

## Pastor's Pen

### A More Profound Alleluia



“Ah music,” [Dumbledore] said wiping his eyes, “a magic beyond all we do here.” (*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, J.K. Rowling, pg. 95) Indeed, music has been formational and transformational in my life. I cannot reminisce upon my childhood and adolescence without noting the significance of music in my home life, in my church experience, and in my significant relationships. Nor could I imagine my life as an aging adult without the gift of music each day; beyond being a pleasure, it feeds my soul.

From the “singing revolution” that changed the course of Estonia’s history to protest songs that became our nation’s soundtrack in the 60’s, music has inspired, mobilized, and united. When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow called music the universal language (*Outre-Mer*, pg. 202) he identified a touchstone for shared human desire’s to know freedom and justice.

From grand organs in the great Cathedrals of the world to the songs of faith lifted in places of worship around the globe each week, instrumental and vocal music have drawn humanity into the thin place of the sublime. I have long appreciated Kurt Vonnegut’s comment “that music is the proof of the existence of God” (*Like Shaking Hands with God*, pg. 47).

I would like to thank all the people who share in the music ministry of Crievewood. That certainly includes each worshiper who joins in singing the hymns, however, I am so grateful for the Gathering Team, the Chancel Choir, the Children’s Choir, the Handbell Choir, and individuals and ensembles across the generations who have offered their musical gifts in our services.

Many have asked about the recent absence of the Chancel Choir in the Traditional Service...the choir will return in February. Our music ministry is an important piece of our life together at Crievewood, though there are several factors that impact how that ministry takes shape. For instance, financial realities guide staffing and job descriptions, that different people like different styles of music encourages a broad range of musical offerings, and the time commitment required is a constant factor for those who do (and consider) serving and sharing in this way.

So, here is an overview of our music ministry for the Traditional Service through the first half of the year. Individuals, duets and ensembles will offer special music through March, enabling us to provide a variety of instrumental and vocal music styles. Our Chancel Choir will be worship leaders each week for congregational singing and other choral responses. They will re-start weekly rehearsals in March, and prepare music to share in worship beginning in April. This will initiate a pattern of focusing on anthems for special seasons of the Christian year. The Children’s choir, Handbell choir, and Youth ensembles will offer their gifts as they are prepared to do so.

Caleb Dinger and Hailee Hunt-Hawkins are our music ministry staff, directing and accompanying our various choirs, choosing hymns for the services, coordinating the opportunities for individuals and ensembles to share their gifts, and directing music components in the wider programmatic ministry of the church (VBS, Church retreat, etc.). Many will be delighted that Caleb is teaching himself to play the organ!

Let me state once more my profound appreciation for music, my gratitude for a singing congregation and the many who give their time, talent, and energy to our music ministry, and my high regard for the work of the music staff. And on that note, let me close by especially highlighting Charlotte Swor’s service to God, and gift to us, through her leadership of our music ministry for over a year. She volunteered her time and expertise, and blessed us all with holy encounters through the universal language of music. The hymn *When in Our Music God is Glorified*

(UMH 68) has this verse: "How often, making music, we have found, a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia". Thank you Charlotte for piloting us in that movement!

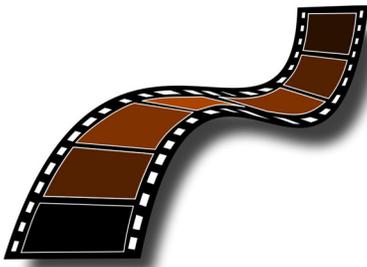
Peter van Eys

## Up-coming Events

### Chili Luncheon/Cook-off

Dust off your favorite chili recipe for our Chili Cook-off on Sunday, **January 29**, immediately following the traditional service. To enter the contest, please RSVP to Kathryn Buffler at [kwbuffler@att.net](mailto:kwbuffler@att.net). Don't feel like cooking? Come, enjoy the chili, and vote for your favorite. If you have a special dessert that you are willing to share, please bring that along.

