

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

April 30, 2014

Pastor's Pen

Blessings Indeed!

I have an enviable commute to work; through the parsonage yard, over the bridge, by the child care center playground, up the steps, and across the church parking lot. My day begins with little flowers, a spring fed creek, shade trees, and squirrels engaged in their morning exercise routines. Often I see a heron, ducks, turtles, and chalk drawings; occasionally deer, fox, and what I call a muskrat. If I time it right I hear the steeple chimes.

Besides the physically present I have the daily gift of what my mind sees and heart remembers. Sitting under a tree with Patti, family picnics in the yard, children laughing on the playground, baptisms in the creek, and the body of Christ gathered in the Crievewood building. Spiritual blessings indeed!

Newly etched in my memory and woven into my soul are the experiences of Holy Week. The retelling of the Palm/Passion Sunday narrative with the Stations of the Cross around the sanctuary invited reflection upon and entry into the story in powerful ways. The Holy Thursday service link of Word and Sacrament to the intimacy of Jesus and his disciples brought new insight into the "up close and personal" nature of life in God's Kingdom. The Good Friday service weaving of sung and spoken with diminishing light illuminated the gravitas of Jesus' death on a cross.

And then there was Easter! A beautiful day, a full house, and a contagious joy shaped our celebration of the good news, Christ is Risen! We began with a Sunrise Service in the parking lot just outside the main entrance to Fellowship Hall. Erick and Hailee Hunt-Hawkins designed and led the service, moving us from the confused grief followers of Jesus felt after his death to the cautious excitement of that resurrection morning. Day dawning remains a powerful backdrop to the proclamation of new life.

Both the Gathering Service and the Traditional Service were enthusiastic celebrations of the victory Jesus won over sin and death and violence. The Gathering Service offered the particular means of grace that is Holy Communion. Historic liturgy includes the memorial acclamation that "Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again". To share the bread and the cup is to enter the mystery of Christ's presence; we are truly an Easter people.

The Traditional Service included the delight of receiving seven young people into the membership of the congregation, as well as the holy act confirming each. It is a signal celebration and a sublime occasion when we surround lives in love and share in their decision to profess their faith. We welcome **Zach Cate, Noah Hardison, Zach Hardison, Camden Morris, Riley Morris, Russell Smith, and Rainey White** as our newest brothers and sisters in Christ.

The gospel text for this past Sunday records a resurrection experience that the disciple Thomas missed because of his absence. It was a fitting Sunday after reading given that those who were not present at Crievewood on Easter missed something incredibly excellent and authentically transforming. Not only did the liturgy, music, and scripture share the Easter gladness, and the smiles, conversations, and laughter of the congregation reflect the beauty of Christian fellowship, but our confirmation class members reminded us of the exuberance and conviction that go hand in hand when we give our lives to Christ.

Walking back to the church from having lunch at home I met the 3 year old class headed to the playground; every child gave a low five as I passed by. Like I said, I have a pretty sweet commute. However, the glorious endowment that is life at Crievewood UMC is here for all and is open to all. I look forward to seeing you Sunday and meeting visitors; we can high or low five each other as we praise God, affirm our faith, and embrace the life that is life as followers of Jesus Christ.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

40 Day Prayer Journals for Annual Conference

Bishop McAlilly requests that every congregation participate in the "40 Day Walk with God". An electronic edition of the journal is available 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

Join us for our new Bible Study, "*Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped the Women of the Bible*." We will be meeting on Wednesdays, beginning **May 14 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Searchers classroom. Contact Leigh Ann Cate for more information or to sign up.

UMM Hamburger Supper and UMW Bake Sale

Saturday, May 10, 5:30-7:00 pm



The annual hamburger supper is the largest single event of the year for the United Methodist Men, and the bake sale is a significant fundraiser for the United Methodist Women. Proceeds from the supper and bake sale support many church and community activities. Please plan on attending and inviting your friends and neighbors.

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. **Sunday, May 4, is the next TP Sunday.**

Imagine NO MALARIA

As you might know, *Imagine No Malaria* is an extraordinary effort by the United Methodist Church in concert with other foundations and the U.S. government to reduce malaria deaths in Africa. When the campaign started a child died every 30 seconds from this mosquito-transmitted disease. Now deaths have been cut in half, but much remains to be done. Taking "Nothing but Nets" a step further, *Imagine No Malaria* works to eradicate malaria through prevention, treatment, education, and communication.

Our annual conference has elected to make *Imagine No Malaria* its conference mission this year. If you would like to donate, please make your check to CUMC and designate *Imagine No Malaria* in the memo line.

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

On **Thursday, June 26**, JOY Club will stay in Davidson County for the first *Mystery Lunch* of the summer. Details will be

announced later.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

*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.

*This is the last WNF program and dinner of the Spring session. Have a great summer; we'll see you next fall!

WNF Menu:

Wednesday, April 30—Chicken Divan, rice, cranberry salad, garden salad, rolls, and dessert

Family Ministries

We want as many of our church families to participate in our fun summer activities as possible, so please mark your calendars for the following dates. If you are interested in assisting with the planning for these events, please contact Tracey Lee, Family Ministries Chair, at 615.720.6734.

--Church-Wide Picnic--**Sunday, June 1**, Shelter 6 at Edwin Warner Park

--Ice Cream Social--**Sunday, June 29**. Come and compete for the "Charlie Award," our top prize for the best homemade ice cream. Perfect your recipes now so you will be ready.

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

Meagen Brooks

Patrick Dooley

Sydney Garner

Daniel Roos

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

	8:00-10:30 a.m. Shift	10:30 a.m.-noon Shift
5/04/14	John Stevens and Denise Ethridge	Sydney Garner
5/11/14	Tom and Becky Freck	Tom and Becky Freck
5/18/14	Joe and Chris Carter	Kate Cortner

All VBS 2014 Volunteers and Potential Volunteers--

We are so excited about VBS, June 23-26, *Workshop of Wonders!* It is time to begin our preparations, and we invite you to join us for our first Volunteer Workshop on Sunday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Forum classroom, last one on the right in the upstairs hallway. Even if you have not yet signed up for the area where you would like to serve, this meeting is for you.

New Members

We are excited to welcome our 2014 Confirmands as new members of Crieveewood UMC. Please join us in praying for them as they continue their faith journeys.

Zach Cate, son of David and Leigh Ann Cate (mentor: Keith Head)

Noah Hardison, son of Steve and Daphne Hardison (mentor: Andrew Lee)

Zach Hardison, son of Steve and Daphne Hardison (mentor: Chris Cates)

Camden Morris, daughter of John and Mindy Morris (mentor: Leigh Ann Cate)

Riley Morris, daughter of John and Mindy Morris (mentor: Sharon Ferrell)

Russell Smith, son of Angela Rackard (mentor: Chuck Bean)

Rainey White, daughter of Brad and Adele White (mentor: Kristy Thornton)