



Crossville First

United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

ALPHA: Jump Start to Discipleship

Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor

What a wonderful summer we've had! I hope you've been able to enjoy God's love and presence this summer--through sunshine, nice weather, maybe a vacation or two, and especially through the rich worship services we've shared together these past few months.

As you heard Sunday, August 12, we are embarking on a new worship series called, ***Living with Impact: Seeking Significance in a World of Need.*** First, we learned many facts and characteristics about King Solomon. The remainder of the series will be spent learning at the feet of Jesus. The messages are not cumulative, so where one starts really doesn't matter. It's a good series for inviting friends and bringing them with you.

I hope you will also bring them with you to ALPHA! Our celebration and kick-off are right around the corner. I am very thankful for your exceptional response to this opportunity. ALPHA is the first step on our Pathway to Discipleship, and, it is a game changer, I think, for how we do ministry within our community. I look forward to 250 of you experiencing this journey and to the many more participants from our community who will come later.

You heard me declare in my sermon the latest statistics which show two-thirds of our at-large community do not really know how much Jesus loves them! Two-thirds of our community are not part of any assemblage of faith! Can you believe that?

This figure is huge: perhaps as many as 35,000 people in Cumberland County. We have our work cut out for us, and our best first step is to experience ALPHA so that we can invite these sisters and brothers to do the same. God is very much at work on this Plateau. I hope you are ready to jump in with both feet!

Know that you are loved and know that your pastors pray for you every day. It is a joy to be one of your pastors!

Sincerely, Drew

Profiles in Leadership

Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor

Beginning with the August 2018 issue of the Newsletter, leaders in the congregation will be profiled for their constancy in faith and service through their acts of stewardship and compassion as disciples of Jesus. Featured now is **David Bell**.

David took the mantle as chairman of Trustees more than a year ago. Daily he leads the Trustees in caring for our physical plant. With as many buildings and locations as we have, you can imagine this could be a fulltime job! We are blessed to have this gifted leader in our midst!

We want to name something defining about David: he has a heart for ministry and understands God's call on our church at a very deep level. He connects the ministry of facility management with the larger ministry of the church. Sometimes it is difficult to see the repair of a busted toilet as ministry, but he can! David understands that the work of the Trustees is to ensure both a functional and a sacred facility from which we do ministry.

He and his wife Jean are long-time members of Crossville First UMC. The next time you see David, or any of the trustees, give a big hug and say THANK YOU. We praise God for David's passion, his calling, and his commitment to this important work! God bless you, David!



Christ-Like Caring for People by People

Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

I am back from a week-long Stephen Leader Training held in Pittsburgh, PA. Jackie McGrady and Lynn Hintz also attended. It was a very intense week in terms of the amount of information we received. I've been asked by several people how the week progressed, and my answer stays the same. I realized quickly that this program was going to be a good time.

I've gone to many trainings and conferences that were okay. Often, by the end of the sessions I felt that I wasted a lot of time. Not so with the Stephen Leader Training. We received so much printed material we had to ship it to ourselves to avoid extra charges on the plane.

I left this training with much excitement, and it has not gone away. The reason I'm so excited is because I see more clearly now the blessing this ministry is, and can be, for each one of us. The biggest explanation for me was when we talked about WHO needs a Stephen Minister.

Heretofore, I had a very narrow view of who would benefit, and I apologize publicly for missing the boat with many of you. When asked who needed a Stephen Minister, I would immediately think, "Well, no one has died recently," or "I cannot think of a major happening in someone's life."

I see now that there are many reasons for having a Stephen Minister walk with you in your journey. Not only will a Stephen Minister accompany you during the loss of a loved one or when some other life-changing event occurs, but that companion will be with you when you just need someone who listens.

I ask you this: Have you ever been in a situation where you just needed someone to talk with? Have you ever been

afraid during a certain life experience when having someone to call on would have helped? We all go through situations where we need someone to be with us. I admit to you I now see times in my life when I wish I had had a Stephen Minister.

