

Pastor's Pen

Charge Conference Report

Since July 1st Crievewood UMC and Glendale UMC have been yoked in ministry, an intriguing relationship that remains new and fresh and unfolding. Given the short time frame since its inception, I will address my reflections upon the congregations individually. We will continue to live into the shared ministry opportunities. More on that next year!

Crievewood has enjoyed a wonderful year of covenant life. The celebrations are many: meaningful worship, a growing congregation, strong lay leadership, a solid staff, and fruitful ministry. In the first part of the year we crafted a vision statement in the form of a prayer, embracing children as a first priority. The Crieve Hall neighborhood is trending toward families with young children, a reality signaled by portables placed on the Crieve Hall Elementary School campus.

Focused attention has also been given to current indices related to funding ministry at Crievewood. Our Long Range Committee has been charged with charting a healthy financial future in which Crievewood remains a vital congregation and a responsible steward of available resources. This study has included the desire to deepen understandings of faithful giving, to pay 100% of our apportionments, and to expand the means by which people may give to the church. To the last point, we now offer a means to fund ministry through debit or credit cards.

As for ministry highlights, I would offer two. This past winter we became a Room in the Inn Church, hosting six individuals on Wednesday nights in January. It was particular impactful to have the guests eat with our Wednesday night fellowship folks. Being a Room in the Inn Church had been a longstanding goal. The second, an emphasis upon hospitality led to the creation of a new ministry team. Established ministries like offering coffee and doughnuts remain a draw, but we have increased the use of the building by neighborhood groups, increased our webpage and video monitor presence, and even offer valet parking upon request. During the winter when schools were out for snow and ice, we opened the church to people sledding in Ellington who needed a restroom, a respite from the cold, and/or a cup of hot chocolate. Our next step is to strengthen visitor follow-up.

There are some clear concerns as well as celebrations. Again related to finances, the level of giving to Crievewood has been, and will continue to be, impacted by the deaths of established givers. It takes time to grow disciples of Jesus Christ toward the Biblical standard of a tithe. That we have a much improved and accessible facility is something we still prize, yet we now carry a debt that must be factored into our operating budget.

Another concern is the transitional nature of the neighborhood, which must inform how we understand community and doing ministry together. As I noted, younger individuals and families are moving in, along with their very full calendars and existing commitments. Crievewood, though not unique, competes for diminishing windows of attention, time, and resources. Furthermore, demographic data projects that those moving in consider a Crieve Hall home a starter home, thus creating an ongoing wave of transition within the neighborhood that will surely shape Crievewood's future.

I consider it a blessing to be one of the appointed pastors to Crievewood, the sense of God's presence here is palpable and the stirring of the Holy Spirit is invigorating. I am privileged to work with a gifted staff and to live in covenant with a committed laity. I believe this faith community will continue to grow, adapt, and beautifully reflect the light and love of Christ.

My first impressions of the Glendale congregation have been very positive. I have appreciated the warm welcome extended to me and the other members of the worship team, Stephanie, Brandon, and Chelsea. Though a small membership church, it is led by members who greatly love Glendale and are committed to its present and future vitality.

There is a healthy age range across the adult spectrum, resulting in a beautiful mix of youthful creativity and acquired wisdom, of new insights and proven truths. Some of the celebrations at Glendale are: a Thursday evening small group ministry with young adults, Spirit filled lay liturgists and greeters on Sunday mornings, well maintained property, the use of the building as a tool of ministry, a relatively encouraging attendance to membership ratio in worship, an exceptional Music Minister, good oversight of finances, and effective use of technology for communication and evangelism.

Moreover, I am aware of a longstanding relationship between Glendale and Room in the Inn as well as Glendale Elementary School. I look forward to growing those ties. Also, Glendale has a prayer ministry and a monthly Adult Fellowship gathering, both of which I am eager to experience.

