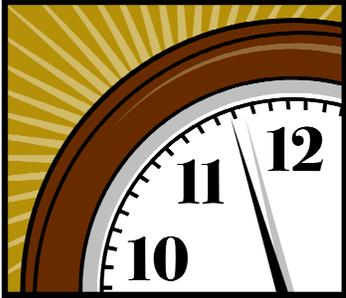


Pastor's Pen

Wind the Clock



I trust you had a blessed Christmas, we did. With attention shifting toward year end concerns, I pause in gratitude for the many ways our congregational life both shared the story of Christ's birth and gave witness to its transforming power. This is a beautiful faith community indeed.

And a resilient one! 2014 will be remembered as the year of the big renovation, and the year we had only two available toilets (one upstairs and one downstairs) on Christmas Eve. Yet, folks have navigated every challenge with such grace; the Christmas Eve service was a particular joy.

I received several books as Christmas gifts, which should carry me nicely through the winter urge to settle on the sofa and read. One is titled *Letters of Note, An Eclectic Collection of Correspondence Deserving of a Wider Audience*, compiled by Shaun Usher. My father gave this to me, a truly fitting choice since he engendered in me a love of letters.

My father moved across the Atlantic (from the Netherlands) in the early 1950's and kept in touch with his parents through weekly letters. Over the years his regular correspondence grew to include my sister, his mother-in-law, and me. Distance has been a prominent feature in our family constellation but intentional, consistent communication has been the overriding ballast. Consequently, letter writing is a profoundly meaningful part of my life experience.

One of the letters deserving a wider audience is from E. B. White, author of *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*, to a Mr. Nadeau, who sought Mr. White's opinion on the future of the human race. Apparently Mr. Nadeau had a bleak outlook; to which Mr. White responds, "As long as there is one upright man, as long as there is one compassionate woman, the contagion may spread and the scene is not desolate. Hope is the thing that is left to us, in a bad time. I shall get up Sunday morning and wind the clock, as a contribution to order and steadfastness....Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day."

Of course winding clocks has gone the way of the letter. Our cell phones keep us connected through voice, text, and e-mail all while serving as a well calibrated time piece. No winding required, even when changing time zones. Nevertheless, winding the clock is here an act of commitment to that which is good, an embrace of the hope that has sustained humanity across the generations.

Looking over the global community there is much to lament; no doubt God sheds tears each day over how we humans treat one another. However, I encounter upright men and compassionate women daily; that is sheer blessing. And, I chose to participate in daily/weekly routines that not only provide order but till the fertile soil of hope. Worship is one such practice, prayer another.

The Christmas message is one of hope; Love that is stronger than violence, Light that no darkness can overcome, Peace that passes all understanding, Life that is eternal. As we enter 2015 I submit to you that we have a bigger challenge awaiting us than lining up for access to the toilet in Leigh Ann's office. Living our lives according to the example of Christ, making our covenant vows a first priority, heck even attending worship each week, is increasingly counter-cultural. A bit like winding a clock or writing a letter; but we can do it together. God hopes so.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

A Celebration of Service



Please join us after the traditional service on **January 11, 2015**, at a reception for Sheryl Roos. After many years of service to the children and parents of Crieviewood, Sheryl has retired from the Nursery Coordinator's position. Please come and share your appreciation.

Free Fitness Class

Steph Dodge will be leading a free fitness class in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings at 6:00 a.m. starting **January 6, 2015**. The class is designed to provide a high intensity, boot-camp style workout in 30 minutes. It is open to all ability levels and no equipment is needed, but be prepared to work hard and sweat. Plan to have some fun as we take care of the bodies that God has given each of us.

Missions

Caramel Corn

Look for Charlie's homemade caramel corn in the narthex on Sunday, **January 18**. Consider purchasing it as a half-time snack for your favorite game. Proceeds from this sale go to youth missions. There is a \$5 minimum per bag.

TP Sunday

Our support of Community Care Fellowship continues through TP Sundays. Please mark your calendar to bring toilet paper, any size package, on the first Sunday of every month. Packages may be left in the narthex of the church. Please join with us in supporting the homeless of Nashville through this mission. The next TP Sunday is **January 4**.

