

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

December 28, 2011

Gratitude and Living into 2012

I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder. ~G.K. Chesterton

I am sitting at the computer with thoughts of the highest order, grateful for this faith community and all we shared together moving through Advent to Christmas. The wonder of the season so profoundly expressed through children and song, worship and gifting have indeed doubled my happiness.

Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all. ~William Faulkner

I certainly believe gratitude exists within this congregation! As with many others, I thank all who had a hand in the hospitality, preparation, leadership, and execution of our many gatherings; special decorations and liturgical acts capture the sublime nature of the incarnation so beautifully. Too, the number of people who made worship a priority surely pleased God.

When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude. ~G.K. Chesterton

Yes, I like the writings of G.K. Chesterton, and as we enter into a new year I think his assessment of life is a helpful reminder. Surely you agree that we are a covenant people, both within the full body of Christ and within this local church, who are richly blessed. Living forward, this understanding should shape the way we approach people, decisions, and opportunities.

I assume that most members know that in 2011 the Long Range Planning Committee worked closely with an architect to imagine new and renovated space for the mission and ministry of Crievewood UMC. In November the Church Council received a proposal and approved bringing the design plans before the congregation. In order to provide everyone an opportunity to view the drawings, hear the vision, and ask questions, information sessions will follow the late worship services January 8, 15, 22, and 29. I submit that thoughtful and prayerful consideration of this proposal is a way to honor those who established and all who have been a part of this congregation over the years. Such an approach to the work of the Long Range Planning Committee would reflect gratitude for what has been entrusted to us, rather than taking for granted all that we have.

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. ~Meister Eckhart

I wish you a Happy New Year as we approach 2012. I so appreciate this church and the opportunity I have to serve as one of your pastors; I felt fresh joy and meaning in our Advent and Christmas experiences. With 2012 upon us I would restate a strong belief; living into the future with grateful hearts opens the way for God to use us for great purposes. So be it.

Peter van Eys

A Letter from Linda Whited

Serving as part of the Crievewood United Methodist Church staff has been a wonderful six years. My responsibilities seemed to change and grow every year. And with every new assignment, I grew in faith and learned more about what it means to serve with a Christian community. Thank you for all you have done to enrich my life.

Now the time has come for me to give up the privilege of being a part of the staff. Although I grieve for what I am losing, I cannot express how happy I feel when I think of how much I have learned from you. I chose to come to Crievewood because of your reputation for loving care for one another and for others. I have now experienced that loving spirit for myself, Thank you for nine great years among you--including three years before being invited to join the staff.

I am happy to say that although I find it necessary to leave the staff, I will continue to be a part of our congregation, and my secondary deacon appointment will continue to be with Crievewood's Charge Conference. I look forward to serving with you in new ways.

Missions

TP Sunday

Sunday, **January 1, is a TP Sunday.** We are closing in on our goal. Please help us keep our commitment to Community Care Fellowship to supply a year's worth of toilet paper.



District Training

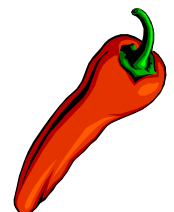
Do you have a question about what you are supposed to do as a newly appointed committee member? Or maybe you're a veteran member with some questions as to how other churches handle certain problems. Get some answers at District Training held Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 p.m. at Brentwood UMC. Check the church bulletin board for the classes being offered.

Office Schedule

The office will close at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30, and for a full day on Monday, January 2, for the New Year holiday.

January Potluck

The first 5th Sunday Potluck dinner of 2012 is in January. This potluck will be on **Sunday, January 29, at 5:00 p.m. instead of immediately following the traditional service.** Please save this date and find your favorite Chili recipe.



Wednesday Night

Wednesday nights will resume again on January 11 with a month filled with trivia games.

Mark your calendar, prep your brain, and come ready to play. David van Eys and Steph Dodge will lead the games.

