

The Messenger

Pastor's Pen:

December 12, 2012

A Very Good Thing

An almost daily happening for me is travel down Hogan Road, car or foot. Now 890 days (give or take) in Crieve Hall I have come to the conclusion that the intersection of Hogan and Trousdale is the most polite four-way stop in the city. Cars make full stops, people wait their turn as if with a Driver's Ed instructor, pedestrians are granted right of way, and folks actually acknowledge one another with friendly gestures (the key word being friendly). Knowing that quite a few cars are driven by commuters from Brentioch, I can only conclude that our neighborhood behavior is also conditioning those just passing through. A good thing.

Though I have yet to write our 2012 edition, I am a fan of the annual Christmas letter (equally so for the Hanukkah ones); sending and receiving. I realize that writing letters is a dying art and note that where cards once gave way to letters, letters are now giving way to photos. Yet, still some come and still I read them and still I smile. A good thing.

Pundits often label such letters politically incorrect, the issue being they tend to feature (okay boast) the accomplishments of the year. Well yes they do, but I prefer that over diatribe. For that matter, such correspondence is a refreshing departure from typical human bonding over life's negatives. For instance, in conversation I am likely to lament that my truck was rear-ended whereas in a Christmas letter I might highlight washing it back in May. Okay I made both of those up, but the point is Christmas and Hanukkah letters do favor spin to the upbeat. A good thing.

Like I said, I enjoy the letters I receive. This year, several have taken me on trips around the world (international travel seems to be up); most update on children who have either matriculated through a University, found a job, are planning to wed, have wed, or some combination (that reflects our age-group); and almost all share a deeper, growing appreciation for the blessing of faith. A good thing.

Soon it will be Christmas Day. The preparations, decorations, traditions, and liturgies of the church draw us into ancient script of good news for all the earth. The Gospel of John proclaims the incarnation with this verse: "the Word became flesh and lived among us" (1:14),

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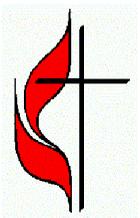
Crievewood United Methodist Church

451 Hogan Road
Nashville, TN 37220
Phone (615) 832-2897

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while the Gospel of Luke records this announcement: “to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah” (2:11). The story of the birth of Jesus is an “annual Christmas letter” I delight to read for it captures the holy and powerful and eternal hope realized when human and divine intersect. Angels beckoned shepherds to come and see; believers have invited generations to come and see; we are called again to come and see, what took place in Bethlehem long ago. For the faithful are convinced that those who see in Jesus the intersection of God and humanity will be conditioned by God’s love for all and act for a future of peace. And that would be a very good thing. Merry Christmas.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

One Worship Service

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

Christmas Eve Service

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



Missions

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.

Community Care Fellowship

Community Care Fellowship is in need of all sizes of men’s undershirts and is greatly appreciative of those delivered last month. Crievewood’s T-shirt total for November was 19. Thanks to everyone who contributed. We will continue to collect items in December, and the next T-Sunday will be January 6. If you have any donation, please leave it on the table at the top of the stairwell off the narthex.

UMW Mission

The UMW has placed small Christmas stockings at the center end of each pew for "out of pocket" donations for the Christmas activities at Bethlehem center. All donations are appreciated!



Metal Can Tabs

Please save your metal can tabs and bring them to the office or give them to Wayne Ethridge. Wayne’s sister, Connie Christophell, is a teacher and has a student at her school who has been diagnosed with cancer and is going through treatment. The metal tabs can be turned in to help raise money for this child’s care.



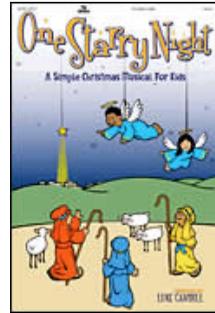
May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... and may God so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Activities

Wednesday Night Fellowship

- The final program in the Fall WNF line-up is on December 12. The children will present the musical *One Starry Night*.
- The menu for December 12 is chicken with dressing, cranberries, broccoli, rolls, and special desserts
- After the children's Christmas musical, WNF will resume with the Spring program on January 9, 2013.



Joy Club

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!

January

The JOY Club meeting on **January 24** is also at the church on the Fellowship Hall Stage. Lunch, prepared by Kathryn Buffler will be at 11:00 a.m. There will be a review of all the 2013 programs, and as time permits, a few games will be played. Please bring \$8.00 to cover the cost of lunch. Reservations for the January lunch should be made with Jean McCurdy by January 20, 2013.

Gathering Helpers

There are many unsung heroes who make the Gathering service warm and friendly and now's the time to start singing! For the past five years refreshments have been faithfully provided by a core group of members that I would like to recognize with great appreciation. They include: *Sue Bean, Andy and Jani Cate, Tracey Lee and family, Joyce Swinney, Orba Welch, Jo Newbill, Dot Shumate, Rosa Jennette, Brenda and Keith Head, Kathryn Buffler, Ali and Jason Stoner, Geraldine Smotherman, and Kate Cortner.*

So as you enjoy the delicious, healthy refreshments each Sunday morning at the Gathering, give thanks to these generous members!

