



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon February 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

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

LENT 2016

Lent begins about as early as it can this year on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Lent began as a time for those who wanted to join the church to commit themselves leading up to Easter Sunday when they would join the church to prepare themselves for such an important moment. Over the years most churches use it as an opportunity to challenge their congregations to grow in their commitment to God by either fasting in some way or by striving to do more in their Christian life.

Here at Cedar Grove UMC in a way we do both we have people in the process to become new members and while they won't join on Easter Sunday it will be near that time. We are also again offering a special sermon series attached to a book you can read that is on the Apostles Creed. (I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed Alister McGrath IVP 1997 – feel free to get you own copy, were only able to purchase 32 copies that we will make available on January 31 and we are asking for a \$5 donation to defray the cost of the book)

In addition to this, we will be having Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday services as opportunities for you to gather here at the church and grow in your faith. Further we continue to offer two adult Sunday school classes--the women's Bible study on Wednesday night, and the Pastor's Bible study on Tuesday morning--both of which you can attend to learn more about your faith and grow as a Christian. And of course the bedrock of the Christian life is to regularly attend worship, to honor God prayer, to praise God in song, to hear the Word read and proclaimed, and to gather with your brothers and sisters to do the work of the Kingdom.

I hope and pray that each of you will make Lent 2016 a time of growth for yourself and our church.

Your fellow servant of Jesus Christ,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Wednesday Night Dinners – We have sufficient dinners on hand, thanks to Peggy and Dick, to continue their supply of twice a month dinners through March 2016. Now we need your help if our church wishes to continue the Wednesday night dinner event. We need individuals or groups of church people to accept the responsibility of providing the Wednesday dinner. If you or your group is willing to do this, either once a month or more than that, please contact the office or Bill Kline so that a schedule can be made for the dinners to continue. We normally provide dinner for about 50 people and the menu is at the discretion of the provider.

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.

We continue to have our **Wednesday dinners** at 6pm and we would love to have more people come out to them. Invite your neighbors! Following the dinner we have Kids group, youth group, and women's Bible study at 7pm.

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** continues to meet and study the Gospel of John. Soon we will begin Romans. All are welcome!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—February 9th from 5:30 pm-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service – At 7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday (February 10th) 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 community dinner or other activities that night!)

Parents, would you like to have an early Valentines date night out without the kids? **Cedar Grove will provide child care services during family movie night on Friday, February 12th for children ages 2 years old to 5th grade.** This is a special event and reservations need to be made early before spots run out. Please contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com or the Church office. Price is \$15 per child, \$10 for each additional child (Max \$40 per family). This includes crafts, games, watching the movie "Hotel Transylvania 2", drinks, pizza, popcorn, and more! Have the kids wear their PJs & bring a blanket for the movie! Check-in is at 6:15 pm. For those of you who like to come to our regular movie night, YOU STILL CAN, the movie will start at 7:30 pm, and our regular movie night snack shack will be open during the movie. All candy is \$1.00 or less, this is not included in the above price. See the flyer for more details.

Please pray for our youth and adults who are going on their annual **Winter Meltdown** February 12-14 that they are safe and have a time of fun and spiritual renewal.

You are invited to attend the **Women's Ministry brunch and movie** on Saturday, February 27, 2016. The brunch will be held from 10:00am -11:00am, with the movie "War Room" starting at 11:15 am. If you need further information, or would like to bring a dish or help in another way, please contact Diana Seen at 443-618-8759 or by email at dianaseen4@comcast.net.

We received a **letter from the school counselor at Deale Elementary school on behalf of the students and staff** that stated: "Thank you for your generous donations of clothing and toys for our needy families at Deale Elementary School. The true meaning of Christmas was shared with our school and families with the giving of gifts for needy children and families. I can only imagine the joy and happiness that those families experienced through being the recipients of those thoughtful and generous gifts. Your church and your congregation are truly a blessing to this community of ours and I cannot express how much we appreciate these gifts all these past years. Every year we know that we can count on your church for assistance for our needy students and the service that you provide our community. Thank you for your devotion and efforts to make our community a better place for children. We hope that the New Year of 2016 will bring you and your church many blessings and peace for all."

MISSIONS CORNER

(The Mission we are highlighting this month is the **Emergency Food Pantry Ministry**)



Our Emergency Food Pantry is a success! Since we began this ministry, we have provided groceries to 16 families. For those unfamiliar with the ministry, we keep on hand at the church enough food to feed a family of 3-5 for a few days until they can get to a regular food pantry in the area. (Those pantries are only open one or two days a week). This pantry serves all who contact Cedar Grove with an immediate need for food, and does not replace our support of the SCAN Food Bank. If you have a need for food, please call the office at 410-867-7417 or stop by during office hours which are Monday-Wednesday, 10am – 4pm.

Those who volunteer to purchase the groceries (the cost is about \$40.00 and would be donated by the volunteer) are contacted by the Church office on a rotating basis to purchase a list of grocery items (we provide the list and it is also posted on our website) and bring them to the church. When one set is given away we contact the next person on the list to go and bring us a replacement for the food taken. Of course, if you are not able to help at the time you are contacted you can always say no and we will go to the next person on the list.

Thanks to all who have supported this ministry and purchased groceries for the pantry. If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, please see the signup sheet in the Narthex. If you need more information about this ministry, please see Pastor Glen or contact the Church office.



BOOK CORNER



I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed
Alister McGrath IVP 1997 118pgs

For the season of Lent I am going to preach a series of sermons based on Biblical texts that will also allow us to explore the meaning and importance of the Apostles' Creed. You will also be invited to read this book by Alister McGrath. This book is a serious but easy to read explanation of the meaning of each part of the Apostles' Creed. After an introduction there are six chapters that cover each part of this creed. This is actually the second edition of this book and I had read the first edition back in 1991 because McGrath is one of my favorite Christian writers and buy almost everything he has written and I know that his books take up almost three full shelves in my library.

We have ordered copies of the book which costs (depending on who you buy it from) between \$10-15 and have been able to order in bulk, at the cheapest price only 32 copies which we will make available to the congregation on January 31. (We are asking for at least a \$5 donation if you can afford to help defray the cost of the book.) Feel free to order your own copy if you wish. Also, unlike the other books we have provided this is not a devotional book full of fun stories but a clear explanation of what we mean we say the Apostles' Creed.

If I had a dollar for every time I have been asked why we say 'catholic' in the creed I could fund this church for a month! It is important for all of us to know what we are saying is that we believe when we recite the creed and realize that what unites us as Christians most of all is not anything other than the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As The United Methodist Church gathers in May I hope and pray that as they debate important issues and make policies for our church that they will ask themselves does this bring us together as Christians in honoring and obeying the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as our creed does. I am excited to know that we as a church here at Cedar Grove UMC will remember, understand, and believe.

So if you get the book read chapter one by February 14th and then continue to read one chapter a week during Lent.

Pastor Glen Arnold