

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

July 25, 2012

Consistent in Message and trusting of Grace

Lombardy Avenue is a short street in the 37215 zip code. I often use it when making an east-west crossing that avoids Woodmont, Wedgewood, and for that matter I-440. Apparently enough of us consider it a helpful cut-through, to the point that the city placed speed bumps to slow traffic.

For the record, the speed bumps are serious speed bumps. Coming downhill I have been known to stop when I reach a speed bump and let gravity gently carry me over. However, the presence of the speed bumps brings up two theological problems, because we all know God cares about speed bumps.

First, with the posted speed limit 30 mph there is an obvious mixed message. Travelling at that speed on Lombardy would damage most vehicles, creating a stretch where the sign says 30 but the bumps encourage 5. Mixed messages trouble all faith communities too.

Second, if in fact 30 mph is appropriate for that street then the very presence of “traffic calming” bumps implies an expectation that people will not abide by the posted speed limit. I understand that evidence must have warranted the need, but still, speed bumps assume wrong doing before it happens. Free will is at best compromised, if not removed.

We could certainly reflect a bit more on how the Church can communicate effectively and consistently the message of God’s love and grace, and how free will factors into our daily decision making. However, let me bring it down to the particular movement of the Holy Spirit at Crievewood.

Together we share the high calling of offering Christ to the world, of being a welcoming place and an instrument of God’s love and care for all people. Yes, we all have varying gifts, but we are most faithful when our message is pure and simple and consistent; God loves all and sent Jesus Christ that all might be saved. In worship, in fellowship, in service, in covenant, that message is made manifest in the ways we treat one another and engage the world.

With regard to free will, ours is a faith anchored in grace, God’s amazing, prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. To be sure, God has set limits and boundaries for healthy community and life in the Kingdom, and all of us “fall short of the glory of God” from time to time. Nevertheless, we are a community of faith where it is assumed that members choose to be faithful to the covenant life of the Church. No speed bumps here, just the weekly opportunity to confess our sins and to know mercy and reconciliation.

We are all on this road of life together and there are enough pot-holes and road hazards without our creating mixed messages or building speed bumps; pray with me that Crievewood will always be consistent in message and trusting of grace.

Peter van Eys

New Bishop Appointed

At Annual Conference steps were taken to begin the union of the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences. Last week our new bishop was appointed to serve this new conference. A press release from the TN Conference is printed below.

The Memphis and Tennessee Conferences are excited to welcome Bishop-elect Rev. Bill McAlilly and family to the Nashville Episcopal Area UMC. The announcement came shortly after 9:15 pm cst from the bar of the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska Conference Center, the traditional venue for this quadrennial event.

Bishop-elect McAlilly comes from the MS Conference UMC and is currently District Superintendent of the Seashore District. A small portion of his bio reads: "He leads the heart of the church into the heart of mission as evidenced by his call to the MS Gulf Coast and in forming a partnership between Seashore District and the Methodist Church of Nicaragua, now a mission emphasis of the Mississippi Conference. He serves as a member of the Holy Conferencing Task Force leading toward General Conference 2012 and was a contributor to the book, The Gift of Unity, edited by Bishop Scott Jones.

Fifth Sunday Pot Luck

Come and join the Crievewood family for dinner this Sunday, July 29. **The meal begins at 5:30 p.m. Please check your calendar on the time as it has been advertised differently in places.** The meal will be catered barbecue. Please bring a dessert to share. This is one more chance to sample the sweet treats of our Crievewood cooks and to share in Christian fellowship.

Missions

BBQ, Bingo, and Bill\$

Please join the Searchers Class for a fun night of food, entertainment, and friendly bingo on August 11 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Every bill counts, as our goal is to raise \$4,000 to send Kwame's kids back to Ghana for school in August. Special thanks goes to those who have already donated to our goal. If you would like to make an individual donation in advance, please leave your gift in the church office and designate on your check memo line that the money is for the *Back to Ghana* mission.

AIM Fall Trip to Mountain T.O.P.

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.

Habitat Build

Crievewood is supporting the Methodist Habitat Build this year with both service and money. Our money commitment is met. If you would like to participate in the actual build on **Saturday, September 8, (note the change of date)**, please contact Joe Buffler at 615-351-0601.

Children's Corner



Back-To-School-Bash!!

All children, entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade, are invited to Crievewood's annual Back-To-School-Bash on Saturday, August 4, from 6-8 p.m. We will swim, eat hot dogs, and make s'mores at the home of David and Sue Bean. Please RSVP to Betsy Bean at betsy.hindsbean@regions.com or contact the church office at 832-2897.

Promotion Sunday

All children entering Kindergarten, 2nd grade, or 4th grade will attend Sunday school in their new classrooms on the morning of **July 29**. Parents should receive a welcome letter from the teacher of the new class, introducing themselves and giving the new room location. We are excited about this milestone in our children's lives.

2nd/3rd Grade Bibles

Our Crievewood Family will be presenting Bibles to our 2nd and 3rd graders on Promotion Sunday, July 29, in the Traditional Service at 10:45 in the sanctuary. If your child is entering 2nd or 3rd grade this fall, please contact Leigh Ann Cate with the name you would like imprinted on your child's Bible and to RSVP that your family will be able to attend the service.

Teacher/Leader Training

A roundtable discussion and information session regarding children's programs/ministries for the new school year will be offered as part of teacher training on **Wednesday, August 1, 2012, in Fellowship Hall**. A tour of the supply closet, discipline ideas, a sneak peak of our new curriculum for both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights will also be included.

Anyone who is committed or interested in teaching, assisting, or leading in any area of children's ministries (examples: Sunday school teachers, Wednesday night program helpers, children's church volunteers, etc.) should attend this training.

Youth

Youth Parent Meeting

We will be having a parent meeting for all parent's of youth on July 29th following the potluck in the builder's classroom. We will be going over our schedule for the fall, discussing youth group policies, the meal schedule, etc. Please make every effort to be in attendance if you have a child in the 7-12 grades.

Youth Group Kickoff

Youth Group Kickoff is Sunday, August 5th at 5:00 p.m. Wear something that you can get wet, and bring a towel as we will be having some fun outdoors on this night.

Adult Volunteers

Do you enjoy working with the youth? The youth group is looking for volunteers who could come once on a Sunday night from 5-7 p.m. every 4-6 Sundays. We have a great bunch of youth, and you will be blessed during the time you spend with them. Speak with Stephanie if you are interested.

Chancel Choir

The adult choir will start rehearsal again on August 2nd at 6:30 p.m. We are rehearsing this year on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, we would love to have you. Please email Will Lambert at will@wcs.edu for further information about our first rehearsal. New and old members are urged to take part again. This is a great way to serve in worship.

Joy Club

The July mystery lunch is scheduled for Thursday, July 26. The clue for the July destination is "at the cutting edge". Participants will leave the church at 10:15 a.m. Bring money for your lunch and \$2 for the van.

In August, the clue for the trip is "your pictures may be a bit cheesy". Join us for lunch on **Thursday, August 23**, and enjoy the mystery and fellowship. Participants should be at the church at 10:30 a.m.

Scrapbooks

If you would like to help create Christmas scrapbooks or if you know of someone who might like to receive a Christmas scrapbook, please contact Nancy Rosdeutscher at 615-521-2151.