The concerns that seem primary are: the percentage of ministry funding that comes through community partner donations (people and entities that use Glendale's building/property), a declining membership in a neighborhood that is seeing growth, few children and youth, and the need for balancing our reliance on community partners for financial sustainability and allowing opportunities for the congregation's use of our facilities through the week.

Finally, a significant and defining reality at Glendale relates to pastoral leadership. For one thing, since the 2014 Tennessee Annual Conference Glendale has had in sequence, a one year appointed pastor, a six month appointed pastor, two six month interim pastors, and now a team of two appointed pastors and two Vanderbilt Divinity School students. That is a high degree of turnover. Though it has highlighted the quality of lay leadership, Glendale needs a season of pastoral leadership stability.

Furthermore, the events that resulted in the previously appointed pastor being removed and interim pastors being needed were sudden, confusing, and a source of profound angst. Our need to process all that transpired, and will continue to unfold, is an ongoing ministry task which will take time. I consider it a sublime privilege to be one of the pastors at Glendale for such a time as this.

I am asked in this report to state the ways in which I practice self-care, engage continuing education, and serve beyond the local church. Self-care is realized in several ways. I have routines that I enjoy like reading and walking, it is certainly a gift to live next to Ellington Agricultural Center and near Radnor Lake. I prioritize time with family, and I have a large family circle in Nashville. Too, my wife and I take vacations.

My personal commitment to continuing education is realized through reading; however, the more formal aspect this past year was attending the Clergy Retreat at Montgomery Bell State Park sponsored by the Nashville Area Orders Committee.

Beyond the local church I serve on:

- Nashville District Committee on Ministry (Co-Chair)
- Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
- Mentor to Candidates for Ministry
- Mentor to Turner Leadership Scholar through Vanderbilt Divinity School
- Conference Response Team
- Board of Trustees for Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary in Estonia
- Friends of Estonia, USA Executive Committee
- Criev Hall Neighborhood Association Board

Peter van Eys

Up-coming Events

Fall in the Hall/Blessing of the Animals

Crievewood will host Criev Hall Neighborhood Association's *Fall in the Hall* on **October 8th**. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and is a great opportunity to make new friends and to invite your neighbors to our church. Also, Crievewood will have a spot at *Fall in the Hall* for the Blessing of the Animals. Secure your pets, and bring them along too.



Welcome Back!

On Sunday, [October 2](#), please welcome back Rev. Jim Hamilton to our pulpit. Come to worship and enjoy this fall homecoming.

College and Young Adult Gathering

A group of young adults from Crieewood and Glendale UMC is meeting at *The Well* on Granny White Pike (across from Lipscomb) at 7pm on Thursday nights for a time of fellowship followed by a devotion. All young adults are welcome. Please contact Steph if you want more info or want to carpool over to *The Well*.

AIM Fall Trip to Mountain Top

Our adults mission team will be traveling to the Cumberland Mountains next weekend. They will work hard to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the residents in the area. Please undergird the team with prayer as they prepare, travel, and work on the mountain.

Art Display

Ann Doyle will be displaying her art work at the art exhibition at the Smyrna Depot Days on Saturday, [September 24](#), from 10 am-4 pm. If you are in the area, please stop by and view her drawings.

Missions

World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is one of six UMC special offering Sundays. We will celebrate on [October 2nd](#) as we join Christians worldwide at the communion table. The special offering collected on this Sunday is used to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to serve Him.

TP Sunday and CCF Needed Items

Our next TP Sunday is [October 2](#). Please leave donations of toilet paper, any size package, in the narthex where the packages will be picked up and transported to Community Care Fellowship.

Community Care Fellowship is also reporting the need for other donations. If you can help with any of the items below, just bring them to the church and Tom Lively will see that they are also transported to CCF.

Black 55-gallon trash bags	Calamine Lotion
Multi vitamins	Neosporin
Allergy Pills	Men's T-Shirts: All sizes
Men's Underwear: Small, medium, 2x and 3x (Briefs and Boxers)	

CCF Fundraiser

A fundraising dinner, called *Everyone Rises*, will be held at Woodmont Christian Church on Thursday, [November 10](#), from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Mayor Barry will be the keynote speaker.

