



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon January 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 . . .

THE YEAR OF THE LORD 2016

I hope that all of you had a great Christmas season and a fun and safe New Years. It is my prayer that each of us as individuals and as a church are ready to serve God, in the name of Jesus the Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit in 2016. We need everyone in our church to do their part in order for us to be the church God wants us to be. What are you going to do new at Cedar Grove in 2016? What part of the church are you going to contribute your time and talent where we need help? How are you going to help make Sunday mornings what God wants them to be here at this church? Rest assured God is calling you to greater service in His church and this world, the question is are you listening and are you willing to say, 'yes Lord your servant is listening and ready to get to work!'

Please see two important news items in the church news section of this newsletter about the Wednesday night dinners and about The United Methodist Church concerning its General Conference session which is being held this year.

As I mentioned last year I am required to get what are called Continuing Education Units, eight total; every four years, with the next four year deadline being the end of 2016. I got myself about halfway there this past fall/winter by taking a class at Wesley Theological Seminary. It looks like I will be taking another class in the Spring to get me almost all the way there and again this class will require me to be at Wesley Seminary once a week and right now it looks like it will be Thursdays again.

Let me thank all of you in advance for all you will do here at Cedar Grove UMC in 2016, and thanks to everyone for the Christmas gifts I received.

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

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Wednesday Night Dinners – For the past few years, Peggy and Dick Singleton have prepared all of our Wednesday night dinners. Since Dick's stroke, the Singleton's have provided the dinners twice a month. Unfortunately, Peggy and Dick have now, because of health considerations, been forced to discontinue catering the Wednesday 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.

Please **pray** from now through May for The United Methodist Church as it will meet in May in what is called the **General Conference** which meets every four years. Many important issues will be discussed and some of them, depending on how they are decided, could have a great impact on the UMC in general and Cedar Grove UMC in particular. Over the next few months this newsletter will have information on the potential impact on our church of one of the most important issues that the General Conference will address. That issue can be labeled one of two ways, either "Is homosexual sex a sin?" or "Is the Bible still the primary authoritative book of our denomination?". This second way of labeling the question avoids focusing on one sin and also demonstrates what is really at stake. Please pray each day that the Holy Spirit will guide the General Conference and us as we face these decisions and their potential impact.

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 them 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. All are welcome!

Thanks to everyone for helping the church supply gifts to needy children at **Deale Elementary school**.

Please pray for the **Confirmation Class of 2016** which consists of one confirmand as he goes through the process of deciding for himself whether or not to commit himself to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Thanks to the Youth Group for doing all of the decorating of the church for Advent/Christmas outside of the decorating of the sanctuary which was done by those at the greening service. **Thank you to all who participated in the Greening Service.** The sanctuary was decorated beautifully.

Linda Painter asks us to **thank** the congregation for everything they did for her and Bill over the past year. It was greatly appreciated.

Join us for **Family Movie Night** on Friday, January 8th at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. We will be showing the "Minions" movie. All ages are welcome! Wear your favorite slippers and you will get FREE popcorn! Our snack bar will be open selling pizza, popcorn, candy, and sodas. Everything is \$1.00 or less. Hope to see you there!

We want to **thank** the following people who have **completed their terms of service on various committees of the church** as of Dec. 31, 2015: Trustees: Bill High, Brian Shrawder, Frank Owens. SPRC: Cindy Rothaas and Linda Keiffer. Nominations: Sharon Staley, Peggy Singleton, and Dick Singleton. Missions: Kathy Deale and Pam Morton. We also want to thank in advance those who start their service on various committees on January 1, 2016. Trustees: Cindy Rothaas, Will Seger, Howard Dew. SPRC: Mark Clay, Steve Richardson, Mitzi Roby. Nominations: Sharon Staley and Melinda Keenan. Missions: Gennie Fisanich and Theresa Lumsden. And of course we thank all of those who are continuing to serve on committees or are doing other work that helps us be the church God wants us to be. THANK YOU.



BOOK CORNER



Do We Need the New Testament?
Letting the Old Testament Speak for Itself
John Goldingay IVP 2015 183pgs

Unless you read a lot of academic books or have a particular interest in the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament you won't realize what an unusual title this is for a book directed to Christians. You see the more common question and feeling for many Christians is to ask the question, do we need the Old Testament? You have probably heard the statements made such as the God of the Old Testament is violent and judgmental and in the New Testament God is loving and merciful. Further, many Christians, teachers, and preachers focus far more attention to the New Testament over the Old Testament to the point you might wonder, is it important? There have been many books written by Christians in response to the question of do we need the Old Testament, but this is the first book I have ever seen with a title questioning whether the New Testament is needed for Christians. Of course, the subtitle makes it clear that Goldingay is not really questioning whether or not the New Testament is essential for the Christian church (it is by the way what separates us from Judaism) but rather to defend the Old Testament's own voice.

The book is divided into nine chapters addressing various topics to explore this theme. The book begins with a chapter of the same title of the book and the second chapter asks a question even closer to the core of our faith, why is Jesus Important? The remaining seven chapters cover issues as addressed by both the new and the old testaments, including a fascinating chapter on the Letter to the Hebrews.

While I enjoyed this book and found it very thought provoking, the author almost makes too good a case for, "no, we really don't need the New Testament" that everything said in the new as already been said in the old. Now this is not Goldingay's position and in each chapter he makes it clear that the New Testament is important and needed, but he really does make you think. There are things that I disagree with in this book though. On the whole, Goldingay is on solid ground, teaching the Biblical truth and only on some points of emphasis do I disagree with him. Further, this book is written in more academic style and is a serious book. So readers beware!

I have read the book twice and plan on reading it a third time. Regardless of how you would answer the question that is the title of the book, this book will focus you on the key issues to address to come up with your answer. Clearly the answer to the title is yes and even Goldingay concedes that. But why the answer is yes and what that means for how we read the Old Testament makes this a fascinating and valuable book for every Christian who should know and understand why we need both the Old and New Testaments.

Pastor Glen Arnold

MISSIONS CORNER

We had a successful 2015 in our Missions Council, where our goal was to bring more awareness to the various missions supported by Cedar Grove. To that end, we introduced this Missions Corner in the monthly newsletter highlighting our "Mission of the Month", added the "Mission of the Month" information to the weekly messages before the start of service on Sunday, enhanced our Missions board in the Narthex and continued our monthly Missions update on the 3rd Sunday.

In 2016, we are committed to building upon that foundation with an enhancement to our welcome packet for visitors and a Missions "open house". We are also looking at various local news missions opportunities and ways to engage in more community advocacy. We welcome and encourage any suggestions or questions you may have.

I would like to personally thank our Missions Council members from 2015 - Jeanne Haas, Stacey Witte, Robyn Case, Pam Morton and Pastor Glen for their time, dedication and support. I would also like to welcome the newest members of our Missions Council, Gennie Fisanich and Theresa Lumsden.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you - our amazing church family who ALWAYS comes through in a time of need - thank you for your generosity, your prayers and your support. Please continue to pray for our Missions Council as we seek to do God's work and make disciples for Christ.

Ingrid High
Missions Council Chair



The church received the following thank you note from the troops for the Christmas care packages:

To the Congregation of the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, thank you for the care packages that you built for the Service Members here at Camp Arifjan. I appreciate the time that you took out of your day to stop and put together care packages that we received. This is my attempt to recognize the generosity of the Church and its members. Once again I personally thank you.

Sincerely, Adam Reyes