

The Messenger

Creievewood United Methodist Church

May 22, 2013

Pastor's Pen

Glue that Makes Faith Stick

We have had wonderful worship experiences in May that have both tapped into and highlighted a core strength of this congregation; the number of meaningful intergenerational relationships. Yesterday as we celebrated the time Carter Ellis has been with us, an oft spoke praise was her ability to connect with members of all ages. She has that gift and it matched well with our congregational DNA.

The late worship service included the baptism of Natalie Grace Sitter, who is part of a three generational Creievewood family (and gathered at the font were four generations!). I was so impressed by her big beautiful eyes staring at the congregation as the baptismal covenant was expressed. It was as if she knew that this is a faith community that lives well the ties that bind.

On May 12th we honored our high school graduates with notice that each of them is also part of a three generation family here at Creievewood. One can reasonably expect their experience of growing up here to have included multi-generational hugs and smiles, families are like that; but they gave a shout out to the love, care, and investment of the wider congregation. They expressed appreciation for people who greeted them before worship, taught them Sunday school, and encouraged them to find their gifts; they affirmed the life shaping experience of serving on intergenerational mission trips.

All of this timed with my reading of several articles related to the current vitality and efficacy of the Church in its ministry of growing disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2013 May/June issue of *The Interpreter*, an article by Erik Alsgaard points out that we live in an increasingly fragmented world, and then offers examples and suggestions for creating age-integrated community. The importance of this for both the health of a congregation and the nurturing of faith in individuals was illustrated in an article by Deech Kirk in the 2013 May/June issue of the *Circuit Rider*. Referencing the National Study of Youth and Religion he writes that "the vast majority of youth are not learning the faith nor are they becoming faithful followers of Jesus Christ" (p. 30). However, in another study, by the College Transition Project of the Fuller Youth Institute, there was one quality that stood out as critically important in young adults who claimed faith, the presence and experience of meaningful intergenerational relationships. "Research has continued to show that intergenerational relationships are like glue that makes faith sticky for young people" (p.31).

God has certainly blessed us with a beautiful calling for such a time as this. One of the rich gifts we have to offer persons is the blessing of intergenerational relationships. From charter members to newborns, we have a congregational culture that brings the generations together. This is of course one of the reasons our worship life is so important, for it provides our largest weekly age-integrated gathering; but I am thinking of children and adults talking to one another over donuts, youth and adults putting up chairs and tables after a fellowship meal, the list could go on and on.

It seems to me that churches like Creievewood UMC are on the front line of God's initiatives to raise a new generation of Christian believers, for we have the very glue that secures the spiritual growth to young and old alike. And while it is surely a fundamental value ingrained in our sense of self, it is also a means of grace that we must intentionally cultivate; so fresh from worship experiences that affirmed our intergenerational relationships, let us eagerly form new ones and nurture existing ones.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

40 Day Walk with God

Members of both the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences are being asked to join hands and hearts in a 40 day season of intentional prayer together and with God as we approach Annual Conference. You are invited to share in daily meditation. Please pray for congregational excellence, pastoral excellence, missional excellence, and God's transforming presence.

46th Tennessee Annual Conference

Bishop McAlilly will preside over the Tennessee Annual Conference which is scheduled on June 10-12 at Brentwood UMC. The Bible study for the conference is entitled *Being Disciples* and will be led by Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble. This conference is a special one for Crieveewood as Steph Dodge will be confirmed as a deacon of the United Methodist Church. If you would like to witness this event, the service of commissioning is **Monday, June 10, at 7:00 p.m.**

Summer Adult Sunday School

Several of our adult Sunday school classes have opted to combine for the summer months for two exciting studies:

1. "You Might Be a Methodist If..." led by Pastor Peter, this class will explore what it means to be a Methodist, including our commonalities with other Christians, as well as what makes Methodists unique.
2. "Living Crazy Love" by Francis Chan...Facilitated by Steph Dodge and based on Chan's book, Crazy Love, this study will lead us to pursue God as we grapple with hard questions about the love of God and how His love changes the way we live.

In order to determine materials needed for each class, it will be helpful for adults to let us know in which study they would like to participate. Please watch your bulletin for a tear-off registration form, OR contact Leigh Ann with your preference!

Ice Cream Social

June 9th, 5:30 pm

Get your ice cream recipes ready. CUMC youth will have just returned from Mountain Top so let's welcome them back with homemade ice cream and home-baked desserts. We will fellowship together and hear their stories of mission service while savoring delicious desserts (and a little competition).



Summer Meet and Eat

Please join members of Crieveewood each Wednesday this summer at a local restaurant for dinner. On **May 22, at 5:00 p.m. gather at the City Café in Brentwood.** Then on Wednesday, **May 29, meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. to car pool to Nana's in Nolensville.** Everyone is welcome, but if you plan to go, please let Nancy know so that she can notify the restaurant to expect a larger than normal crowd. Watch the bulletin each Sunday for the weekly dinner location.

Missions

UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has boots on the ground in both Texas and Oklahoma after the recent tornados in those states. Emergency services and first responders are doing their work and securing the areas. Volunteers will be needed, but are asked to be patient for now. UMCOR does request that you pray for the victims of these mighty winds. Relief kits will also be needed, particularly cleaning buckets. Monetary gifts are always welcome. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Crieveewood UMC and designate US Disaster Response-Advance #901670 in the memo line, or you can give online at www.umcor.org.

