

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

August 8, 2012

Having the Mind of Christ

Two weeks ago I landed in Phoenix and headed to Sedona for the night, the Grand Canyon the next day. The car dashboard registered the outside temperature at 111 leaving the airport and 70 at the end of the day, a 41 degree swing. We arrived at the Grand Canyon in a passing rain shower, which had a cooling effect of its own, but soon found ourselves marveling at the beauty, the expanse, and the perspective this natural wonder afforded, under a lovely sky. We physically hiked the 8 mile rim trail from Bright Angel Lodge to Hermit's Rest, but were spiritually transported into a sublime peace and a profound sense of God's majesty.

Patti, David, Dane, and I have a tradition of seeing a baseball game each year, working our way through the 30 stadiums that host a Major League team; this was our 18th stop. Back in Phoenix it was a toasty walk to Chase Field where the Arizona Diamondbacks play. With the retractable roof closed, we were surprised to find it raining after the game, and even more surprised to learn a significant dust storm had passed through the city while the Diamondbacks were drubbing the Astros. It has been a long time since I have used the word drubbing.

The Olympics have captured my imagination, as they do. I appreciate the commitment required by athletes to get to that stage, and I welcome the international goodwill they engender. Yes, I had my own Olympic moment, a flying belly flop with a half twist onto the church parking lot. Not a good idea; with one over my belt so to speak, I may be holding my breath but not in hopes of it becoming a sanctioned event. I am particularly enthralled by the USA Women's Soccer team, but have been captivated by the individual and collective story lines in team USA Women's gymnastics. I would highlight 16 year old Gabby Douglas, who handled the highs and lows with grace and aplomb. Her comment about how challenging it is to stay mentally focused when so physically drained is a truth that encompasses more than sport.

I returned from vacation reminded that while I am comfortably being entertained, the storms of life are creating havoc for others. From wide swings in temperature to the transcendent experience of the Grand Canyon, I returned to worship at Crievewood and heard powerful testimonies of "paradigm shifts" from members of our Bahamas Habitat Mission Team. Having watched the Olympics opening celebration on a TV in southwest Missouri, I returned from precious time with family to the ongoing challenges that we, the Crievewood congregation, face striving to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

The start of another academic year ramps up our programmatic calendar, Charge Conference and its necessary preparations are on the horizon, a Capital Campaign to fund the renovation and building project is underway, implementation of a Safe Sanctuary policy continues, and the challenges that come with church growth are here. It can be physically exhausting no matter how intensive our spiritual training/discipline to this point.

There will certainly be days of belly flops and self-inflicted pain; we are humans. Too, there will be days of joy and triumph; we are part of the body of Christ. Spiritual bursts of energy will be coupled with moments of spiritual fatigue; the trick it seems is to keep mentally focused on that which is eternal. Which by the way, requires a paradigm shift of Grand Canyon, 40+ degrees, proportion; for those who would win their life must lose it, and those who would be exalted must become a servant to others.

Peter van Eys

Upcoming Events

Beersheba Retreat Update

Seventy members of our Crievewood family will be embarking on a Beersheba adventure the weekend of August 17, 18, and 19. The fun includes a Hiwassee River raft trip, swimming and wading at the swimming hole, campfire, board games, hiking, rocking on the porch, worship, and fellowship. Pastor Peter will be returning to Crievewood in time to lead worship on Sunday morning at the usual times. Please pray for safe travel for all, and if you will miss out on the fun this year, plan on joining us next year, September, 2013, for this annual event!

JOY Club

The clue for this month's mystery lunch is "your pictures may be a bit cheesy". Join us on **Thursday, August 23**, and enjoy the unexpected and the fellowship of friends. Participants should be at the church at 10:30 a.m. Bring enough money to cover your lunch and \$2 to help cover the van expense.

There will also be a JOY Club planning meeting on August 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room to work on the JOY Club schedule for upcoming months. If you have an activity that you think JOY Club would enjoy, please let Nancy Rosdeutscher know before that meeting.

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.

The Cooper

The Mary Cooper Honorary Golf Challenge benefiting Miriam's Promise will be held on Monday, September 24, in Franklin, Tennessee. The challenge will take place at Forrest Crossing Golf Course which features scenic views of the Harpeth River. With four sets of tees, the course offers a challenge to golfers of all skill sets. If you would like to register, please go to www.miriamspromise.org.

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market at Forest Hills UMC is now in its third season. Each Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon local farmers and food vendors offer their produce and other food items for sale. If you are looking for local fruits, vegetables, herbs, breads, and muffins, stop by the market any Saturday from June 16 to October 27. The cost to each of the vendors who use the church grounds is a donation to *Feed America First* in either fresh produce or money, so a purchase not only helps to feed your family, but it will help to feed another family in need as well.

Children's Corner

Bibles Presented

It is a tradition in the United Methodist Church for the congregation to present a Bible to students entering the 3rd grade. This is a very special time in the life of the congregation and in the lives of our children. This year, because our 2nd graders share a Sunday school class with our 3rd graders, we presented Bibles to both classes. We hope each child will remember to bring their Bibles each week to Sunday school.

Please congratulate and pray for the following students:

Addie Bean

Kate Maree Brewer

Bo Bryan

Abbi Grace Curry

Austin David

Ava Parkes

Ryan Stevens

Will Thornton

Ella White

Youth

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.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, September 5**, as we resume our Wednesday Night Fellowship, with a meal at 5:30 p.m., followed by programming at 6:15 p.m. Our adult program that evening will be led by **Victoria Bowman, missionary to Kazakhstan**, who has received support from our local UMW and is a member at Forest Hills UMC.

Children's Choirs and Youth Disciple classes will also begin their fall seasons on September 5.

Please remember to make dinner reservations with Jan Bassett in the church office by calling 615-832-2897 or placing the reservation form in the weekly bulletin (starting September 2) in the offering plate. Standing reservations also need to be confirmed for the 2012-13 year.

Watch this space for updated programming information for the fall semester, meal pricing, and menus.

Reminder: For parents attending Wednesday night programs, child care is available in the nursery for children ages 2 and under. We ask you to register your child and your location with the caregivers when you drop off your children.

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign Leadership Team is now complete. The following people are diligently working to prepare for our Kick-off on October 7:

Directors: Craig Leyers
Ken Pinkston

Coordinators: Becky Freck
Jeanne Gardiner

Promotion: Ed Cromer
Tom Freck

Hospitality: Linda Booth
Sylvia Cantrell

Prayer: Jim Kannon
Tom McBryde

Advance Gifts: Joe Carter, Walker Huey,
Berta Perkins

Small Groups: Dick Bickell
Eileen Vaughan

Launch Sunday: Kim Boyce
Kathryn Buffler

Stewardship: Nancy Rosdeutscher
Andy Cate

Children/Youth: Leigh Ann Cate
Stephanie Dodge

Chancel Choir

The adult choir has started rehearsing again after a short summer break. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions about the adult Chancel Choir, please email Will Lambert at will@wcs.edu for further information.

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.

September Dates to Remember

September 5, 5:30 p.m.	WNF Dinner/Program, Youth Disciple, Children's Choir begin
September 8, 8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast resumes; Methodist Habitat Build
September 9, 4:00 p.m.	Youth Choir begins
September 16, 11:45 a.m.	AIM Spaghetti Luncheon
September 29	Crieve Hall's <i>Fall in the Hall</i>
September 30, 11:45 a.m.	Charge Conference