



Cedar Grove UMC

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## The Beacon

### August/September 2014



#### Office Hours

Monday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm

### *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

For a pastor in The United Methodist Church there are seemingly several starts of the new year. The most obvious is the calendar one, January 1, but there is also the Christian year which starts on the first Sunday of Advent, and finally given the attendance decline and lighter schedule of the regular church activities during the summer, the first Sunday after Labor Day and the return to the normal church schedule is another beginning of a new year. We have had a good summer, yes attendance was down but not worse than usual, we had more kids at our very successful VBS and more adults and youth go on the SPY trip.

As we begin the new year of returning to our regular schedule, I hope you will help us to continue to have the **Wednesday dinners (see article within this newsletter)** and come out and help us with our various groups for kids, Youth, and Women's Bible study that meet at 7pm on Wednesdays. Also, do not forget the other **adult learning opportunities** you have here at CGUMC of two adult Sunday school classes at 9am and the Wednesday morning (9am) Bible study. Finally, we will also be having a **Worship/seasonal planning meeting** this fall to discuss what we want to do during the Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas seasons in terms of special services, decorating the church, and other activities.

We will be having our **Charge Conference** on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm with three other UMC charges here at our building. This annual meeting is an opportunity for us as a church to look at what we have done, where we are today, and where we need to go in the year ahead. It is also a chance for you to hear from our District Superintendent. Finally we do conduct some business such as the setting of the pastor's salary for the next year, electing officers, and other things that can only be done at the annual Charge Conference.

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ,

*Glen*



## Book Corner



### Jesus and the Jewish Festivals Gary Burge Zondervan 2012 139pgs

A clergy friend of mine with whom I regularly read books needed to teach a few classes on the Jewish festivals for a fellow minister who had surgery and could not teach for a few weeks. Well, I had this book by Gary Burge on my want to read list, so I quickly ordered two copies and we read the book.

This book is a very basic book. It has pictures and is written in a very easy to read style. It is a part of a series of books under the title of 'Ancient Context, Ancient Faith'. There are currently five other volumes on: the Bible and the Land; Jesus and the Desert; Encounters with Jesus; Finding Lost Images of God; and Jesus the Middle Eastern Story teller. I will definitely buy and read the other books in this series. One last thing about the books, they are printed on very high quality paper and are just about as good as you can get when it comes to a paperback book.

Burge accomplishes three things with this book. The first two are indicated in the title: you will learn about the basic Jewish festivals and how Jesus lived them. The description of the individual Jewish festivals is well done. Enough detail is given for you to have a good understanding of the festival and how they are celebrated. It is here that the pictures are very helpful. This leads to what I think is the best part of the book which is the highlighting of the stories in the Gospels where Jesus was present on the Sabbath, Passover, etc... . There are a couple of stories of Jesus that I would not have associated with the festival and when one does see this possible connection it adds a lot to our possible understanding of what Jesus meant. The third thing this book addresses is the role of rituals in the life of any person, group, or nation. In such a short book, Burge discusses other religious, national, and/or cultural rituals from different countries and how they educate and form the way people think. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to know more about Jesus and the Jewish festivals. If you are only interested in learning about the Jewish festivals and already know quite a bit about them, this book will probably not add much to your knowledge of them as it is very basic. My only complaints about the book is that he repeats himself on a few things so many times that it is annoying and there was one really bad misprint, unless I don't understand, you be the judge: "For one month Muslims will fast from sunset to sundown and then feast in the evening." What is the difference between sunset and sundown?

## CHURCH NEWS

**SPY TRIP** – Our adults and youth came back from SPY and shared with us on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> what a good trip it was. They also shared some artwork with us that we will be displaying in the church. Thank you youth (22 of them) and adults (7 of them)!

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS/YOUTH GROUP/KIDS GROUP/WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGIN AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>** – Mark your calendars as we have for another year of our Wednesday night program of dinner at 6pm (we still need volunteers for the dinners to continue!) and groups at 7pm. There is something for everyone at CGUMC on Wednesday nights from eating, to fellowship, study, and fun. Come out and be a part of this great ministry.

## CHURCH NEWS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES TO RETURN ON SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>** – While the adults meet year round at 9am, the kids and youth classes return on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We are now also offering Sunday School for K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade during the Worship Service. Following the Children’s Time in Worship (which will be moved earlier in the service to give the teacher more time), the kids will be dismissed as they always have been, but to a slightly more formal program. This program will be taught by a different person than the one at 9am so if your child goes to the 9am Sunday School (which is still needed for those adults who come to Sunday School and have children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and then also attends the 10am Sunday School, it will not be a repeat. There will also still be childcare available for pre-school aged children after the Children’s Time. Please pray for all our teachers who are listed below and the children attending Sunday School this year. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Staley.

### **9 am Sunday School**

Pre-School	Kathy Deale
K through 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Diana Seen
Middle School	Stacey Scofield
High School	Ingrid Quimby-High

### **10 am Sunday School**

Pre-School	Volunteers
K through 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Cindy Rothhaas

**CHARGE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> at 1:30PM-4PM** -- We will have our Charge Conference here at Cedar Grove UMC and will be joined by three other UMC charges as we will meet as a group and then break into our individual Charge Conferences. (While only Church Council members can vote, all members and friends of the church are welcome to attend.)

**LAY LEADERSHIP** -- Thank you to everyone who agreed to leadership positions and committee membership starting January 1, 2015. We finally will have a new Council Chair (Jeanne Haas) and a new Missions Chair (Ingrid Quimby-High). Diana Seen will be the new Council Secretary; our new SPRC members will be Trish Woods, Robyn Case, and Kathy Monday; our new Trustees will be Paul Seen, Mary Day, and Carla Hultberg; our new Lay Leadership development members will be Bill Kline and Debbie Fellner; and our new Missions member, along with the above mentioned Chairperson, will be Stacy Witte. (Lay Leadership and Missions will be reduced to a six member committee over the next three years.)

**WEDNESDAY DINNERS** -- As was previously announced, we need help if the Wednesday Night dinners are going to continue. Dick and Peggy Singleton have offered and want to prepare food for two Wednesdays a month but we need volunteers to sign-up to be at the church starting at about 3pm to warm up the food and get it ready for serving. For the other 2-3 Wednesdays, we need volunteers to actually host the dinners meaning either making the whole meal (in this case you would be reimbursed for the cost of the food) or coordinating the covered dishes or something in between (provide the main course and have people bring in side dishes). The Women’s Wednesday Night Bible Study Group have volunteered to do one Wednesday a month so we only need another group to do the remaining Wednesday and occasional fifth Wednesday. **We need people to move beyond thinking about it and step forward.** If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Bill Kline. The Church Council will be meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> when final plans for the dinners need to be made.