



# The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

July 15, 2015

## Pastor's Pen

### #Symbols

It is a very warm morning, a gentle breeze is blowing, I have had two cups of coffee, why not reflect on the power and presence of symbols in our life. Okay, maybe one more cup of coffee first.

As a people of faith, imagery and symbols are central to the teaching and sustaining of belief. Parables, water, bread, cup, cross, icons are examples of the power of symbols to tether those who profess the Christian faith to a greater story, meaning, and purpose. The profound importance of symbols for our “religious selves” was a sobering, surprising discovery of Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut when he took part in the liberation of a Nazi Germany concentration camp. German born, he became a U.S. citizen, enlisted in the Army, and served as a chaplain. Rabbi Plaut recalled that the survivors’ “first request was not for food, but for Jewish religious items.” (*The Week*, February 24, 2012, page 42)

Generally speaking, symbols are a ubiquitous part of life permeating language, culture, politics, religion, customs, art and poetry. Visual and tactile “signifiers” of meaning beyond themselves; an interesting double illustration of this is a traffic light. Not only do red, green, and yellow have their understood meaning, but changing the accepted order of red on top and green on the bottom has caused accidents for color-blind drivers.

One symbol, very much in our national consciousness, is the Confederate flag. Standards, banners, and flags have a long history rooted in strategic military purposes, when the raising of such allowed observance of troop movement from a distance. It is a noteworthy piece of Christian history that in response to a vision he had, Emperor Constantine I added the Chi-Rho symbol (monogram of Christ) to the Roman flag of Victory before the Battle of Milvian Bridge (312). Over time flags were used for heraldry, and to identify nations, states, towns, teams, causes, and events.

I can testify from many years of experience as a local church pastor that the presence of a flag in the sanctuary is a topic about which many people have great passion, though much more so about the flag of the United States than the Christian flag. It seems appropriate that the study of flags is vexillology, vexing as it can be.

I understand that the same symbol can mean something different to different people, which keeps me circumspect in the current Confederate flag controversy. It “signifies” the defeated side in the Civil War or the heritage of a geographical area, it “signifies” the sacrifice of ancestors or the institution of slavery, it “signifies” a more genteel time or the pernicious scourge of racism; and so it goes.

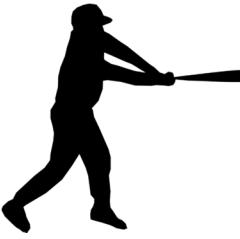
In my opinion it is clearly a piece of history and as such has its place in museums and interpretive centers. As for the other meanings the balance feels uneven and weighted toward the ugliness of slavery and racism. My simple faith equation is that, given the loaded meaning of the Confederate flag transcending history as a symbol of a racist institution and in US history as a symbol of seceded states determined to preserve slavery, I would hope its presence continues to diminish. I can accept that there are people who hold the Confederate flag in high regard and consider slavery and racism evil; the tilt of the balance is the over-ride for me.

Symbols are powerful and they are all around us. In Plato’s *Republic* he writes, “What is perceptible to the senses is a reflection of what is intelligible to the mind”. Consider the cross, so central to our Christian faith. In the particular of history an instrument of excruciating state killing, in the universal a symbol of Christ’s sacrificial love and our salvation. Generations of believers have looked upon the cross and perceived God’s love for humanity, consequently, generations of followers have looked upon the cross and understood Christ Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; and acted accordingly.

Peter van Eys

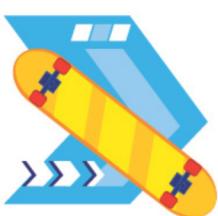
# Up-Coming Events

## Summer Baseball



Crievewood is going to the Nashville Sounds Game on [Sunday, August 9](#). The game starts at 6:35 p.m. and tickets are \$10. A free Christian concert is also included with your ticket for those who want to arrive early. Please reserve your ticket by July 26th by bringing \$10 to Rev. Steph.

## VBS News



Vacation Bible School begins [this coming SUNDAY, July 19](#) with a kick-off at 5:45 p.m. Whether pre-registered or not, join us for some music and snacks, and pick up your t-shirts and cd's. Information sheets with menus, drop-off and pick-up plans, and information about this year's mission project will also be available.

Remember--the cost is only \$5 per child with a \$10 per family maximum. We will accept all registration fees at the kick-off on Sunday; please make checks payable to Crievewood UMC.

Can't wait to see you!!!

