



Cedar Grove UMC

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REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Charge Conference 2016

Where are We, Where are We going, Where is God Leading us and Thank You!

The longer I have been a pastor things like Charge Conferences and evaluations and other such administrative and evaluative work no longer cause me the anxiety it used to, but I am still thankful for the opportunity to take stock of where we are as a church and to challenge myself and our church into thinking where God is leading us to go. I have never been at a church where I have not been proud of what we are doing, wish we were doing better, and regretting where we are not doing well. The question is where do we focus? Some would say we need to focus on the squeaking wheels and get to work, others would say accentuate the positive, and others would say the church will always have strengths and weaknesses and let's just do the best we can and realize that is the way it is.

Which is your approach? I will tell you that every church has plenty of all three. As I am now well into my fourth year as your pastor, I am no longer new but hopefully I am not at the "overstayed my welcome" point which comes for every pastor if they stay at a church long enough. I am proud of some of the new things we have done and are doing as a church such as the prayer vigil, the once a month study, the emergency food pantry, the conversion of the what I will call for the last time the old parsonage into a storage facility, the Tuesday morning Bible study, doing book studies during Advent and Lent in conjunction with my sermons, people coming up and reading the Bible as a part of our worship, and so on. But even with all those good things we are doing new, we need to do more. We need to find more ways to reach people with the Gospel, get more new members, help more people in need, and have more activities for us to be the church. I know that God is calling each and every one of us to be a part of our church and make it better.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the committees including the praise team, movie night organizers, ushers, sound room workers, Martha Lydia Circle, youth and kids groups leaders, and dinner crew, all the workers, all the staff, and all of you for all you do to make Cedar Grove UMC what it is--a place and a people where the love of God is made visible and audible. And as good as we are we can be even better. Please be a part of what we are doing, pray for our church and its ministries I know God is calling everyone of us, let us listen and get to work.

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

Glen

The Beacon October 2016



Office Hours

Monday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm



CHURCH NEWS

THANK YOU! A word of thanks to the Trustees for handling our roof problem so well and thank you all the people of this church who have given to our building fund it made fixing the roof and doing it right and in a timely manner very easy for us.

Given the success of our **10am Sunday School** for children we will no longer be having Sunday school for k-12th at 9am. We will continue to have Adult Sunday School at 9am and the nursery will be staffed for anyone who comes to our adult classes.

New members will be joining our church on October 9th! Please welcome them!

Confirmation class 2017 – If you are in the sixth grade or up to including a senior in High School and would like to be confirmed please contact Pastor Glen so that he can organize the class that would begin in January.

CGUMC's Annual Community Fall Festival with a Trunk N Treat will be Saturday, October 22 at 4:00-6:00 pm. Look for event details to be posted soon in the Sunday Bulletin and our website at www.cgumc.org.

Scripture readers on Sunday mornings! It has been great having some different voices read the Scripture on Sunday mornings. We would love to have even more voices. If you are interested there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and if you do sign up we will send you the reading electronically or inform you over the phone as to what the reading is. If you find the reading to be too difficult (length or hard to pronounce names) you can always let Pastor Glen know you have changed your mind. So please sign-up.

Charge Conference with our District Superintendent will be held at St. Matthews UMC in Shady Side on Oct. 8th at 10:30am. At this meeting we will vote your pastor's pay package, vote in committee members and officers for the New Year, and conduct whatever other business needs to be done.

If you missed the first of the once a month **Apocrypha classes** it is not too late to join us. Contact Pastor Glen if you are interested and he will bring you up to speed on the first class where we will have read a portion of the Apocrypha and discussed it. The next class meets at 10am on Monday October 17 and at 7pm on Tuesday October 18. (I teach the same class twice--one for those who don't like to drive at night and one for those who can't make it during the day--although you can choose to come to whichever one you want.)

Family Movie Night is Friday, October 14th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing the "Goosebumps" movie. Movie night is FREE and all ages are welcome! Our snack bar will be open, selling items such as: pizza, popcorn, candy & soda. Everything is \$1.00 or less. We will be collecting **GLOVES** for the homeless. If you donate you will receive a free treat! If you have questions, please contact Stacy Crine. Come check it out! We host family movie night every 2nd Friday of the month. Mark you calendar! Next month, on November 11th, we will show: *The Jungle Book*.



We invite you to have your picture taken by Lifetouch Photography for our church directory. If you do, you will receive one (1) complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. Invite your friends and family, and they can also receive one (1) complimentary 8 x 10 photo. Please contact Bill Kline or the church office if you have any questions.

Photography Sessions

Thursday, November 3 – 1:30-8:30 PM

Friday, November 4 – 1:30-8:30 PM

Saturday, November 5 – 9:30 am – 4:30 PM

Schedule your session soon! Volunteers will be scheduling after worship services each Sunday or you can contact the church office. **You are not obligated to purchase the portraits.**

Great for family Christmas portraits and photo Christmas cards!



MISSIONS CORNER

The mission we are highlighting this month is the **Anne Arundel County DSS Holiday Sharing Program**

CGUMC supports the Anne Arundel County DSS Holiday Sharing program each year by assisting 25 families/seniors with food at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. As stated on the AA County website: "The Holidays are the time to make memories that our children will treasure throughout the years. Can you remember a Thanksgiving without a turkey... a Christmas without the magic of a Christmas tree, and without presents wrapped just for you? Sadly, there are families in our own county who will be unable to provide these memories for their children unless you help. "

The county matches our church with families or seniors in need from our area in the county. We then purchase and provide the donation to those on our list.

If you'd like more information regarding this mission, please contact Ingrid High at Ingrid.Quimby@gmail.com.



BOOK CORNER



Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves And Other Things The Bible Doesn't Say
Adam Hamilton Abingdon Press 2016 175pgs

Don't be put off by the number of pages in this book; the book is the size of a small paperback though it is hard back. Adam Hamilton is a very successful United Methodist pastor in Kansas City who has become a prolific writer and I have read many of his books.

This little book covers five of what he calls 'half-truths'. They are as follows: Everything Happens for a Reason, God Helps Those Who Help Themselves, God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle, God Said it – I believe it – That Settles It, and Love the Sinner – Hate the Sin. He also has an introduction and an epilogue and overall I like the book.

I must say that the book gets weaker as he goes on and in fact the last two topics are the weakest. They are weak for two reasons; in the 'God Said it' chapter he makes a final statement about this belief. It is kind of like saying you can never say never. You can make a definitive statement about the inadmissibility of definitive statements. In the 'Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin' his biases, particularly on the gay issue, cause him to make his own 'half-truth'.

I also must say this is a thought provoking book that I enjoyed even when I thought he was wrong. The book is well written, reads easily and will get you thinking. It would be great for a study as long as you are open to hearing other views and realize that not everyone will agree. While I did not purchase them, there is a DVD and leader guide for either adult or youth. (Also a youth study book version is available.) I personally don't think a group would need the resources but I do think it would be good for the leader to provide various Scriptures to read to really make the study a test of what the Bible says and not just Hamilton's take on the issue. (A number of times I found myself thinking in response to the texts he presents, what about this text that he didn't mention.)

Finally, let me say if you believe one of the five sayings you should really read this book, not because it might prove you wrong but it will force you to think about the statement in new ways and if you are not convinced by Hamilton you will be better able to defend your position. Half Truths is a book I would recommend to any Christian who wants to think concretely about what the Bible says and how we are to understand it and apply it to our lives.

Pastor Glen Arnold