

# The Messenger

Pastor's Pen:

November 16, 2011

## Giving Thanks for Linda Whited

Coming to Crievewood by appointment introduced me to Linda Whited and her husband Jim, a reminder of the blessings inherent in the itinerant system. Knowing her contribution to local churches through her ministry at the UM publishing House, I was eager to work with her on this staff.

It has been a pleasure; however, early this fall Linda made the decision to step down from the Crievewood staff on December 31st. Between full time employment at the Publishing House and haltime employment here, as well as ongoing health concerns, she felt the need to scale back her work demands.

Linda was an active presence in this faith community, having placed her Charge Conference membership here, long before she assumed a position on the staff. As Crievewood approached its 50th anniversary the Vision Team imagined a new staff configuration, an opportunity taken because of a staff retirement, the historic moment, the development of a second Sunday Service of Worship, and growing age-level ministries. When the need for a new staff position in adult and intergenerational ministries emerged, Linda's particular gifts in discipleship and education, her love of worship and congregational care were recognized as a great match for the job description.

I want to commend Linda for her faithful and efficacious ministry on the Crievewood staff, and express my gratitude for the opportunity to be colleagues in ministry through such a formal relationship. The good news is that Linda will continue to hold her Charge Conference membership here and remain an instrument of God's work in our midst. We are all blessed indeed.

There will be a time in the New Year when the Staff Parish Relations Committee will host a reception for Linda, to honor her and thank her. Now though, we are all most concerned about her recovery from surgery and the challenges it brought and precipitated. Keep her and Jim in your prayers each day. Here too Linda is a profound teacher and witness. Her strength and fortitude, her spirit and perseverance are rooted in faith and grounded in hope; she is ever the teacher of living in the sure and certain trust that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thank you Linda; thank you God for Linda.

Peter van Eys

2 Crievewood United Methodist Church

November 30, 2011

## Christmas at Crievewood

### Lessons and Carols

Please join us at the traditional service on Sunday, December 18, for Lessons and Carols. The Chancel Choir will lead us in musical worship of the baby Jesus, God's wonderful gift to our world.

### Christmas Eve Service

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, we will gather for worship at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. There is no nursery that night as this service especially is child friendly.

### One Service on December 25

On Sunday, December 25, there will be one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no planned Sunday School hour that day, although any adult class can elect to meet. The nursery will be available if needed. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

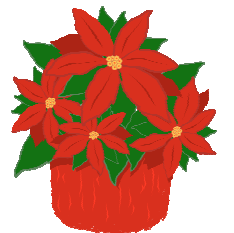
## Get into the Christmas spirit. . . .

**Cool Yule** is Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. It will be a fun night of celebration featuring many varied talents of Crievewood's own members. Think about what gift you may bring. If you can dazzle us with a performance, please contact Tom Cassel at 615-714-1535 and get your act in the line-up.

## Poinsettias

This Christmas we will again have the opportunity to remember or honor a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to be used in decorating the sanctuary. The cost is \$12 per plant. Envelopes may be found in the Narthex or in your bulletin on November 27th. Please place your flower envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the office. The deadline for ordering poinsettias will be December 4<sup>th</sup>.

You may take your poinsettia home on Sunday, December 18, or after the Christmas Eve service on December 24th.



## Missions

### Angel Tree

The Angel Tree deadline is getting close. Remember that all gifts should be unwrapped and returned with the Angel tag. Packages are due back at the church by December 4.



### 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 for small children (0-4) and for teens.

### UMW Annual Christmas Meeting

The United Methodist Women invite the women of the church to our annual Christmas meeting. Our speaker, Myriam Cortes, is the Language Coordinator for Hispanic Methodist churches in Middle Tennessee. She will be sharing her family stories and traditions of celebrating the Christmas season.

Be sure to join us Saturday, December 3rd, from 10:00-12:00 in the Builders' classroom for a unique look at Christmas in the Hispanic culture! There will be refreshments served at the meeting, but there will be no brunch.

### Calling All UMW Library Readers

There are just a few more weeks to finish your reading program for 2011. Please give me your completed list by the last week of December. Thanks to all participants.

