

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

March 21, 2012

The Perspective of the Kingdom

Okay, where did I leave off...yes, I had traveled across the Atlantic to celebrate the life of a family member on the occasion of her birthday; this past week I traveled across a large swath of the United States to celebrate the life of an extended family member on the occasion of her death. My sister's mother-in-law passed away at age 92, a kind and gracious woman described by her grandchildren as "cinnamon and sugar" or sweet and spicy. I have fond memories of her visits to Nashville, am grateful for every inclusion of our foursome in her wider family tree, and most of all, appreciate my brother-in-law. So I decided to attend her service.

It was held in her home church, Faith Lutheran, in Eaton, Colorado, on the plains east of the Rockies and north of Denver. It was a beautiful day with a more or less clear view of the mountains; there were some clouds above them. I was struck again by how far one can see in some places. Patti and I once lived in a northwest Ohio parsonage with a back porch facing west across a flat landscape of farmland; corn growing as far as we could see. It was a particularly interesting experience to watch a storm coming toward us and a particularly sublime experience to watch the sun set. With the greater expanse and wider horizons comes a different perspective.

I was thinking about that standing in the Eaton Cemetery, and since, in light of the proposed renovation and building project before the Crievewood congregation. We have all been challenged to pray about the matter in preparation for the **Church Conference, Sunday, March 25th at 3:00 pm**, and surely those prayers have sought clarity from God as to what we should do. It is an oft quoted Proverb (29:18) "Where there is no vision the people perish", so let me express how blessed I am to have been appointed to a congregation that has a vision and a plan for living into it! The "Vision Team Report" document approved in 2006 set in motion staff development, reorganization of leadership, adding a worship service, and priority focus on children and youth ministries, which have all been realized. Another section of that report outlined ways of supporting our ministry through addressing property needs; it reads:

Evaluate the feasibility of funding and constructing a capital project that would support and enhance the ministries of CUMC, such as

- improved meeting space
- an elevator
- additional general storage space
- an infant room for newborns
- large multi-purpose space
- handicap accessible bathrooms
- dedicated space for specialized senior programming
- efficient use of existing space

Hiring a consultant to evaluate space needs and exploring planned giving were two noted strategies for accomplishing this part of the vision report, both of which we have done.

The renovation and building proposal before us was birthed over many years through much conversation. The question is whether the proposed work will keep us in step with where God is leading this congregation and the larger body of Christ in the world. I again affirm that we have a vision to "foster Christian faith, growth, service, and fellowship". I hope you will come to the Church Conference to share your perspective, for it is here that we need to listen carefully to one another. The horizon which is the future, its clarity and expanse, is no doubt viewed differently by members. That is okay, even a gift, since we all find ourselves in different places, ages and stages and seasons of life. However, we do share common ground, the Kingdom of God, and a common light source by which to live into the future. I am convinced that if we share honestly, commit to prayer, and look in the same direction, whatever we

decide will lead us into the future God intends. I like the quote from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard, "I cannot cause light; the most I can do is try to put myself in the path of its beam." From that vantage point we can even see eternity.

Peter van Eys

Church Conference

There will be a **Church Conference this 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.

Sign Up now!

Photos will be taken for the new pictorial directory on April 18, 19, 20, and 21. You can schedule an appointment online. Go to www.crievewoodmc.org and click on the Portrait Sign-Up button. You can also register at the Church before and after worship services on Sundays until April 15.

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 Crievewood will participate in all through the year.

Carmel Corn

Charlie's Homemade Carmel Corn will again be available in the narthex on Sunday, April 15. To enjoy this treat just donate to Youth Missions. The honor system will be in place.



Only 271 To Go!

Sunday April 1st is Palm Sunday. Let's make this the day that we meet our goal of 4000 rolls of toilet paper for Community Care Fellowship. Crievewood has done a wonderful job providing CCF with this much needed item. Thanks to everyone for making our goal in eight months, four months ahead of schedule.

Youth—Mountain Top

Do you have a six or seven passenger vehicle we can use for Mountain Top on June 2-9th? Last year we paid \$500/vehicle to rent vans, but we would love to save the money and not have to rent. If you are interested in going with us we have room for another adult, or if you would rather loan us your vehicle, we have other adults who can drive it.

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.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

March 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.

WNF Menus

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

Wednesday, March 28—Chili or turkey chili with all the toppings, cornbread, and dessert

Thursday, April 5—Poppy seed chicken, rice, broccoli, and strawberry short cake

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.

We Need Your Permission...

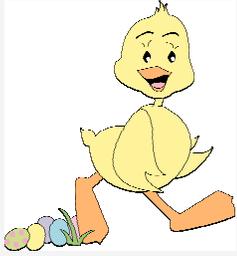
Our Safe Sanctuary policy, adopted by the Administrative Council, is designed to protect our children, youth, and vulnerable adults, as well as the volunteers who work with them. We need **ALL volunteers**, including youth, to complete a form granting permission for the church to perform a background 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 Crieewood 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.

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 to volunteer.

Also, we are collecting candy for the Spring Festival eggs. Please bring peeps, m&m packages, jolly ranchers, tootsie rolls, sweet tarts, starbursts, or other things that will fit in eggs that are safe for children. Donations can be left in the Educational Office by noon on Tuesday, March 27.



Children's Music

The rehearsal schedule for the children's musical, *Technicolor Promise*, is as follows:

March 21st: 6:15-7:15

March 28th : 6:15-7:15

April 1st: 11:45-1:30 (Sunday after worship)

April 11th: 6:15-7:15

April 18th: 6:15-7:15

April 25th: 6:15-7:15

April 29th: 11:45-1:30 (Dress Rehearsal)

May 2nd: Performance during WNF Spring Fling

DOROTHY CORTNER BOONE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It's time once again for the annual Dorothy Cortner Boone Scholarship. The scholarship's purpose is to reward financial assistance to selected students who (1) demonstrate involvement in and service to his/her school and/or community, (2) are motivated toward educational excellence.

Amount of scholarship for 2012: up to \$1,500.00

If you have been awarded this scholarship in the past or if you have applied for this scholarship before, you may re-apply. You may receive the scholarship more than once. There is no age requirement.

Any student who is a member of Crieewood United Methodist Church may apply for this scholarship. An application form may be obtained in the church office. Completed applications **MUST** be received in the church office no later than **April 30th**.

This scholarship is available to part time as well as full time students. We are fortunate to have this scholarship available at our church. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!!

Please consult the scholarship form for further details.

Scholarship Selection Committee

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.

Lenten Activities

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| 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 at South End UMC 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. |

Crieve Hall Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Meeting

at Crieviewood Baptist Church, 480 Hogan Rd

Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 7pm

Come meet your CHNA board members, hear the mayor and our councilman and learn more about the "State of the Neighborhood" including information about crime, real estate, our schools and so much more...

We are giving away an IPAD (must be a CHNA member to win) as our GRAND PRIZE and several other great door prizes (must be present to win).

You can join the Neighborhood Association at the meeting...it is only \$12 per calendar year... or go to www.crieve-hall.com.