From the training program I offer four important points to keep in mind:

- If you are approached by me or someone else about receiving care from a Stephen Minister, the gesture does not mean we think something is wrong with you. Please receive it as the gift it is meant to be.
- Stephen Ministers are lay ministers. Pastor Drew and I are your pastors and cannot be your Stephen Minister. The Stephen Minister is an extra level of care, and it is not one or the other with pastoral care.
- Stephen Ministers go through 50 hours of training before they begin their level of care.
- Having a Stephen Minister is completely confidential. Stephen Ministers are not allowed to name to anyone whom they serve. What you and your Stephen Minister talk about stays between you two. This confidentiality is a major part of the ministry, and your Stephen Minister takes it very seriously.

I can share much more about this wonderful opportunity, so please, let's continue to talk about it. If you sense a need in your life, or you would like to recommend someone for the care, let me know. Also, if you feel led to go through the training, we can explore that too. Thank you for allowing me to share with you these brief details of my special journey.

School Year Changes for Children

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

Safety-First Measures: As the new school year unfolds, safety and accountability measures are in place for our children's whereabouts in the church. Directives are being posted to help parents and guardians know the traffic patterns for bringing and claiming the children.

Signing in/Signing Out: All children, from birth through Grade 6, who attend activities in the church and campus must have an Information/Parent Permission Registration Form on file. This information will be used to make sure we have emergency information on file and to make computer-generated name tags for safe and easy sign-in/pick up of children.

We will also take an updated picture of your child.

All children, from birth through Grade 6, who attend any Wednesday activities must now enter the church through the narthex to sign in and get a nametag.

Signing in at the narthex is a new procedure and will be on a trial basis until we get the bugs worked out. Our goal is to extend the signing-in procedure to all children's activities at the church.

Wednesday Night Live Kick-off for Kids, August 22: All children who attend must sign in and be registered by a parent/guardian and have an Information/Parent Permission Registration Form on file. Check with Donna to make sure your child is registered and has an information form on file. Children must be picked up in the

gym and signed out by 7:15 p.m.

Children's Church Reminder: All children birth through Grade 6 are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to hear the Children's Message during the worship services. Afterwards, children PreK through Grade 2 are lead from the sanctuary to attend Children's Church. Children should be picked up at the Children's Church room at the end of each service.

Wanted: Helping Hands and Willing Hearts: Starting after Labor Day, our goal is to have two adult volunteers in every Children's Church session and Sunday School class. The more volunteers we have, the more flexible is the schedule for Sunday assignments. If you want to lend a hand and a heart, you will find a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk.

A Second Grader's Perspective: from Rhonda Phillips, Church Secretary

My neighbor, Allison, a second grader in our After-School Children's Program, attended the 10:45 a.m. worship service with her grandpa a few weeks ago. She was very excited telling me about it.

She loved all the upbeat music. She was impressed with "the man up front who danced all over the front going back and forth who played the guitar." Allison declared she thought it was great that he was not afraid to let go in church. She danced in the aisle during worship herself since it seemed to be encouraged by the folks leading the service. She hopes to come again.

ASCP News

John Worley, Director

After having a "full speed ahead" summer camp season, ASCP is focused on school time again. I thank everyone who participated in the Angels for After School Children's Program. These material contributions keep us moving forward and guiding the children to a relationship with Jesus. These same assets also help us prepare for our next State of Tennessee Assessment on August 23rd.

August and September for our ASCP teachers mean training, training, and more training. Our teachers will once again be participating in Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) classes focusing on ways to better care for and to plan lessons for the children. They will take classes on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), child abuse prevention, and several classes offered through Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Networks of Tennessee. All these training classes help us to refine the skills necessary to handle the day in and day out stresses and challenges in caring for the children in our community. I ask you to be in prayer for the teachers as they work diligently to improve themselves for the betterment of the children.

Looking ahead! The Third Annual Taste of Chocolate event will be happening on Saturday October 20. Save the date and sharpen your appetite for an opportunity to sample magnificent chocolate creations! Tickets will be on sale soon in the church office. For inquiries on booth space, donations, volunteer opportunities, or other details, please call John Worley at 931-787-1253.

Veterans' Support Mission

Robin Piacini, Mission Leader

We thank everyone who donated items for our hometown 278th Tennessee National Guard Unit. Donations are being centrally coordinated by the First National Bank. The gifts we provide will be prepared for shipping to the unit.

