

# The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

May 2, 2012

## Confirmation Sunday – May 13<sup>th</sup>

I was looking out the kitchen window, eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and found myself absorbed by life. It was creamy peanut butter with raspberry jelly on wheat bread; I am sort of partial to oatnut bread for my PBJ sandwiches but wheat works too. Sometimes I stand at the sink to eat to avoid cleaning up any mess, since I tend to put more jelly on the sandwiches than the recipe calls for. I have come to know a woman, Ruth, at East End UMC who makes the best jellies! Some years ago she started making jellies and selling them to raise money for the Lighthouse Children's Center in Tallinn, Estonia. Her gift over time has been a substantial sum and many of God's most vulnerable children have been blessed through her jelly ministry. I recommend the raspberry, plum, peach, blackberry...well all of them.

But I digress. I was absorbed by the activity of several animals on the outside ledge of the kitchen window. To be sure, there are many ways to while away time staring out that window. The playground is in view and often delights with children laughing and having fun. The creek is a source of beauty and calm, offering different touch points across changing seasons. And of course, at night we have a particular source of entertainment, a city pole with a light that goes on and off for reasons only God and NES might know. Almost two years in the house and a pattern has yet to emerge. It can bring hours of fun.

But I digress. After my first bite of the PBJ sandwich, a bird landed on the ledge and cocked an eye as if to study what I was doing. It remained in full research mode prancing about the ledge, even moving up the side of the brick by the window to peer at me upside down. At that point a lizard crawled up and onto the ledge, going in and out of sight several times according to movements of the bird. Finally a squirrel head appeared to survey things from the right side, twitching its nose as if it could smell my PBJ. I was hesitant to finish my sandwich; sometimes it is hard to eat with so many eyes staring at you, and I think the menagerie wanted my sandwich. The jelly is that good.

**Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> we are having one worship service at 10:45** to celebrate the covenant relationship of church membership. We have a number of young people who have been part of a Confirmation Class learning what it means to be a Christian and what it means to be a member of the church. They have decided to profess their faith and enter into that covenant here at Crievewood. Some of our young folks will not be able to be here that Sunday and will take these steps on other Sundays.

Crievewood UMC is extraordinarily blessed to have so many youth feeling led to claim the Christian faith, and desiring to live that faith in this part of the worldwide body of Christ. It is always an interesting question to consider what draws someone to a particular congregation. A good PBJ sandwich can't hurt, but there is more to it than that. The Holy Spirit no doubt is an active agent in the equation, and having been a pastor for over 30 years I have seen the truth in following the trail of blessings God pours out; right now God is surely and profoundly blessing the mission and ministry of this congregation. I am just fortunate to have been sent here at this time, but many are choosing Crievewood as their church home precisely because of the Spirit's movement.

There is also the matter of friends. I might have underestimated the quality time lizards, birds, and squirrels spend together in the parsonage backyard, even more so, on my kitchen window ledge. Yet, I never underestimate the power of friendship and hospitality on the decision people make regarding their faith and church home. Our Eastertide lessons have repeatedly told of friends going to tell friends the good news of the resurrection and of life giving anecdotes of hospitality.

You will want to be present at every worship service in order to welcome the young folks who choose to be professing members of Crievewood UMC. You should also pray about whom you might invite to come and worship here. The Holy Spirit has already staked a claim at Crievewood and is leading us into an exciting future. And of course, if you see people peering through the window (yes I know we have stained glass, work with me) by all means invite them in and share the good news. We can work on sharing a good PBJ later.

Peter van Eys

## Special Upcoming Sunday Services

### Senior Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, May 6, we will recognize our graduating seniors.

### 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 our newest members

## Missions

### AIM Fall Trip to Mountain T.O.P.

Mark your calendars and make your plans now to be part of the CUMC fall mission trip to Mountain Top. The dates are October 18th through 21st. We will work hard fulfilling the physical and spiritual needs of the residents of the Cumberland Mountains, enjoy good food and Christian fellowship, and feel the real presence of our Lord and Savior as we serve and praise Him. For more information call Joe Buffler at 615-351-0601.