Eileen Vaughan, Refreshment Coordinator

Thank you

I want to express my appreciation for all the kind words, notes, and cards following the loss of my mother. It is a true blessing for me to be a member of this church family.

Steve Curry

Dear Church Family,

Your many expressions of concern for my nephew Edward Pemberton and his family are most appreciated. Edward is to return home today after four months of hospitalization. Please rejoice with us.

*Gratefully,
Carolyn Pemberton*

I want to thank you so much for your prayer, cards, and concerns due to the passing of my soul mate Joyce.

Don Proctor

Newsletter

Because of the way the Christmas holiday falls this year, the second monthly newsletter will be delayed one week. That newsletter will be prepared on Friday, December 28 and Monday, December 31, and mailed on Wednesday, January 2. The schedule of printing will return to the normal two week cycle in the new year.

Children's Corner

Parents' Night Out

What a night! Thanks to Kathryn Buffler and her team of elves for a successful Parents' Night Out this past week, and thanks to the Men's Club for providing the pizzas. At sign-in, families donated cans of food for Second Harvest, giving the night a mission focus. Kathryn, Steph Holland, Steph Dodge, Dave and Sheryl Roos, Joe Buffler, and Sharon Ferrell, along with the Youth of our church, created a fun-filled experience for the children, allowing parents to have a free night out knowing their kids were having a ball. Kathryn and her elves thank all the families who participated, and the parents want to thank Kathryn and her elves for their time spent building relationships with the kids. A win-win!

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.

Youth

Christmas Trees

The youth will be picking up Christmas Trees on January 6th. If you would like the youth to dispose of your Christmas tree, please email Steph (steph@creeviewoodumc.org) or leave a message at the church. You may make donations for this service to the youth mission fund.

College Addresses

Oops, we left this out of the last newsletter! Maureen Vaughan is studying in Scotland, and Claire Woods is attending school in Florida. Their addresses are

Maureen Vaughan
RPA133 Churchill House
9 Richmond Place
Edinburgh Scotland
United Kingdom EH89ST

Claire Woods
7614 S Sherrill Street
Tampa, FL 33616-2200

Prayer Joys and Concerns

Members:

Mary Bratton
Geraldine Smotherman
Michael Turner
Ken Shinnick
Dot shumate
June Adams

Joe Parkes
Peggy Goodwin
Phyllis Terry
Kenny Shular
Velma Russell

Jim Whited
Betsy Emmitt Schrider
Will Newsom
Ron Yarnell
Jean Miller

Friends and Family:

Nevil Family (friends of Betsy Bean)
Pete Falkenberg (son-in-law of Anna Carter)
Edward Pemberton and family (nephew of Carolyn Pemberton)
Rolf Hammer (friend of Sharon Watkins)
Crysta Hailey (friend of Daphanie Norris)
Kirra Dawson (great granddaughter of Jan Wesson)
Stephen Gordon (nephew of Carol Yarnell)
Nancye Morris (mother of Daphne Hardison)
Mrs. Billie Mack (mother-in-law of Anna Sitter)
Wilma Pinkston (mother of Ken Pinkston)
Annette S. Geymonat
(sister-in-law of Kay Stanfield)

Joe Hinds (brother of Betsy Bean)
Darlene Cockerham (friend of Mary & Bob Bryan)
Peggy Stubblefield (friend of Sandra Emmitt)
Patsy McClellan (friend of the Ratcliffes)
Mr. Matthis (friend of Wayne Ethridge)
Bill Perkins (friend of Nancy Davis)
Richard Lane (brother of Nina Tucker)
David Alexander (son of Dorothy Brown, our dishwasher on Wed. nights)
Mark Cashdollar (friend of Jim Hannon)
Alex Kallas (friend of Betsy Bean)
Linda Settle (friend of Laura Benson)
Dr. Luis Ordonez (father-in-law of Buzz Boone)

Military Personnel: Melinda Cornelius, Lauren Elrod, Scott Schroeder, Michael Johnson, and Marcus Brooks, and Lesly Dossett

Those confined to their residence:

June Birdsong, Dorothy Coling (Barbara Frazier's mother), Grayce Mabry, Mary Virginia Simpkins, Margaret Smith, Mary Thompson, and Rebecca Bates.

Congratulations to **Cherese Brooks** who will graduate from TSU with a Masters in Nursing Education on December 15, 2012.

Sympathy is extended to **Bill Carter** and **Reba Manning** and their families on the loss of their brother, Robert Carter, who died on December 8, 2012.

Sympathy is also extended to **Sara Bickell** and her family on the loss of her mother, Florence Bent, who died on December 7, 2012.