They are

Zach Cate  
Noah Hardison  
Zach Hardison

Camden Morris  
Riley Morris

Russell Smith  
Rainey White

### Children's Sunday School Update

Our Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Crievedwood Kids have joined forces for a unique Sunday school experience over the next quarter. "Unsolved Mysteries" is a pilot program from the TN Conference Office of Children's Ministries, and we were fortunate enough to be asked to participate in this ground floor opportunity. The children will meet together each week with our incredibly dedicated leaders and explore what it means when we translate our Sunday morning God-learnings into our day-to-day living throughout the week.

Always feel free to pop in and see what we are up to in the Children's Division. Crievedwood Kids love to share what they are learning!

### Mark the Calendar...

**Spring Festival**  
**Saturday, April 12**  
**9:00 a.m.**



### 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 as soon as possible. Checks can be made out to Crievedwood 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.