

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

September 19, 2012

Pastor's Pen

Spinning the Christian Faith

As I look out my office window the rain is falling; lots of it. I actually used an umbrella to get from home to office, which is a bit atypical. I know I don't really look much different wet or dry, but I had just taken a shower and thought one was enough for the morning. By all accounts we need the rain; I am told that rainfall for the year remains below normal in Nashville and across the State, and I have been aware that the creek behind my house is low. A creek by the way that flows out of a spring (one of many in the Central Basin of the Highland Rim aquifer) a few yards over, from groundwater that is recharged with significant rainfall; and there we have another lesson on the circle of life.

My office window-to-the-world offers a steady portrait of our community. Besides the changing seasons of fall color and spring blooms, people walk by alone, in pairs, with dogs, talking on cell phones, pushing strollers; some multi-tasking. Many run by, individuals, pairs, or occasionally a school team. And now and then I see folk on horses, adding another dimension to the run or walk experience soon after.

But on rainy days (and winter ice) the main distraction is the frequent spinning of tires as cars head up the hill; for which I am sympathetic since my truck has joined in a number of times. To be sure not all vehicles have this issue, some variables being tire tread, oil/gas on the road, and rear axle weight. Poor traction can be a challenge born of wear and tear and infrequent tire rotation. Oil or gas leaking from cars builds up over time on roads and proves particularly dangerous during rain that follows a long dry spell. And the heavier a vehicle the less likely it will face this problem.

This of course offers a theological insight about those times when life feels it is spinning out of control. Understanding that our covenant relationship with God and with members of the body of Christ establishes a baseline for life in the Kingdom, it does not take too much imagination to connect the traction of our spiritual lives with maintenance of our souls, the cleansing of our sins, and the depth/weight of our faith. Without regular participation in the means of grace, without intentional commitment to nurture the ties that bind us in Christ, we commonly struggle to gain traction on our journey toward perfection (as we Methodists like to phrase it).

Rainy days, stormy days come; the debris from and leaks of fellow travelers present real hazards. Nevertheless, we all have responsibility for the care and maintenance of our own lives. Regular participation in worship, study and Christian fellowship are critical for gauging one's own spiritual health. Rotating between entering the house of God and going forth to serve in the world provides the necessary balance for growing up in Christ. For those who truly gather to praise God and enter into the mysteries of love, mercy, and grace not only cleanse their souls but open their lives to new depths of devotion and, more often than not, shift weight to faithful living.

This too is about the circle of life. God created us, sent Jesus to save us from sin and death, calls us into covenant relationship with God and neighbor, and opens the way to life eternal. Love and faithfulness are ultimately what most define our Christian lives, no matter how we spin it.

Peter van Eys

Missions

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 the first Sunday of the month. The next T-Sunday is October 7.

Up-Coming Events

One Worship Service

Please mark your calendar that on Sunday, October 7, the Capital Campaign Kick-off, there will be **one worship service at 10:00 a.m.** Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m. The Capital Kick-off luncheon follows worship. Please join us for an exciting day!

Charge Conference

Charge Conference is scheduled on Sunday, September 30, following the traditional worship service. Charge Conference is the gathering of the congregation and Administrative Council to confirm the local church leadership for 2013. Please plan to be present.

Crievewood Work Day

The Trustees are sponsoring a work day on Saturday morning, September 22. The clean-up will begin at 8:00 a.m. All church members are welcome as many hands make the task go quickly.



Sunday School Capital Campaign Presentations

A Capital Campaign video presentation has been scheduled on Sunday, October 21 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The video features interviews with various members of our congregation including youth and children, and others who are present will be encouraged to share their stories about how Crievewood UMC has enriched their lives. There will be four presentations given during the one hour class period with the following assignments:

- (1) Builders, Hilltop and New Creations will meet with Tandy Taylor in the Builders' classroom
- (2) Fellowship Forum, Wesley, and Young Spirits will meet with Dick Bickell in the Fellowship Forum classroom.
- (3) Searchers, New Journey, and the Coffee and Discipleship Class will meet with Jim Fuller in the Searchers classroom.
- (4) There will also be a presentation in the sanctuary for members who are not currently affiliated with a class.

Please plan to attend this important event as we prepare our hearts and minds to grow our church.

Carter Ellis Preaching Schedule

Crievewood is extraordinarily blessed to have Carter Ellis among us as part of her learning experience through Vanderbilt Divinity School. It is hard to believe she is in her third and final year. Anticipating life beyond Vanderbilt and appointment to a local church in her home conference, Western North Carolina, part of her focus is on the development of practical skills. Preaching is part of the job description that awaits her, and we have already experienced her as an able and effective preacher, but a part of the skill set involves regular preparation of sermons. To practice that Carter will be preaching once a month this academic year, September 23rd, October 21st, November 11th, and December 16th in 2012. I know you want to be present to support her and to hear what God would have her share.

