

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

April 18, 2012

Resurrection, Confusion, and Living into the Future

Last Friday evening while rolling down Nolensville Road I listened to the bus driver and several riders discuss Easter Services at their respective churches. From preaching to music to attire, every dimension of the worship experience was recapped, reminding me that some people really do listen to the sermon and notice what I am wearing. It was wonderful to hear such positive and enthusiastic spokespersons for the Christian faith, and I felt encouraged to learn that churches across the city were full Easter Sunday.

We certainly had a glorious day at Crievewood! Attendance was good at all three services, and the breakfast our Coffee and Wisdom Class + Charlie prepared was outstanding. I am particularly thankful to all the folks who made ready the place and saw to the smooth movement of our covenant life during Lent and Holy Week. We are a blessed community!

The bus conversation continued for several miles, with the most memorable moment being when the bus driver declared *"My church is a one Bible church. We just use one Bible, the King James Bible, and that eliminates all confusion!"* She repeated this for emphasis. To be sure, there is something to be said for removing confusion, and she is correct that with new translations come new interpretations, but laughter, one "Amen", and silence followed. Either there was no more to say or no one knew what to say.

If the matter of confusion relates to the original meaning of scripture, we would need to read it in the original languages Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. However, besides the very real challenges that presents (and I am not referring to learning new languages only), have we not all experienced how two people can hear the same statement differently. Christian unity based on script will remain elusive.

The more interesting question might be whether there is a valid place for confusion, especially since it is a rather prominent reality in the Passion narrative and a constant theme in Eastertide. Our Holy Week readings recalled the confusion the disciples display at the last supper; they murmured about whom Jesus was referring to when he said one would betray him, and they wondered what Jesus meant by calling the bread his body and the wine his blood. But it is in the resurrection stories that confusion abounds. Reports of seeing the risen Lord brought belief, fear, burning hearts or the shrug of an idle tale. Some recognized when their name was spoken, others in the breaking of bread; some wanted to see or touch for themselves, others tried to bribe eyewitnesses to say the body was stolen. By faith the known opened the way for the unknown; the instructions were clear, go to Galilee where he will meet you and wait to receive the power from on high. Yet even then did the disciples really understand the amazing things that would follow when resurrection faith was imbued with the Holy Spirit?

There is much going on these days in the life of our congregation. Sunday school classes trading rooms, the nursery and toddler room expanding to two rooms, a record number having their picture taken for our pictorial directory, preparations for a Yard Sale, Youth Sunday, the United Methodist Men's Hamburger Supper, Confirmation Day, and the Children's Musical. Eastertide here at Crievewood is shaping up as a busy and beautiful holy season! If there is some confusion involved, so be it; the resurrection has a way of causing that. Our call is to believe and proclaim that Christ is Risen, to open our lives to the power of the Holy Spirit, and to live faithfully into the future God has planned for Crievewood.

Peter van Eys

Special Upcoming Sunday Services

Senior Recognition Sunday

On **Sunday, May 6**, we will recognize our graduating seniors, David Roos Jr. and Kellyn Cassel. We will be putting together a scrapbook of letters of encouragement from church members to our seniors. We would love to have your contribution. Letters can be given to Stephanie. The youth will also have a breakfast for the seniors and their families during the Sunday School hour on May 6.



Confirmation Sunday

On **Sunday, May 13**, there will be one combined worship service at **10:45 a.m.** During that worship our confirmands will take their vows and become the newest members of our congregation. Please join our worship that Sunday and surround them with love.

There will also be a breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on May 13 for the confirmands and their families.

April Events

Youth Yard Sale

The youth are collecting items for the church yard sale in the youth room. They will accept anything that has the potential to sell. The yard sale will be held on April 21st from 7 a.m.-noon. All proceeds will benefit youth missions. Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items anytime this week. See Steph if you can help. Then, bring some friends to browse and shop on Saturday, April 21.

Fifth Sunday Pot Luck Dinner

Come and join the Crievewood family for lunch on April 29. Please bring a dish that will serve your family plus two more people as we continue our fifth Sunday pot luck dinners.

