

# The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

March 7, 2012

## Typical of the Entire Kingdom of God

Many readers of this column know my wife and I traveled to Europe to celebrate the 85th birthday of my Aunt Dicky. It was a wonderful event, a wonderful trip, honoring a wonderful person. My father is from the Netherlands and we have enjoyed meaningful time with that branch of the family tree over the years, though admittedly all too infrequently. Physical distance does make a difference. My father hosted this birthday dinner at a restaurant of his sister's choosing; it was a nostalgic pick, the Kastanjehof in Lage Vuursche, a small village through the woods from their home town. One of her sons acknowledged the choice as 'a trip down memory lane'. Walking in those woods with my grandfather, riding bikes to that village, and eating at that restaurant are part of my life memory too.

My sister and her husband had not been to Paris, so we routed our itinerary to cross that off their bucket list. It was fun traipsing around the city; let me tip my hat to my father who was quite the trooper on countless steps in and out of the Metro, along cobble streets, and through 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Century buildings not always easy to navigate. Not to mention the lines and the number of places we sought to see. One of my Dutch cousins commented on our version of a holiday in Europe, calling it an ABC holiday, an acronym for 'Another Bloody Church' holiday. King's English of course.

We had a target goal to see a set of paintings that one of our two guidebooks located in a particular museum; the other guidebook was quiet on the subject altogether. So off we went, in the line we waited, and with tickets purchased learned that the book was mistaken. Instead we entered into a world of modern art by three artists. We decided to stay and managed two of the exhibits; one that was beyond the boundaries of my art appreciation (a problem with modern art is that time has not had a chance to cull sufficiently) and one that was very enjoyable. The latter presented several collections of photographs made by Berenice Abbott (1898-1991), including a series taken in 1954 depicting life in the southern region of the United States. We were struck by the caption under a photo of a poor ramshackle house in rural Mississippi: "House Typical of Entire State of Mississippi". Granted I did not visit Mississippi until the 1970s, but it seems an exaggerated generalization. I guess the Mississippi city of Natchez (founded in 1716 by the French) is a touchy subject since it was lost to the British, but with so many antebellum homes there it at least suggests a wider range of domiciles has a long history in that state.

Besides a nod to the positive energy rush I still feel from our visit with family, I mention the misguided moment for a couple of reasons. First, it was serendipitous. We would not have seen the work of Ms. Abbott or learned about this accomplished American born writer/artist/photographer, who migrated to Europe in 1921. Her photos of the unemployed in New York City in the 1930s were hauntingly contemporary. Second, it felt very Parisian. Unlike visiting the Louvre, we had the sense that as tourists we were quite the minority. That so many citizens of Paris would support such edgy art (my term) was impressive. And third, it was a reminder of how we can over generalize.

Traveling in Europe and hearing so many different languages and conversing with folks who move fluidly between several languages is always a hopeful experience for me. Immigration is clearly a primary issue at the national and state level; there are 30+ anti-immigration bills active in our state legislature alone. Let me offer that faith communities must be prophetic voices in the ongoing conversation regarding documented and undocumented immigrants, and that we must intentionally resist making generalizations that dehumanize and/or obfuscate the issues and the solutions. And check out those we hear.

That being said, finding the scripture to guide our voice is the easy part, *'Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in*

*the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God' Leviticus 19:34 (CEB).* Seeking the truth in order to challenge generalizations like, 'Immigrants don't pay taxes', is the more labor intensive. Yet, open our Bibles and our minds we must. Both require us to become fluent in the language of God's Kingdom. Both encourage us to be citizens of that same Kingdom rather than tourists. And both call us to seek factual information as part of faithfully following the one who said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" **John 14:6 (NRSV)**. Dare I say that these are elements typical of the entire Kingdom of God? As Jesus said to soon to be disciples, "Come and see" **John 1:39. (NRSV)**

Peter van Eys

## Lenten Worship

There is always preparation for worship that most of us take for granted. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Anne McBryde for repairing and updating our Lenten banners and Wayne and Gray Ethridge for hanging those banners in the sanctuary.

## 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, April 1.

## Missions

### Box Tops for Education



This Lenten season, the UMW and Outreach Committee invite you to join us in establishing a new **holy habit**. We will be collecting Box Tops for Education. Watch for the pink logo on products that you purchase. Clip them and drop them in containers that will be placed in each Sunday School class and in the narthex. These Box Tops will be given to Una Elementary School and Norman Binkley Elementary School where they will be used to purchase books and other much-needed school supplies. Let's make this a holy habit that Crieviewood will participate in all through the year.

## TN Conference Disaster Response

Please see the bulletin board for this entire communication release. In short the conference is looking for large tarps at least 20' x30' in size, flood/cleaning buckets or UMCOR flood kits (not health kits at this time), monetary donations to UMCOR Advance #901670, and volunteers for a community work day on Saturday, March 10. Please help as you are able.

## Church Conference

There will be a **Church Conference on Sunday, March 25, at 3:00 p.m.** to vote on the proposed renovation and expansion of the church building. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this special meeting of the congregation.

