



**Cedar Grove UMC**

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*From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

2015 AD

It is hard to believe that it is 2015. Well, that is 2015 AD. Do you know what AD stands for? It is the Latin initials to two Latin words that mean 'Year of our Lord'. Of course that is not PC = Politically Correct. We are supposed to abandon BC = Before Christ and AD for BCE and CE. What do BCE and CE mean? BCE means 'Before the Common Era' and CE means of course, the Common Era. Of course I am a rebel, a Christian rebel, and I will still use AD and when I use CE I mean 'Christian Era'! And who are they kidding, what event pivots us from BCE to CE, the birth of Christ.

But seriously, do we think about each year as just another year or as a gift from our Lord? Do we see 2015 as a year for us to do what we want or what God's wants? I know that God wants us to see each year as a gift from Him and we are to fill the year with service to Him. What are you going to do for God in 2015? Just the common, routine stuff or do you hear God calling you to do more? Trust me my brothers and sisters God is calling out to each and every one of us about what He wants us to be doing in 2015. It is an old thought, but a true thought, 2015 is the only 2015 we will have to serve God. Let us all be resolved to serve Him as He desires in 2015.

I want to thank all of you for what we accomplished last year and in advance for what we will do in 2015. Cedar Grove UMC is only the church it is, helps the people it does, and honors God because of what you all say, do, give, share, and pray for.

I hope and pray that you had a great Christmas and New Years and now are ready for another year of serving, loving, and praising God.

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

*Glen*

## **The Beacon** **January 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



## Book Corner



The Living Word: 10 Life-Changing Ways to Experience the Bible  
Douglas Webster Moody Press 2003 218pgs

The Living Word is a book I read about 10 years ago and really enjoyed. Since it is a new year and always a good time to commit oneself to a daily regime of reading the Bible I thought I would review a book about the Bible and the many ways we can experience it, enjoy it, and be enriched by it.

First of all this book is easy to read and despite its number of pages, it is a short book because the pages are small. The book has the size of the smaller Upper Rooms and the print is larger than normal.

Second, the book shows the many different ways we can appreciate and grow in the Scriptures through different ways of approaching the Bible. The ten chapters approach the Bible in the following ways: eat, meditate, pray, model, picture, sing, study, preach, live, and stay in. Each approach will show you how to bring the Bible alive in different ways and to experience its truth in different ways.

From my own life I experience this on a daily basis. For example, there is a big difference when I sit down to read the Bible say for myself, to teach it, and/or to preach it. In fact each purpose for which I study the word opens up different truths for me to see and share. Or to put it another way God allows me to see these truths as I approach the different tasks I have as a pastor.

This book is easy to read and inspirational. One point Webster makes so clearly is that reading the Bible and obeying it are not nearly as difficult as some would like us to think. In another book Webster wrote that I have read, he makes the point that the Bible is supposed to criticize and correct how we are living, not for us to criticize and correct it. I hope and pray that all of us will allow the Bible to mold our lives in 2015.

## CHURCH NEWS

Thanks to everyone who helped us **decorate** the church on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. I particularly want to thank the Women's Bible Study who helped direct us and the Youth Group who really helped out. Finally, thanks to the Manifolds who for many years led the decorating of the church so well.

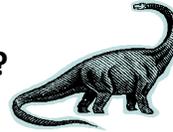
The Genesis 1-11 **Bible Study** will begin on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Education Center. The same lesson will be taught at each session. It is not too late to sign-up or simply come to the first session. The only thing you need to bring is a desire to study the Bible and a Bible if you have one. We do have extra Bibles if you don't have one. (More information on the study can be found in an article on the next page of this newsletter.)

**Thanks** to our praise team for leading us in worship on Christmas Eve! And thanks to all of those people who added special music and singing to our Advent/Christmas services.

**Wednesday Night Dinners** are back starting January 7. Come and join us for good food and fellowship and then stay for the women's Bible study or if you would like to help us with the leading of the youth group and kids group we can always use more help.

**Thanks** to all out going committee people and **welcome** to those who begin their terms January 1, 2015!

## WHAT ABOUT THE DINOSAURS AND OTHER QUESTIONS? A STUDY OF GENESIS 1-11



I can't tell you how many times recently I have been asked the question "What about the dinosaurs?". It is the newest version of the question "how do we reconcile the creation story with what modern science is telling us?". But there are many other things about Genesis 1-11 that are debated, considered controversial, or are wondered about. For example: Do you know that some do not believe that Eve was the first woman created according to the Bible? Do you know that the Bible tells the story of creation in Genesis 1-2, not once but twice? Ever wondered why the apple became the most common image of what fruit was on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Why was Cain's offering rejected? Do you know the true ending of Noah's story according to the Bible? What was really wrong about the building of the Tower of Babel? I would like to offer a Bible study to answer and address these and other questions.

This Bible study is open to anyone and no previous Bible knowledge is required. It will be a detailed study, along with a close reading and interpretation of Genesis 1-11, that will include:

- » How do Christians, Jews, and Muslims agree/differ on their understanding of Genesis 1-11?
- » How do we as Christians understand Genesis 1-11 in light of modern science?
- » How is Genesis 1-11 understood in different cultures, at different times, and different perspectives?
- » Why is knowing and understanding Genesis 1-11 so important and help us in understanding the rest of the Bible?
- » What else does the Bible have to say about the stories in Genesis 1-11?

I will hold this Bible study on Monday nights at 7:00 pm-8:15 pm, beginning January 12<sup>th</sup> and on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am starting January 13<sup>th</sup>. The classes will be held in the Education Center. There will be at least 10 sessions and maybe more depending on the progress that we make. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions about this study, please do not hesitate to let me know.



Cedar Grove United Methodist Church  
5965 Deale Churchton Road, Deale, MD 20751

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2015

### **Pastor**

Glen Arnold

### **Committee Chairs**

Finance Chairperson: Betsy Weinkam

SPRC Chairperson: Greg Witte

Trustee Chairperson: Paul Seen

### **Ministries**

Lay Leader: Kevin Roby

Lay Members to Annual Conference: Mike & Jeanne Haas

Martha Lydia Circle: Linda Keiffer

Missions Representative: Ingrid Quimby-High

Sunday School Superintendent: Sharon Staley

Treasurer: Bill Kline

Worship Coordinators: Becky Haring & Doug Sheidy

Women's Ministry: Linda Keiffer

Youth Ministry: Pam Foster

### **Council Staff**

Council Chairperson: Jeanne Haas

Recording Secretary: Diana Seen

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Those listed above represent you, the membership, on the Church Council. If you have a question, suggestion, comment, or concern, please contact the individual responsible for the area of interest. Of course, you may always contact the Council Chairperson or the Pastor with your concerns.