



## Cedar Grove UMC

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## The Beacon February 2017



*REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST*

### 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 . . .*

Transitions: What is Next for You in Your Christian Journey?

Are you shocked? You know according to whatever side you listened to the country should either be great or destroyed by now! I know for me not much if anything has been changed by the inauguration, other than already being tired of the news coverage. Think about how much time and money was spent on the election and inauguration, the contest, and the planning and preparation for this transition. Of course time will tell what this presidential transition means for our country and for each of us. But just like how people thought and prepared for our presidential transition we should also be thinking about what is next in our lives and our Christian walks. We need to try to be ready. We need to prepare for transitions and then live through them faithfully and well.

Lent starts on March 1 and thus the time to be praying and thinking about Lent is the month of February. I can't wait until the March newsletter to write about this because it will be too late. Lent has traditionally been a time of denial, sacrifice, and commitment for Christians leading up to the glorious day of Easter. I have written and spoke before about how Lent is a creation of the church and is a time made up for us to grow as Christians. Critics can and do rightly say we should always be growing as Christians. With that said, even if you are always growing, how do you plan to grow in your faith, demonstrate your love of Jesus this Lent? Are you asking God to tell you and show you?

As always your church will provide opportunities for you to grow and demonstrate your faith by inviting you to attend special services, providing a book for you to read in conjunction with my sermons (this year the theme is the 10 Commandments and you can find information about the book and the reading schedule within this newsletter), and reminding you of the opportunity Lent brings. How are you going to grow in and demonstrate your faith this Lent?

As this transition nears, Lent is coming, so be in prayer, be ready to act, and then when Lent begins you will be ready, faithful, and God will rejoice!

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

*Glen*



## **CHURCH NEWS**

Our **book for Lent** which Pastor Glen will coordinate with his preaching is **Keeping the 10 Commandments by J.I. Packer**. This book has 17 short chapters (110 pages of actual text) so we will have to do more than one chapter a week as Lent is only 6 Sundays starting on March 5. So please read chapters 1-5 for March 5, chapters 6-8 for March 12, chapters 9-11 for March 19, chapters 12-13 for March 26, chapters 14-15 for April 2, and chapters 16-17 for April 9. The 10 Commandments is an excellent topic for us to learn more about and apply to our lives during the season of Lent. (We will be purchasing at least 40 copies and will ask for a yet to be determined donation amount to defray the cost of the books.)

**The Ash Wednesday service** will be held on **March 1 at 7pm**. Come and begin Lent as we should by remembering that we are sinners and need Jesus for salvation and to grow as Christians. This year the **Pancake Supper will be on the same day as the Ash Wednesday Service** (the pancake supper is usually on Shrove Tuesday, but none of this is in the Bible and we hope to get more people out for both the pancakes and the service by having them on the same day). **The pancake supper will begin at 5pm and end at 6:30pm**. You will then have plenty of time, if you choose, to go to the sanctuary and spend time in prayer considering what you will do for and with God this Lent. So please join us for pancakes, fellowship, prayers, and worship on March 1.

**Save the Date!** We will have a **Missions Fair on Sunday, February 26th** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Worship service. As we approach Lent, a time where people are often in reflection and thinking about things to "give up," we'd like you to consider "giving" of your time, talent, treasure and prayer by committing to one or more of the many missions and outreach opportunities provided at Cedar Grove. It's a great way to meet more people, get involved and share the love of Christ and the message of salvation in a very practical way. If you have a particular ministry about which you would like to share information with our congregation, please contact the church office or Ingrid High ([ingrid.quimby@gmail.com](mailto:ingrid.quimby@gmail.com)) and let us know about it. We would be delighted to provide you with a space during the Missions Fair to talk about your ministry.

**The Wednesday Night Community dinners followed by Kid's Group, Youth Group, and Women's Bible Study** continue to meet, so please come out and join us for some good food and fellowship. And then if you are a kid, a youth, or a woman stay for our various after dinner activities.

