

# The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

April 16, 2014

## Pastor's Pen

### Egg Hunts and Holy Week; Confirmation and Easter

What a glorious weekend past! Our Palm/Passion Sunday services were a means of grace and the gathered community a sign of God's Kingdom. I was, we were, blessed richly.

Our annual Crievewood Spring Festival happened the day before with beautiful weather and an excited crowd; whenever children are in the mix holiness and smiles break forth. They were and they did. I had the privilege of being an "egg hunt leader" and was assigned the oldest group. We walked across the street to the Iris Garden area of Ellington Agricultural Center where earlier that morning over 400 eggs had been hidden. Prior to signaling the start of the hunt I set the ground rule concerning the iris beds, do not touch them or step in them or expect to find an egg in them; too, I wanted to make sure I knew the name of each child. It was my joy to meet new folks.

And the hunt commenced with the kids sprinting out into the field and up into the wooded area, creating an immediate sermon illustration as they ran past eggs in search of eggs, over there. The lesson took on another layer as the hunt slowed down and adults began to call out that they could still see eggs near them. Sometimes, even with a defined search area, the egg was not immediately found, prompting one parent to say "look down by your feet and not ten yards out."

The children hunting eggs last Saturday were ramped up because of the special nature of the day, the occasion, the event. Their energy and impulse were akin to the experience many Christians have in Holy Week. The festive nature of waving palm branches lends a special feel to a day, occasion, event, while setting in motion the passion narrative central to the Christian faith. Yet many, having long anticipated and planned for Easter will race past the profound experiences, step over the core angst, and look beyond the signal act of our Savior's death on a cross.

I hope you will be present for our shared Holy Thursday Service (at Crievewood UMC) and Good Friday Service (at South End UMC). Yes, it is a story with much ugliness and suffering, but scattered through it are the threads of abiding, sacrificial, and redeeming love. Over there by the empty tomb is pretty amazing, but bowing at the foot of the cross has power to transform.

And, I trust you will be present at one or more of our Easter Sunday Services. We will begin with a Sunrise Service at 6:30 am, outside weather permitting, and hold our regular 8:15 and 10:45 am services. Invite your friends and neighbors as we celebrate God's victory over sin and death, and the gifts of eternal love and life. It will also be Confirmation Sunday, the day our confirmation class members will profess their faith and join the church. Truly our cup, or egg basket, overflows.

Thanks be to God!

Peter van Eys

## Up-Coming Events

### Stations of the Cross

A Roman Catholic tradition across the centuries, the stations of the cross serve as artistic meditations on the Passion Week. The last actions of Jesus are retraced through this project and are presented as an invitation to experience religion through art. You may view the stations of the cross in the narthex and sanctuary through April 18.

### 40 Day Prayer Journals for Annual Conference

Bishop McAlilly requests that every pastor and every congregation participate in the "40 Day Walk with God" beginning on

April 21. An electronic edition of the journal is available for download at <http://BishopBillMcAlilly.com>.

## Summer Meet and Eat

Please join members of Crieewood each Wednesday during the summer at a local restaurant for dinner. Everyone is welcome, but we need to know if you plan on coming so that the restaurants can be notified to expect a larger than normal crowd. A sign-up form will be included in Sunday bulletins or you can call the church office or Nancy Rosdeutscher by **noon on Monday**. Participants meet at the restaurant and should arrange their own transportation. The kick off is on **May 7 at Sylvan Park on Nolensville Road**.

## Evening Bible Study

Please make plans to join us as we study Women of the Bible on **Wednesday nights, beginning May 7 at 6:30 p.m.** If you will be studying with us, please let Leigh Ann Cate know asap so we have enough books on hand.

## 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. **On April 6 we collected 191 rolls for a total of 946 rolls.**

## Business Update

### Our Recent Church Conference

A Church Conference was held on April 6<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of hearing a report from the Building Committee concerning our Renovation and Building Project.

