

## Pastor's Pen

### “There is Flowing a Crimson Tide” (*Grace Greater than Our Sin, UMH 365*)

I shared in worship that Patti and I spent a recent Saturday morning in the Joselyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. It was delightful; the setting itself beautiful and the collection beyond expectation. As is often the case, masterpieces from the Renaissance period in Europe contain religious themes and events. We had a chance to see many paintings depicting the life of Christ; one stood out. It was by a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Italian artist, Niccolo de Foligno, titled *The Crucifixion*.

I was struck by the symbolism in that masterpiece related to blood and blood letting. From the arms of Christ hanging on the cross, blood is flowing down into chalices held by cherubs, and above the cross is a pelican tearing at its breast in order to feed its blood to its young.

A mother pelican feeding its young is a religious symbol rooted in ancient legend that says in times of drought she would keep her children alive by supplying nourishment from her own blood; other versions identified the power of the blood of the mother pelican to restore its dying young to life, though at the cost of her own life. Shakespeare buffs might recall Laertes speaking in **Hamlet**, “To his good friend thus wide, I’ll open my arms, and, like the kind, life-rendering pelican, repast them with my blood.” (*Act IV, Scene 5*)

It is not difficult to imagine how the legend of the pelican became associated with the sacrifice of Jesus, the gift of Christ’s life to give us life. Furthermore, blood flowing into a chalice gives visual expression to our conviction that at the Last Supper Jesus said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (*I Corinthians 11:25*)

Like I said, it was the blood that most defined that art piece for me. All of this came back to my mind as I processed the news Sunday morning of the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida. Blood spilled; again. Another act of hate and terrorism; tears, fears, anguish, and lament comingled with blood in the Pulse nightclub.

There are many who have been random victims of hate and terrorism, but in this instance a specific demographic was targeted; fellow citizens, brothers and sisters in Christ, men and women created by God who identify as LGBTQIA. That so many LGBTQIA folks feel marginalized, vulnerable, unsafe and unwelcomed in families of origin, faith communities, and much of society, makes this attack in a place where they felt safe and among friends exponentially more devastating.

Last week I was in a conversation that included quips about Christian hymns that focus on blood. We agreed that we were not so keen on them. I am reconsidering. Not only did my mental processing of the horror of Orlando lead me to think of de Foligno’s *The Crucifixion*, but it also led me to re-read the text of the hymn, *There is a Fountain Filled with Blood*.

Graphic, yes; we sing of blood flowing from Emmanuel’s veins. Yet, these verses proclaim that through the act of Jesus giving his life on the cross we are redeemed, our sins are washed away, and all are saved. Verse four articulates a transforming power, that the blood of Christ supplies a love that shall be our theme all the days of our life. Maybe I am too quick to skip the hymns that focus on the blood of Jesus. Through that lens, responses of compassion and solidarity, including a gathering in Nashville Sunday night, affirm that comingled with the blood of the deceased and injured at the Pulse is the blood of Christ Jesus. Moreover, standing alongside the living, are many people acting in solidarity and love because of the transforming power of their faith in Christ Jesus.

I can pray for a day when there is no more violence, no more hate; for a day when all people live feeling safe, accepted, valued. Indeed I do. I can commit daily to being a follower of Jesus Christ who loves others as Christ loves me, and I can be faithful in my call as a pastor to create a safe space for all in the Church. I trust you join me in the ministries of prayer, love, and hospitality.

To be sure when we gather for worship we are participating in the redeeming work of Christ, we have much to bring

before God through our liturgical life. I am eager to see you Sunday. In response to hate and violence and terrorism aimed at the LGBTQIA community, we can speak up and stand with and embody the love of God that loves and welcomes all. Christ shed his own blood that violence and hate and death would not have the last word, Christ poured out his love that it might flow through us.

Peter van Eys

## Up-Coming Events

### Celebrating 60 Years

This year the Crievewood UMW will be celebrating its 60th anniversary as the women of the congregation prepare the annual UMW Salad Luncheon and Book Sale . Come and enjoy a great salad buffet after the traditional church service on [July 10](#). Then relax, browse the book selection, and stock up on summer reading. The money made from lunch and the book sale will be used to support UMW missions.



### Middle Tennessee Daylily Show

The Middle TN Daylily Society will hold their annual daylily show and sale on Saturday, [June 18](#), in Fellowship Hall. The sale runs from 10:00am to 4:00pm; the show runs from 12:30-4:00pm. Admission is free.