The **Tuesday morning Bible study** has just begun 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.

~~Parents~~ **Kids' Night out**. 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 10th for children ages 3 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](mailto:sweetbooboo16@aol.com) or the Church office at 410.867.7417 or [office@cgumc.org](mailto:office@cgumc.org) BY FEB. 8<sup>th</sup>. Price is \$15 per child, \$10 for each additional child (Max \$40 per family). This includes Crafts, Games, Movie "Trolls", drinks, pizza, popcorn, and more! Have the kids wear their PJs & bring a blanket for the movie! *The Schedule:* 6:15 pm—Check In & Crafts, Games; 6:30 pm—Pizza & Crafts, Games; 7:30 pm—Dessert, Lights Out to begin regular Movie Night; and 9:30 pm—Pickup. Our snack shack will be open during the movie. All candy is \$1.00 or less, this is not included in the above price. **For those of you who like to come to our regular free movie night, YOU STILL CAN.** Regular movie night begins at 7:30pm.



## 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 over 40 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 contact Pastor Glen or Carla Hultberg at the Church office 410.867.7417.

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The AA County Department of Social Services sent CGUMC a thank you letter for our donations to families and seniors through their Holiday Sharing Program. They said they "... With the time and generosity of 639 donors and monetary contributions of \$31,243 the Holiday Sharing Program was able to assist 1,574 families and seniors for Thanksgiving and 2,418 families and seniors for Christmas. ... Thanks to your continued generosity and support, the Holiday Sharing Program continues to successfully help families and seniors throughout AA County."

Thank you to Deale Elks Gratitude who at our January 18<sup>th</sup> Community Dinner presented Cedar Grove UMC with grants to support our community dinners and Sonshine fund, and for the South County Faith Network. We are so thankful for these generous gifts because we know so many people will benefit from these funds being put to use in these ministries.



Pastor Glen Arnold and several members of CGUMC and Deale Elks Lodge.



## **BOOK CORNER**



### Praying the Lord's Prayer

J. I. Packer Crossway 2007 120pgs

This book is by another of my favorite authors and is a reprint of a portion of another book he has written. Along with a book on the Apostles' Creed (which I read last Lent as an aid to writing my sermons for the book we did use on the Apostles' Creed) and a book on the 10 Commandments are three little books (not just in terms of pages they are also small in every dimension) that provide excellent guides in understanding three teachings of the faith that every Christian should know and know well. I really enjoyed his book on the Apostles' Creed and hoped to enjoy this book and the 10 Commandments book as well which we will be reading as a church during Lent.

The book has 16 short chapters, two chapters to begin with that address some general thoughts on prayer and what Jesus taught about how to pray and the remaining 14 chapters cover only one to six words of the prayer beginning with, Our Father and ending with Amen. Each chapter ends with suggested other biblical passages to read to reinforce what you have learned and questions for thought and discussion, so this book could be used both individually and for a group.

In the opening part of the book Packer makes three very important points about prayer and the Lord's Prayer. First, God comes first. Second, yes pray this prayer but don't stop there. Pray according to the pattern that the Lord's Prayer sets. Third, you can only learn about praying ultimately by praying! I learned this lesson myself when I was a young Christian and just didn't understand what praying was all about. So what did I do? I agreed to lead the half hour prayer meeting every evening at my college. It took time but eventually I learned the how and whys of prayer.

The heart of the book does a great job of explaining what we are praying with each little phrase of the prayer. Packer also shows how this should lead to a greater prayer life as taught by this prayer.

Packer has written a great little book on the Lord's Prayer. It is a serious book, but easy to read. You won't find a lot of cutesy stories and at times you will know he is pointing right at you which will make you a little uncomfortable. You will learn what each part of the prayer means and find your prayer life enriched. I recommend this book, and the other two books, Apostles Creed and 10 Commandments, to everyone who not only wants to better understand the Lord's Prayer but also to become what God wants of every person, to be a person of prayer.

*Pastor Glen Arnold*