

# The Messenger

Creievewood United Methodist Church

August 22, 2012

## Blessings and Seasons

The elevator door opened, and I joined a woman who had pre-boarded a few floors above; we were both on our way to the first floor of Vanderbilt Hospital. No sooner had the doors closed and she spoke to me: "This is not the way I wanted to visit Nashville, my husband and I were planning our first trip here for next summer, to go to the Opry; but my son was in a terrible accident, and here I am." I tried to respond pastorally, to which she said "I know things are going to be okay because the sun is shining, and that means God is sending us blessings." Walking to my car I offered a prayer for her son and reflected on her theological statement. I believe God's blessings are not weather dependent, but I was glad for a sunny day and the hope she was feeling.

By now I am sure most folks with any relation to Creievewood UMC are aware that we are in the midst of a Capital Campaign, with the theme: **It's About Time**. Based on Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For every thing there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven", we have been celebrating the movement of the Holy Spirit at this time, at this place. We are truly in a wonderful season of life for this congregation.

The more I thought about the woman I met in the elevator, the more I understood what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "[God] makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45), as another expression of the changing seasons. Yet, there is an emphasis on, and affirmation of, God's constant ordering of creation.

The tragic happens. People and congregations are prone to ebbs and flows in their spiritual growth. Life gives way to death and death gives way to life. The list is long that validates seasonal cycles in the human experience. Nevertheless, God is a present help in times of trouble and ever initiating the power of love and grace; indeed, it is our faith conviction that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39).

God's blessings are ever flowing. It is during the seasons of our lives when we are faithful to our covenant life with God and each other that we are most profoundly aware of those blessings. I have a hunch that the woman on the elevator has a strong faith, and her deep communion with God was the source of her assurance and hope. I am grateful she knows blessing in the midst of a challenging season for her and her family.

I am also thankful for the blessings that seem so abundant here at Creievewood, knowing that it is the faithfulness of the congregation that keeps our heart tuned to the rhythms of the Spirit. Moreover, it is that faithfulness which confirms for us that this is a special season in the life of this church; a beautiful time.

Peter van Eys

## Missions

### 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.

### AIM Spaghetti Luncheon

The adults who are volunteering for Mountain Top are raising money to offset the cost of their mission trip by offering a delicious

spaghetti dinner after the traditional service on **Sunday, September 16**. Some of the best Crieveewood pasta cooks will be cooking up spaghetti, salad, French bread, and dessert. If you can't participate as part of the Mountain Top mission team but would like to support the mission, please plan on attending the spaghetti luncheon.

## Community Care Fellowship

Community Care Fellowship is in need of all sizes of men's undershirts. After last year's great response to provide toilet paper, we are hoping that we can be as generous in providing new t-shirts. If you have a donation, please leave it on the table at top of stairwell off the narthex.

## 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 no later than noon on Tuesday or by placing the reservation form in the weekly bulletin in the offering plate (starting September 2). 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. Please register your child and your location with the caregivers when you drop off your children.

## WNF Menu

Wednesday, September 5— Chicken pot pie, cranberry sauce, green salad, and dessert

## Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men resume their monthly meetings on Saturday, September 8, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend Men's Breakfast which features Charlie Bennett's country breakfast.

## 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.

## Softball

The Crieveewood softball team has playoffs this Friday, August 24, at 6:15 p.m. at Paragon Mills Park. They have had a fairly successful season finishing with 6 wins and 8 losses. Come out and cheer them on Friday night!

## Retreat News

Seventy members, ranging in age from a few months to 80+ years, gathered at Beersheba Springs this past weekend. We hiked, swam in icy cold waters, rafted the Hiwassee, sang songs around the campfire, roasted s'mores, held kittens, laughed a lot, worked puzzles, played cards, rocked on the porch, and worshiped together in the chapel before heading home.

We appreciate the contributions of **all** who attended, and we offer special thanks to:

Gail Cate for setting up our snack room,  
Sue Bean for snack room assistance and nursery help,  
Betsy Bean for leading our Fun Friday game night and general assistance,  
Our youth for contributing their humor during campfire,  
Dane van Eys, Patti van Eys, and Steph Dodge for leading worship and campfire songs,  
Pastor Peter for organizing our raft trip,  
Sharon Ferrell for her craftiness and general assistance,  
Ed Thornton (and crew!) for our blazing campfire, and  
Andy Cate for arranging both the swim excursion and the set-up of the campfire site.

Please make plans to join us in 2013\*\*\*\*\* Dates announced soon!

## Children's Supply Closet

While school supplies are abundant in the stores and priced lower than any other time of the year, we are asking for donations for our children's supply closet. The following items are needed and can be dropped in the church educational office.

Glue sticks  
Hand held pencil sharpeners  
Glue Sticks  
Scotch Tape  
Glue Sticks  
Markers (Fine point and Wide—Washable!!!)

Thank you!!!

## Acolyte Training

There will be training for acolytes next Sunday, August 26, in the sanctuary immediately following the traditional service. Anyone in the fourth to sixth grade can participate.

## Crievewood Child Care Parent's Meeting

There will be a meeting of all the parents with children in the Crievewood Child Care on Wednesday, August 29, at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to inform parents of the up-coming capital projects and to answer questions on how that construction may impact Child Care.

**Fall Festival**



**Saturday, October 27**

**It's ALL Free—Come and join the fun!**