Missions

Concert Chorale of Nashville

Presents

2012 Spring Concert

To benefit

Rooftop Foundation

Sunday April 29, 4 PM

Belle Meade United Methodist Church

121 Davidson Road, Nashville

Featuring "American Mass" by Ron Kean

Tent City Documentary

There will be a screening of the Tent City, USA documentary on Friday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m. at Belmont United Methodist Church. This documentary looks at the effect the flood had on the Nashville homeless population. Ingrid McIntyre (daughter of Rev. Dave McIntyre) invites all Crievewood members to come out and show their support.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

April 18

-Julia Charles, engineer, mother of four, and member of Calvary UMC, will speak about her initiatives and ministries on the African continent.

-The *This I Know* series continues as optional WNF programming.

April 25

-Carter Ellis will lead the final session of the *This I Know series*.

-An alternate program will also be available. Please watch the bulletin for updates.

May 2

-***A Very Special Spring Fling!*** Our children will bring us a fun musical, *Technicolor Promise*, about the flood, Noah, and his family. You won't want to miss this one.

WNF Menus

Wednesday, April 18—Meatloaf, new potatoes or macaroni and cheese, green beans, and Boston cream cake

Wednesday, April 25—Baked chicken with black bean salsa, green beans with caramelized onions, cranberry and broccoli salad, rolls, and assorted flavors of sherbet

Wednesday, May 2— Potato bar, salad bar, and ice cream bar

UMM and UMW

UMW General Meeting

The May General Meeting of the UMW will be Saturday, May 5, at 10:00 a.m. at the church in the Builders' classroom. Kwame Orison will be speaking that morning about his experiences. Light refreshments will be served by the Dorcas Circle. All women are invited! Come join us.

UMW Leadership Meeting

There will be a UMW Leadership meeting on Sunday, April 29, at 4:00 p.m.

UMM Hamburger Supper and UMW Bake Sale

The annual Men's Club hamburger supper and UMW bake sale will run from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. The cost for dinner is \$5 per person or \$15 per family of 3 or more. Children under 5 are free.

The Hamburger Supper is the main fundraiser for the Men's Club. Donations are always accepted to support the many worthwhile activities supported by the Men's Club. The scouting program which includes Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is the primary beneficiary of the Men's Club. Other organizations that receive support include 2nd Harvest Food Bank, Martin Methodist College, Habitat, Mt. Top, 61st Avenue Last Minute Christmas Toy Store, CUMC Youth Activities, and many more.



The Men's Club meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month (except summer months) for breakfast and a short program. All men are welcome.

Softball

Crievewood will have a softball team again this summer. We play on Friday nights starting in June. Anyone 21 years and older is eligible to play. Let Stephanie know if you would like to sign up.

Joy Club, Thursday, April 26

Members will enjoy a staff led tour of the Nashville City Cemetery and then lunch at Stone House Q (Texas style barbecue). Please bring \$2 for the van and money for lunch. Time of departure is TBA. Please make reservations with Jean McCurdy by April 22.

Youth

Mountain TOP

Ever wondered why the youth get so excited about going to Mountain TOP each summer? Come join us this summer and find out. The trip is June 2-9th, and we have a spot for one more adult. Let Stephanie know if you are interested in going.

Christian Adventure Week

Mark your calendars. Christian Adventure Week will be July 11-14 this year. There will be events Wednesday and Thursday nights and all day on Friday and Saturday. Christian Adventure Week is for all students going into 7th-12th grade during the 2012-2013 school year. More details will be forthcoming.

Audio-Visual Upgrade

There is a genuine need to upgrade the audio-visual system downstairs. This will greatly benefit and enhance our ability to serve the congregation, our daycare families, and our community because we use the Fellowship Hall for wedding receptions, children's programs, scouts, the Gathering, Wednesday night activities, as well as neighborhood association events. The new upgrade will be mobile and serve the proposed multi-purpose room also. The cost of this upgrade is approximately \$24,000. We have funds from the budget for about 1/3 of it. If any individuals, families, Sunday School classes, or church groups would like to make a donation toward this project, please contact Tom Cassel at 714-1535 or tcassel41@gmail.com.