

Pastor's Pen

Holding Salt

I shared in worship Sunday that the Gospel reading could not have been a more accessible text upon which to meditate as Patti and I enjoyed a vacation in the Caribbean. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount that we are the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world”. A week of ocean water play by day and star gazing by night immersed me in the literal and metaphorical power of salt and light.

Though we spent much time on a trimaran boat, we did visit Salt Island where we had an opportunity to harvest salt from a salt pond, a first for me. The island is better known by some as the location of the sinking of the RMS Rhone during a hurricane in 1867. The story goes that the people living on Salt Island were heroic in attempting to save the passengers and crew of the Rhone and generous in the care of those who survived, earning the deep gratitude of the British Government. Still today, descendants of those families may homestead on the island for a pound of salt a year.

Collecting salt is a slow back bending task, I gained a greater appreciation for generations of people who have labored in salt ponds and salt mines. It also sparked memory of the Salt March led by Mohandas Gandhi in 1930, and his defiance of the British Government by harvesting salt. Gandhi led a challenge to British rule over India and determined that walking from his spiritual retreat to the sea (240 miles) to make salt would be a non-violent means of civil disobedience.

The Salt Act of 1882 made it illegal for anyone to collect or produce salt except for authorized British nationals. By the time Gandhi reached the sea he had over 12,000 fellow marchers; they began making salt, and the British response to this act of disobedience was so harsh (beatings and imprisonment) that the international community was appalled and the pendulum of global opinion swung in favor of India's independence.

It was not lost on me that just as meditating on Jesus' words about being salt and light while surrounded by salt and light, reflecting on Gandhi's Salt March act of civil disobedience was equally timely given news from the United States streaming on my iphone. While out of the country, I was reading about the “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” Executive Order and the protests being staged across the nation. Thoughts came. Holding salt in my hand on Salt Island gave pause to the best and the worst that nations can be. The British Government was gracious and benevolent in 1867 (and to this day) with people under their rule 4,135 miles away, while severe and brutal in 1930 with people under their rule 4,466 miles away.

The reality that nations, like people, can act in just and unjust ways makes it imperative that voices affirm when warranted and challenge when necessary. From a faith perspective our narrative is one of prophetic witness that calls out, places God at the center, and keeps focus on the peaceable kingdom. Moreover, to be a follower of Jesus Christ requires us to act in ways that extend love, inspire community, and establish justice.

Maybe the more significant take away while holding salt in my hand on Salt Island though, was the reminder of the power of non-violent protest. We may not all agree on what should be protested, but when our passion and faith move us to action, the lessons of Gandhi must never be lost. For Christians, verbal or physical violence only dilutes our saltiness and hides our light.

Peter van Eys

Up-coming Events

Youth Valentines Banquet



Come join the Youth at the Annual Valentine's Banquet on Saturday, **February 11, 2017**, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Celebrate your favorite actors and actresses of Old Hollywood as our youth entertain you.

And enjoy the cuisine of our famous chef, Jeff Boyce. The menu includes Greek salad, beef tenderloin with burgundy mushroom sauce, vegetables rustica, and strawberry shortcake. Your taste buds will dance!

Joint Worship

There will be a joint worship service for Mt. Pisgah UMC, South End UMC, Liberty UMC, and Crieveewood UMC. The congregations will meet together on Sunday, **February 26**, at 6:00 p.m. at Crieveewood.

Coming in early March.

Ash Wednesday

Crieveewood will begin the forty day season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday worship on **March 1st at noon** in our sanctuary. Please join us on Ash Wednesday as we and other Christians worldwide begin this season of repentance and introspection.

Talent Show

Plan on attending a talent night full of fun, music, dance, art, and refreshment on **Wednesday, March 1**, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Will Ferrell promises a night to remember. Please mark your calendar and contact Will at willf3@bellsouth.net if you have questions.

Missions

Room in the Inn

Crieveewood will host the last Room in the Inn of the season on **February 17**. If you wish to assist, please contact Joe Buffler or Charlotte Swor.

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.

February 8	Applebee's at Nipper's Corner
February 15	Red Lobster on Bell Road
February 22	Olive Garden on Bell Road

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 12th 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.

Young Adult Gathering

Young adults meet for fellowship and devotion at Glendale UMC every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. Please come and bring a friend along.

Chili Cook-off

Thanks to all who participated in the Family Ministry's annual chili cook-off. Congratulations to John Morris who won the prize for the best non-traditional chili and to Mark Morrison who won for the best traditional chili.

WNL

Wednesday Night Live programs and meals will begin on [March 8](#), pushed back a week so that everyone has the opportunity to attend the Creevewood Talent Show. WNL dinners will start at 5:30 p.m., and Pastor Peter will lead a Lenten worship experience after dinner at 6:30 p.m. throughout Lenten season.

Children' s Corner

Nursery Schedule

	1st Shift	2nd Shift
February 12	Joe and Chris Carter	Kathryn Buffler and David Cate
February 19	Bob and Mary Bryan	Kate Cortner and Karen Hattan
February 26	Christy Stansbury and Kellyanne	Lisa Sims and Josh Cate

Child Care News

Summer Camp

Did you know that Criewood Child Care runs an all day camp for school age children age K-4th grade? We will have approximately 60 campers with us each day from May 30th to August 2nd, and the big red bus will head out 2-3 days a week for fun-filled field trips.

WISH LIST:

Early spring cleaning?

If you run across any legos, small cars (match box size), high heel shoes, or old towels that you are looking to get rid of, keep us in mind.

Thanks
Sharon

