



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon November 2013



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

I hope that we are able to produce a once a month newsletter to enable us as a congregation to keep in better communication about what is going on in our church. Sunday morning is a time to focus on preaching and proclaiming the Word of God. **The Beacon** will allow me to communicate my vision for our church and help me to encourage, challenge, inform and hopefully inspire us all to greater service to God here at Cedar Grove UMC.

In His Service,
Pastor Glen

Thank you to Kevin Roby and Renee Power for the building and finishing of the lovely bookshelves in the Pastor's Office. If you have the chance, stop by and see the great work they did – even though I have obscured their beautiful work with lots of books!

Pastor Glen

Pastor's Office Schedule

I am trying to follow the schedule listed below so feel free to stop by if you would like to meet with me. Please call ahead in case I have been called out on an emergency or I am making a pastoral visit.

Monday	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	office
Tuesday	1:30 pm to 6:30 pm	office/pastoral visits
Wednesday	10:30 am to 5:30 pm	office/pastoral visits
Thursday	12:30 pm to 6:30 pm	office
Friday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm	work at home office please call cell phone



CHURCH NEWS

While I am still trying to get to know this church and what it does before I try to lead us into our future together, changes are already in the works. We will soon be doing a **renovation** of our **Fellowship Hall** with new flooring, new ceiling, new paint on the walls, eliminating the stage and other cosmetic changes. We will also be **renaming** the **Education Building** to reflect its new uses. The Trustees have already vetoed my suggestion "The Pastor Glen Arnold Building" so don't suggest it, ha, ha! I hope you have enjoyed hearing **the chimes** which were recently fixed. Our Wednesday Night dinners and groups have gotten off to a good start. I am mostly involved with the **Youth Group**, and I am happy that we have over 20 youths participating. Finally, through a generous donation of the Martha Lydia Circle, we will be replacing the **two benches** in the front of the church so be looking for them in the near future.

Pastor's Perspective

As I continue to better understand what we are doing as a church, I will start working with our Lay Leadership to make some changes that I think need to be made. One of them is our **Order of Worship** so be looking for that change in the coming months. Our Lay Leadership Development Committee (AKA Nominations Committee) is working hard to fill our leadership and committee membership vacancies. Like almost every church in the world, **we need more people** to step forward and not only fill those positions but help the church do almost everything it does. Remember you are the somebody who can be the "somebody else" who can do that job! Finally it is time to think about 2014 and how each of us will fulfill our membership vows of how much we will pray for our church, be present at our church, give to our church and witness about Jesus.

Autobiography

A number of you continue to ask me about my life, who I am, where I grew up and so on. Here is a brief autobiography in this first issue. I was born and raised in Montgomery County, MD. My father worked for the government at the Naval Research and Development Center, and my mother (who is now deceased) was a hard working homemaker who also babysat 10 to 12 children during the school year. I have one brother who is a lawyer; he is married and has one adopted child from China and now lives in Catonsville, MD. While I was baptized as an infant, I have no memory of ever going to church or Sunday School though my parents claim we did when I was really young. I went to Western Maryland College (please don't call it by its new name around me) to prepare to become a lawyer. God had different plans for me. I became a Christian my sophomore year and soon experienced a call to the ministry and proceeded to Wesley Theological Seminary to pursue ordination in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. I was licensed as a local pastor in 1988 and was ordained a Deacon in 1989 and an Elder in 1991. I have served churches larger and smaller than Cedar Grove in Calvert County, Prince Georges County, Carroll County and Hartford County. My main hobbies are reading, listening to old time radio programs, watching sports on TV (primarily European Soccer, the NFL, Formula One Racing, the PGA, College Football and the Nationals), and bird watching. I bought my first house near Largo, MD where I currently live.



BOOK CORNER



The Vital Congregation by Herb Miller Abingdon 1990 143 pages

You may have seen quite a few of our church leaders and members of the Wednesday Night Ladies Bible Study Group carrying around a little green and black book. This book which I have used at every church I have been the full time pastor of has been very well received at CGUMC. I presented the book initially to our church leaders as a way for them to get a sense of the way I think about the church. I have been impressed and pleased by how many of them really read the book. We will be meeting to make concrete plans to implement some of the things the church wants to adopt from this book. You might want to purchase a copy from Amazon or borrow one from the many people of the church who now have the book. What I like about the approach of the book is that the focus is on doing it right and doing it well, not simply focused on growth. I believe that when we focus as a church on growth and not on doing it God's way and well, we face two dangers. One, we don't appreciate the good we are doing, and two, we confuse growth with faithfulness. Many a church that is not growing numerically is very faithful to God while many a church that is growing is not being faithful to God. We need to be a faithful church that grows! What good is growth without faithfulness? Faithfulness is the key.

Upcoming Events

Weekly Morning Bible Study	Wednesday	9:00 am	In the Parlor with Bill Kline as leader.
Weekly Community Dinner	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Youth Group, Bible Studies, Kids Group to follow
Movie Night	Saturday 11/9	6:00 pm	Showing "The Croods" in the Fellowship Hall
Confirmation 2014 Meeting	Sunday 11/10	After church	For parents and children 6 th grade or older
AAMC Blood Drive	Wed. 11/13	3:00 – 7:00 pm	Bloodmobile in the parking lot
Martha Lydia Circle			
Soup, Bake & Craft/Vendor Sale	Saturday 11/23	9 am – 1:00 pm	Homemade soups and goodies in the Fellowship Hall
Annual Charge Conference	Monday 11/25	7 – 8:30 pm	Come and join our District Superintendent at this meeting. Only Church Council can vote but all are welcome.
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner	Wed. 11/27	5 – 7:00 pm	Volunteers needed. Contact Dick Singleton. Dinner is open to everyone.