



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon December 2017



REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .



CHRISTMAS 2017

As each Christmas goes by I am aware as a pastor that the number of times I will have the great responsibility and honor of preaching on Christmas Eve and Day are coming to an end. On the one hand it is an easy day to preach, for it is indeed good news and everyone expects you to preach about it. On the other hand, what new thing can be said, what new perspective can be brought to life, and yes it has almost all been said before. Or to put it the clearest and simplest and to step away from the task of preaching to what every Christian should try to do each Advent and Christmas, find what God is telling you in 2017 as you remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus about how God wants you to honor Christ today.

To think that a child born so long ago would still be the focus, in different ways, of so many people around the world is amazing. Not everyone believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior but almost everyone knows about Christmas. God came to us in the baby Jesus to change the world and to change us. How does the story of the birth of Jesus speak to you today? What is this simple and beautiful story trying to illumine in your life today? There are so many ways to ask this question using the imagery of the story. For example, what are you not making room for in your life like the mythical innkeeper who told Joseph and Mary that there was no room for them? Maybe you need to follow the shepherds and see anew the great thing God in Bethlehem so many years ago? Or perhaps like Mary, God is calling upon you to treasure and ponder anew some aspect of the birth of the Christ? Maybe God wants you to join the shepherds in telling everyone about what God did in the baby Jesus? As you remember the birth of Jesus God is speaking to you. Hear God calling you in your Christian walk as you remember the baby Jesus.

It is my hope and prayer that the book we are reading and I am preaching on its themes during Advent will help you in this spiritual work. That our services on Sundays and on Christmas Eve and Christmas might allow you to grow in your faith, worship God, and be the person the baby Jesus came to turn us into.

For me Luke 2:11 brings the message so beautifully, 'For today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, He is the Christ.' Of all the powerful words in this verse, take to heart the two

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

little ones, 'to you'. God really did send Him to you and yes to everyone as well because we all need Him. Let us make Advent and Christmas 2017 a time of celebrating that gift and sharing His Good News with everyone.

I want to say to each and every one of you how thankful I am for all you have done for our church and God's Kingdom this year. May your Christmas time with family and friends be all that you hope it will be and may celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior be at the center of all that you say and do.

Your fellow servant of the Christ Child,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to the Robys for leading the decorating of our Church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 6. We will begin immediately following the 6:00 pm Community dinner. All help is welcome, needed, and graciously accepted. Simply show up for the dinner and stay after for some fun decorating and fellowship!

The once a month study will start a new topic in January 2018 and this class will go through May 2018 and the topic we will study is **The Women of the Bible**. The study meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm and the Monday prior at 10:00 am thus enabling those who prefer daytime or evening to come to the study. (Of course, this assumes enough people will sign up.) Of all the once a month studies this will be the easiest and most basic as we are going to look at a number of the important passages/stories in the Bible where women play a prominent roll. The stories are usually fairly straightforward and are very important in the Bible's message to us. While I am still in the process of organizing each session, but at this point we will have a class on the mothers of our faith, women of faith, the not so good women of the Old Testament, a look at the important un-named women, and the women of the New Testament. At the end of the five classes we will discuss how fair or unfair the Bible is in terms of its treatment of women as compared to men. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and please sign-up. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Glen.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services! Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year so we will have our normal 10:00 am worship service and a 7:00 pm service as well. The Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 am, it is informal so come as you are as we so often sing and worship the birth of the baby Jesus on his birthday.

Poinsettias. Each year during the Christmas season our altar is adorned with poinsettias that are sponsored by members of our congregation. If you would like to sponsor a red poinsettia plant, please complete an order form (included with the Sunday bulletin at worship) and place it along with your payment in the offering plate by Dec. 17 or contact the church office. Each plant costs \$9.00. *Thank you!*

Operation Christmas Child. We had an outstanding response (75 shoeboxes) to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. I was told by many people how much they enjoyed buying for and packing the shoeboxes for the needy children that will receive these packages. I could feel the love and care that you put into these boxes while I was checking them for any prohibited items. I would like to thank the people that helped me with this project, especially Shirley Reio. I also want to thank everyone for your participation and wish everyone a blessed Merry Christmas. -- Sandy Burns, Project Leader

Care Packages for Service Personnel. We will again be doing care packages for service personnel stationed in Afghanistan on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 9:30 am and we are inviting everyone to join us to assemble the care packages and make cards for our service members. We will also have cards available in advance if you would like to take some home to write. Please just ensure you bring them back on Sunday, Dec. 10 in order to place them in the boxes. (If you or your kids would like to make cards or write letters, they are always appreciated and enjoyed by the service members). We are in need of donations of the following items: bags of chocolate and candy; cookies; nuts; K-Cup coffee pods or bags of ground coffee (strong coffee is always preferred - especially Starbucks!); Non-dairy coffee creamer; Office supplies (pens, pencils, notepads, etc); Donations can be dropped off at the church office, the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings, or on any Sunday until Sunday December 10, provided it is there by 9.30am. Please plan to come early on Sunday December 10th. so that you and/or your family can participate. If you have any questions, please contact Ingrid Quimby-High at 443.404.8354 or by email at or ingrid.quimby@gmail.com or Sharon Staley at sharonstaley@aol.com.

