

Pastor's Pen

Of First Importance

One might argue that we, the Crievewood congregation, have been spring cleaning since last summer. Who among us will forget the exercise of moving our church stuff around as various parts of the building were being refurbished? In my younger years I would take groups on backpacking trips for several days, and invariably by the second day some would begin to cull what they were carrying; such was the beauty of moving things around the church multiple times. Culling moved right up the fruits of the Spirit tree.

Certainly our inner space looks cleaner, nicer, newer; thank you to all who helped fund this effort. As for our outer space, work continues on sidewalks, a canopy, and landscaping; too, I see a crew weed-eating and cleaning up the church yard today. Spring has surely sprung!

We are fortunate in the Northern Hemisphere to celebrate Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus with the backdrop of spring. New life abounds in nature, new life defines our faith. I can assure you that one of the highlights of being a Christian pastor is proclaiming on Easter Sunday "Christ is Risen!" I am already practicing in my truck, in the shower. I hope you are in worship Easter Sunday to say in response, "Christ is Risen indeed!" Yes, you may practice.

Just as we have been living into our new and renovated Crievewood building for many months, an experience that has required commitment, flexibility, and patience through moments of frustration, confusion, and challenge, our faith narrative walks us through the events of Holy Week on the way to Easter Sunday. Lenten texts that focused on the cost of discipleship and taking up the cross to follow Jesus have prepared us for the ugliness of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. To journey with Jesus through his death offers a fuller understanding of new life.

Imagine someone who attended a worship service here in April of 2014 and not again until April 2015, he/she would surely be impressed with the fresh look and likely catch the joy we all feel with regard to what has been accomplished. However, then consider the depth of joy felt by all who have been present throughout the building project. The latter is richer. The same equation holds true for us as we move toward Easter Sunday, so here is a reminder of upcoming worship opportunities.

March 29th

Palm Sunday

8:30 am Gathering Service
10:45 am Traditional Service

April 2nd

Holy Thursday

6:30 pm

April 3rd

Good Friday

Noon Seay-Hubbard UMC
6:30 pm South End UMC

April 5th

Easter Sunday

6:30 am Sunrise Service



8:30 am Gathering Service
10:45 Traditional Service

I look forward to our time together. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised from the dead on the third day in accordance with the scriptures." (I Corinthians 15:3-4) It is surely the mystery of our faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. The sublime gift of new life.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

Spuds, Salads, and Sweets

The youth will be having a fundraiser luncheon after church on **Sunday, March 29th** to earn money for youth missions and activities. Come and enjoy a potato bar with salad and dessert.

Crievewood's Spring Festival & Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, from 9-11am



Our annual spring festival is a time of free family fun with crafts, games, face-painting, balloons, and egg hunt. Children ages 2-12 should bring a basket or bag to collect eggs. Please come and bring your friends.

Any adult or youth who would like to help stuff the eggs should come to the church on Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 p.m.

New Pictorial Directory

Mark your calendar and reserve your spot to be photographed on April 17, 18, 28, or 29 for our new pictorial directory. Every household that has a photo taken for the Church pictorial directory will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo and a free directory. You can also receive a free PDF version of the directory this year to save on your computer or mobile device.

Missions

Caramel Corn

Look for Charlie's homemade caramel corn in the narthex on **Sunday, March 29th**. It's a perfect Easter treat. Proceeds from this sale go to youth missions. There is a \$5 minimum per bag.

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 29.

Communion Servers for Those at Home

Crievewood has a ministry in which church volunteers provide home delivery of communion each month to our members who are unable to attend worship. The elements can be delivered on Communion Sunday after the church service or sometime during the week. Please call the church office if you would like to sign up for home communion or if you would like to be added to our list of rotating volunteers that deliver monthly communion.

Raise the Roof 5k Walk/Run/Hike

April 18, 2015, 9am, Edwin Warner Park, Picnic Shelter #9

Hike2Heal is a 5k benefit for Raise the Roof to promote healthcare for the 512 students at Raise the Roof Academy in Uganda. This benefit will allow healthcare to be provided in the form of immunizations, antimalarial treatment, and preventative treatment for the students and staff of the school. Join us as we work together to protect these impoverished children and give them every opportunity to have success in their education and life. For more information and to sign up, go to raisetherooftnc.org

Activities

JOY Club

JOY Club will travel to an unknown destination for lunch on **Thursday, March 26**. Participants will leave the church at 10:45 a.m. to eat lunch at 11:30 a.m. The only clue is that the meal is in Nashville.

On April 23rd Joy Club will tour Rattle and Snap. The tour starts at 10:30 a.m. and costs \$15. Members should be ready to leave the church that day at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will follow the tour at Cracker Barrel. **Please make a reservation with Jean McCurdy and pay for the tour by April 2nd**. The check should be made out to Crievewood UMC.

UMM

The United Methodist Men will hold their next monthly meeting on **Saturday, April 11** at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have the traditional Saturday breakfast followed by a special program. Our guest speaker will be Andrew Maraniss, author of *Strong Inside*, the story of Perry Wallace who in 1966 enrolled at Vanderbilt and became the first African-American basketball player in the Southeastern Conference. All are welcome; please invite a friend.

Wednesday Evening and Holy Week

Our Lenten and Holy Week series continue beginning at 6:30 p.m. each night. Through song, prayer, meditation, and creative response, we are focusing on the seven last words of Christ from the cross.

March 25 th	<i>It is finished</i> (John 19:30a) Steph Dodge, Associate Pastor
April 2 nd	Holy Thursday (Crievewood @ 6:30) <i>Into your hands I commend my spirit</i> (Luke 23:46) Dane van Eys, Vanderbilt Divinity School Student
April 3 rd	Good Friday (South End @ 6:30)

Please call 615-832-2897 to make a reservation for WNF dinner on March 25 or complete the reservation form in the bulletin. There is no WNF programming or dinner on April 1; the regular scheduled activities resume on April 8.

WNF Menus

Wednesday, March 25—Pasta with marinara sauce and meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert

Wednesday, April 1—No WNF activities or dinner

Wednesday, April 8—Poppy seed chicken, carrots, green beans, rolls, and dessert

Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule:

	<u>1st Shift</u>	<u>2nd Shift</u>
3/29/15	Bill and Nina Tucker	Susan Cortner and Rainey White
4/5/15	Randy and Susan Cortner	Randy and Susan Cortner
4/12/15	Chris and Kelly Cates	Chris and Kelly Cates

Child Care News

Thanks to all the church members that supported our Flower Fundraiser. The order has been placed and your items should arrive in the next few weeks. We raised enough money to purchase tables for three classrooms.

Registration for our summer program is in full swing. We already have more than half our spots filled. Check us out at <http://crievewoodumc.org/child-care-center/summer-program/>.

Did you know the 4th grade class helps set up the tables and chairs for our Wednesday Night dinners?

Reminders

The next TP Sunday falls on Easter, April 5.

Please remember to bring fresh flowers on Easter Sunday to help decorate the Easter cross.