Joyce Proctor

## Wednesday Nights

### November 30—*The Parthenon, Part 2*

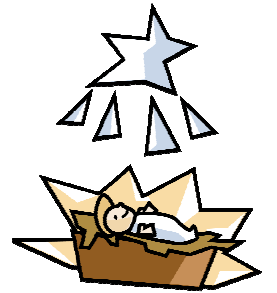
Ms. Libby Robinson will continue her presentation on the Parthenon which gives insights into why Nashville is called the Athens of the South. This program will be held in the Builders classroom. Transportation will be provided to the upstairs classroom as needed.

### December 7 —Table Topics

This is a time to get to know each other better. Conversation starters will be provided. This program will also be held in the Builders classroom, and transportation will be provided as needed.

### December 14—*Beneath a Shining Star*

Join us for the Christmas musical, *Beneath a Shining Star*. Our children have been working hard to learn their parts, and you will not want to miss this annual children's musical.



### December 21 through January 4

There are NO WNF programs during this period. WNF programs and dinners resume again on January 11.

## WNF Dinner Menu

Wednesday, November 30— *Mexican night*: tacos, Spanish rice, refried beans, chips and salsa, cheese quesadillas, and dessert

Wednesday, December 7 — To be announced

Wednesday, December 14—Chicken and dressing, cranberries, green beans, rolls, and special desserts

## Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle monthly meeting will be on December 6 instead of the third Tuesday of the month. Members will gather at the church and at 11:00 a.m. and will carpool to the Stoveworks Restaurant in the Factory in Franklin.

## 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.

### Angel Tree Shopping

The youth will be shopping for two children who are part of Open Table, Ingrid McIntyre's homeless ministry, on Sunday, December 4th. We ask each of the youth to bring \$10 for shopping that night.

### Youth Christmas Party

The youth Christmas Party will be at 4pm on December 18th. All of the youth should bring a gift for our gift exchange, but the gift should cost no more than five dollars. Repurposing a gift is highly encouraged. Also everyone should bring snack foods to share on that night.

### 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.

## New Web Site and Old Snow Policy

Our new web site is up. Please check it out at <http://www.creeviewoodumc.org>. You will now be able to find answers to your questions on times and cancellations by going directly to the web site.

As we approach the winter season, remember that the church's policy on scheduling follows the Davidson County School's schedule. If Metro schools are closed for inclement weather, all church activities scheduled that day are also canceled. If you want to know if the church building or the Child Care is open, you can also verify that information on the web site.

## Children's Corner

### Breakfast with Saint Nick

Come join us on Saturday, December 17, for Breakfast with Saint Nick. Breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast is free for children and \$5.00 for adults. We will need to prepare food so please RSVP to the church office by December 12<sup>th</sup> so that we will have an approximate count.



### Children's Sunday School Update:

Our children, from preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, began an Advent study this past Sunday, complete with skits, games, crafts, Bible stories, and LOADS of fun. Until New Year's Day, we will be meeting together for the first 30 minutes in a large group and then breaking up into our usual classes for our small group time. Watch for a review of what we did on any Sunday in the 'note home.'

To comply with our Safe Sanctuary policy, all parents need to sign their children in each week and leave info as to their location while children are in Sunday school.

All NURSERY parents, please sign in as usual and leave your cell number in case we need to reach you during the service. Thank you!!

## Trustees Notes

The Trustees are painting, cleaning, and rearranging the church office. There is a file cabinet that is no longer needed in the office. If your church group or your family has a use for the file cabinet, please let the Trustees know by December 7. Otherwise, it will be given to a charity or discarded.

Have you noticed how many trees are missing on the church property? NES contacted our Trustees and asked to take down several trees because they had already trimmed back some of the trees and were planning to cut them more severely than they already had leaving very little of the trees. NES promised to plant new small trees at their expense if the Trustees would allow them to take down the whole trees.

The Trustees are looking for a portable steamer for a church project. If you have one that they could borrow, please contact Kathryn Buffler.