

# The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

November 28, 2012

## Pastor's Pen

### Looking for the Turtle

Our six year old niece wanted to look for the turtle that lives in our backyard creek, many times. Though sightings have been a weekly occurrence since it took up residence, the turtle apparently had Thanksgiving plans elsewhere. It was nowhere to be found. Still, this is a creek and wonders abound, so initial disappointment easily gave way to discoveries of shells and interest in what might be (or have been) living in them. Too, seed pods became projectiles for hitting floating leaves; one of many games she and the creek played.

Of course, several turtle hunts were merely prelude to destination playground. I can attest to the fun it is to spend time in our church playground with children, and I might comment that there are many others who know this to be true. The extended holiday break brought a steady stream of folks and accompanying laughter; it is a pleasure of the parsonage to see so many children and families enjoying the playground.

Thanksgiving week for this faith community began with the bringing of our *First Fruits* offering for the building project; it totaled over \$180,000! The sum amount is certainly cause for celebration, but the act of commitment and the expression of gratitude are the sublime joys. Our stewardship is more about theology and relationship than finances and budgets, and our giving reflects a spiritually healthy connection to each other and to God.

I truly appreciate how our church playground draws residents of Crieve Hall to the property with age appropriate play equipment and the lure of creek stomping; like I said, I am blessed with a front row perspective. The importance of such space for children (and the formation of families) cannot be overstated. Yet, the number of people using our playground also highlights one of the reasons why our renovation and expansion plan is so vital and timely; we are surrounded by folks looking for safe places for their children to grow and develop.

We are clear in our intent to make our facilities more inviting, safer, and accessible, and to have the resources needed to pass on the Christian faith to the next generation. It really is about relationships; manifest in gratitude, in acts of piety, in acts of mercy, in the wonder of children and the wisdom of older adults. Thanksgiving week gives way to Advent season and a posture of expectant waiting. This is not a passive exercise; rather we rehearse the story of the birth of Jesus and tune our hearts to the Lord's return. Here at Crievewood we are also eagerly anticipating the changes that will come in 2013 to strengthen our ministry and expand our reach. Based on our financial commitments to the Operating Budget and to the Capital Campaign we are entering our future with clarity and conviction.

But children remind me of other qualities, holy and profound; ones that are essential to a meaningful Advent. Light hearts and playful spirits, compelled by wonder and discovery, keep us open to the presence of God and make a place for Christ to enter. I think I will go look for that turtle again.

Peter van Eys

## Up-Coming Events

### Cool Yule

Cool Yule is a wonderful holiday tradition at Crieveewood. This year Cool Yule is scheduled on Sunday, **December 2, at 6:30 p.m.** Come and join the fun!!!

### Mailbox Decorations

Would you like your mailbox decorated for the holidays? The youth will decorate mailboxes with Christmas greens on Sunday, December 2, for \$40. If you are interested in getting your mailbox adorned, **don't delay and contact Steph by November 28.** All proceeds go to the Youth Fund to be used towards youth projects and missions.

### Christmas Caroling

The youth will be sponsoring this congregational activity on **Sunday, December 9, at 4:00 p.m.** Warm up your vocal cords! All those who wish to participate should meet at the church in Fellowship Hall on that Sunday afternoon. Please bring a small snack to share.

### One Combined Service on December 16



There will be one combined worship service on Sunday, December 16, at 10:45 a.m. featuring the Chancel Choir singing their Christmas cantata. Sunday School will meet at the normal time.

## Missions

### Jesus Closet

The 8th annual El closet del nino Dios (Jesus Closet) served roughly 170 families or 400 children last Saturday at Nolensville FUMC. One hundred fifty flu shots were given and thirty Imagination Library registrations (free books monthly for children newborn – Kindergarten) were distributed. Every family received a Bible and El Aposento Alto. It was a beautiful and joyous day of sharing God's love!

Thanks Crieveewood for your ongoing support of this ministry!

The Jesus' Closet Ministry Team

### Angel Tree

Angel Tree gifts should be unwrapped and returned to the church with the Angel tag. Packages are due back at the church **before December 5.** Thank you for participating in this Christmas mission.

### Poinsettias

If you would like to celebrate God's grace in your life or honor a loved one, consider purchasing a **white** poinsettia to be used in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas worship. The cost is \$12 per plant. Envelopes may be found in the narthex or in your bulletin on December 2. Please place your flower envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the office. The deadline for ordering poinsettias will be December 9.

### The Last-Minute Toy Store



The United Methodist Men are sponsoring this long-standing worthy program that provides toys and other gifts to tens of thousands of low-income children and youth who live in Davidson County. Please bring your unwrapped gifts for the Last-Minute Toy Store and place them in the container at the front door of the church. The greatest needs are usually for small children (0-4) and for teens.

## Christmas Bake Sale

Do you find yourself pressed for time during the holidays? Let us help with the preparation of Christmas goodies. On Sunday, December 9, right after the traditional service, Jackie Stankiewicz and her friends will have a variety of baked goods available for purchase. Not only will a purchase help you to complete your holiday tasks, but all profits from the sale will be donated to the Capital Campaign Fund.

## Activities

### December UMW General Meeting

Please join us for an inspiring Saturday morning, December 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the Builders' classroom at the church. Mary Pat Davis will speak about her daughter's ministry to the children of Uganda, Amazima. Her daughter Katie, who is in her early 20's, participated in a missionary trip to Uganda her senior year in high school. She saw such a need there that she went back after graduation from Ravenwood High School in Franklin, adopted several children, and continues to do missionary work in that area. Katie has written a book, [Kisses from Katie](#), that many have read. If you have not read the book, please check with your friends to borrow the book and to familiarize yourself with the story. Refreshments will be available.