Habitat Build

Crievewood is supporting the Methodist Habitat Build again this year with both service and money. Our money commitment has been largely met through our Easter offering. If you would like to participate in the actual build, please contact either Don Proctor at 615-832-5135 or Joe Buffler at 615-351-0601. The build will be one day only and will be either on Saturday, September 28th or Sunday, September 29th.

Community Care Fellowship

Community Care Fellowship is in need of all sizes of men's undershirts and is grateful to those persons who have donated items. We will continue to collect garments, so if you have any donation, please leave it on the table at the top of the stairwell off the narthex.

AIM Fall Trip to Mountain T.O.P.

Make your plans now to be part of the CUMC adult fall mission trip to Mountain Top. The dates are October 10th through October 13th. 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. This is often an experience that transforms the volunteer as well as the beneficiary. Don't miss out. For more information call Joe Buffler at 615-351-0601.

Charlie's Caramel Popcorn

Charlie's homemade caramel corn will be available in the narthex on Sunday, May 26. Celebrate the end of the school year with this crunchy summer treat. All proceeds go toward youth missions. The honor system will be in place.



UMW Request

Please save your used books to add to our UMW book sale in July. We want gently used books, CDs, and DVDs. Books for all ages (children included) are needed. We cannot use encyclopedias, video cassettes, or magazines. Start now to collect and put your items in piles in a corner at home or in a closet, then bring them to the church in July where we will store them in the youth room downstairs. Thank you in advance for your help.

Activities

JOY Club Meetings

May

The JOY Club May outing is a tour of the Amish farm land with lunch at the restaurant in Davy Crockett State Park. Participants will leave the church at **9:00 a.m. on May 23rd** and arrive at the farm for a 10:30 a.m. tour. The wagon ride was paid in advance, but please bring \$3 for the van and money to cover your meal.

June

On Sunday, June 9, 2013, the Joy Club will travel to the Larry Keeton Theater to see the *Sound of Music*. Members will leave after the traditional service, travel by car, have lunch, and see the play. Tickets for this event have already been purchased.

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir is out for summer vacation! There will not be choir practice until Wednesday, August 7, 2013.

Gathering Volunteers Needed

We would love to have more volunteers to prepare the Gathering treats for Sunday morning. If you are able to help, please contact Eileen Vaughan at 615-373-2723.

Retreat 2013 News

It is time to begin registering for our annual church-wide retreat. We will head to Beersheba Springs, TN in August (16, 17, 18), and we are so excited about the additions to our weekend. Activities will include:

Games, including Kickball for all!	Bonfire and S'mores
Crafts, including Banner-making	Meaningful Worship Experiences
A NEW Toddler Play Area	Free Time for Parents
Mixer Activities	and Supervised Fun Time for Children
Skits and Singing	

Registration forms are available in the narthex, and the form and deposit are **due June 1**. Please make plans to join us in making this our biggest and best retreat yet! Contact Leigh Ann with questions.

Beersheba Transportation

The Beersheba Committee has been researching the possibility of providing transportation to and from the Beersheba retreat scheduled for the third weekend in August. If you would like to go on the retreat but do not want to drive to the camp, there are two possibilities.

1. A van that would leave Nashville on Friday and return on Sunday after the Beersheba worship service. This van trip would cost about \$25 per person.
2. A van that would leave Nashville on Saturday morning and return Saturday night. The cost per person would be \$20, and Creivewood would need to provide a driver.

A headcount of those interested is needed to determine the viability of such transportation. If you are interested in riding the van, please contact Nancy Rosdeutscher at 615-834-7739 or rosden3@att.net.



Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule

	Toddler Nursery	Infant Nursery
5/26/13	Adele and Brad White	Tom and Becky Freck
6/2/13	Jill and John Stevens	Kim and Jeff Boyce

PJ's, Popcorn, and Movie Night!!

All Children 6th grade and under: Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, June 29 at 6:30 pm** for a fun movie night. Come in your pajamas, and bring your blanket or sleeping bag, pillow, and favorite lovey. We will work on a mission project before we settle in with popcorn to watch our movie. Kids, bring at least **one parent who can stay** with you the entire time. Feel free to bring a friend with his/her parent as well; this will be a great opportunity to invite families to Creivewood!

Youth

Immerse Nashville

Immerse Nashville provides an opportunity for groups to come experience homelessness and other inner-city challenges. The Immerse Nashville team connects people to missional-minded groups with whom they would not otherwise have the opportunity to interact thereby inviting persons with physical, racial, social, educational and economic diversity into a relationship with each other. They will expose and educate the participants with inner-city life with the hope they take those experiences back to their congregations, communities, and homes.

Creivewood Youth will participate in an Immerse Nashville mission the weekend of June 29. Look for more detail in up-coming newsletters.

Other News

Building Committee Update

Construction bids for our renovation and expansion project were received on May 17th, and the Building Committee met May 18th to open them. After review, we have decided to have the architect meet with one of the construction companies to negotiate and clarify the bid amounts. We are aware that the process takes a long time, but are confident that we are moving forward. One development which we very much celebrate is the addition of Mike Taylor to the Building Committee; his knowledge and expertise are a great asset and blessing.