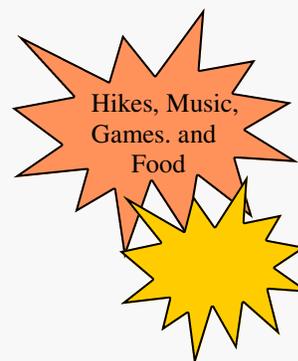
Blessing of the Animals

There will be a short service on Sunday, October 7, at 5:00 p.m. to bless our animals and pets. Please assemble on the church grounds to the west of Fellowship Hall.

Crievewood Hall Neighborhood Event at CUMC



Fall in the Hall
Saturday, September 29
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Wednesday Night Fellowship

Our Wednesday Night Fellowship has these exciting September programs:

- There will be the second part of the parenting seminar on September 19 presented by Cathy Fuchs, M.D. and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, in the Builder's classroom.

Starting on September 26, Eileen Vaughan will lead a five-week book study for parents on *The Blessing* by John Trent and Gary Smalley.

- The WNF program in Fellowship Hall on September 19 will be Game Night. Please bring your favorite board game with you.

On September 26 Jim Strickland will begin a three-week series on the life of Henri J. M. Nouwen, a Roman Catholic priest and popular Christian writer.

- The Children's Choirs will meet as usual each Wednesday. K-6th graders will gather in the choir room upstairs, and the Preschool choir (ages 3-5, not yet in Kindergarten) will sing in Room # 109 downstairs.
- The Disciple program for Youth will continue.

WNF Menus

Wednesday, Sept. 19 — Chicken tenders, corn, sweet potatoes, green salad, and dessert

Wednesday, Sept. 26— Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, carrots, cole slaw, and dessert.
Grilled cheese sandwiches available for children.

Wednesday, October 3 — Poppy-seed chicken casserole, rice, green beans, rolls, and dessert

Children's Corner

Volunteers Needed in the Nursery!

Crievewood is blessed to have a thriving and growing congregation, and given the number of toddlers in our midst, we have opened a new infant nursery in the former children's library area. What we need now, in addition to our current nursery volunteers, are volunteer baby "rockers."

We are staffing the new nursery with TWO adults each week, and ideally, each twosome will agree to be in the nursery for one month at a time. Serving a few Sundays in a row means more continuity for our infants and allows our caregivers a chance to bond with the babies and their families.

The hours are 8:15-11:45 (includes Gathering, SS, and traditional worship service times), and Sheryl Roos, our staff Nursery Coordinator, is right next door and available to answer questions and offer help, if needed.

So, team up with someone you'd like to catch up with on a Sunday morning (because there is plenty of time to rock and chat!), and let Sheryl Roos or Leigh Ann Cate know you are willing.

*For a one week-at-a-time opportunity to serve in the Nursery, please contact Sheryl to be added to the Toddler Nursery rotation. Hours are the same, and the children are so much fun!



Fall Festival

Saturday, October 27
4:00 p.m.

It's ALL Free—Come and join the fun!

Children's Choir Important Dates:

Oct. 7th: Sing in Worship

Oct. 10th: Musical Auditions

Nov. 18th: Sing in Worship

Dec. 9th: Sing in Worship

Dec. 12th: Christmas Musical

Activities

Youth Camping Trip

The Youth will camp overnight at Henry Horton State Park on September 29-30. The cost for each camper is \$5. Please meet at the church on Saturday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m. By the front door of the church. Come and enjoy hanging out with friends, hiking in the woods, and eating great food. Sign up today on the youth bulletin board.

To All Ladies of Crievewood

The annual UMW fall meeting will be a brunch on Saturday, October 6, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. We will begin the morning with one of our delicious meals with a program to follow. This year our speaker will be Rev. Andrew Fiser who will speak to us about the neighborhood ministries at Edgehill United Methodist Church. The Reverend Fiser is co-pastor after completing a 3-year Turner Internship at the church. He has spoken to our CUMM and comes highly recommended. You won't want to miss hearing him. Join us for a great morning of food, fellowship, and information. See you there.

JOY Club

On September 27 the JOY Club will visit the Loretta Lynn Ranch. Members will leave the church at 9:30 a.m., travel for 1 1/2 hours, then stop for lunch. If you would like to participate, please sign up with Jean McCurdy no later than September 24. Please bring enough money with you for the van (\$2), lunch, the tour (up to \$18.50 depending upon what you select), and the gift shop if you want to buy souvenirs.

CCC Thank You

Crievewood Child Care would like to thank all the Trustees and their helpers who worked so diligently to ensure that our classrooms and building met all of the state licensing requirements. We appreciate all that you have done for the Child Care.

We would also like to thank Kathryn Buffler for volunteering to teach the preschoolers a lesson each Tuesday morning on the church or the Bible. The class is part of our continuing effort to integrate the church's message and mission with our Child Care program.