

Pastor's Pen

Big Heads and Sore Shins

I could easily have a big head given the attention I received yesterday. I turned 60 on a Sunday; as you can imagine (or witnessed) being a preacher can be a sweet life, think cake and cupcakes. The children presented me with so many birthday cards, I was sung to five times, and well, the kind wishes kept coming. I am grateful indeed.

Yet I relate my corporeal birthday experience more to Barbara Brown Taylor's comment that the world is so full of the divine that "it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars." Rather than a big head, I went to bed last night with sore shins from the many blessings of the day.

Our worship services were both amazing! It was a particular joy to have the children share an overview of their Vacation Bible School week in word and song. As I noted prior to my sermon, thanks to the energy and presence and gift of the children we already "had church"; I preached anyway, but that is beside the point. We were sublimely blessed. It is hard to believe anyone left worship Sunday with shins intact.

Reflecting farther back, I want to express my appreciation to all who planned for, prepared for, and served in our Vacation Bible School. Besides the children who came each night for food, music, games, crafts, and Bible stories, our Kids for Christ (KFC) group gathered each evening before heading off to do fun or service activities. It takes many, many folks to host such a marvelous week, and it was a marvelous week!

Today begins Christian Adventure Week for our youth. It marks the end of summer and the beginning of a new year of youth ministry, a time to welcome those who are entering the 7th grade. Fellowship, food, fun, and mission work (thus ends the alliteration) are woven together to bind together this much cherished group. I trust you will join me in thanking God for each of our youth and in preparing to welcome other youth God may send our way.

Yesterday the first reading was from the third chapter of Ephesians. Paul offers a prayer for the faith community expressing the hope that, "rooted and grounded in love", we may come to know the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love. Paul goes on to expound on the power of God to accomplish through us more than we can envision, such is the incredible work of the Spirit as we open our lives to that holy love.

Living, as we are, in the afterglow of our Vacation Bible School week and in the midst of our Christian Adventure Week, we are truly immersed in the fullness of God's presence and the abundance of God's blessings. Of course, expanding the breadth and length and height and depth of our experience and knowledge of God's love comes with risk to our shins. A beautiful thing.

Peter van Eys

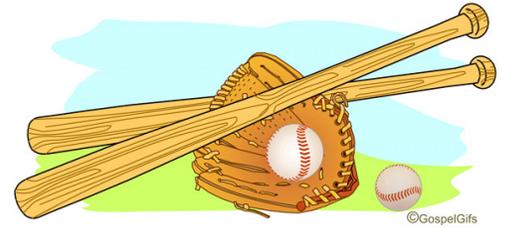
Up-Coming Events

Criewood Open House and Church Picnic

Saturday, August 29, will 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 at 5 p.m. 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.

Batter Up

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 bringing \$10 to Rev. Steph.



Writers' Night

Crievewood UMC and the Young Adult Sunday School class will be hosting a writers' night on Friday night, August 28 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Come hear great writers and musicians including: Caleb Dinger, Dane van Eys, Ellen Thweatt, and others. This event is free and open to the community. Invite your friends. Refreshments will be provided.

Combined Worship Service

On Sunday, August 16, many of our congregation will be attending morning worship service at Beersheba. The Trustees also have a task to complete in fellowship hall in preparation for the church open house. For those reasons **there will be ONE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE ON AUGUST 16 at 10:45 a.m. in the church sanctuary.**

Missions

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.

Work Project

On **July 31 and August 1** beginning at 8:00 a.m. each morning, there will be a work project at the McBryde home. Anyone who would like to participate in that project should contact Joe Buffler at 615-351-0601.

TP Sunday

Crievewood continues supporting the homeless by supplying Community Care Fellowship with toilet paper. The next **TP Sunday is August 2**. Packages may be left in the narthex.

Thank you!

Thank you to Leigh Coppella and her team for a fantastic Vacation Bible School. The adults had as much fun as the kids, and we learned lots about how we live, move, and exist in God.

Also, the backpacks for Open Table will be delivered this week along with our monetary donation. Thanks to all who contributed!

Activities

Retreat News

Watch your email for info regarding room assignments, what to bring, directions, etc. We are EXCITED about our time of sharing and relaxing on the mountain. We have two rooms left until July 30 if any other families decide to join us.

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.

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 Summer Meet and Eat for the upcoming weeks is as follows:

July 29	Demo's in Murfreesboro (carpool)
August 5	Nana's in Nolensville (carpool)
August 12	Cinco De Mayo in Brentwood at 4:30 p.m.

On July 29 and August 5 diners will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. and carpool. If you cannot find transportation and need a ride, please call Nancy Rosdeutscher by Tuesday noon before the Wednesday dinner.

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.

New Adult Sunday School Curriculum

Prayer, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness

This fall Crievewood will be offering a Sunday School curriculum based on the Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness part of our membership vows. Whether you are new to the United Methodist Church or have been a member for decades, this study will help us focus on the vows we make as United Methodists and help us (re)claim what it means to live as a child of God and a valued member of this faith community.

This five week study, written by Rev. Steph Dodge, begins Sept. 6th. We encourage all of the adult Sunday School classes to use it in their own classes or combine with other classes to go over the material together. The study will include Bible lessons from the Gospel of Mark, activities and discussion questions. All materials will be provided for any class wishing to participate in the study.

There will be an informational meeting about the curriculum for all Sunday School teachers on Aug. 9th directly following worship in the conference room. Teachers are invited to bring a sack lunch, and we will go over the first 2 lessons in the series. Teachers will be able to ask questions and offer feedback. We encourage you to send someone from your class whether or not you decide to use the curriculum this fall. We hope to see you there!

JOY Club Mystery Lunch

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.

Children

Thanks for the Memories

Congrats to our outgoing soon-to-be 7th graders who are moving on from the Crieewood Kids and into the Crieewood Youth group this fall. They are

Austin David	Jacob Lee	Eric Leyers
Lane Shaw	Tommy Stevens	

Child Care News

Thanks: Our small playground is starting to take shape. Thanks to Mark Morrison, Keith Head, Bill Tucker, and Joe Buffler who donated a Saturday morning of hard work in the heat to get the equipment in place.

Fall : We have commitments for over 85% of our Fall spots. We should be close to capacity, which is 90 students, by the second week of August. The center will be closed Monday and Tuesday August 3 & 4 for in-service. We start our fall session on Wednesday August 5.

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