



**Cedar Grove UMC**

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*From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER 2014

# The Beacon

## April 2014



### Office Hours

Monday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The saying goes that it is only a Good Friday when Christ died because on Easter Sunday Christ rose from the dead but the reverse is true as well. There can be no Easter joy without the painful truth of the death of Jesus on Good Friday. It has also been rightly said that Good Friday is only really good for us and not so much for Jesus for on that day He had to suffer and die for us. But Good Friday and Easter Sunday hold together the two fundamental aspects of our faith, the joy of knowing a Savior in Jesus Christ and the obedience and sacrifices represented by a faith whose primary symbol is the cross that our Lord Jesus Christ died upon for us. I read a book a few years ago that talked about not only that some Christians only have a Good Friday faith stuck on the death of Jesus and our struggle with sin or an Easter faith which only wants to talk about the victory and not the struggles and realities of this life, but also that the Saturday faith in between which still only hopes for the victory in Jesus and is still not sure what they have. What life of faith do you have?

We are to have a Good Friday/Easter faith, rejoicing and thankful for having a Lord and Savior who was willing to die for our sins and a Father in heaven who let us know that we have the victory by His Son's resurrection on the third day and who sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in us. We should thankfully obey our Lord Jesus because He is our only hope and Savior and just as Jesus took up the cross in obedience to the Father, we need to joyfully take up our crosses for the sake of the Kingdom. We serve God not to be saved but because we are saved we serve God! How could we do anything else? And let us not serve grudgingly like a slave, but rather as one freed from the ravages of sin and death thanking Jesus with every word and every deed. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!!!

Please join us for our Good Friday service at 7pm and our Easter Sunday service at 10am as we remember and celebrate all that God has done for us. Also, we will be having our Easter Community event on the Saturday before Easter so please bring your children and enjoy the traditions of this great season.

I hope and pray that every one of you has a great Easter! But I hope and pray that on the way to that joyous Easter, you remember Good Friday - that you thank God and let everyone in your life know that for you, Christ has died, Christ has risen, and that Christ will come again and that the time is now for all us to believe in Him. It is not just at Christmas time that people need to be reminded what it is really about, Easter is a time for us to let everyone know that our lives are centered on and in debt to Jesus the Christ who died and rose for all so that by believing they might have salvation and eternal life.

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior,

*Glen*

The **Sunshine Fund** is being used a lot! We are helping members of our church and sponsored friends. May God be praised. Please remember to give generously so that we can continue to help members and sponsored by members people who need help.



## Book Corner



### BOOKS ON THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Even though I will be finishing the Beatitudes in Lent, we still have a lot more of the Sermon on the Mount to go. So I thought I would recommend a few books on the whole of the Sermon after having reviewed a book just on the Beatitudes in the last issue of the Beacon. These three books are [The Message of the Sermon on the Mount](#) by John Stott, [The Story of God Bible Commentary: Sermon on the Mount](#) by Scot McKnight, and [John Wesley on The Sermon on the Mount: The Standard Sermons in Modern English](#) by (John Wesley) and Kenneth Cain Kinghorn.

The first two of these books are basically commentaries on Matthew chapters 5-7. Stott's book has been in my library for quite some time and is excellent. It is written for a general audience. The McKnight book is a part of a new commentary series that I wanted to try, and it has a lot of neat features that not only will help you grapple with the sermon but help make connections with other parts of the Bible and your life today. Essentially these two books break down each chapter of the Sermon into parts and then make comments as to what that passage means.

The third book is part of a three volume translation of John Wesley's sermons which have been put in to modern language to make them easier to understand. I have read John Wesley in the words he actually wrote and didn't find them that difficult, but this translation is excellent and if one doesn't have a background in Wesleyan theology this translation makes a huge difference. Kinghorn also provides an excellent one to three page introduction to each sermon which I think are quite good.

## CHURCH NEWS

We had a great pancake supper on **Shrove Tuesday**, thanks to Brian Manifold and his crew of workers. We then had a great start to Lent with our **Lenten service** where we had 80 people attend. Next year we will have a traditional Ash Wednesday service where the ashes will be made from the palm leaves from Palm Sunday this year.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> **the Martha Lydia Circle** held a special meeting (about 40 people attended) which was open to everyone where Darryl Carattini talked about his experiences serving our country in Iraq and serving his Lord and Savior there as well. In what was an excellent presentation, Darryl gave us some idea of what it means to live in a country like Iraq and the particular difficulties of being a Christian in such as place. It is a story that many Christians in America either do not know, do not want to hear, and do not think they can or do not want to do anything about it. I hope that you will pray for Christians around the world that are being persecuted and killed for our faith. I want to thank the Martha Lydia Circle for having this speaker come to our church.