Holiday Sharing. Cedar Grove will be helping 25 families and seniors in our local area with Thanksgiving and Christmas food through the county's Holiday Sharing program. **We rely strictly on donations for this mission and need approximately \$2,500-\$3,000 per year for this mission.** If you wish to donate, please place your donation in the offering plate during Sunday worship with "Holiday Sharing" in the memo line. For more information, please contact Ingrid High at 443.404.8354 or by email at ingrid.quimby@gmail.com.

Wednesday Dinners and Activities! Come out and join us for food, fellowship, and then women's Bible study, youth group, and kidz group. (*Please note:* December 6 is the last dinner until 2018.)

The South County Faith Network has an urgent NEED for respite care in Lothian. The need is to sit with a bed-ridden gentleman while his wife works on their property. If you can even spare 1-2 hours just once a month, this would be extremely helpful. For more information or if you are interested in helping out, please contact by email Theresa Lumsden at treselumsden@aol.com or Ingrid High at ingrid.quimby@gmail.com.

Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry Presents: *From Darkness to Light* - Women's Retreat Weekend Featuring Anita Gutschick from Women of the Bible and Bible teacher, Joanne Guarnieri Hagemeyer, Friday, March 2, 2018 thru Sunday, March 4, 2018 At the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842. More information on this trip can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT this month is **Saturday, December 9 at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will hold our Christmas Season Double-Feature showing first the movie "Despicable Me" and then after that we will show a special Christmas movie! Wear your favorite Christmas PJs and you will get a free treat. Movie night is FREE and all ages are welcome! As always, our movie night snack bar will be open selling pizza, popcorn, candy, and sodas. Everything is \$1.00 or less. Hope you can join us for a fun evening! **Also, this is the last month to donate to our Blanket Drive for the Homeless. New or used blankets are welcome.** If you are donating a used blanket we ask that you please make sure it's washed and ready for giving. So bring a blanket to movie night to keep the homeless warm this winter. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com.
Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Confirmation 2018: if you are interested in having your youth confirmed please contact Pastor Glen. The classes will begin in January. All youth going into sixth grade or older are eligible.

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.

The **Tuesday morning Bible study meets at 10:00 am** and is studying the Gospel of Luke and if you would like to come please do. We have usually 14-16 people present and have room for more. If you have any questions contact Pastor Glen.

The **Church Office** is open Monday-Wednesday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. **If you need assistance when the office is closed**, please contact Pastor Glen at pastor@cgumc.org or by cell at 443-699-3645. The office emails will not be read until the office admin is back in the office. So if you have an immediate need, please reach out to the Pastor.

If your **phone, address, or email has changed recently**, please notify the office at 410.867.7417 or office@cgumc.org so we can update our records. Thank you.



Here are a few pics from our Fall Festival. What a great time! Thanks to all who participated!





MISSIONS CORNER

(This month we are highlighting : **The Lighthouse Shelter**)

The Lighthouse Shelter is a homeless prevention support center. Their mission is “to help rebuild lives with compassion by providing shelter and services to prevent homelessness and empower people as they transition toward employment, housing and self-sufficiency.”

The Light House is located in Annapolis, Maryland, and they provide “emergency shelter and transitional housing for individuals and families who are homeless as well as permanent supportive housing for women. They also “offer life-changing programs through a case management centered model that includes, counseling and referral services, basic life skills, and wellness and job training programs that help clients reclaim hope and independence in their lives.” They believe that with the love and compassion of staff and volunteers they can make a huge difference in the lives of many in need.

“More than 90% of the Light House budget is funded from private donations from individuals, foundations and corporations.” So donations are important and appreciated. They also need volunteers to help with many things, such as making lunches, working the front desk, weeding the gardens, stocking the pantry. Cedar Grove supports this mission each 4th Monday of the month in cooking a meal and serving it at the shelter. For more information, see their website at annapolislighthouse.org.