## Missions

### VBS Mission Focus—OPEN TABLE

Please purchase items for VBS mission crafts and bring them to the church. There is a container marked "VBS Missions" in the Educational Office. We are accepting items up until the Sunday kickoff of VBS, July 19. Thanks for your generosity in advance.

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

The Outreach Committee has scheduled a CUMC adult fall mission trip to Mountain Top on [October 1-4](#). Our mission team will work hard fulfilling the physical and spiritual needs of the residents of the Cumberland Mountains while enjoying Christian fellowship and serving our Lord and Savior. 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.

### Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Crievewood has been invited to form a team and participate in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event that is scheduled for October 10 at LP Field. If you would like to be part of such a team please contact Tracey Lee, Outreach chair, or contact the office by the end of July. The kickoff event to launch the campaign is August 12.

# Activities

## Crievewood Homecoming/Open House and Church Picnic

Saturday, August 29, should be an exciting day as we celebrate our new church renovation with the church family and community. Open house is from 3-5 p.m. with the picnic following on the church grounds. Don't miss this event. Circle the date, [August 29](#), on your calendar right now. More information will be forthcoming, but if you have any questions, please contact Jill Thurman at 615-832-6705 or [thurmanfamily@bellsouth.net](mailto:thurmanfamily@bellsouth.net).

## Summer Meet and Eat

Meet and Eat is an opportunity to fellowship with Crievewood friends over the summer. Participants meet on Wednesdays at a local restaurant for dinner. The schedule for the upcoming weeks is as follows:

July 15	Cracker Barrel in Cool Springs (carpool)
July 22	Red Lobster in Hickory Hollow
July 29	Demo's in Murfreesboro (carpool)

Diners usually meet at the restaurant around 4:30 p.m. and the group gathers together, enters, and is seated to eat by 5:00 p.m. However, on July 15 and July 29 participants will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. and carpool. Participants should try to arrange their own transportation. If you cannot find transportation and need a ride, please call Nancy Rosdeutscher by Tuesday noon before the Wednesday dinner.

## FAMILY RETREAT in Beersheba Springs

Final payments for our annual Church-Wide Family Retreat are due by July 26. Only one month to go until we leave for our fun-filled weekend!

## JOY Club

JOY Club will eat at Miss Bobo's on July 23. Reservations are required. Participants should meet at the church at 10:15 a.m.

On August 27 Joy Club will meet for another mystery lunch. Diners should meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. The clue for the outing is that it should be windy.

## Farmin' in the Hall

CHNA's farmers' market hosted by Crievewood UMC will return every Thursday this summer. The event runs from 4:30-7:00 p.m. and will have delicious food, great music, and many friendly faces. Please support the local farmers by buying fresh fruits and vegetables for your family at the market each week.

## Fall Bible Studies

School starts in less than a month (Yikes!), and our Christian Education Team is offering three adult Bible Study options for the fall.

Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study is an ongoing group with a meeting time of 9:30 every Tuesday morning. Led by Jim Kannon, members study various books of the Bible and other books throughout the year.

There is some interest in resuming Disciple Bible Studies. More information about Disciple studies is available here: <https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=295&pageid=1142>

Disciple group will meet once a week in the evening (time and specific day to be determined by those who sign up), and meet together throughout the school year. If you are looking for an overview of the Bible, Disciple might be for you.

Our evening Women's Bible Study group will resume meeting on Sunday, August 23 and will be reading and discussing Jen Hatmaker's new book For the Love.

## Youth



Any youth going into 7th-12th grade is invited to join us for Christian Adventure Week. It's a full week of fun, food, service as the youth group gets to know each other.

The 2015 schedule includes:

- Monday - Mad Skills Monday, games and grilling at the church
- Tuesday - Cedar Creek Sports Center in Mt. Juliet
- Wednesday - Canoeing the Harpeth River
- Friday - Serving at Second Harvest
- Friday-Saturday - Staying at Chuck and Betsy's Lake House
- Sunday - Youth Group Kickoff

Please see Steph for a full schedule and to sign-up.

## Children

### Nursery Schedule:

	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Shift</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Shift</u>
July 19	Christy and Kellyanne Shaw	Susan and Randy Cortner
July 26	Jimmy and Carla Arnette	Jimmy and Carla Arnette

### Child Care News

Enrollment: Fall is filling up. We have 11 school age and 2 preschool spots still available before we hit maximum capacity.

Teacher needed: The child care is seeking an energetic part-time afternoon teacher for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class starting in August. It is a perfect job for a college student (afternoons 2 until 6).

Wish List: The child care is in need of a few fitted crib sheets. The children use these to cover their mats at naptime. We just need a few on hand in case of accidents.