### Youth Valentines Banquet



Hollywood News Release:

Come join the Youth at the Annual Valentine's Banquet  
Feb 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate your favorite actors and actresses of Old Hollywood.  
Enjoy the cuisine of our famous chef, Jeff Boyce.

Make your reservation by signing up outside of Steph Dodge's office close  
to the narthex. Don't be late!

## Missions

### Room in the Inn

Criewood is hosting Room in the Inn two Friday nights a month. Our next nights to offer service to the homeless are **January 27 and February 3**. If you wish to assist, please contact Joe Buffler or Charlotte Swor.

### TP Sunday

**February 5** is the next TP Sunday. Contributions of toilet paper may be left in the narthex where they will be picked up and delivered to Community Care Fellowship and utilized in that ministry to the homeless. Thank you for your faithful commitment in helping CCF reach out to those in need.

### 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

### Men's Breakfast

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is on Saturday, **February 18**, at 8:00 a.m. **Please note this is the third Saturday in February**, pushed back one week because of the Youth Valentines Dinner. Come and share the fun by bringing a friend or neighbor.

## Winter Meet and Eat

Winter Meet and Eat has been 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. Meet in the restaurant parking lot at 4:30 p.m. The schedule is below.

January 25 Olive Garden on Bell Road  
February 1 LongHorn at OHBY  
February 8 Applebee's at Nipper's Corner

## Free Community Health Fair Update (Sponsored by the CUMW)

The CUMW is tremendously excited about the Free Community Health Fair scheduled on **Saturday, April 1, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** at Creevewood. The women are partnering with St. Thomas Health, Southern Hills Tri-Star Health, Omni Visions, Inc., Well Child, Inc., Centennial Medical Center, Vanderbilt Health, and Nashville Academy of Reflexology to provide speakers on the following topics: diabetes, heart health, cancer, breast health and mammography, child development, pediatric care, pediatric safety in the home, and reflexology. Three to four reflexology chairs for reflex sessions, free health screenings, CPR demos for adults, and hearing and vision screenings for pre-k thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be available. There is something for everyone, and there will be concurrent sessions so you can choose the sessions you are most interested in attending. Health-related booths, a dental booth, and a Publix Pharmacy booth will be set up, and light refreshments mid-morning and prize drawings will be offered. St. Thomas Health's MAMMOGRAPHY MOBILE will also be on site. Please put this Health Fair on your calendar, and tell your family and friends as this is a wonderful opportunity to hear the advice of health care professionals at no cost.

## JOY Club

The JOY Club has rescheduled lunch at Monell's for Thursday, **February 23**. Please meet at the church at 11:00 a.m.

## 2017 Women's Retreat

The Family Ministry is excited to promote and invite all women to the 2017 Women's Retreat at Beersheba Springs. Join women from around the conference on **March 3rd and 4th** (only one night away) in worship, rest, and bonding in the beautiful mountain setting. Registration forms are available in the narthex, or you may access one online at the Beersheba website.

## UMW General Meeting

The Creevewood United Methodist Women will have a General Meeting in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday morning, February 25, at 9:00 a.m.** Joy Lewter is a lay speaker who will share some of her experiences with us. She has an extensive background of service at the local, district, conference, and national levels of the UMW. All women who attend Creevewood are considered members of the UMW, so please join us. Rebekah Circle will provide refreshments.

## Children's Corner

### Nursery Schedule

|             | 1st Shift               | 2nd Shift                      |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 29  | Andy and Amy Freck      | Mindy and Riley Morris         |
| February 5  | Randy and Susan Cortner | Randy and Susan Cortner        |
| February 12 | Joe and Chris Carter    | Kathryn Buffler and David Cate |

## 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 Camp provides children with a variety of sleep-away camp options and experiences. Located only 45 minutes outside Nashville, Cedar Crest is our area's United Methodist camp.

Camps run from June 11-July 28, and registration opened on December 1. 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 financial assistance or more information on CrieveWood's ministries with children and families, contact Leigh Ann Cate at [leighanncate@crieveWoodumc.org](mailto:leighanncate@crieveWoodumc.org).