## Worship

Are you interested in climbing to great heights? Or are you ready to climb Jacob's Ladder? Additional persons are needed to expand the team that hangs and changes the banners that enhance our worship experience. If we get enough in this request, we will be able to rotate volunteers. Please contact Nancy Rosdeutscher, [rosden3@comcast.net](mailto:rosden3@comcast.net) or 615-834-7739.

Also, it is said that early morning exercise is a great stress reliever and very healthy. We can provide the perfect opportunity for this exercise each Sunday Morning at 7:00 a.m. through the setting up tables and chairs for the Gathering, our growing contemporary service. It's the best way to be the first to get Charlie's Coffee. Please contact Nancy Rosdeutscher at [rosden3@comcast.net](mailto:rosden3@comcast.net) or 615-834-7739 to participate

## Joy Club

Joy Club will travel to Miss Mary BoBo's in Lynchburg, Tennessee, on Thursday, May 24. Those who have reservations should meet at the church at 10:15 a.m. and bring \$2 for the van.

The popular mystery lunches return this summer. The first mystery lunch will be on Thursday, June 28. Please gather at the church at 9:30 a.m. and try to guess the destination. The clue for the June destination is "everything should come up roses."

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

***A Very Special Spring Fling!*** On May 2, our children will bring us a fun musical, *Technicolor Promise*, about the flood, Noah, and his family.

Wednesday Menu: Potato bar, salad bar, and ice cream bar

Wednesday, May 2, is our FINAL Wednesday Night Fellowship for this semester. We will resume on September 5, the first Wednesday after Labor Day. If you'd like to have some input in to our programming for the fall and spring, please contact Leigh Ann Cate at (615) 833-4528 to volunteer for our WNF planning committee. We will meet, at most, three times over the summer to generate ideas and create discipleship opportunities for our children and adults.

## 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.

## 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.

## Children's Corner

### Welcome to Babylon!

Daniel was way more than the guy who survived a den of hungry lions! Travel back to Babylon and join Daniel-torn from his home and forced into the king's service. Imagine the pressure of learning a new language and culture. . . .and the shock of discovering your best friends have been tossed into a fiery furnace. Explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar! Kids and adults will find that they're not much different from Daniel and his friends who kept their faith in a faithless culture.



**VBS: Welcome to Babylon**

**Dates: June 18-22**

**Times: 5:45-8:00 p.m.**

**Please call Kelly Marks at 615-776-3622 to volunteer**

## Nursery News

For those who may not have heard, we are bursting at the seams in our nursery. What a blessing! Consequently, the space formerly known as the June Sparkman Children's Library will be converted to our temporary Infant Nursery space until our building project is complete. We have had a host of workers getting the room ready, and now we need YOU—the volunteers.

We are looking for Infant Nursery volunteers to staff our new infant nursery area on Sunday mornings. We know many of you serve already on our Nursery and Children's Church rotations. We don't want our existing volunteers to be overburdened with an additional commitment, so we are looking for persons who are not currently serving to join this new rotation team. We feel there are plenty of hands in our congregation who might not be able to chase a toddler but can certainly rock babies. However, if you are already on the other lists and don't mind giving up an additional Sunday or two a year, we would love to have you too. Either way, please contact Peter at [pastor@crievewoodumc.org](mailto:pastor@crievewoodumc.org) to volunteer.

## Library News

Temporarily, the books from the June Sparkman Children's Library have been relocated to the Education Office to the right as you enter the main office. All books donated in honor or memory of a loved one are still available for checkout.

## **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.

### **Softball—Players Needed**

Crievewood will have a softball team again this summer. The team plays on Friday nights starting in June. Anyone 21 years and older is eligible to play. Contact Steph to sign up.

## **United Methodist Church Conferences**

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church is in process in Tampa, Florida. You can view the conference live or read daily updates at [www.gc2012.umc.org/live](http://www.gc2012.umc.org/live) or [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) (click on General Conference). This conference continues through May 4.

The Annual Tennessee Conference will be held at Brentwood United Methodist Church June 10-13. Participants will be studying the theme of extravagant generosity and celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Tennessee Conference.