\*Those present were reminded that in January 2013 the congregation had approved the scope of work to include phases 1, 2, and 3 as outlined by the architect. At that same meeting the cost estimate of \$1.2 million was affirmed and authorization to secure a loan up to \$500,000 was approved.

\*The Building Committee shared firm cost estimates, which total \$2,120,171 [Phase 1 (\$1,005,018), Phase 2 (\$322,900), Phase 3 (\$428,600), and Phase 4 (\$427,000)], and their decision to proceed with only Phase 1 at this time.

\*Phase 1 includes electrical upgrades, new HVAC system, elevator and bathroom addition, remodeled bathrooms on both floors, new kitchen and pantry for daycare, life safety upgrades, floor covering, lighting, and ceiling upgrades, general painting, new break room and resource room on upper floor, and a dumpster enclosure.

\*Through the Capital Campaign we have current and projected cash of \$905,299.

The Building Committee acted within the parameters of the authority given by the Church Conference in 2013, however, a motion was made to affirm the work and decision of the Building Committee; it passed unanimously. There is certainly disappointment that we are not in a financial position to undertake the full project at this time, yet this was a very positive Church Conference. Very significant work will be done and we will be living within our means. Our vision remains the same, the timing has changed.

## Activities

### 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.

On **Thursday, April 24**, members will tour and lunch at the Milky Way Farm. Prior reservations are required. Gather at the church by 9:00 a.m. on April 24.

On **Thursday, May 22**, Joy Club will travel to Macon County. Lunch is an Italian meal at Armour's Hotel at noon which will be followed by a tour of the hotel. Leave the church at 9:30 a.m.

# Wednesday Night Fellowship

- \*There is no WNF dinner or adult or children’s programs during Holy Week (April 16).
- \*Don’t miss the children’s presentation on April 30 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for *Spring Sings! Musical Revue*. The children have a great program planned, giving every child a chance to share his or her talents through singing, speaking, or another special performance.
- \*The children will meet at 6:00 p.m. upstairs for children’s music on April 23, and the Nursery will be open every week during the program hour.
- \*Gathering musicians will practice at 6:00 p.m., and Chancel Choir will practice at 7:00 p.m.

## WNF Menus:

- Wednesday, April 16—No WNF dinner
- Wednesday, April 23—Pork loin, potatoes, baked apples, green beans, rolls, and dessert
- Wednesday, April 30—Chicken Divan, rice, cranberry salad, garden salad, rolls, and dessert

## Youth

### Letters for the Class of 2014

The youth will once again be collecting letters from the congregation for our graduating seniors. These notes are intended to be an encouragement to the seniors as they head off to college, and they will be put together into a scrapbook for each student. Everyone in the church is welcome to contribute. Letters can be dropped in the box slot outside of Steph's office. We will be collecting them until May 11th.

This year's seniors are:

- |               |                |             |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Connor Boyce  | Patrick Dooley | Daniel Roos |
| Meagen Brooks | Sydney Garner  | Katie Tutje |

### Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition

This year the youth will lead the worship service on May 18th. On this day our graduating seniors will also be recognized. Please plan to worship with us on this special day.

### Nashville Fast

The youth will be joining with other churches in the Nashville area on **May 2-3rd** to participate in the Nashville Fast. Students will be fasting from food for 30 hours while they learn about being hungry, raise funds for those in need, and participate in a service project with Feed America First. Each student is encouraged to raise \$55 of support. The money will go towards Feed America First, Raise the Roof, Inc., and International Justice Mission. If you would like to support this mission you can give directly to the students participating. Your check should be made out to the church.

## Children’s Corner

### Nursery Schedule

- |         |                              |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|         | <b>8:00-10:30 a.m. Shift</b> | <b>10:30 a.m.-noon Shift</b> |
| 4/20/14 | Chuck and Betsy Bean         | Jackie Stankiewicz           |
| 4/27/14 | Blake and Craig Leyers       | Renee Hovis                  |