

# The Messenger

Criewood United Methodist Church

March 13, 2013

## Pastor's Pen

You can tell a lot about a person by the stuff they keep, it is a bit harder to know a person by what they throw away since that requires dumpster diving skills. Yet, I do have observations about the human footprint at recycling centers. For one thing, it seems there are many who are color-blind as evidenced by the intermingling of green, brown, and clear glass in the separate green, brown, and clear bins. I am beginning to see glass bins that no longer sort by color, which is either a sign of improved recycling technique, a nod to spiking color-blindness, or acquiescence to human behavior.

For another thing, I have noticed that where clothing and/or shoe bins are conveniently located next to recycling centers one often finds a broad range of discarded items. Last week I visited a site and found two mattresses, several chairs, a large TV, a baby stroller, and a lawnmower encircling a used shoe bin. I understand that studies reveal 1 in 7 adults in the United States to be illiterate, and thinking spatially is not everyone's strong suit, but the opening of that bin would barely swallow my shoe size. Yes, the sign did not say "no lawnmowers...etc."; but the geometry does.

Speaking of geometry and that which is discarded, we have been wasting paper in the church office because the printer has repeatedly jammed. The good news is we recycle paper, only using the shoe bin when the mixed paper one is full, but still it has been frustrating for those who have tried to print or copy. And once again, talking to or shouting at machines remains ineffectual.

This most impacted Jan, our Church Administrative Assistant, and necessitated a service call, from which we learned that the printer/copier has sensors along the path of the paper that time its movement from point A to point B (I told you more geometry was involved). If the paper does not progress in the expected timeframe the system stops the process. Apparently our issue has been the pace of the paper.

It was not lost on me that the real life parable of the printer/copier shared a week with the lectionary parable of the barren fig tree (Luke 13:6-9). Jesus tells how the tree is extended grace with an expectation that it grow from point A (barren) to point B (fruit) in a given time frame. Lack of pace kind of jams everything up, indeed using precious resources whether it be nutrients in the soil or paper and ink. Sooner or later the human impulse will be to replace the machine or cut down the tree.

Now that we are over halfway through our observance of Lent, it is appropriate to consider how we are doing with our commitments to practice the disciplines that lead to spiritual growth. Invariably such intentionality requires discarding some behaviors, maybe recycling dormant patterns, as well as embracing new ways of nurturing relationship with God and neighbor. Thankfully, it does not matter whether we are color-blind, illiterate, spatially challenged, or whatever; God receives us all just as we are and delights to join us in our efforts to become more Christ like.

As United Methodists, we have a deep and rich theological understanding of this movement, this journey, this learning curve that arcs toward sanctification. We are also convinced that our starting and ending points are awash in the grace of God; for nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39). However, our theology does not make pace irrelevant, for surely it grieves God and harms our souls to see any life jammed up, any spirit barren. And never doubt that how each of us live and witness to our faith impacts the lives of others.

Jesus announced the Kingdom and opened the way for all to live in right relationship with God and neighbor. It is our mandate, as well as privilege, to hasten the day when the Kingdom of God will be fully established. I pray that each of us is experiencing a meaningful season of growth as a follower of Jesus Christ; it is truly God's desire that we move from where we are to full life in the Kingdom.

Peter van Eys

## Up-Coming Events

### 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.



## Missions

### Charlie's Caramel Popcorn

Charlie's homemade caramel corn will again be available in the narthex this **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.

### 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.

## Stephanie Dodge approved for Commissioning

Recently our own Steph Dodge went before the Tennessee Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM), a step on her journey toward ordination in the United Methodist Church. She was seeking recommendation from the Board to the Executive Session of the 2013 Annual Conference that she be commissioned on the deacon track and admitted to provisional membership in the conference. Prior to the interview, a compendium of information about, evaluation of, and written work by Steph was digested by BOM members; following the interview a vote was taken, and since, we have been celebrating that she was approved!

Once commissioned, she will begin a three year Residency Program intended to continue the development of her effectiveness in ministry. The program will provide a peer covenant group, opportunities for guided theological reflection, accountability for meeting remaining educational requirements, and clergy mentoring. Ultimately Steph will be interviewed by the BOM again for ordination, as early as 2016. For now though, congratulations to Steph are in order!

## Activities

### Wednesday Night Fellowship

# Wednesday Night Fellowship

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.
- \*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
- \*PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO DINNER OR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES DURING HOLY WEEK.

### Wednesday Night Menus

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

Wednesday, March 20—Roast beef, potatoes, green beans, carrots, 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. Please meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and bring money to cover lunch and the van.

The April Joy Club meeting is a mystery lunch on **Thursday, April 25**. Please register for the mystery lunch early so that preparations for a second van can be made if they are necessary. We need 22 for a second van.

There are now forms available to allow you to list your emergency information. This form must be on file for each participant and must be signed before you will be allowed to travel on JOY Club trips.

## Children's Corner



### Nursery Schedule

3/17/13  
3/24/13  
3/31/13

#### Toddler Nursery

Ken and Anne Pinkston  
Kelly and Kevin Marks  
Tracey and Andrew Lee

#### Infant Nursery

Chuck and Betsy Bean  
Blake and Craig Leyers  
Dolly Garay and Sue Bean

### Mark your calendars for these exciting children's events

**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

### Work Day

The youth are looking for yard work or jobs around the house that they can do on Saturday, April 6. There is no charge, they are simply looking for a way to serve our members. Let Stephanie Dodge know if you have any work that they can do.

### Youth Yard Sale

The youth will be having their annual yard sale on Saturday, April 20. This is a great way for you to start your spring cleaning! You may start bringing donations for the sale to the church on Sunday, April 14.

## Financial Committee Report

### Capital Campaign

	<u>Receipts</u>
2012	\$279,083.
2013	<u>24,025.</u>
Total as of February 28, 2013	\$303,108.

### Financing

We have entered into an agreement with Sun Trust Bank to secure a line-of-credit for our temporary financing needs. The interest rate we be 3.5%. We will have several options available to the church when we secure permanent financing, if any.

### 2013 Budget

	Receipts	\$86,103.
	Disbursements	<u>78,251.</u>
Balance at February 28, 2013		\$ 7,852.

If interested, you can get a copy of the most recent detailed financial statement in the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joe Buffler, church treasurer, or Steve Curry, finance chair.

## Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 24	Worship at the Gathering at 8:15 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Beginning Monday, March 25	Meditate on the Stations of the Cross prepared by members of Crieveewood
Holy Thursday, March 28	Combined worship with South End UMC at CUMC at 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday, March 29	Combined worship with South End UMC at South End at 6:30 p.m. <b>OR</b> Combined worship with South Nashville churches at noon at Arlington UMC
Easter Sunday, March 31	Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. Gathering service at 8:15 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Traditional Easter worship at 10:45 a.m.