## Children's Corner

### Spring Festival, March 31

We are so excited to announce some fun changes for our annual spring festival. First, we will serve breakfast instead of lunch, **beginning at 8:30 a.m.** Pancakes, bacon, eggs, milk, and juice will be served. Craft booths and bouncers will be open from 8:45 a.m. until **10:00 a.m. when we will have our egg hunt.** Then bouncers and crafts will remain open until approximately 11:00 a.m. We are still looking for volunteers to assist with booths, greeting, registration, and kitchen. Please contact Kelly Marks at [kmariemarks@comcast.net](mailto:kmariemarks@comcast.net) to volunteer.



### Cedar Crest Camp

Our children will be attending Cedar Crest Camp this summer. To receive information and/or register your child, please contact Leigh Ann Cate at [lac723@comcast.net](mailto:lac723@comcast.net).

## Youth and Young Adult

### 30 Hour Famine

The youth will be hosting the 30 hour famine at our church on March 16-17th. The 30 hour famine is a national event where youth go hungry while serving others in order to raise money and awareness for people who are hungry around the world. This year they will be joined by Rehoboth UMC from Gallatin. You can participate in the 30 hour famine yourself either by fasting, or by supporting our youth through donations to World Vision, or through your prayers.

### New Sunday School Class for 20-somethings and College-age

Too old for youth? Too young for an "adult" Sunday School class? Steph and Carter are leading a new Sunday School class for those who consider themselves to be around "twenty-something" or those in college. The class meets in the room next to the kitchen (formerly the Jr. High Youth room). Please come and join us.

## Keeping Our Sanctuary Safe. . . .

We Need Your Permission...

Our Safe Sanctuary policy, adopted by the Administrative Council, is designed to protect our children, youth, and vulnerable adults, as well as the volunteers who work with them. We need **ALL volunteers**, including youth, to complete a form granting permission for the church to perform a background check. Information is completely confidential and held in file by the pastor. We just need the completed form and a signature; these are available in the office.

The cost to the church is \$11 per person, and there is financial assistance available for anyone who needs it. Checks should be returned with the completed form and made payable to Crieveewood UMC.

Thank you so much for your prompt response, and even if you aren't currently on a roster to serve, it will be helpful if as many of our members participate as possible.

### Craft Day at Crieveewood

Crieveewood will be hosting a craft day on March 24 for any of our members who want to get together in the style of the old-fashioned quilting bee. We will bring our craft materials (beads, needlework, scrapbook, etc.) to the Fellowship Hall any time from 8am-4pm and enjoy each other's company while we work. Bring a lunch from home, and join the fun.

Event will be held contingent on at least FIVE **yes RSVP's by Thursday, March 15 at noon.** RSVP to Leigh Ann at [lac723@comcast.net](mailto:lac723@comcast.net) or call 833-4528.

# Wednesday Night Fellowship

## March 7

Pastor Peter and Carter Ellis will be leading the Lenten study, *Listening at Golgotha*.

**March 14, 21, and 28** there are two options available for adults.

—Carter Ellis will continue the “This I Know” study. It will be helpful for material preparation if interested participants can RSVP to the educational office.

—Pastor Peter will continue the Lenten Study, *Listening at Golgotha*.

## April 5 (Thursday)

There are no Wednesday night activities during Holy Week. Instead there will be both the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 5:25 p.m. on **Thursday**, April 5.

Please make dinner reservations in the usual manner. The service is a combined worship with South End UMC.

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## WNF Menus

Wednesday, March 7—Hamburger steak with gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes, and pineapple upside down cake

Wednesday, March 14—*Mexican Night*: tacos, Spanish rice, refried beans, chips and salsa, cheese quesadillas, and dessert

Wednesday, March 21—Corn beef with cabbage, carrots, whipped potatoes, salad, rolls, and carrot cake. Hamburgers available for children.

## JOY Club

Visit Travelers Rest on **Thursday, March 22**, and enjoy the staff-led tour of the house and grounds. You can also examine the exhibit of Civil War relics. After the tour JOY Club members will eat lunch at Cool Springs Buca Di Beppo. Please bring \$8 for admission to Travelers Rest, \$2 for the van, and money for lunch. Be ready to leave the church at 10:00 am. Make your reservation with Jean McCurdy no later than March 18, 2012.

## Dorcas Circle Soup Luncheon

The Dorcas Circle will hold their annual Soup Luncheon on **Tuesday, March 27, at 11:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$6 per person. Come and enjoy all the soup that you can eat and then savor fudge pie for dessert. Proceeds from this event are applied to the Dorcas Circle’s mission projects.



## Trustee Work Day

The Trustees have scheduled a spring clean-up day on **Saturday, March 24, at 8:30 a.m.** Please come and help as you are able and bring a pair of work gloves with you.

## Lenten Activities

March 31	Spring Festival	Activities start with Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m.
April 1	Palm Sunday	The Gathering, contemporary worship, at 8:15 a.m. Traditional worship at 10:45 a.m.
April 5	Holy Thursday	Dinner by reservation at 5:25 p.m. Combined Worship with South End UMC at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
April 6	Good Friday	Combined Worship <b>at South End UMC</b> at 6:30 p.m.
April 8	Easter Sunday	Sunrise service at approximately 6:23 a.m. Gathering Worship at 8:15 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship at 10:45 a.m.

**Remember to turn your clock  
forward on Sunday, March 11.**

