



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon **February 2015**



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 . . .

LENT 2015

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday February 18th. We will be having a traditional Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes. (The ashes will be from the palms from last year's Palm Sunday service) I hope you will all come out that night 7pm for the service and to start your Lenten devotions in a special way. If you come to the service you do not have to have ashes put on your forehead if you don't want to and the service will still be meaningful for you. Lent is the traditional time of year to fast, pray, study the Bible, do something special for God, or give something up as a sign of your faith. It is my hope and prayer that every one of us will take advantage of this tradition to grow in our love, faith, and service. Jesus suffered for 40 days in the desert being tempted by Satan. He did this for us and the least we can do is make sacrifices for Him and seek to follow His example. If one reads the gospels, one will find Jesus spending time in prayer in the mornings, reading the Scriptures in God's House, asking people if they know what is written or quoting the Scriptures Himself. Jesus devoted Himself to spiritual disciplines and so should we. But remember, we are not just to be spiritual and learn things, we are to transform our lives as well as commit ourselves to deeds of love and service as Jesus did.

We are doing something this year during Lent that this church has done in the past, but not recently, and not something I have ever done, and that is I am doing a series of sermons based on the Scripture for that week and the themes presented in the chapter of the book during the Sundays in Lent starting 2/22/15. The book is Give Up Something Bad For Lent by James Moore (80pgs) and we plan on having 40 copies available on February 8th. (We will get more copies if they all disappear.) In addition to reading the book and my preaching on aspects of it we will be inviting you to three opportunities to meet and discuss the book. These consist of Bill Klein's Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9am starting 2/22/15 and his Wednesday morning bible study at 9am starting 2/25/15; the Women's Bible study that meets at 7pm on Wednesdays starting 2/25/15 (this one is obviously just for women); and fifteen minutes after worship service ends, starting 2/22/15, I will be available in the parlor to discuss the chapter I just preached on. If you decide not to read the book, that is okay, rest assured that my sermons will be completely understandable apart from reading the book. It is my hope and prayer that all of you will take advantage of this opportunity the church is giving you to really explore your walk with God and who it can make your life better.

I hope you will make Lent a special time of growth as an individual Christian and for our church.

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

Glen



Book Corner



How to Read Genesis Tremper Longman III IVP 2005 192
Science, Creation, and the Bible Richard Carlson & Tremper Longman III IVP 2010 144pgs

As many of you know I have started a Bible study on Genesis 1-11 and have about 40 people total coming to the two different times where I am teaching the same material. I am pleased to have so many come out (more than I ever dreamed) but I realize that there might be some more of you who either couldn't come when I have offered the classes or were not interested in a study but would still like to learn about Genesis 1-11.

I am going to briefly review two books; the first covers all of Genesis, not just Genesis 1-11. How to Read Genesis is a well written, easy to read, and thoughtful book on Genesis. If you were going to buy one book on Genesis this would be the book to buy. The first half of the book introduces Genesis and gives you a lot of cultural and historical information to help you understand how and why Genesis was written the way it was. The second half of the book takes you through each section of Genesis and gives you helpful information for understanding it. Throughout the book how we are to understand Genesis theologically is presented clearly and thoughtfully. Finally, the book deals with some of the basic science versus the Bible issues that come up with this book.

Science, Creation, and the Bible focuses only on the creation accounts in Genesis 1-2 with a particular concern in terms of how we understand what the Bible says about creation and the history of the earth in comparison and contrast to what modern science says. It also brings in other passages from the Old Testament and the New Testament that pertain to God creating the world. The final chapter of the book walks you through Genesis 1-2 with commentary. For me the best part of this book is the authors conclusion that the key to addressing the tension between the Bible and science in the minds of modern Christians is to remember the context, theological/cultural/scientific that the Bible was given by God and realize that both the Bible and modern science can teach us important truths about the origin and history of the world.

I would recommend both these books to anyone interested in the book of Genesis.

CHURCH NEWS

Parsonage Flooded – During the month of December the electricity was cut off to the parsonage and we did not know it. In January the pipes burst and flooded the parsonage. The Board of Trustees is on top of this crisis but in the future there might be some ways you can help us so be ready to help.

Genesis 1-11 Bible study – Nearly 40 people have been attending the classes Pastor Glen is teaching on Genesis 1-11. Praise God that so many people in our church have a hunger to know the Word! **Do not forget** that we also have two Bible studies on Sunday morning for adults, Bill Kline's Wednesday morning class, and for the ladies, the Women's Bible study on Wednesday night. This is without a doubt, a Bible studying church!!!!

Confirmation Class 2015 – Please pray for the Confirmation Class of 2015 which consists of two people, Megan and Mason McGivern. As they come up with their ministry project they will be asking the congregation for support/help, so be ready.

Church News continued...

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—February 17th from 5:30 pm-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service – At 7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday (February 18th) we will have a worship service that will include imposition of ashes if you come forward. This service is an opportunity for all of us to begin Lent with purpose and in worship. (No dinner that night!)

Thanks! As this was the first year of a new way of decorating the church I want to thank everyone who helped, particularly Jeanne Haas and the Women's Bible study who led us in decorating the church for Advent/Christmas. Also, special thanks to the youth group who provided a lot of the workers, decorated the Education Building and the Trustees who dealt with some tree issues.

35 Blankets! – The movie night group led us in collecting 35 blankets for the homeless. Praise God and thank you to Stacey Crine for leading us in this campaign.

Thank You! We were able to pay all of our apportionments and other obligations in 2014 thanks to your generous giving. Thank you!



We would like to have a Community Easter Event on the Saturday of Palm Sunday or Easter Saturday. If you would be interested in leading this event, please contact Sharon Staley or the church office.