Two current needs are double-A batteries and individually wrapped, snack-sized packets of peanuts. These items can be dropped off now through September 6 in the collection barrels near the gym and the main entrance at the church. The barrels for National Guard donations were lovingly created by children attending various classes and worship events.

Smiles for Martin Elementary

More than seventy-five faculty and staff members from Martin Elementary School enjoyed a Back-to-School Appreciation Lunch on their last day of inservice duty. The small sanctuary, beautifully decorated, was the perfect place for a delicious meal and for them to spend a few moments before the hustle and bustle of the new school year.



Pastor Drew Shelley and Donna King, Next Generation Ministry, spoke words of encouragement. Door prizes, with lots of chocolate included, added to the fun.

The luncheon relied on friendly assistance from Hollis Bolin, Jerry Graham, Cathy Robertello, Janice Woods, Tim Vandagriff, Barb Duncan, and Cheryl Callis



to make this a special and much-appreciated event.

The partnership between Crossville FUMC and Martin Elementary School continues to grow and strengthen. As the new school year begins, numerous opportunities exist to get connected in meaningful ways to make differences in the lives of children.

Barb Duncan, our partnership liaison, has answers and solutions to helping church members become volunteers. Creative activities, teacher assistance, and individual tutoring are examples of opportunities where volunteers can serve.



VBS Unlocked Babylon

Cathy Robertello

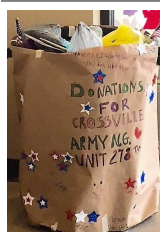
With an exuberance like the roar of a mighty lion, children bounded into Vacation Bible School July 16-29. Each day, Monday through Thursday, they become part of history as they saw, heard, and touched what living was like in ancient Babylon!

The children explored marketplace shops in the church annex with Shana Mason and Alice Hawes. They visited Daniel (aka Scott Looney) in the small sanctuary and took part in games with Jillian and Brian Guy and with Emma and Will Dickerson. They danced and sang to lively Bible songs with the Youth Praise Band. In moving among the stations, the children discovered facts about Daniel's adventures in Babylon, where he and other Hebrews lived during long years in captivity. Many escorts, volunteers, and teachers traveled along with them to Babylon. Over the course of the week, 116 different faces of children attended, with an average of 87 each night.

All the 75 volunteers deserve big shouts of thanks for bringing Babylon to life. Special

thanks go to signal duty volunteers. Julia McManus and her talented crew of set designers created backdrops in the sanctuary to simulate the towering walls of Babylon. Laurie Kersey and her team prepared and served the children and the volunteers a delicious dinner each evening. Beverly Brenner and Doug Hensley had the children rolling around the small sanctuary with laughter as they brought the stories of Daniel to life. Scott Looney and the Youth Praise Band opened and closed each evening with spirited music that had everyone up and dancing with joy around the sanctuary. The activity stations and praise worship times made God's Word come alive every day with new meaning for all who participated!

Tim Vandagriff and his team brought the week to a crescendo with a bountiful feast for the children and their families at the Cumberland Mountain State Park on Friday, July 21. In the late afternoon sunshine, games and a water slide kept the children energized to the last minute. In closing their week of Vacation Bible School in 2018, families departed with joyful and spirit filled hearts.



The number of national guard soldiers serving from Crossville has increased to 110, and the number of families who need support has increased accordingly. When opportunities develop for giving further help to the

troops and their families, our congregation will be informed about how and what we ought to provide.

The Veterans Support Mission appreciates your continued focus on our hometown heroes. I remain the one to contact for questions and updates.

Do You Know?

Pam Edwards

The **Nurture Committee** facilitates eight ministries in sharing a mutual goal to create compassionate Christian services for giving care within our congregation and through our community interactions. Committee Chair is Pam Edwards; edwardspam22@gail.com.

The **Barnabas Ministry** connects our homebound and nursing home residents with the life and activities of the church through regular contact, visits, prayer, and Holy Communion. Currently, nine Barnabas Ministers serve nineteen FUMC members. Team Leader is Pam Edwards; edward-spam22@gmail.com.