If you, your family, or church group would like to help prepare or serve a meal, or lead a dinner one month, or if you would like more information, please contact Brian Manifold at 410-286-3085 or by email at unclebebee@msn.com or Ingrid High at ingrid.quimby@gmail.com.

Should you wish to make a monetary donation to this ministry, please place the donation in the offering plate during Worship and note that it is for the "Lighthouse Shelter Ministry.”





BOOK CORNER



Underdogs and Outsiders: A Bible Study on the Untold Stories of Advent

Tom Fuerst Abingdon Press 2016 93pgs

As some of you know I look to review an Advent or Christmas book in the December newsletter and as I was beginning to think about this edition of the Book Corner I was gathering my books on women of the Bible to begin preparing the Once a Month Study starting in January on the Women of the Bible and I grabbed this book from my shelf of women's books. To my delight it is a book about the five women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew and thus I wanted to read it (and it is a short book) for two reasons in preparation for the women of the Bible once a month study and to have a book to review for this newsletter.

The book reads really easy and has questions, prayers, and a focus section at the end of every chapter. So obviously this book would be great for a five-week class on these five women. Who are the five women of the genealogy? They are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and of course the mother of Jesus, Mary. Along with learning about these women and their stories one is also taught through the five chapters why these women are significant and their place in the genealogy. The book is so short so I don't want to go into much detail because I want you to read the book but one of the things about this list of women that I have always thought was a neat fact is that with the exception of Mary they are all Gentile women who either by marriage or coming to faith join the Jewish people. God does love the outsider. They were often underdogs in dealing with the established and powerful. But there are far more things to learn about them than this and the book does a great job of bringing these truths out.

If you are interested in some of the hidden treasures in Jesus' past as seen in the Gospel of Matthew's genealogy this book is the one to read by yourself or with a group. It will cause you to think not just about these women but about Jesus and what His coming to us means and how it should impact us, and if you think about it that is what Christmas is really about!

Pastor Glen Arnold



Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry Presents:

**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND**

*Featuring Anita Gutschick from Women of the Bible
and Bible teacher, Joanne Guarnieri Hagemeyer*

Friday, March 2, 2018 thru Sunday, March 4, 2018

At the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel

10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

If you'd like to go on this fun retreat weekend, please complete a registration form by Dec. 1st. Cost is \$35 per person for the weekend (non-refundable). This fee is for the retreat program only and does not apply to your hotel stay. (Each attendee is asked to make their own hotel reservations at the hotel, see info below.) Please make checks payable to "Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry" and put "For Retreat" in the memo area. You may place the check with your completed registration form in the collection basket during Sunday Worship or you can mail it to the Cedar Grove office or to Diana Seen at 4923 Thomas Drive, Shady Side, MD 20764.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

Diana Seen: 443-618-9759, dianaseen4@comcast.net

Sharon Staley: 410-562-6646, sharonstaley@aol.com

Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel Package Rates:

- Standard Double/Double: \$269
- Double Occupancy: \$155
- Triple or Quad Occupancy: \$125

The Package Rate is based on single, double, triple or quad occupancy. The package rate includes: 2 nights' accommodations in a standard double/double room, Saturday breakfast buffet, Sunday deluxe breakfast buffet, all taxes and service charge included.

Individual Reservations: All guests will be responsible for securing their own reservations. Please use the Clarion's toll free number, 800-638-2100 when making your reservations and request the special Cedar Grove UMC group rate.

Hotel reservations must be made by Feb. 2, 2018.

Hotel Policies: Check-In: 4:00 PM. Check-Out: 11:00 AM. Personal checks not accepted in hotel. 72-hour notice required on cancellations/changes. No refunds for early check-out.

REGISTRATION FORM

**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND
FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018 THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018**

REGISTRATION/TICKET FEE : \$35 PER PERSON FOR WEEKEND (NON REFUNDABLE). THIS IS FOR THE ACTUAL RETREAT PROGRAM, DOES NOT APPLY TO YOUR HOTEL STAY. PLEASE MAKE OUT CHECKS TO CEDAR GROVE UMC WOMEN'S MINISTRY WITH MEMO FOR RETREAT ALONG WITH THE FORM BELOW. YOU MAY PLACE IN COLLECTION BASKET ON SUNDAYS, MAIL TO CEDAR GROVE UMC, OR TO DIANA SEEN, 4923 THOMAS DRIVE, SHADY SIDE, MD 20764.

Register by Dec. 1st.

FEEL FREE TO CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

**DIANA SEEN, 443-618-9759, dianaseen4@comcast.net
SHARON STALEY, 410-562-6646, sharonstaley@aol.com**



NAME: _____

ADDRESS : _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE #: _____