

## Pastor's Pen

### Beautiful to Behold

The Epistle reading assigned by the lectionary for January 15<sup>th</sup> contains the opening verses of Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth. To the congregation he writes, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus". It is a timely word for me because that same feeling and message echoes from my soul as I think of you, the Crievewood congregation.

Our family has been blessed by your love and concern for our oldest son, and Patti and I have been strengthened by your care and undergirding of us. I am deeply grateful to God for the grace that flows through you.

Back in the first week of November I participated in a Continuing Education event focused on keeping healthy professional and personal boundaries. Self-care was heavily stressed, which among other things involves the cultivation of a support system. I am finding my support system has deep roots.

As an exercise the leader instructed each participant to write a letter to him/herself which would share current realities, express thoughts about the future, and offer ourselves advice. She kept the letters to be mailed after the New Year; I received mine today.

I wrote that letter at a point when my spirit was low and my heart heavy, which the letter captures. My hopes for the future are clear but the concerns cast a formidable presence. I conclude with the advice to be gentle with myself; a holy helpful word. I also included something I heard stated in the class that made an impression: while the image of God is a given for all humans, bearing the likeness of God is a choice.

That circles me back to my great appreciation for this faith family, for you have faithfully and intentionally reflected the likeness of God to me and my family. Thank you for offering grace and teaching gentleness.

Our fellowship, mission, and ministry over the past year brought other expressions of God's grace channeled through us. Worship services in December reflected the vitality of our life together, and the level of generosity enabled us to fully underwrite our 2016 budget and pay 100% of our apportionments. I give thanks for the faith and faithfulness of this congregation.

Paul further states in his letter to the church at Corinth, that the people have been enriched in Christ so that they are not lacking in any spiritual gift. Here too I think of you, of us, of Crievewood. We live in Christ, we are not lacking, grace is beautiful to behold.

Peter van Eys

## Up-coming Events

### Youth Ski Trip

The youth have been making preparations for their annual ski trip. This year they will slide down the mountains at Perfect North during the weekend of [January 13-16](#). Please pray for good snow, safe travel, and no broken bones!

## Neighborhood Meetings with Metro Tax Office

On **January 24<sup>th</sup>** JOY Club will sponsor a church and neighborhood meeting with the Metro Tax Office to learn about the 2017 countywide property reappraisal. The goal is to help the public understand the reappraisal process and to inform homeowners of the deadlines for reviews and appeals. Property valuation notices will be mailed sometime in the middle of April.

The time of the neighborhood meeting is **2 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. There is a second session scheduled on **January 26 at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Please note these opportunities are open to the public; everyone is invited.

## District Training

Nashville District Training has been scheduled on **Saturday, January 21**, 9:30 a.m. at Blakemore 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. To register, please contact the Nashville District Office at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DistrictTrainingEventRegistration>

## Missions

### Room in the Inn

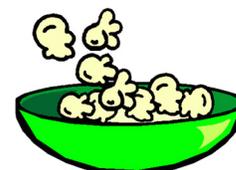
Crievewood is hosting Room in the Inn two Friday nights a month. Our next night to offer service to the homeless is **January 13**. If you wish to assist, please contact Joe Buffler or Charlotte Swor.

### Human Relations Day

Human Relations Day is one of six UMC special offering Sundays which we will observe next Sunday, **January 15**. The money collected through this special offering is used for programs that help those in crisis such as after-school programs, prison outreach, and gang intervention. Please give as you are able.

### Caramel Corn

Look for Charlie's homemade caramel corn in the narthex on Sunday, February 5. Stock up on caramel corn as a perfect snack for the super bowl game. Proceeds from the sale go towards youth missions.



## Activities

### Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Study has returned to the Old Testament Disciple fast track study. Visitors are always welcome; and joining a Bible study is a great way to start off the new year.

### Men's Breakfast

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is on Saturday, **January 14**, at 8:00 a.m. Come and warm up with the traditional breakfast, program, and Christian fellowship. Share the fun by bringing a friend or neighbor.

## Winter Meet and Eat

WNL programs and dinner will return at the beginning of Lent, but until then Winter Meet and Eat will be established for those who would like to gather with friends for fellowship and dinner each Wednesday. Please make a reservation by Tuesday noon with Nancy Rosdeutscher or the office if you plan to attend so that there is a good estimate of the number participating. The first evening of Winter Meet and Eat is **Wednesday, January 11, at Applebee's in Nipper's Corner**. Please meet in the restaurant parking lot at 4:30 p.m. The rotation that will be followed is listed below, and that rotation will continue until Ash Wednesday on March 1.

First Wednesday of each month	LongHorn at OHBY
Second Wednesday of each month	Applebee's at Nipper's Corner
Third Wednesday of each month	Red Lobster on Bell Road
Fourth Wednesday of each month	Olive Garden on Bell Road

## Community Health Fair

The UMW is tremendously excited about our Free Health Fair scheduled for **Saturday, April 1, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** at the church. The women are partnering with St. Thomas Health, Southern Hills Tri-Star Health, and Vanderbilt Health to provide speakers on the following topics: Diabetes, Heart Health, Breast Health & Mammography, Cancer, Child Development/Pediatric, Child Safety in the Home, and Reflexology along with four chairs for scheduling reflexology sessions. There is something for everyone. There will be concurrent sessions so you can choose the sessions you are most interested in attending. There also will be health-related booths, light refreshments mid-morning, and prize drawings after speakers. Please put this on your calendar and tell your family and friends. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear health care professionals talk on relevant health issues.

## Christmas Cards

If you wish to recycle old Christmas cards, the church will accept them to use in mission projects. Please put the cards in the marked box under the table by the door in the Builders classroom.

## Children's Corner

### Nursery Schedule

	1st Shift	2nd Shift
January 15	Chris and Kelly Cates	Blake and Craig Leyers
January 22	Chuck and Betsy Bean	Chuck and Betsy Bean
January 29	Andy and Amy Freck	Mindy and Riley Morris



### VBS 2017

**June 26-29, 5:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Join us at Hero Central, where we all go on awesome adventures alongside some of our favorite Bible heroes and discover what makes us truly heroic in God. To participate children must be four years old by June 15, 2017, and no older than those who have completed 4th grade. Registration will be opened in the spring.

## Cedar Crest Camp

Cedar Crest is a "sleep-away camp" which provides children with a variety of sleep-away camp options and experiences all summer. Located only 45 minutes outside Nashville, Cedar Crest is our area's United Methodist camp. Camps run from June 11-July 28, and registration has already opened on December 1, 2016. More information on

individual camps and registration can be found on [www.cedarcrestcamp.org](http://www.cedarcrestcamp.org). Spots fill up fast, so check it out soon!  
For more information on Criewood's ministries with children and families, contact Leigh Ann Cate at [leighanncate@criewoodumc.org](mailto:leighanncate@criewoodumc.org).

## **Child Care Board**

There will be a Child Care Board meeting on Monday, **January 23, at 6:15 p.m.** Members, please make every effort to attend as your advice and input are valuable in decision making.