The **4-C's Card Ministry** stands for "Cards, Caring, Compassion, and Commitment." Members write weekly and monthly cards of encouragement such as *In Sympathy*, *Get Well*, *Thinking of You*, and *Praying for You* and sends them to members of the congregation as identified. Members of the ministry write an average of 70 cards weekly and 60 cards monthly. Team Leader

is Jane Heischman; jbh1st@aol.com

The **Doorstep Ministry** takes quick action to call on visitors to the church. Seventy percent of guests visiting the church will return the following week if they are contacted within 24 hours of attending worship. Members take a freshly baked loaf of bread and make house calls on Sunday or Monday afternoon. They do this as an expression of thanks for the guests' attendance and to provide information about FUMC. Team Leader is Ron Pulley; ronpulley@citlink.net.

The **Hospital Ministry** receives notice when church members are admitted to the hospital and personal visits are made. Ministry members also contact the 4-C's Card Ministry and alert the Silent Servers Ministry about meals needed after discharge. Team Leader is Cathy Simpson; simpson-farm@frontiernet.net

The **Prayer Ministry** members meet on Wednesday mornings in the small sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. They pray for the elderly and homebound, nursing home and assisted living residents, bereaved mem-

bers, cancer patients, silent concerns, on-going and difficult situations, requests for healing, hospitalizations, military service men and women, unknown and unspecified requests, worldwide issues, church ministries, and FUMC special issues and programs. The ministry averages 1,075 prayers monthly. Team Leader is Donna Dilts; don-nadilts@gmail.com.

The **Rosebud Ministry** welcomes new babies in our FUMC family with a rosebud placed on the altar on Sunday mornings. Team Leader is Betty Thornton; perkthornton@hotmail.com.

The **Silent Servers Ministry** delivers meals to someone returning home from the hospital and to a family's home at news of a death or serious personal loss. Historically, ministry members provide a meal at the church for family and friends immediately following a memorial service and burial. These meals are a convenience to the family and express love and care at a time of loss. Contact Pam Edwards for team leader information.

The **Stephen Ministry** is

a lay person, care-giving ministry. Christian men and women are trained to provide one-on-one attention to people experiencing a difficult time in life such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. Twelve trained Stephen Ministers and three trained Stephen Leaders serve our congregation.

Pastor Louis Davis, on page 2, describes the most recent training of three new Stephen Ministry Leaders. A training session in general Stephen Ministry is scheduled for fall/winter 2018/2019 for adults interested in such lay ministry. Team Leader is Bill Dorstewitz; billdorst@gmail.com.

The Nurture Committee encourages new volunteers to join one of the nurture ministries. In making that choice for giving selfless, compassionate service of care, you will bring joy and fulfillment to your life and to the lives of others.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2

We Rest to Be Ready

The days are long, the years are short and no one takes time to rest we see our minutes as dearly spent but what we need is time that's blessed.

We need time to be and time that's free from the everyday idol of "My needs and me."

Yet a life of rest is not fully blessed we are made for the grace of God to see the crowds with compassionate eyes and to love them as we ought.

We need work to do and a heart that's true for the holy interruptions of grace on the move.

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Music Matters

Kimberly White,
Director of Music

Children's Bells and Children's Choir begin Wednesday, August 22. I hope you are making plans for your child to participate in bells and choir this year. Bells are for children 4th-6th grades and meet each week in the choir room. Children's Choir is for K-6th grade and rehearsals are from 4:30-5:15 in the choir room. The new check-in policy, defined by Donna King, means that children will need to follow this new procedure before rehearsals.

Why should your child join the choir? They will learn to sing and develop skills which they will enjoy for the rest of their lives. Singing prepares them to be worship leaders. Children recognize that participating in worship is important to God and is important to their families.

Musical expressions are opportunities for children to learn God's word and what the meanings are for them, but other benefits are gained, too. Please encourage every child to participate and share musical talents with family and church. If getting your child here by 4:00 or 4:30 is a concern, or if you have any questions, please let me know.

The **Chancel Choir** has resumed rehearsals and adults from youth to seniors are welcome. We meet each Wednesday from 5:45-7:00 in the sanctuary. Beginning in September we will spend half of our rehearsals practicing Christmas music. If you are interested in singing for the Hanging of the Greens Musical Service, scheduled for Sunday evening December 2, and which is a limited commitment, please join us in September.

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