### Farmin' in the Hall

Don't forget that the CHNA's farmers' market is hosted by Crievewood UMC every Thursday this summer through August 25. The event runs from 4:30-7:00 p.m. and has delicious produce, friendly faces, and great music. Please support our local farmers by buying fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables from the market for your family table.

### Make a Note

Pastor Peter will be on vacation June 30 through July 8. The staff will be here to assist you in his absence.

### Dorothy Cortner Boone Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2016 Dorothy Cortner Boone Scholarship: Morgan Adkisson, Peggy Cates, and Elliott Thurman. We wish you much success as you continue your studies. We're proud of you!

This year marks the 15th year for this scholarship, with over 25 recipients.

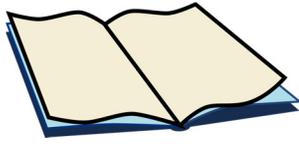
## Missions

### AIM Fall Trip to Mountain TOP

The Outreach Committee has scheduled a CUMC adult fall mission trip to Mountain Top [September 29 to October 2](#). If you would like to participate in this effort to meet the need of the residents of the Cumberland Mountains, please call Joe Buffler at 615-351-0601.

## UMW Request

In preparation for the book sale on **Sunday, July 10**, please sort through your used books at home and consider donating those books that you no longer want. The UMW will accept gently used children's books, cookbooks, and fiction and non-fiction books. Please bring those books to the church July 4-9.



## Project Transformation

### WE NEED YOU!!

- Do you enjoy listening to children read? We need you!
- Can you give time a couple of days one week for missions? We need you!
- Are you available the week of July 11 thru 14? We need you!
- Will you drive or car pool to Antioch UMC 9:00 a. m. till noon? We need you!

Background checks are necessary for this mission project. See Leigh Ann or Stephanie to fill out the proper form. Anyone over 18 years must file a background check.

Sign up forms will be available before and after both church services June 26 and July 3. We need 10 to 12 "listeners" each day.

## Backpack Snacks for Norman Binkley

The Searchers Class would like your help over the summer. They are collecting items to assemble in food packs for children with need at Norman Binkley Elementary School so that the food packs will be ready for the opening of fall semester. A complete list of what is needed is on the PowerPoint slide show. Please bring any donations to the Searchers' classroom.

## Activities

### Rebekah Circle

The rescheduled June Rebekah Circle meeting will be held Monday evening, **June 20** at 6:30p.m. at Applebee's on Nippers Corner. Everyone is invited to our dinner meeting.

### Bible Studies

Tuesday Bible Study meets once a week under the leadership of Jim Kannon at 9:30 a.m. in the Wesley classroom. Members are currently discussing the book, *Detective Stories from the Bible*, by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Women's Bible Study gathers on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Young Spirits classroom. They are using a DVD-based study on *Hosea*.

### JOY Club

On Thursday, **June 23**, Joy Club will tour the nearby Windlands senior living facility and eat lunch in the dining room there. Please meet at the church at 10:30 a.m.

### Reminder Cards

In order to save costs and to improve the timeliness of church reminders, all reminders will be transitioned to email. **The post card reminders will disappear at the end of June.** Please make sure that your current email address is on file in the church office.

## Summer Meet and Eat

Summer Meet and Eat is an opportunity for Crieewood friends to gather on Wednesdays at a local restaurant for dinner and fellowship during the summer months. The schedule for the next few weeks is below.

June 15	Longhorn's at OHBY	meet at the restaurant at 4:30pm
June 22	Jim n Nick's in Cool Springs	carpool; meet at the church at 4:00pm
June 29	Nana's in Nolensville	carpool; meet at the church at 4:00pm

## AED Training

We are trying to set up classes with the Red Cross to provide AED training. If you are interested in this training or renewing your training, please contact Nancy Rosdeutscher.

## Children's Corner

### Nursery

	1st Shift	2nd Shift
June 19	Kim Boyce and Adele White	Kim and Glynnis Boyce
June 26	Bob and Mary Bryan	Blake and Rachel Leyers
July 3	Tracey and Jillian Lee	Nina Tucker and Ali Stoner

### Child Care News

Summer is in full swing with a capacity crowd, and our theme is "Crieewood Summer Olympics". The rooms are decked out with Olympic rings and flags from places real and imagined. We kicked our celebration of summer off with a "toga dance party" complete with laurel wreath crowns made by the children and togas made from donated fabric. Watch for the pictures to be posted on the board across from the water fountain soon.

We are keeping cool with swimming, water play, and visits from the ice cream truck each week! It's going to be a great summer!