Your attendance and support of this fundraiser makes a tangible difference in the lives of our Nashville neighbors. It means more meals served, more hot showers and loads of laundry, but it also means more men, women, and children coming in contact with the hands and feet of Jesus.

To RSVP for the dinner or find out how you can become more involved with CCF, contact Rev. Bob Coleman at bob.coleman.muvu@icloud.com or 615-227-1953. Or you may also let Tom Lively or Peter know that you would like to attend.

Activities

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live fall session begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, please contact the office at 615-832-2897 or turn in the reservation form found in the Sunday bulletins.

September 21 — Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, cornbread
Serving on 9/21 — Fellowship Forum

September 28 — Chicken tenders, mac & cheese, salad, and rolls
Serving on 9/28—New Creation/Hilltop

October 5 — TBA
Serving on 10/5—Builders

The cost for all weeks is \$8 per adult, \$5 per child 3-8 years old, free for ages 2 and under, and \$25 family max.

The children will meet for programs and choir practice at 6:15 p.m. The adults will join Peter at 6:30 p.m. for a roundtable conversation on race and religion using the UMC curriculum *Vital Conversations*.

Small Group News



Wesley Class is beginning a new study on **September 25**, Adam Hamilton's "Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask." It is a study of four other major world religions (Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism) and comparing their beliefs to Christianity.

If you are interested in joining the 12-week study during the Sunday School hour, 9:30-10:30 a.m., please contact Leigh Ann Cate for more information and a study guide.

CUMC Music

The Chancel Choir's next practice is on Wednesday, October 5, at 7:10 p.m. The Gathering band will practice Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. The Children's Choir meets every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.

UMM

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is on Saturday, **October 15**, which is one week later than normal. Breakfast is at 8:00 a.m. followed by a program led by Chris Cates in which he will discuss his travels to India. Please come and bring a friend.

JOY Club

On **September 22nd** Joy Club will visit and have lunch with Dave and Patti McIntyre at Cascade Hollow in Normandy, Tennessee. Transportation will be by van for this trip. Reservations are required.

In October, the JOY Club outing will include lunch at Cheddars in Cool Springs. The activity in October will be announced later.

Other Items

Birthdays

Is your birthday missing from the narthex and Gathering PowerPoint displays? If so, it is because we do not have your birthday in the church database. We would like to celebrate everyone's special day. So if your birthday does not appear on the slide, please call the church office and give us your birth date.

Crievewood Preaching Schedule

The preaching schedule for the next two months is as follows:

	Crievewood	Glendale
September 25	Rev. Peter van Eys	Chelsey Hedglin
October 2	Rev. Jim Hamilton	Rev. Peter van Eys
October 9	Rev. Peter van Eys	Brandon Baxter
October 16	Rev. Peter van Eys	Brandon Baxter
October 23	Rev. Peter van Eys	Chelsey Hedglin



Children's Corner

Nursery Schedule

	1st Shift	2nd Shift
September 25	Mindy and Hayden Morris	Sheryl Roos and Rainey White
October 2	Randy and Susan Cortner	Randy and Susan Cortner
October 9	Chris and Kelly Cates	Chris and Kelly Cates

Children's Sunday

The Crievewood Kids will assist in leading our traditional worship service on **October 16**. All kids are welcome to participate. Watch your email and newsletters for more information.

Acolyte/Crucifer Training

There will be a training session for all new and returning acolytes and crucifers this Sunday, **September 25**, after the traditional service. We are grateful for the leadership that our acolytes and crucifers add to our worship each week.

Child Care News

Licensed child care centers are reviewed annually by the Department of Human Services for licensing. In addition, a center may choose to participate in the "TN Stars" program which awards up to 3-stars based on a stringent set of criteria.

We are SO excited to announce Crievewood is once again a 3-Star Center!

Our "report card" is posted in the child care center office if you want to take a look.

