

Pastor's Pen

Happy Fourth of July!

As a nation we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal'. We now practically read it as 'all men are created equal, except the Negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except Negroes, foreigners, and Catholics'. When it comes to this, I shall prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty – to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy.¹

Are you surprised that the above quote is from a letter Abraham Lincoln wrote to Joshua Speed, August 24, 1855? We remain a nation on the learning curve of what it means for all people to be equal. Even today there is talk of emigrating should political winds not blow the way one wants. How very contemporary the use of labels, the lament for targeted groups, and the charge of hypocrisy.

The surprise might be that Lincoln penned it, not that the sentiment was expressed in 1855. We should keep in mind that this is from a personal letter to a good friend; discussing an issue (slavery) about which the two held differing opinions. We are given access to an intimate, passionate exchange that was not intended for public consumption. Too, take note that this was written before Abraham Lincoln ran for President or the first shots set off the Civil War. It was a tense time.

With July the 4th on the horizon I read that excerpt as one voice among many across the 240 years of the United States of America, to call for the best of this great nation. I believe we live in an incredibly beautiful part of God's creation; I am convinced that our blend of the principles of federalism and republicanism is to be prized; I am gratefully aware of the wealth of resources we have for sustaining and improving life. Most of all though, I am humbled by every vision shared and every effort made to form that more perfect union in which all people are treated equally, all people know peace, all people have access to the basic resources that sustain life. Those who paint that vision, voice that hope, and commit to that goal tap into my sense of God's desire for humanity.

So, Independence Day 2016 is a time to celebrate the blessings we know as citizens of the United States of America, too easily taken for granted. For instance, we enjoy freedoms that are not universal. It is also a time to pray and sing with conviction, "America, America, God mend thy every flaw...."²; that the words in Lincoln's letter sound so familiar is evidence that confession is much needed.

Ultimately, our national holiday should serve as a call to labor together for the day when we fully embody the noble ideals of equality, liberty, prosperity, and justice for all. Just as followers of Jesus Christ live in the tension of God's Kingdom come and not fully realized, we citizens of the United States live in the tension of a great nation come and its greatness not fully realized.

Peter van Eys

¹*The Faber Book of America, edited by Christopher Ricks and William Vance, page 187*

²*United Methodist Hymnal, America the Beautiful, words by Katherine Lee Bates*

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.

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

Have you found numerous books to put in the UMW book sale?

You can bring them to the church this Sunday or during any non-child care hours and put them in the classroom next to the kitchen.

From Tuesday, July 5 through Thursday, July 7 during church business hours, books should be brought to the narthex.

Friday morning, July 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall the UMW members will organize them for the sale on Sunday.

Thank you in advance for your donations.



TP Sundays

Crievewood has reinstated TP Sundays on the first Sunday of every month. Please bring toilet paper, any size package, on **July 3**. Toilet tissue packages may be left in the narthex. Please join this effort to support the homeless in Nashville through Community Care Fellowship.

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 July 3. We need 10 to 12.

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

Bible Studies

Our Bible studies continue to meet throughout the summer. Tuesday Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Wesley classroom and is currently discussing the book, *Detective Stories from the Bible*. 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, July 28](#), JOY Club will meet [in the evening](#). Participants will gather at the church at 4:00 p.m. and travel to Gallatin for dinner at the Cherokee Steakhouse overlooking the Cumberland River. Please make a reservation with Jean McCurdy by July 24 if you wish to go.

FAMILY RETREAT: Two Spots Remain!

There are two rooms remaining for our annual Family Retreat the weekend of [August 19-21](#). Please contact Leigh Ann Cate to hold a spot for your family or with any questions.

Summer Meet and Eat

Summer Meet and Eat is an opportunity for Crievewood 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 29	Nana's in Nolensville	carpool; meet at the church at 4:00pm
July 6	Toyama in Nipper's Corner	meet at the restaurant at 4:30 p.m. restaurant opens at 5:00 p.m.
July 13	Cheddars in Cool Springs	carpool; meet at the church at 4:00 p.m.

Children's Corner

Blessing of the Backpacks

Mark your calendars for our "Blessing of the Backpacks" on August 7. We invite all children to bring their backpacks to church and stay after the traditional service for a "Bring Your Own Picnic" lunch.

Promotion Sunday and Bible Presentation

[August 7](#) will be our Promotion and Bible Presentation Sunday. Parents, watch for an email outlining the details of this proud day in the lives of our Crievewood Kids.

Speaking of **Bible Presentation**, when we commit to our Baptismal covenant as a congregation, we promise to

surround a person with love so that he/she may be established in their faith. One of the ways we affirm this commitment is in the presentation of Bibles to our incoming **2nd graders**.

If you are the parent of a 2nd grader in the 2016-17 school year, please email Leigh Ann at leighanncate@crievewoodumc.org with the name to be engraved on your child's Bible. We need this information no later than **July 15** to insure all Bibles are ready for August 7.

Nursery

	1st Shift	2nd Shift
July 3	Tracey and Jillian Lee	Nina Tucker and Ali Stoner
July 10	Tom and Becky Freck	Tom and Becky Freck
July 17	Chris and Kelly Cates	Blake and Craig Leyers

Child Care News

Summer Excitement

It is hard to believe the summer is racing by so quickly, and our summer program still includes the Predators coming to conduct a Hockey Camp, a trip to Glow Galaxy, a trip to see the new Pet Movie, and a concert for the group by Nashville's own "The Happy Racers".

Full-time Preschool Teaching Position

The Child Care is looking for a full time lead teacher in our 3 year-old class. The ideal candidate has preschool experience and/or a degree in Early Childhood Education. Hours are M-F 9:00am to 6:00pm. If you know of any candidates, please request they email a resume to director@crievewoodumc.org.

Thanks to Joe Buffler and Joe Carter for adding a bracket to the storage closet that holds our hockey goals.