JOY Club

January 26, 2012, 9:30 am

Members will travel to Oakland's in Murfreesboro where there is an historic house, museum, and gift Shop. There will be a staff led tour of home which is preceded by a fifteen minute video . Lunch will be at Demo's and cost \$5 per person if we have a group of ten or more. Please bring \$2 for the van and your lunch money. To join us for a great trip, make your reservations by January 22 by contacting Nancy Rosdeutscher.

February meeting on March 1, 2012

(Time to be determined closer to date)

Joy Club will travel to Belmont United Methodist Church and join their Senior group led by Jim Strickland.

BRING YOUR OWN SACK LUNCH. This will be great fun. Belmont will provide drink and dessert.

Bring \$2 for the van ride. Time is yet to be established. Please make reservations by February 26, 2012.

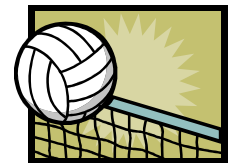
Youth Fundraiser

Christmas Tree Pick up

The youth will once again be hauling away Christmas trees on January 2nd. They are asking for donations for this service for their mission trips. Please contact Carla Arnette at jcarnette@bellsouth.net or 615-771-2760 in order to get on the schedule.

Young Adult and Adults Young at Heart

We are still looking for player for our coed indoor volleyball team. Games are Thursday nights starting January 26th, and anyone 21 years and older is eligible to play. This is a great opportunity to invite friends who don't attend church!



Youth

Warmth in Winter

The annual TN conference gathering of youth will be on January 27-29th, 2012, at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. This year's theme is "Think Big: Dare to live life exceedingly, abundantly, beyond," and it comes from Ephesians 3:20. As always there will be a speaker, great music, and some crazy dances thrown in. The cost is \$70/person. Please turn in your money by January 8th.

Bahamas

We are returning to the Bahamas July 22-28th, 2012. There is still plenty of room to sign up. Anyone 9th grade or above, including adults, are welcome to join us. Younger kids can go with a parent. Contact Steph to sign-up.

Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will meet on **Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month** in 2012 except for July and December.

Choir Schedules

Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on January 4. The Children's Choirs will not meet over the holidays. Their rehearsals will begin again when Wednesday Night Fellowship resumes on January 11. Youth Choir will begin its spring semester rehearsals on January 15.

New Crievewood Members

Have you met Scruffy and Snickers? The Crievewood Child Care has two new guinea pigs in its classrooms. If you would like to meet our new members stop by Child Care during the week. Scruffy and Snickers spend the weekends with their teachers.

New Year Updates

If you have dropped your land line and are only using your cell phone, if you have moved to a new residence, if you have a young adult or a senior adult in your family who has a new apartment of their own, please advise the church of the new contact information so that we can keep our database current.

Thank You

We are continually amazed by the love and generosity of the Crievewood congregation! Thank you for the love you continue to show to us with food, and cards, and offers of help during a difficult time, We especially appreciate your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for us during the stages that are still to come. Thank you for being loving, caring people.

Jim and Linda Whited

Thank you for your sweet memories and kind words you sent to me on my birthday. They were a complete surprise and I will cherish them always!

Love,
Jo Newbill

Dear Crievewood,

I was so overwhelmed this Christmas season by the generosity of the Crievewood family. Not only were there presents of every kind brought to the office, but also many gifts of service at a very busy time of the year. I received everything I needed and more. Thank you for all of your gifts, but even more for the love of Christ that shines through each of you every single day.

With a grateful heart,
Jan

Dear Crievewood,

I want to thank all the people who have helped me. The scrapbook is beautiful. I will keep it and treasure it then pass it on to my children. The fruit I received was very good. I wish you all a wonderful, blessed Christmas with Jesus in it.

In Christian love,
Velma Russell

Dear Crievewood,

Thank you for the prayers, visits, food, and cards during my recent surgery. What a wonderful Crievewood family!
Thank you so much.

Rosa Jennette