### UMM



Men of Crieewood, please make plans to join our final United Methodist Men's Club Breakfast meeting of 2012 which is taking place on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. While our breakfast is always a treat, December usually stands out as being a bit more special with **Country Ham** on the menu!

In addition to our usual food and fellowship, many of you have likely already heard our guest, this month's speaker, **Blake Farmer** who is a news reporter and producer with Nashville's WPLN (Nashville Public Radio). He will have some great stories to share about how he finds and produces the stories that make the airwaves. It should be an interesting look into how this element of the media operates!

So, please plan to bring an unwrapped, unopened toy to support our efforts with the Last Minute Toy Store, a good appetite, and \$5.00 for breakfast, but most importantly, bring yourself! See you on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>!

## JOY Club Meetings

### Bring Your Camera or Cell Phone. . .

#### November

On Thursday, **November 29, at 3:30 p.m.** JOY Club will dine at Cock of the Walk and then drive around Opryland to look at the famous Opryland Christmas lights. Then there will be a walk in the Cascades part of the hotel. Please bring \$3 for the van and money for your meal.

#### December

The JOY Club will meet on **December 27** at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Please bring a sack lunch; both drink and dessert will be furnished. The meeting will give participants a chance to display and share pictures taken on the October and November outings. Pick your best pictures because there will be a photo contest for the best entries in various categories, and prizes will be given to the winners. Come and join the fun!

## Prayer Shawl Meeting

The prayer shawl ministry will meet on **Monday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Searchers classroom. If you have shawls that you have already created, please bring them to the meeting. If you have a shawl, but can't attend the meeting, call Susan Cortner at 832-0889, and she'll be glad to pick it up. Each shawl is dedicated with prayer and given to someone who is in need of any kind of healing.

The prayer shawl ministry is always looking for new members. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl or in delivering some of them, please come to this meeting! Also, if you know of someone who needs a prayer shawl, call Susan Cortner.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

# Wednesday Night Fellowship

Our Fall Wednesday Night Fellowship has these exciting up-coming programs:

- \* In November 28 everyone will gather together for the Hanging of the Greens service at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary to adorn the church for the Advent season.
- \* On November 28 the children will meet for a special Children's Choir rehearsal at 5:45 p.m.
- \* There is a Christmas holiday trivia night on December 5 for anyone who is not practicing for the performance of *One Starry Night*. That evening the children will meet in Fellowship Hall to rehearse their Christmas musical. Nursery care is available for those two and younger. Preschool Choir will still meet with Ms. Kristy upstairs.
- \* The final program in the Fall WNF line-up is on December 12. The children will present the musical *One Starry Night*.
- \* After the children's Christmas musical, WNF will resume with the Spring program on January 9, 2013.

## WNF Menus

Wednesday, November 28—Roast beef, potatoes, green beans, carrots, rolls, and dessert

Wednesday, December 5— *Soup Night*: your choice of potato and ham soup, tomato soup, and chicken stew, plus grilled cheese sandwiches, and dessert

Wednesday, December 12— Chicken and dressing, cranberries, broccoli, rolls, and special desserts

## Children's Corner

### Parents' Night Out 2012

Once again Kathryn Buffler and her team of elves will be offering a night out for parents on Friday, December 7, from 6-9 p.m. This exciting night of fun for your children is offered to all children in our Crieewood family from infants through sixth grade. Teams of youth and adults will be on hand to serve pizza, play games, and watch movies with the children. If your child has an aversion to cheese pizza and fresh fruit, please send a sack supper for him/her. The cost of admission is cans of food for 2nd Harvest Food Bank.

Please note the **reservations are required by Sunday, December 2**, so please contact Leigh Ann in church office with the name of child, his/her age and birthday.

Registration forms are also required and may be downloaded at [www.crieewoodumc.org](http://www.crieewoodumc.org). Click on "Ministries", "Children's Ministries", and then "Forms". Paper copies are available in the narthex of the church. If at all possible, please complete the forms prior to arrival. Please complete a separate form for each child since various age children will be in different areas of the church at times.

## Breakfast with St. Nick

Join us on  
**Saturday, December 15, at 8:00 a.m.**  
for breakfast, crafts, and a visit from the Man in Red!

Breakfast is **free** for children ages 10 and under and \$5.00 for adults.

There is no cost for coffee!

We will need to prepare food so please RSVP to the church office so that we will have an approximate count.



## Nursery Council

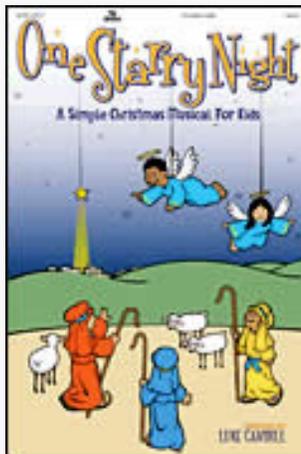
Nursery Council will meet on Tuesday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. We are excited to have an added designated space for infants for our growing nursery ministry. Please communicate thoughts or ideas regarding the nursery to a member of the council prior to our first meeting. The members are Susan Cortner (chair), Becky Freck, Ali Stoner, Sheryl Roos (staff), and Leigh Ann Cate (staff).

## Children's Council

The Children's Council will meet on Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 p.m. The agenda will include wrap-ups of the 2012 events and evaluation of programming. Please bring your calendars and ideas!!

## One Starry Night

The children's performance is always a highlight of the Christmas season and an event that you will not want to miss.



Crievewood Children's Choir proudly presents:

## One Starry Night

Created by; Luke Gambill

Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm  
Fellowship Hall