Activities

District Training

Nashville District Training will be on **Saturday, January 17**, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Calvary UMC. If you have accepted a new leadership role in the church and would like to learn more about that role, or if you would like to share ideas with others in a similar leadership position in other churches, this is a good opportunity to learn and network.

Reminder

You can have your blood pressure checked the second Sunday of each month in the New Journey classroom after the traditional service. Take just a few minutes to protect your health on **January 11th**.

Chancel Choir

The chancel choir will resume its practice on **January 7th** at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining, this would be a great time.

JOY Club

There has been a change of plans for the JOY Club January outing. On **Thursday, January 22nd** members will travel to Whites Creek, Tennessee for lunch and a tour of Fontanel. Please make your reservation with Jean McCurdy by January 18. The cost is \$18.60 per person. **Please make your check out to Nancy Rosdeutscher.** Plan to leave the church on Thursday, January 22nd at 11:30 a.m.

A visit to Puckett's grocery and restaurant in Leiper's Fork is **rescheduled on February 26, 2015**. Puckett's is a family restaurant established in the 1950's that still operates today and focuses on providing Southern comfort food accompanied by hospitality and country music. If you wish to attend, please make a reservation with Jean McCurdy by February 22nd, then arrive at the church that Thursday by 10:15 a.m. There will be a van for transportation.

Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will hold their next monthly meeting on **Saturday, January 10th** at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. After the traditional morning breakfast, Don Jaranko will speak on creation care. All men are welcome.

Study Offerings for 2015



Tuesday Morning Bible Study—Led by Jim Kannon, this group meets each Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 a.m. The participants are currently studying the book of *Isaiah* and will resume meeting upon completion of the construction work in the upstairs hallway. Watch your newsletter and flyers around the church for updates.

Women's Bible Study—Led by Leigh Ann Cate, this group of women meets on Sunday nights from 6:00-7:15 p.m. We will begin a new six-week study on **Sunday, January 4**, of Mike Slaughter's Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus. Books are \$9.00 each, and Leigh Ann will have them available on the 4th.

Wednesday Night Fellowship (WNF) 2015

Our Wednesday night dinners and adult programs will resume once construction is complete. Please watch your newsletter and flyers around the church for updates.

DISCOVER CRIEVEWOOD

Want to learn more about Crievewood UMC?

Have questions about Methodists?

Looking for ways to get connected?

Join the Senior Pastor for a light meal and an evening of answers and information at 5:00 @ the church.

February 22nd

July 19th

March 15th

August 16th

April 19th

September 20th

May 17th

October 18th

*Childcare will be provided if requested

Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule

	8:00-10:30 a.m. Shift	10:30 a.m.-noon Shift
1/4/15	Tracey and Jillian Lee	Nina Tucker
1/11/15	Nina Tucker	Sharon Ferrell

Children's Church 2015

Led by Leigh Ann Cate, our children, ages 3 years through current Kindergarteners, will experience their own brand of worship and journey through the church year while learning about various components of the traditional worship service. Please have your children join us on the first couple of rows on either side of the sanctuary to allow them to see and experience the service prior to our going downstairs.

Children and Youth Choir

We are trying something new for our children and youth choir. We are hoping to encourage wider participation in choir by not requiring a full commitment to a semester choir. We are scheduling specific Sunday's throughout the church year for each choir to sing. There will be three rehearsals that must be attended before that designated Sunday. We will choose the rehearsal times once we know who is participating, and we will try to fit practices into their schedules.

Children's Choir: Singing in worship on February 1st

Youth Choir: Singing in worship on March 1st

If you are interested in singing for these events, please contact Mr. Will at will@wcs.edu or speak to him at church.

Blessings for a marvelous 2015,
Will Lambert

VBS 2015

We are ready to generate endless excitement with G-Force: God's Love in Action! In this mission-focused VBS, kids experience God's unstoppable love at the G-Force Adventure Park and discover how fueling up on God's Word will change their lives. We need our **volunteer** roster full now for our training in January, so **sign up** today!