THANKS!!! He recommended two books to read [A Greater Freedom: Stories of Faith from Operation Iraqi Freedom](#) by Oliver North and [War in the Garden of Eden: A Military Chaplain's Memoir from Baghdad](#) by Frank Wismer III both of which are available at Amazon.com.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> an excellent program called **Woman of Faith** took place. Over 110 people attended this presentation about our faith that used the Bible characters Job's wife, the witch of Endor and the Virgin Mary to get us to think about our faith today. Special thanks to Sharon Staley and all of her helpers for making this event happen. If you ever get another chance to see this program and its speaker I would encourage you to do so!

We are still looking for a **Church Council Chair** and a **Missions Committee Chair**. We also continue to need more workers and volunteers. Help us be the church we need to be! Both of these jobs consist primarily of running a meeting. Please let Pastor Glen know if you are interested in either position.

The **Confirmation Class** is nearing the end of its journey and those confirmands who pass will be confirmed on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for our three confirmands as they get ready to see if they are ready to make the most important decision they will ever make, accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We have 22 youths and 8 adults going on the **SPY Trip** this year. I want to thank the people who offered up scholarships for 8 of the youths and the adult chaperones. I ask all of you to be praying now for them as they prepare to go and help people in need.

We are currently trying to have a **New Members Class**, but only one person has expressed an interest so far. If you are interested in joining our church or simply learning what it would mean to join our church, please contact Pastor Glen.

## EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

As promised you can see the list of food that costs nearly \$40 that we ask people to provide when we need to restock our emergency food pantry. Remember if you sign up and we call you at a bad time when you can't help us, you can also decline to help and we will call the next person on the list. (As I write this, the emergency food pantry has already been used three times!)

The items each volunteer would be asked to purchase (without being reimbursed by the church) for the pantry would be each of the items below:

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|--|--|
| --1 Can of peas, 15 oz                     | --1 Dole Mixed Fruit, 24.5 oz jar                        |
| --1 Apple Juice, 2 quarts                  | --1 Tuna, 12 oz can                                      |
| --1 Macaroni & cheese, 7.25 oz             | --1 Spam, 12 oz can                                      |
| --1 Apple Sauce, 25 oz jar                 | --1 Jelly, 18 oz jar                                     |
| --1 Cut green beans & whole potatoes, 39oz | --1 Peanut Butter, 16 oz jar                             |
| --1 Pork & Beans, 16 oz can                | --2 Chicken Noodle Soups, 10-1/2 oz cans                 |
| --1 Spaghetti sauce, 24 oz can             | --1 Six Pack of Top Ramen Oodles of Noodles (chick flav) |
| --1 Mayonnaise, 16 oz                      | --1 Spaghetti Noodles, 1 lb box                          |
| --1 Box of Cereal (Cheerios), 8.9 oz       | --1 Box of Saltine Crackers, 10 oz                       |

If you have signed up to help with this program keep this list handy so that when you are called and can help you will know what to buy. If you would like to sign up and help us with this ministry just contact the office.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Will God forgive all sins or are there unforgivable sins?

Starting this month we are having a 15 minute study/discussion at our Men's Breakfast at 7:30am, Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> at Happy Harbor. This month we will look at what the Bible says about sin and forgiveness, focused on the question are there unforgivable sins? In this discussion we will also talk about are there sins that are worse than others and why they are or are not? Pastor Glen Arnold will prepare and lead the study/discussion. We hope to see you there for this study/discussion, good food, and good fellowship. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Pastor Glen.

## CGUMC COMMUNITY EASTER EVENT

*Saturday, April 19, 2013*

*12:00 pm—2:00 pm*



### ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Pet Live Bunnies • Moon Bounce  
Arts and Crafts • Cookie Decorating  
Enjoy Free Hot Dog, Chips, Coffee,  
Water & Lemonade

*Invite your friends and neighbors!*

For additional information, please contact the office.

## Holy Week Schedule

- 4/13-Palm Sunday Service, 10:00 am
- 4/18-Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm
- 4/19-Community Easter Event, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm
- 4/20-Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt, 9:00 am
- 4/20-Easter Sunday Service 10:00 am



## *Easter Egg Hunt*

Easter Sunday at 9:00 am  
Easter Worship Service follows at 10 am

